

RELEARNING ANCIENT BIBLE STORIES IN A BRAND-NEW WAY

EPIC TALES

TOO



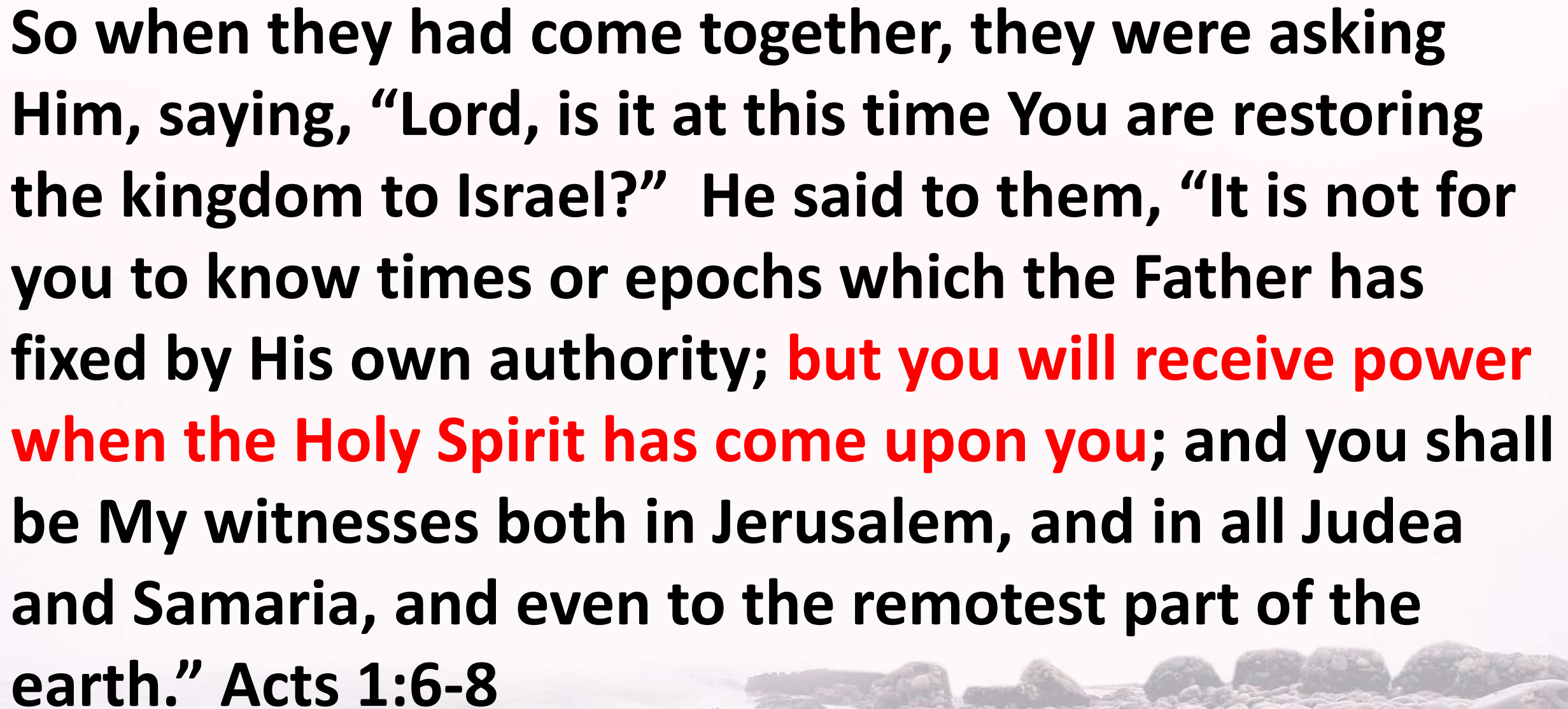
Shavuot / Pentecost

Acts 1 and 2



To these [the apostles] He [Jesus] also presented Himself alive after His suffering [crucifixion], by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” He said, “you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit **not many days from now.**” Acts 1:3-5

So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; **but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” Acts 1:6-8**



And after He had said these things, He was lifted up [ascended] while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven [Second Coming].”

Acts 1:9-11

Then they [disciples] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. Acts 1:12-14

**“Is not this the carpenter's son?
Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this man get all these things?”**

**Matthew
13:55-56**

**When the
day of
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Acts 2:1**



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Upper Room on Mount Zion

And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Acts 2:2

God chose the day of Shavuot (Pentecost) to fulfill His promise in Acts 1:8 of the giving of the Holy Spirit to those who believe in Jesus the Messiah.

Also, Jesus said, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.” John 14:26

Shavuot / Pentecost

- **Shavuot (Hebrew שבועות), known as the Feast of “Weeks” in English and as Pentecost (Πεντηκοστή) in Ancient Greek, is a biblical holiday that occurs in the Hebrew month of Sivan.**
- **Shavuot celebrates the revelation of the Five Books of the Torah by God to Moses and the Israelites at Mount Sinai, 49 days (7 weeks) after the Exodus from slavery in Egypt.**
- **Since Shavuot occurs 50 days after Passover, Greek-speaking Jews gave it the name "Pentecost" (πεντηκοστή, "fiftieth day").**

Shalosh Regalim שלוש רגלים

Three Biblical pilgrimage festivals

“Three times in a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses, at the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Pesach) and at the **Feast of Weeks (Shavuot/Pentecost)** and at the Feast of Booths (Sukkot), and they shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed. Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you.”

