

Acts 2 ¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

‘Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say...

³⁶ ‘Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.’

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’

³⁸ Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.’

⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’ ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

We are in a crisis. Perhaps don’t always realise that the day of Pentecost was a day of crisis for the crowds listening to Peter. They were devout Jews. Devout because they had travelled to Jerusalem for the festival of Pentecost Pente = 50. 50 days after Easter; for Jews 50 days after Passover, when Moses received the 10 commandments on Mount Sinai.

They believed as devout orthodox Jews that one day God would send his *Messiah*, anointed King, to come and rescue them from the Romans and from their own failures and sin. Now Peter has explained to them that recent events had changed everything:

in Jesus, God has already sent their Messiah, and the devastating message that the Jewish nation instead of welcoming him, had arranged for him to be crucified ²³ *This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.*

And just in case they were thinking, well clearly Jesus cannot have been the Messiah to have faced such a death, Peter says he has overwhelming proof that Jesus is the Messiah because God has raised him from the dead. And this is what God had promised through David in Psalm 16 v.10 *because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay.*

No wonder Peter’s hearers were having a crisis of faith: *they were cut to the heart and cried out*

What shall we do?

Danger of coming under the judgement of God

Opportunity for complete forgiveness and a new life filled with God’s Holy Spirit.

