

The Acts of the Apostles

Lesson 3: Peter's First Sermon

Acts 2:1-14-47



When the Jews heard the apostles speak in tongues on the Day of Pentecost, Acts 2:13 says that some of them said “These men are full of new wine.”



In the face of a skeptical and unbelieving crowd, Simon Peter delivered his first public sermon:



Just a little more than seven weeks had passed since the terrible night Peter denied Jesus three times. After Jesus was crucified, the apostles had gone into hiding “for fear of the Jews” (Jn 20:19).

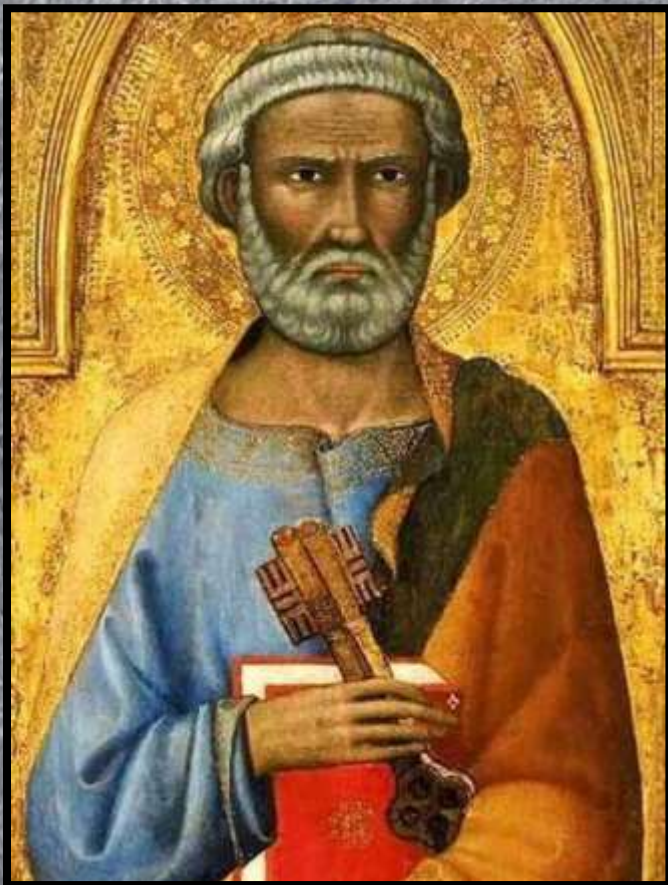


But seeing the Resurrected Lord revived them, and Jesus taught his disciples many things in the 40 days before his ascension.

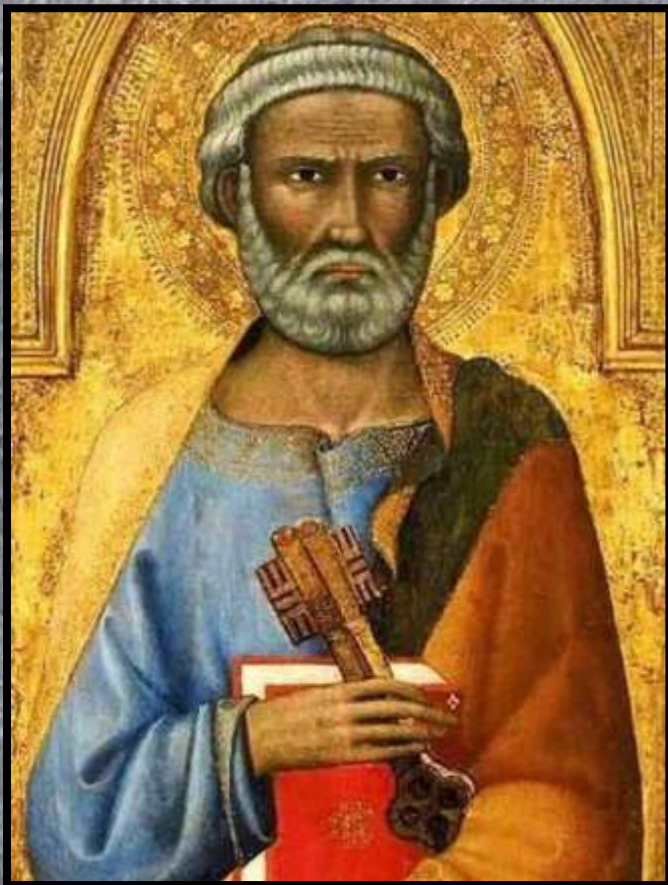


Now, Peter and the other apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and “endued with power from on high” (Lk 24:49).

They were not afraid anymore!



Peter began by identifying his audience – “Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem” – and declared that the day’s extraordinary events were the fulfilment of an old prophecy.



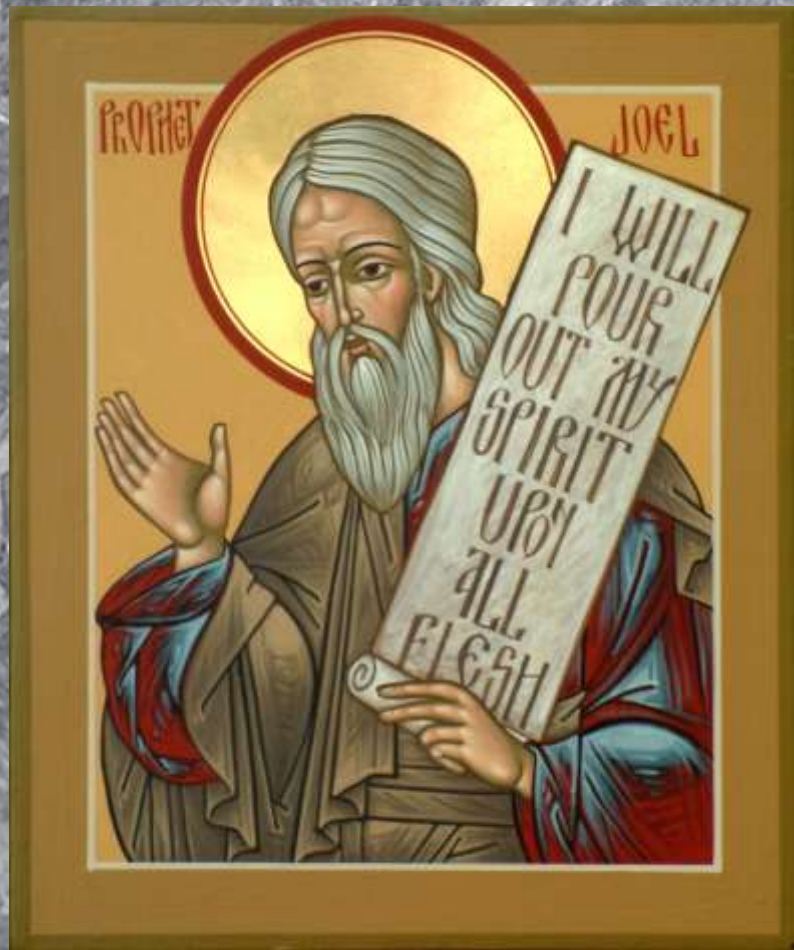
Acts 2:14-16

- ¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, **Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem,** be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:
- ¹⁵ For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is *but* the third hour of the day [9 am].
- ¹⁶ But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

