

# Peter's Proclamation

## Acts 2:14-41

### Introduction

PART ONE: The Preeminence of Preaching (vv14-21)

*"give ear to my words!"* (v14).

**The Spirit-filled apostles pray for "boldness" in proclaiming the Word of God, and they received it:**

"And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness" (Acts 4:29).

"And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness" (Acts 4:31).

**The Word of God comes alive with power through the preaching of a Holy Spirit-filled man on fire.**

"And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God" (1 Corinthians 2:3-4).

"our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction" (1 Thessalonians 1:5).

*"give ear to my words!"* (v14)

*"Men of Israel, hear these words:"* (v22).

**The history and unbroken continuity of God speaking to His people – a jet tour.**

God speaks. God speaks with specific Words that carry precise meaning.

**God chose a particular nation to honor Him and to speak for Him, *Israel*.**

"For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth" (Deuteronomy 7:6).

"Israel was holy to the Lord, the firstfruits of his harvest" (Jeremiah 2:3).

**God chose a particular man to give voice to His Words, *Moses*.**

"Beyond the Jordan, in the land of Moab, Moses undertook to explain this law" (Deuteronomy 1:5).

"Then Moses wrote this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and to all the elders of Israel" (Deuteronomy 31:9).

“when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God at the place that he will choose, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing...that they may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law” (Deuteronomy 31:11, 12).

Moses “said to them, ‘Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law. For it is no empty word for you, but your very life, and by this word you shall live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess’” (Deuteronomy 32:46-47).

**Moses anticipates future kings of Israel who will be charged with speaking and implementing God’s Word.**

“When you come to the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it and then say, ‘I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me,’ you may indeed set a king over you whom the Lord your God will choose” (Deuteronomy 17:14-15).

“And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them” (Deuteronomy 17:18-20).

**Ezra Reestablishes the Word of God**

“For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel” (Ezra 7:10).

Nehemiah 8:1-3

Nehemiah 8:4-8

**After 400 years of God’s silence, the Word of God appears Incarnate, *Personified*, in Jesus Christ.**

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1).

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

Luke 24:44-49

Acts 1:1-3

**The Holy Spirit of God illuminates the Word of God with *fire and light*.**

The Holy Spirit is “*the breath of life*” who breathes life into the spiritually dead thereby opening the channels of communication between God and His reborn child.

“*And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ But others mocking said, ‘They are filled with new wine’*” (vv. 12-13).

## I. The Scriptural Explanation for the Spirit-Filled Believers (vv14-21)

*“But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, ‘Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words’” (Acts 2:14).*

Now, with Christ ascended and the Holy Spirit arrival, this Spirit-filled man begins to preach with power!

*“addressed” “to speak seriously, with gravity, a word often used for prophetic, inspired utterance” (Polhill).*

*“give ear to my words” “listen carefully to what I say” (NIV).*

*“For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day” (v15).*

*“But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:” (v16).*

*“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. (vv17-18).*

- 1) “last days”
- 2) “I will pour out my Spirit”
- 3) “they shall prophesy”

Peter quotes Joel 2:28-32.

*“What does this mean?”*

1 Peter 1:10-12

*“was made manifest in the last times for your sake” (1 Peter 1:20).*

**This is it. The Last Days began when Jesus arrived and will be complete when He returns.**

*“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son” (Hebrews 1:1-2).*

**The goal of Joel’s last days prophecy and Peter’s proclamation: *repent and receive forgiveness from God.***

*“‘Yet even now,’ declares the Lord, ‘return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.’ Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love” (Joel 2:12-13).*

*“And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (v21).*

*“Then I called on the name of the Lord: ‘O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!’” (Psalm 116:4).*