

Peter's Sermons in the Book of Acts

Major Themes and Teaching Emphases

Jesus as the Fulfillment of Scripture (Acts 2:16–36; 3:18–24; 4:11)

- Jesus' life and work fulfill Old Testament prophecy (Joel 2; Psalms 16, 110).
- Peter presents Christianity as the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan.
- The prophets anticipated the suffering and exaltation of the Messiah.

The Death of Jesus: Human Guilt and Divine Purpose (Acts 2:23; 3:13–15; 5:30)

- Israel bears responsibility for rejecting and crucifying Jesus.
- Jesus' death occurred according to God's foreknowledge and plan.
- God sovereignly used human sin to accomplish salvation.

The Resurrection and Exaltation of Jesus (Acts 2:24, 32–36; 3:15; 4:10–12)

- God raised Jesus from the dead, validating Him as Messiah.
- Jesus is exalted to the right hand of God.
- Salvation is found in no one else but Jesus Christ.

Jesus as Lord, Messiah, and Judge (Acts 2:36; 3:20–21; 10:42)

- Jesus is declared both Lord and Christ.
- He reigns now and will return in the future.
- God appointed Jesus as judge of the living and the dead.

Call to Repentance and Faith (Acts 2:38–40; 3:19; 10:43)

- Peter consistently calls listeners to repentance.
- Forgiveness of sins is offered through faith in Jesus' name.
- Repentance leads to restoration and reconciliation with God.

The Gift and Work of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:17–18, 33, 38; 10:44–48)

- The Spirit's outpouring fulfills Old Testament prophecy.
- The Holy Spirit confirms salvation and empowers believers.
- Both Jews and Gentiles receive the Spirit.

Salvation Extended Beyond Israel (Acts 3:25–26; 10:34–35)

- God's promise to Abraham includes all nations.
- God shows no partiality between Jew and Gentile.
- The gospel is universal in scope.

Apostolic Witness and Authority (Acts 2:32; 4:19–20; 5:29–32)

- The apostles serve as eyewitnesses to the resurrection.
- They obey God rather than human authorities.
- Their testimony forms the foundation of the church's message.

Summary

Peter's sermons in Acts proclaim Jesus as the crucified and risen Messiah, exalted Lord, and coming Judge, who offers forgiveness of sins and the Holy Spirit to all who repent and believe (Acts 2:36–39).