Acts 2:17-21

- ¹⁷ And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh:
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:
- ¹⁸ And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

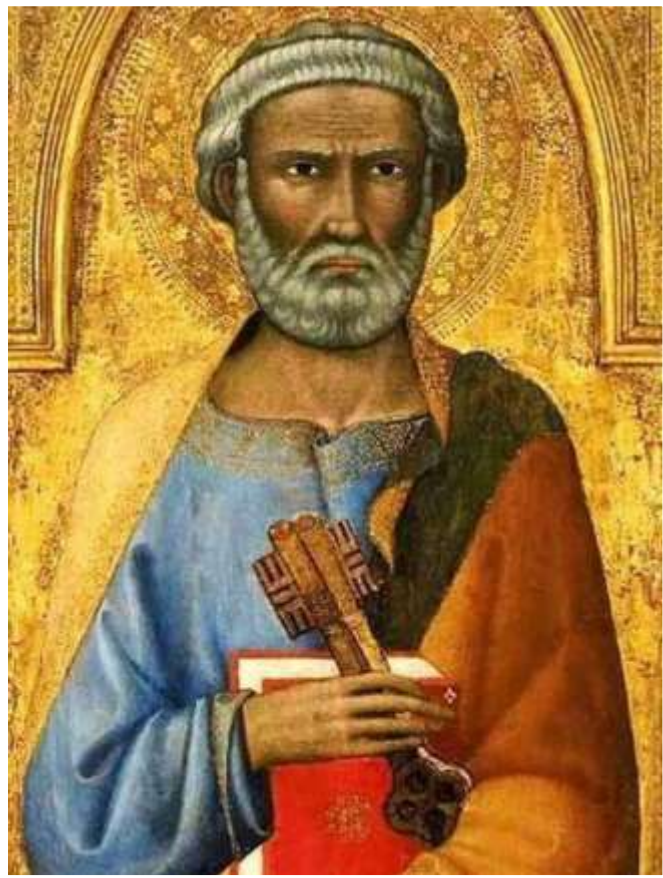
- ¹⁹ And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:
- ²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:
- ²¹ And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.



This prophecy is found in Joel 2:28-32

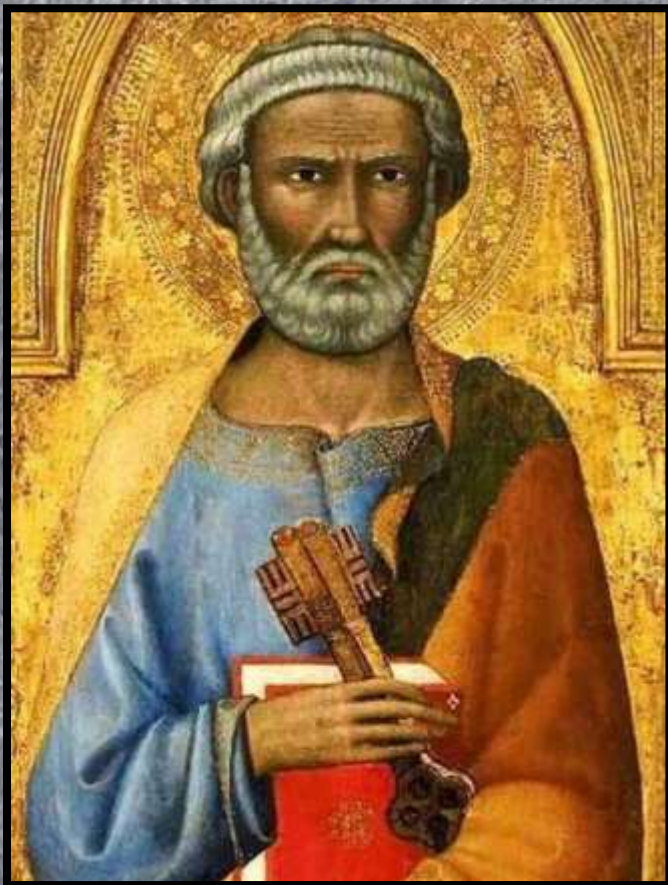
Joel 2:28-32

- ²⁸ And it shall come to pass afterward, *that* I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:
- ²⁹ And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.
- ³⁰ And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.
- ³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.
- ³² And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered:
for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.



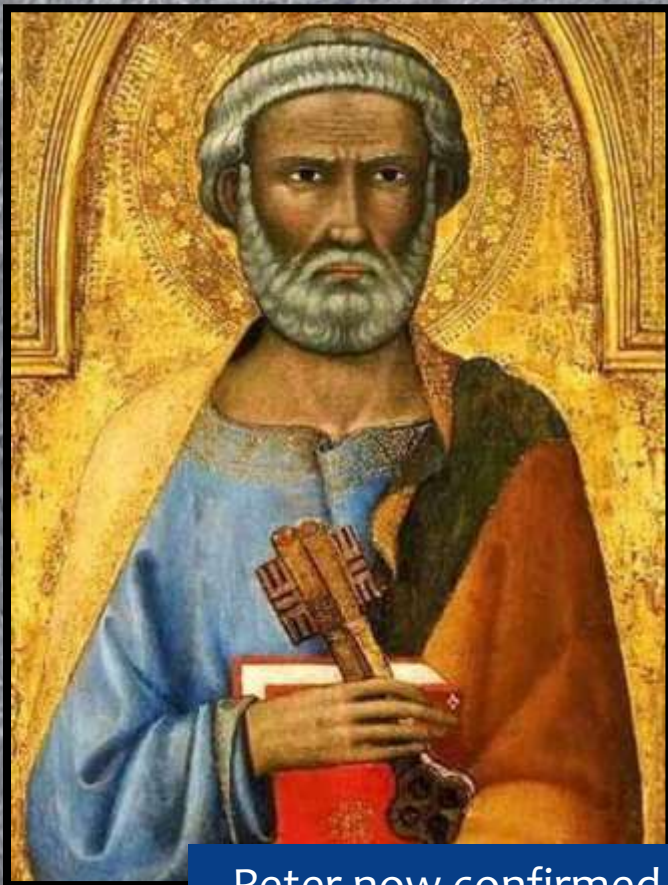
Peter boldly charged the Jews with contributing to the death of God's only-begotten Son,

but declared that everything that happened was part of God's plan.



