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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A2068 ~ Peter's Sermon.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

When the disciples of the Lord Jesus were filled with God's Holy Spirit at Pentecost, they were immediately given new abilities and power to establish a new community of believers in Jesus Christ. The first gift noticed by everyone who was visiting Jerusalem for the 'Feast of Weeks' festival was that unschooled fishermen were speaking perfectly in their own particular language. How could this happen?

Naturally, the people were amazed and confused, especially when the same disciples spoke with great power and authority from the Holy Spirit. Such things were reported back to Caiaphas, as well as the chief priests and rulers. The religious leaders viewed themselves as in charge of the festival activities, but they could not answer for the many fluent languages that the disciples were now preaching in. So Caiaphas tried to explain away the supernatural abilities that the disciples of Jesus now had.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

There were so many people at the Temple that day listening to Peter and the other disciples preach in their own language, that the chief priests and rulers knew that something supernatural had taken place. Even though they tried to explain the phenomenon away by saying that the disciples were drunk, it didn't work. Those listening knew that the disciples of Jesus were speaking in their own particular language, and they were astounded.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, these disciples were perfectly speaking foreign languages they'd never spoken or learnt before! Most of those languages were those spoken throughout the provinces of the Roman Empire. God does things for a reason and this supernatural language-speaking ability enabled people from many places to return to their homes and tell the good news of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Peter's sermon to the people at the Temple that Pentecost morning is listed in Acts, Chapter 2, He started to preach by denying they were drunk. He went on to give a full explanation of how Scripture prophecy had been fulfilled through Jesus being the Messiah and God's Holy Spirit being given to all those who believe in Him. Peter quoted from the Old Testament prophet of Joel, in Chapter 2.

The term 'afterward' that Peter used when quoting the beginning of the prophecy refers to the period between Christ's first coming to earth and His second coming at the end of the world. That period is this present time. Through Joel, God said that He would pour out His Spirit on all Jewish and Gentile believers in Christ. There would also be other signs, visions and dreams reported to prove that these people had received the Holy Spirit.

Joel also wrote that there would be warnings in the heaven above and signs on the earth below. The sun will turn into darkness and the moon into blood. Interestingly, on the day that Jesus was crucified, darkness came over the whole land from midday to 3 pm. In such darkness, the full moon on that day appeared red like blood. The same thing can happen too when there is a full eclipse of the moon.

Joel spoke of a great and glorious day of the Lord, when Christ will come again to judge all people. Although that day will be a day of judgment, the time before then, which is these present days, are the days of salvation for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord.

Almost everyone in Israel knew about the great signs and miracles that Jesus had performed during His three years of public ministry. In his sermon, Peter accused the Jews who were listening to him, of putting Jesus to death with the help of wicked men. He meant the Romans. The Jews considered the Romans to be unrighteous because they didn't worship the one true God or follow His law.

But Jesus didn't suffer and die simply by chance: He died according to God's set purpose and plan. Even though God had determined beforehand that Jesus would die, those who had crucified Jesus still remain guilty of His death. Nevertheless, God overturned their wicked intentions by raising Christ from the dead.

Peter then moved on in his sermon to quote from Psalm 16, which was written by King David. David wasn't writing about himself in this psalm, and later on, he did die and his body decayed in a tomb. David was looking forward to a future descendant of his, whom God had promised would sit on his throne for ever. And that person was the Lord Jesus.

God didn't abandon Jesus once He was in the grave or let His body decay. God raised Jesus before this could happen. Peter was trying to show the Jews that their own Scriptures prophesied the resurrection of Christ. And Peter pointed out that all the disciples had seen Him alive with their own eyes.

In this first sermon through the power and truth of the Holy Spirit, Peter used a further quote from Psalm 110, which was also written by King David. It says: "The Lord [that's God] said to my Lord [which is Christ], 'Sit at My right hand till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'" David again was speaking here about the Lord Jesus, and not himself.

Peter finally came to the main point of his sermon: "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

The Jews only ever gave the name 'Lord' to God but Peter gave that same title to Jesus also. However, it was Christ's resurrection from the dead that gave the final proof that Jesus is now both Lord and Christ forever. He is God.