Acts 2:22-23

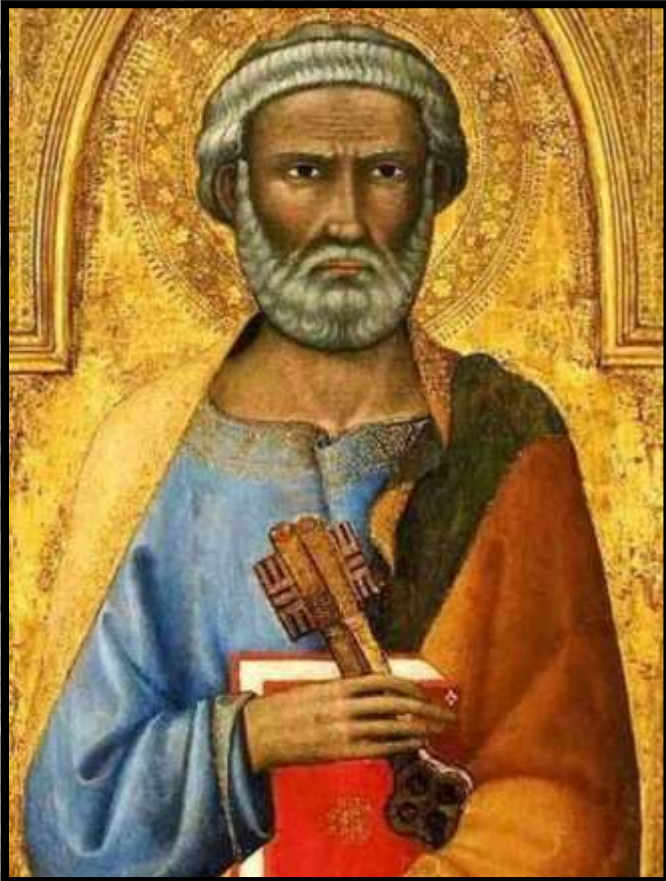
- ²² Ye men of Israel, hear these words;
Jesus of Nazareth,
a man approved of God among you by
miracles and wonders and signs,
which God did by him in the midst of
you, as ye yourselves also know:
- ²³ Him,
being delivered by the determinate
counsel and foreknowledge of God,
ye have taken, and by wicked hands
have crucified and slain:



Acts 2:22-23

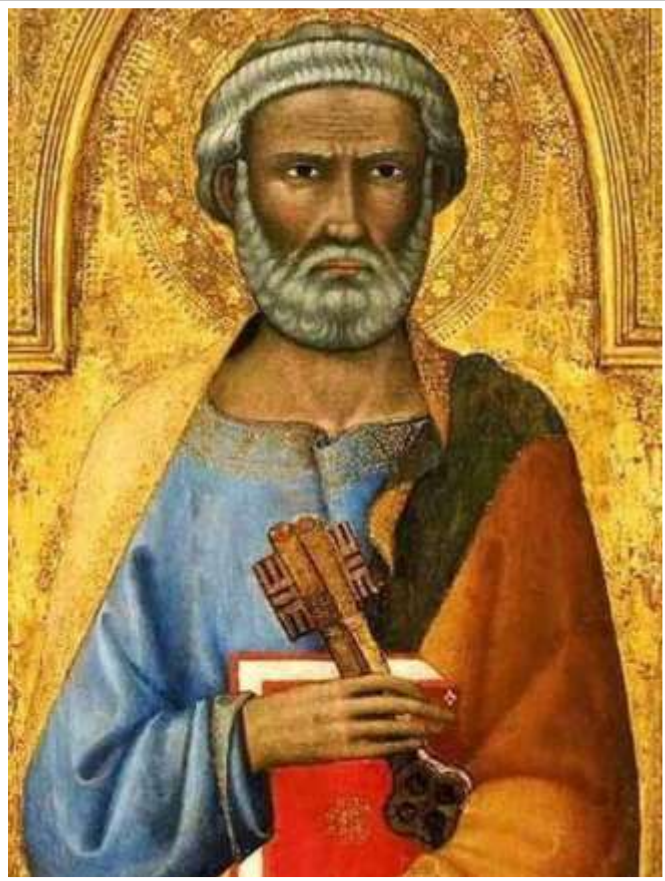
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Peter now confirmed the rumors that were spreading around Jerusalem:

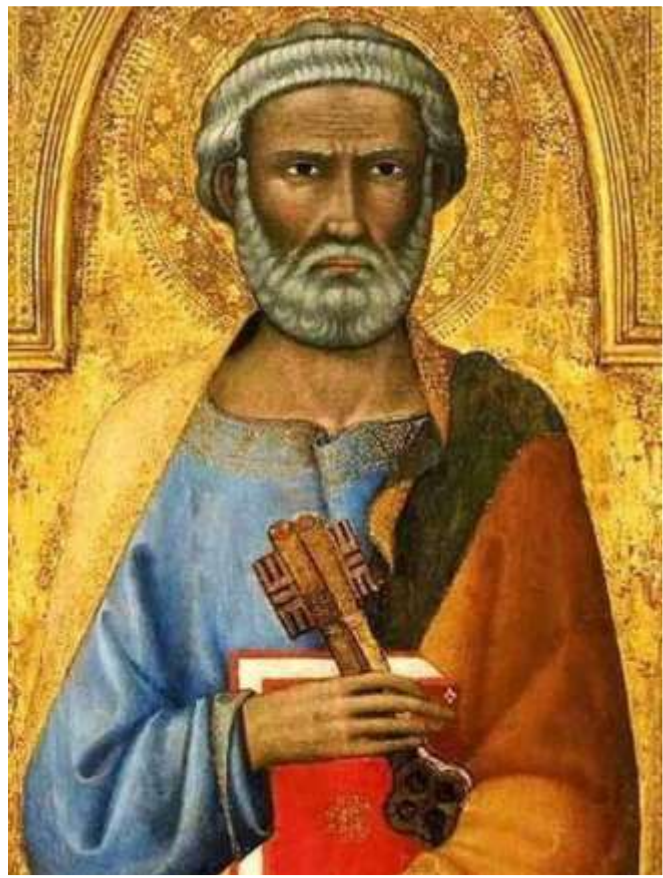


Acts 2:24

Whom God hath raised up,
having loosed the pains of death:
because it was not possible that he
should be holden of it.



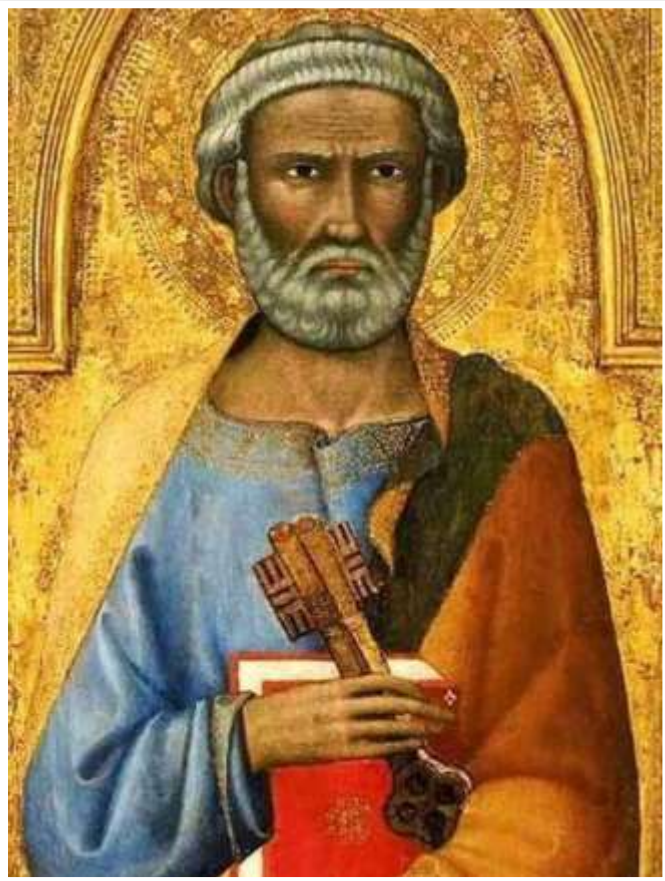
The theme of Peter's sermon is the Resurrection.



The theme of Peter's sermon is the Resurrection.

He proves its authenticity with the testimony of 3 indisputable witnesses:

1. King David
2. Those who saw the risen Christ
3. The Holy Spirit



Peter's first witness is King David, whom he quotes from Psalm 16:



Acts 2:25-28

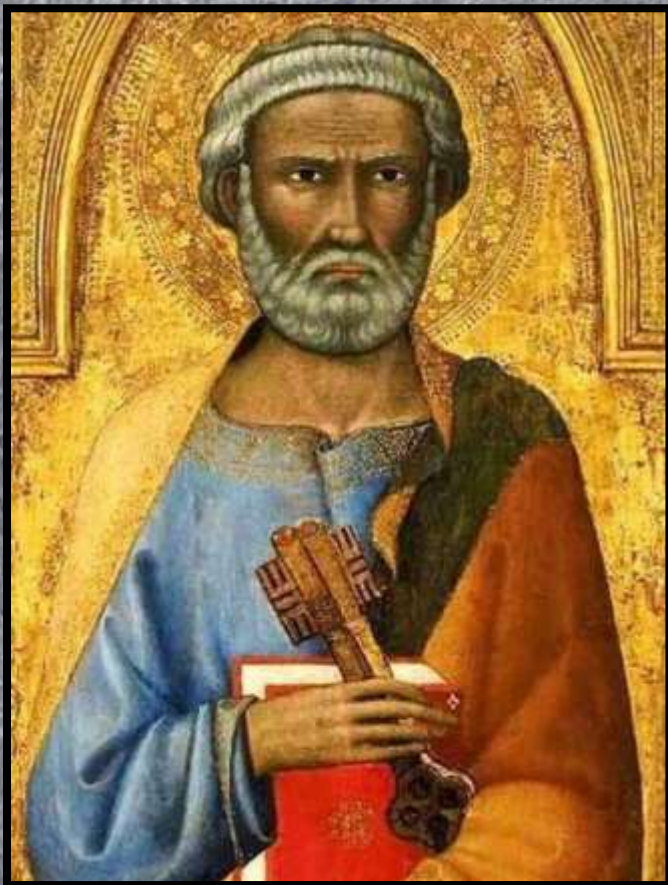
- ²⁵ For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:
- ²⁶ Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:
- ²⁷ Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.
- ²⁸ Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.



Acts 2:25-28

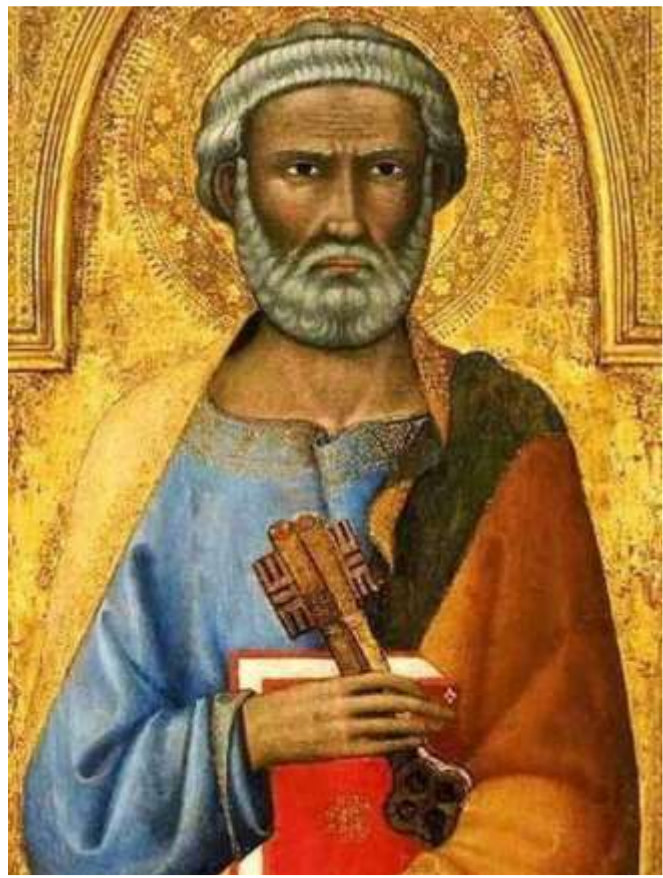
- 25 For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:
- 26 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:
- 27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.
- 28 Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

Peter now explains the meaning of this passage.

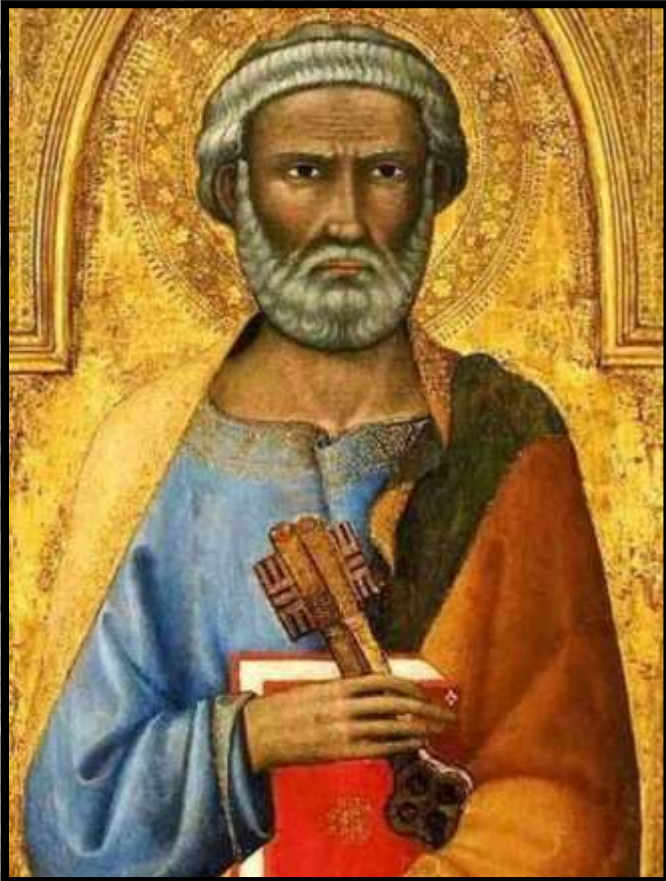


Acts 2:29-31

- ²⁹ Men *and* brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.
- ³⁰ Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;
- ³¹ **He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ,** that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