In Mark, Chapter 3, the Lord Jesus gave a warning about speaking disrespectfully of God and His Holy Spirit. The Pharisees had already said that Jesus was working by the power of Satan, when in fact, He was working by the power of God's own spirit. Thus the Pharisees were calling the Holy Spirit "Satan!" This was completely untrue. And this is why Jesus gave a warning about blaspheming or speaking disrespectfully against the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said that all the sins and blasphemies of men, even words spoken against Himself, will be forgiven if the guilty person repents. There is only one sin which cannot be forgiven, and that is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. This means that people deny the authority and truth about Jesus that the Holy Spirit has revealed to them. What the Holy Spirit says is always correct.

Some Christians worry that they might have committed this unforgivable sin against God's Spirit and so have lost their salvation. But they need not fear this, as anyone who has received Jesus has received the Holy Spirit's truth and testimony within them. So they certainly have not committed this sin.

The people who has blasphemed the Holy Spirit doesn't worry about what they have done. They don't care about God or fear any consequences. Their hearts are hardened and they refuse to repent. They knowingly live in opposition to God and have persistently rejected any conviction by God's Holy Spirit.

God calls us through His Spirit to Himself and has no other way of doing so. By our own words and actions, we can cut ourselves off from the mercy and forgiveness of God. People like atheists, humanists and evolutionists do this when they speak out against the existence of God. The Holy Spirit acts like a bridge between us and God. If we destroy the bridge, our hope of salvation and entering the kingdom of God will be lost.

Therefore, when we fall into sin, let us be quick to repent from it. May we keep our hearts open to God; for if we deliberately keep turning from God, in the end He will turn from us. May we never let that happen!

Another important ministry of the Holy Spirit is to help believers pray to God. There is no Scripture that tells us to worship or pray to the Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus told His disciples in John, Chapter 16: “Whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you.” He didn’t say we’re to ask the Holy Spirit, but we’re to ask the Father. The Father knows we’re coming in Jesus’ name because He intercedes for us. Paul says in Ephesians, Chapter 6, to be “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit”, but not to the Spirit.

Trials and problems that come to us in life can be a motive for urgent prayer and change in our thinking. In the 1940s, a Serbian bishop spoke out against Nazism and for that, he was arrested and taken to a concentration camp. There he prayed: “Bless my enemies, O Lord. Even I bless them and do not curse them. Enemies have driven me into your embrace more than friends have. Friends have bound me to earth; enemies have detached me from earth and have destroyed all my ambitions in the world! I have found the safest place beneath Your everlasting arms where neither friends nor enemies can slay my soul. Bless my enemies, O Lord. Even I bless and do not curse them.”

Often, some dramatic incident will draw us closer to our Lord than the daily routines of life. The Spirit helps us to pray when we don’t know exactly what would be the best course of action to pray for.

Paul said in Romans, Chapter 8: “For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” Paul clearly explains why we need the Holy Spirit’s help when we pray: when left to ourselves, we’re too weak and inadequate. Due to our pride, we may not like to admit that we really don’t know as much as we think we do. In fact, Paul reveals that too often, we don’t even know what or how to pray.

Not only are we weak in knowledge, but the burdens of life are too much to bear alone. In this life, believers face trials, temptations and persecutions. Even without the added persecutions, life is difficult because we live in such a sin-cursed world. God has given us His Holy Spirit as a Helper who will teach us all things as we seek out God’s truth and peace.

But there are a number of pre-conditions in getting answers to our prayers: Firstly, we must have repented of our sins and asked the Lord Jesus to be our Saviour and Lord. Next, as time goes by, we must continually confess to Him any sinful attitude or wrong we’ve said, thought or done against others. We are to live with a clear conscience and in obedience to God. Wrongdoing breaks the communication lines between us and Him.

The other thing we need to remember is that God acts like a gentleman, compassionate and slow to get angry. He doesn’t force Himself on people who don’t want to know Him.

When God doesn’t allow something, it’s for our best interests. We can have complete confidence that God really does care for us and our wellbeing.

In Hebrews, Chapter 4, Verse 16, it says: “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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