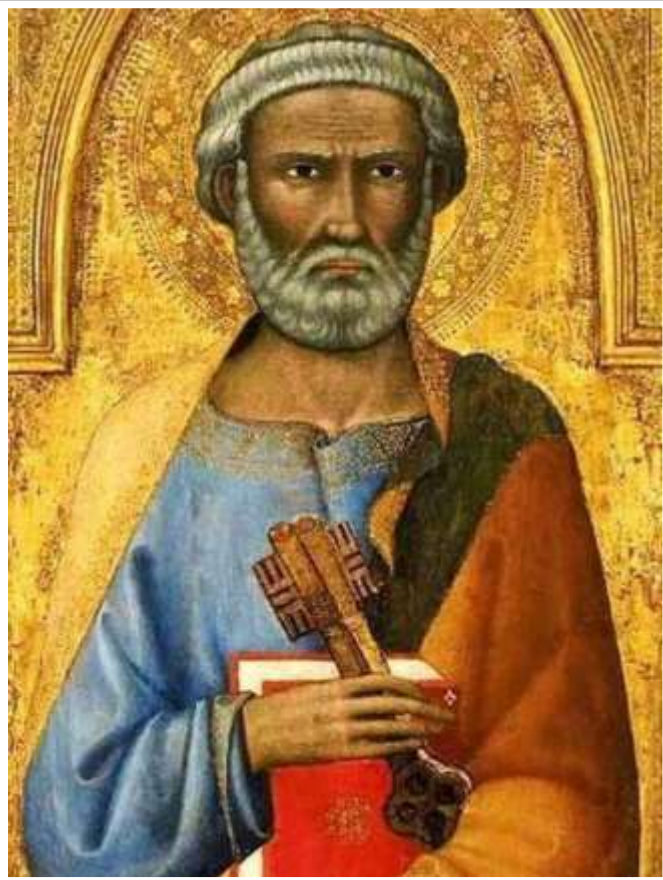


Peter's second proof was the eyewitness of the people – including himself – who saw the risen Christ.

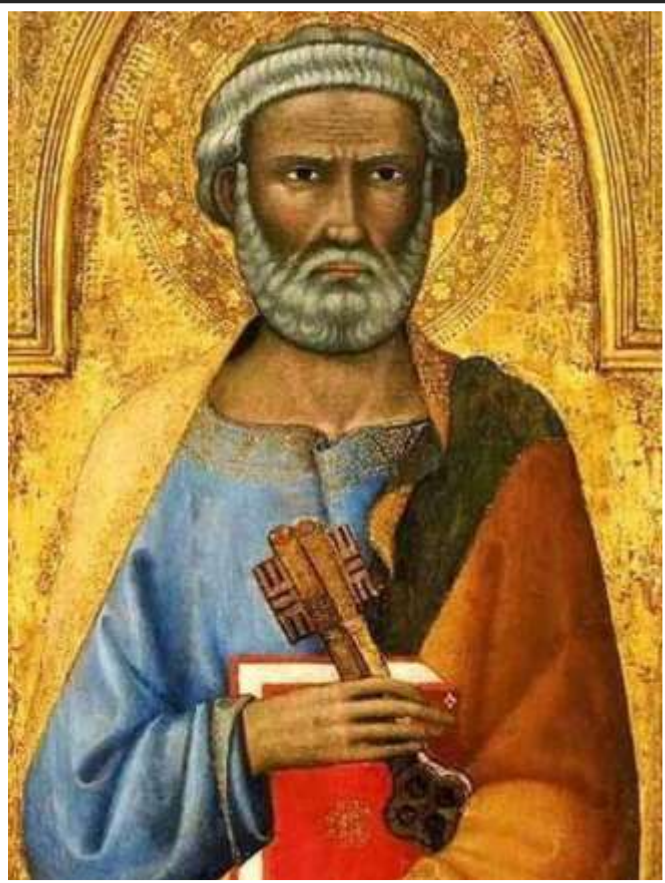


Acts 2:32

This Jesus hath God raised up,
whereof **we all are witnesses.**

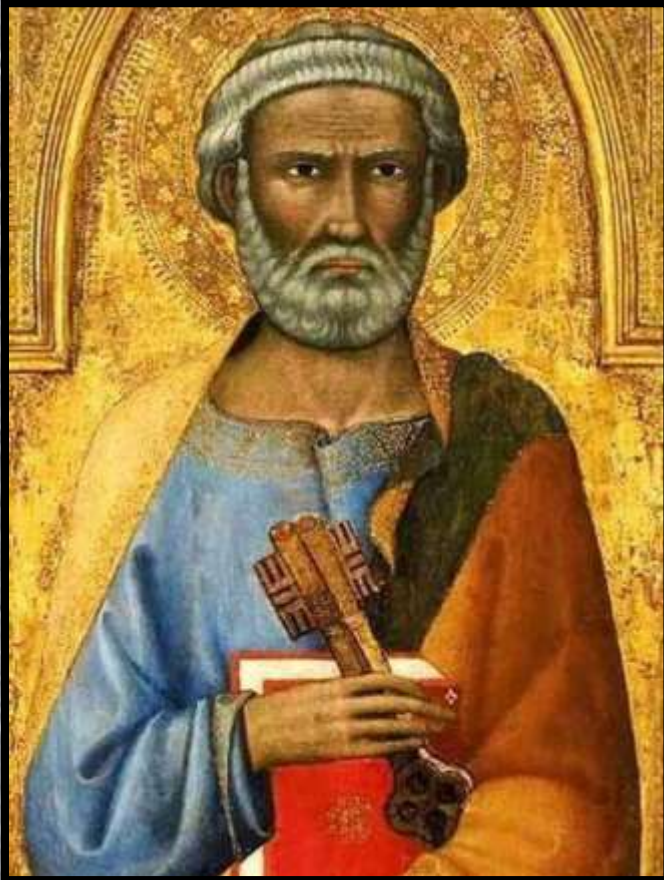


His third proof was the manifested promise of the Father, the gift of the Holy Spirit.



His third proof was the manifested promise of the Father, the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Remember, the crowd was still talking about the things they had seen and heard that morning.



Acts 2:33

Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father **the promise of the Holy Ghost**, he hath shed forth this, **which ye now see and hear.**

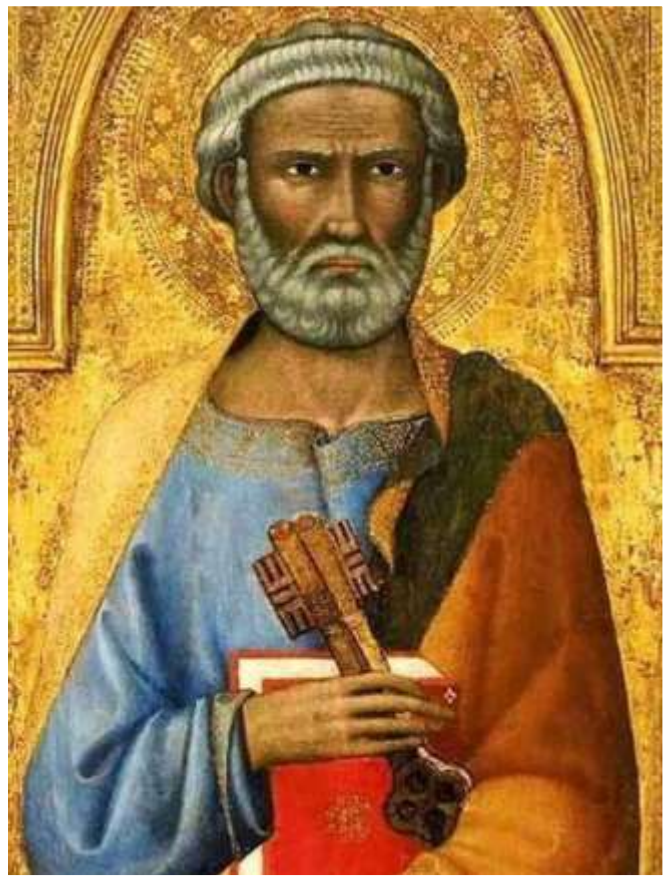


Returning to King David,
Peter quotes Psalm 110.

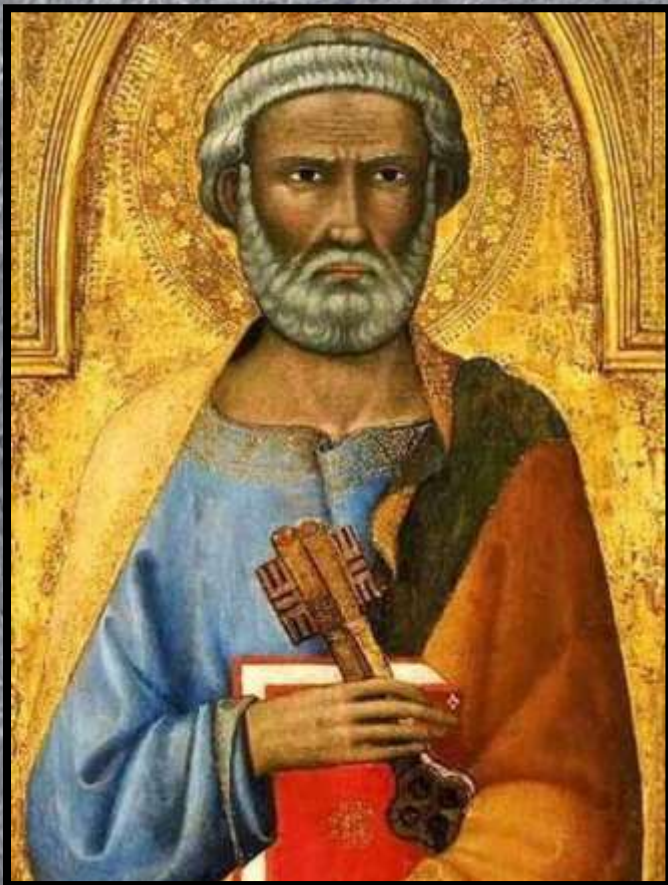


Acts 2:34-35

- 34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, 35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

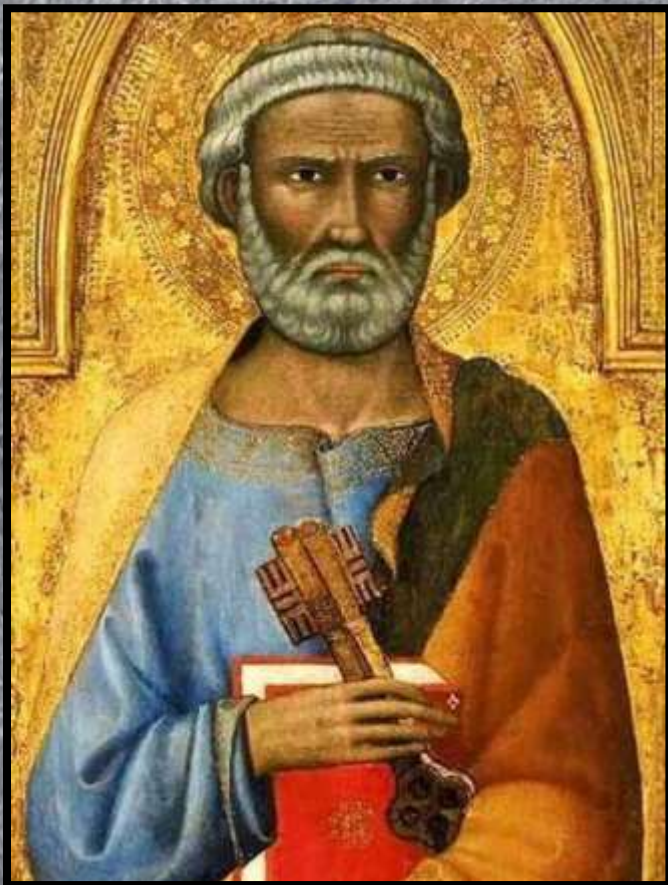


Having presented three indisputable witnesses, Peter now makes his grand conclusion:

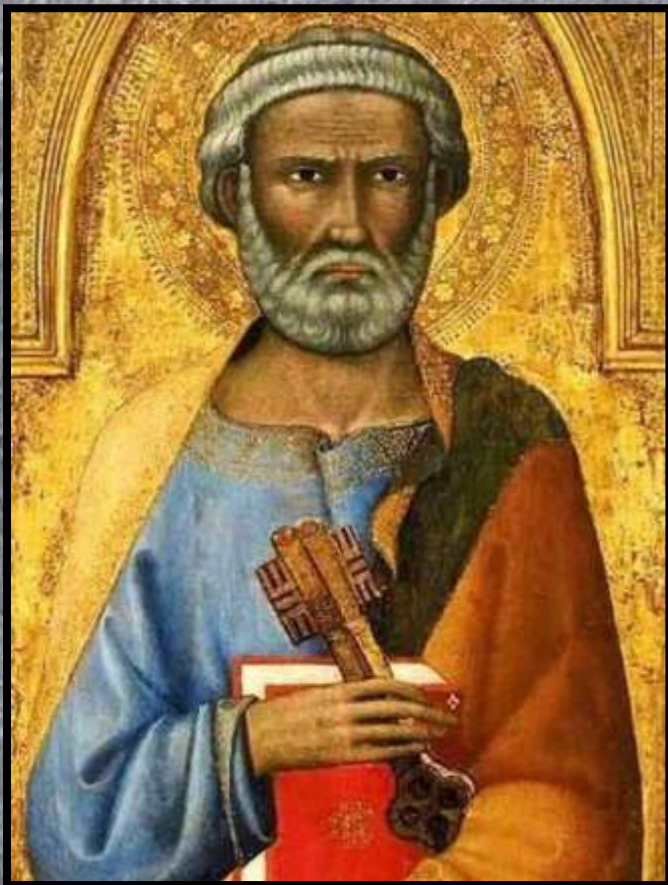


Acts 2:36

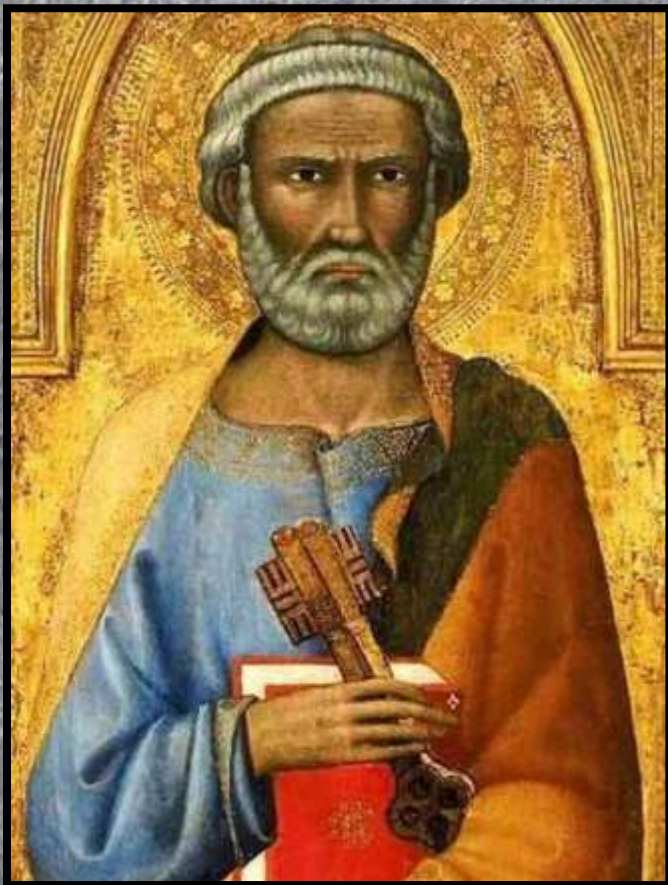
Therefore let all the house of Israel
know assuredly,
that God hath made that same Jesus,
whom ye have crucified,
both Lord and Christ.



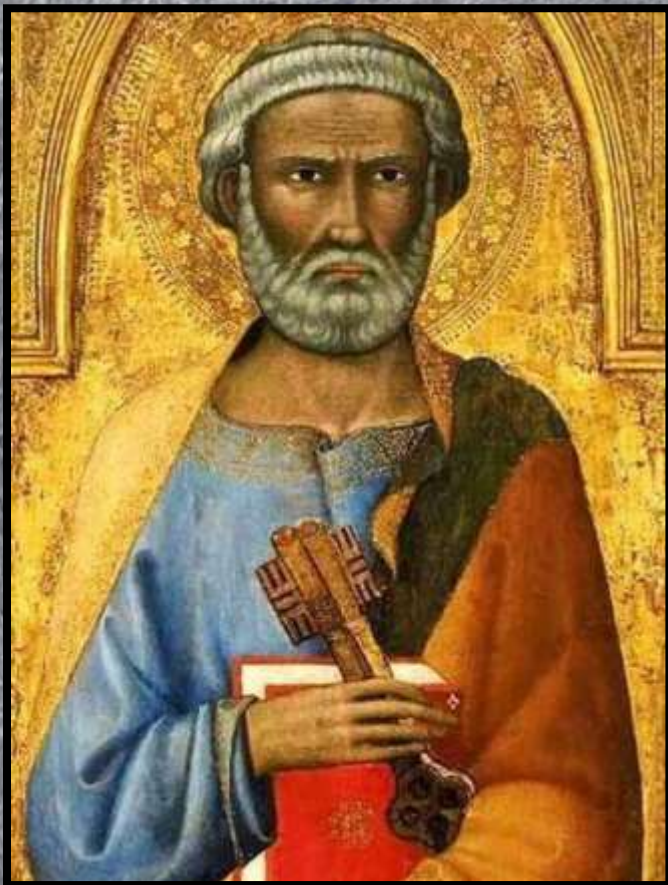
Through the witness of King David,
the witness of the apostles,
and the witness of the Holy Spirit,



Through the witness of King David,
YESTERDAY
the witness of the apostles,
and the witness of the Holy Spirit,



Through the witness of King David,
YESTERDAY
the witness of the apostles,
TODAY
and the witness of the Holy Spirit,



Through the witness of King David,

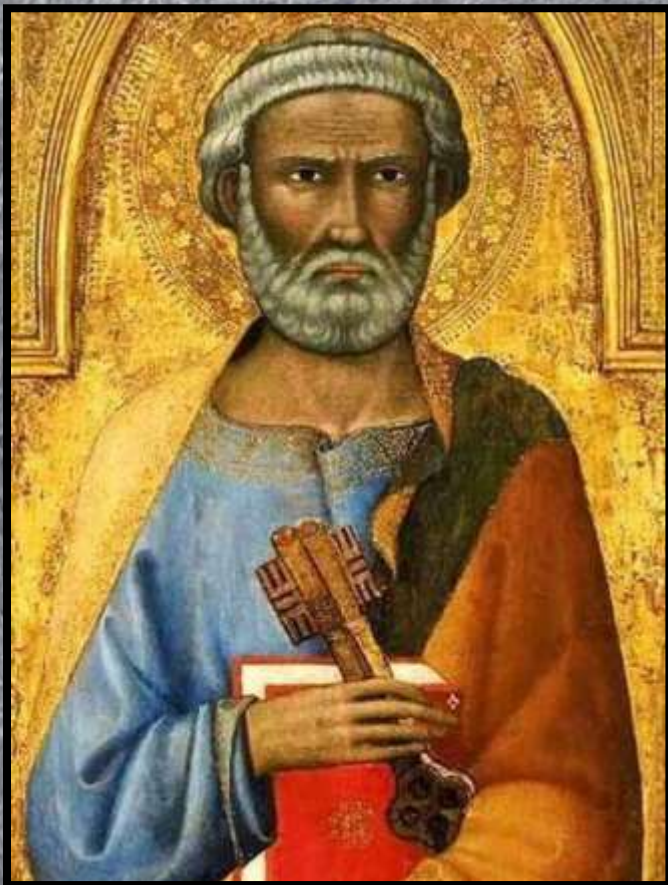
YESTERDAY

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TODAY

and the witness of the Holy Spirit,

FOREVER



Through the witness of King David,
YESTERDAY
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TODAY
and the witness of the Holy Spirit,
FOREVER

Peter declares that
Christ is Risen!



Jesus Christ the same yesterday,
and to day, and for ever.
(Hebrews 13:8)



Peter made the first call to salvation in this new era of the Christian church, and a multitude responded:



Acts 2:37-40

- 37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles,
Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?
- 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call.
- 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward [*perverse*] generation.



Acts 2:41

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized:
and the same day there were added *unto them*
about three thousand souls.

“ABOUT THREE THOUSAND”

On the day God gave the Law to Moses about 3,000 people died.

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Exodus 32:28b

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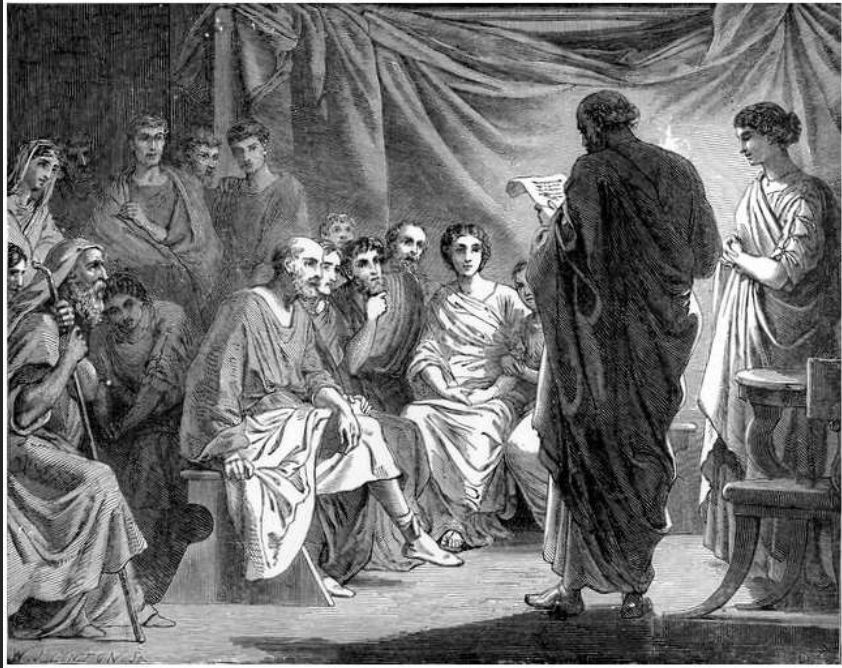
Acts 2:41b

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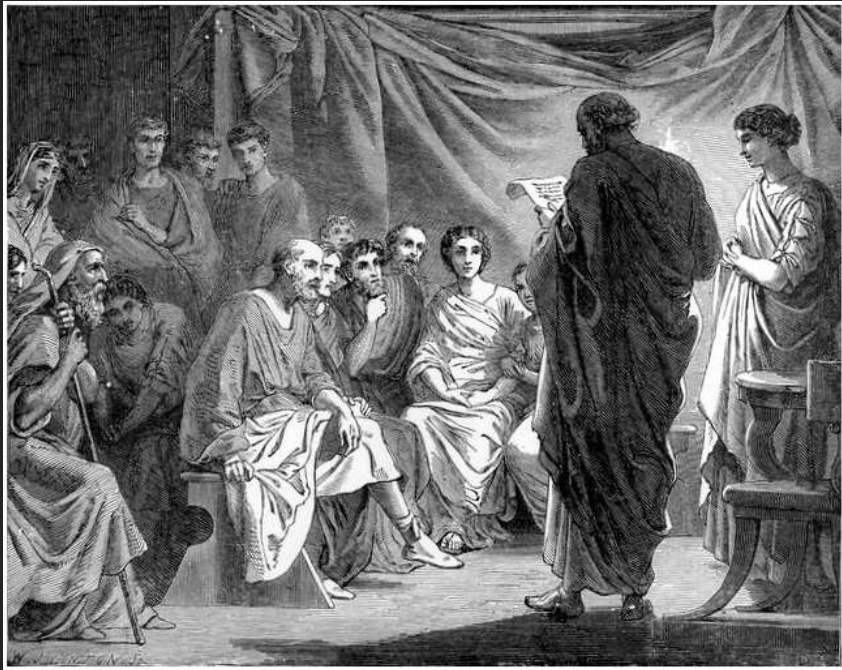
Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And so began the church of Jesus Christ:



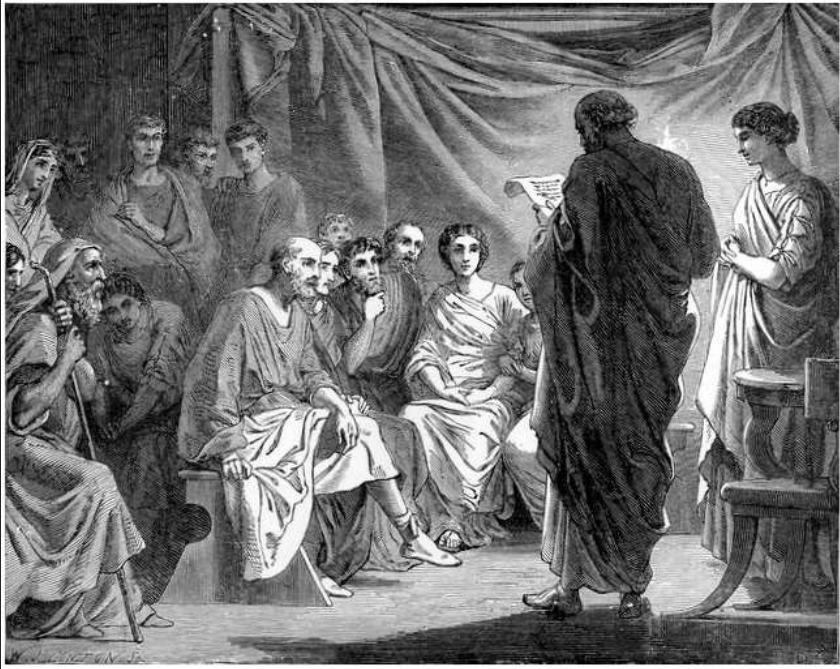
And so began the church of Jesus Christ:



Acts 2:42-45

- ⁴² And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.
- ⁴³ And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.
- ⁴⁴ And all that believed were together, and had all things common;
- ⁴⁵ And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

And so began the church of Jesus Christ:

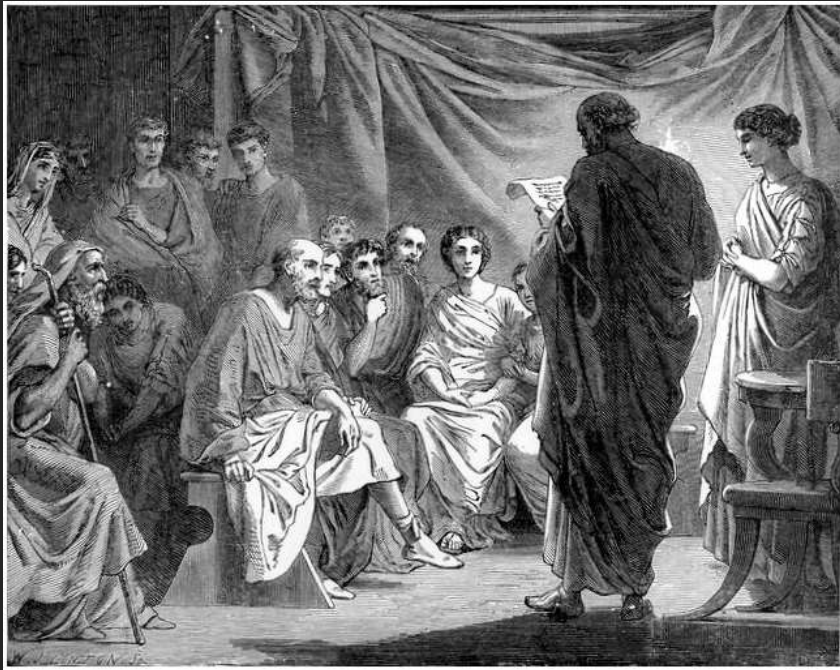


Acts 2:46-47

- ⁴⁶ And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,
- ⁴⁷ Praising God, and having favour with all the people.

And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

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And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

THE END OF CHAPTER TWO

UP NEXT:

The witness in Jerusalem continues with a healing at the Temple and Peter's second sermon.

Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

1. According to Acts 2:13, why did some of the Jews think the apostles were speaking in tongues?
2. What Old Testament prophet did Peter quote to answer them?
3. What was the theme of Peter's first sermon?
4. What was his first proof that Jesus was risen from the dead?
5. What was his second proof?
6. What was his third proof?
7. How do these three proofs agree with Hebrew 13:8?
8. When the Jews asked "What shall we do?" (Acts 2:37), what did Peter tell them?
9. How many people were saved on the Day of Pentecost?
10. How many people died on the day God gave the Law?

Each question is worth 10 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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