Deuteronomy 16:16-17

God said to Moses... “You shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks (Shavuot/Pentecost), that is, the first fruits of the wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the turn of the year. Three times a year all your males are to appear before the Lord God, the God of Israel.” Exodus 34:22-23



2021 Calendar

No.	English	Hebrew	days	equivalent
1	Nisan	ניסן	30	Mar - Apr
2	Iyar	אייר	29	Apr - May
3	Sivan	סיון	30	May - Jun
4	Tammuz	תמוז	29	Jun - Jul
5	Av	אב	30	Jul - Aug
6	Elul	אלול	29	Aug - Sep
7	Tishrei	תישרי	30	Sep - Oct
8	Cheshvan	חשוון	29/30	Oct - Nov
9	Kislev	כסליו	30/29	Nov - Dec
10	Tevet	טבת	29	Dec - Jan
11	Shevat	שבט	30	Jan - Feb
12L	Adar I	אדר א'	30	leap year
12	Adar	אדר ב'	29	Feb - Mar

Pesach March 27 - April 4

Shavuot May 16-18



Sukkot September 20-27

The Lord said to Moses, “You shall also count for yourselves from the day after the sabbath, from the day when you brought in the sheaf [Hebrew עֹמֶר omer] of the wave offering; there shall be seven complete sabbaths. You shall count fifty days [“Pentecost” in Greek] to the day after the seventh sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to the Lord.” Leviticus 23:15-16

***The ascension of Jesus occurred 40 days after His Resurrection**

***The counting period is called Sefirat HaOmer (Counting the Omer)**

- **Seven is a number representing wholeness, perfection and completion. The number 49 in Judaism represents the natural end of a full cycle or a full quota or measure. The word for measure in Hebrew is middah (מידה), and this word has a numeric value of 49. The number 49 represents the epitome of a good measure.**
- **God uses this same number pattern for the weeks (sevens) of years. After 49 years (seven cycles of Shemitah years—a sabbatical rest for the land every seven years), a Jubilee (Yovel) is reached on the 50th year, which represents freedom and liberation.**
- **This fiftieth day on Pentecost, therefore, also points to the year of Jubilee, at which time the shofar (ram’s horn) would sound, all slaves would go free, and all debts would be cancelled.**
- **“And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee [yovel] for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan.” Leviticus 25:10**

And there appeared to them tongues as of **fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. Acts 2:3**

Sounds a lot like...

- The angel of the Lord appeared to him [Moses] in a blazing **fire** from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with **fire**, yet the bush was not consumed. Exodus 3:2**
- Now Mount Sinai was all in smoke because the Lord descended upon it in **fire**; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently. Exodus 19:18**

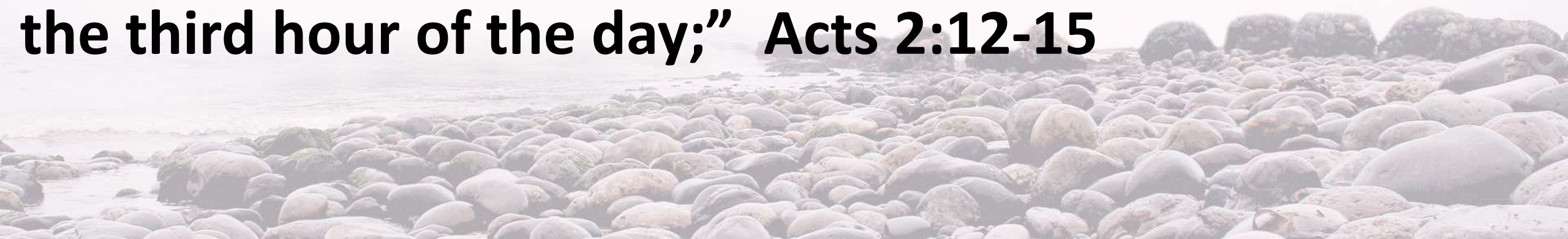
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit [Ruach HaKodesh] and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. They were amazed and astonished, saying, “Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born?” Acts 2:4-8

THE HISTORICAL CELEBRATION OF SHAVUOT

- Although a one-day festival, Shavuot really begins with the conclusion of the first day of Passover, some fifty days earlier. On that second day of the Passover festival, the new barley crop was first harvested and offered in the Holy Temple. On Shavuot the wheat harvest was celebrated by the harvesting and bringing of the new wheat crop to the Holy Temple, where it was prepared and used in the baking of the two special Shavuot loaves. Pilgrims brought the firstfruits from their own fields and orchards, of the seven fruits of the land of Israel mentioned in the Book of Deuteronomy: figs, grapes, dates, pomegranates, olives, wheat and barley. Despite being at the height of the growing season, when the physical demands upon farmers was great, the pilgrims joyfully gathered their firstfruit offerings, and set out for Jerusalem and the Temple.
- The *Day of the Firstfruits* was marked largely by the offering of the season's firstfruits from all over the land of Israel, as a gesture of profound gratitude to the Holy One for all the abundance with which He has blessed His people - material, as well as spiritual.
- In anticipation of Shavuot, families began gathering the firstfruits that they had previously marked with the reed-grass ribbon. Laden with firstfruits, both man and beast made their way to Jerusalem and the Holy Temple.

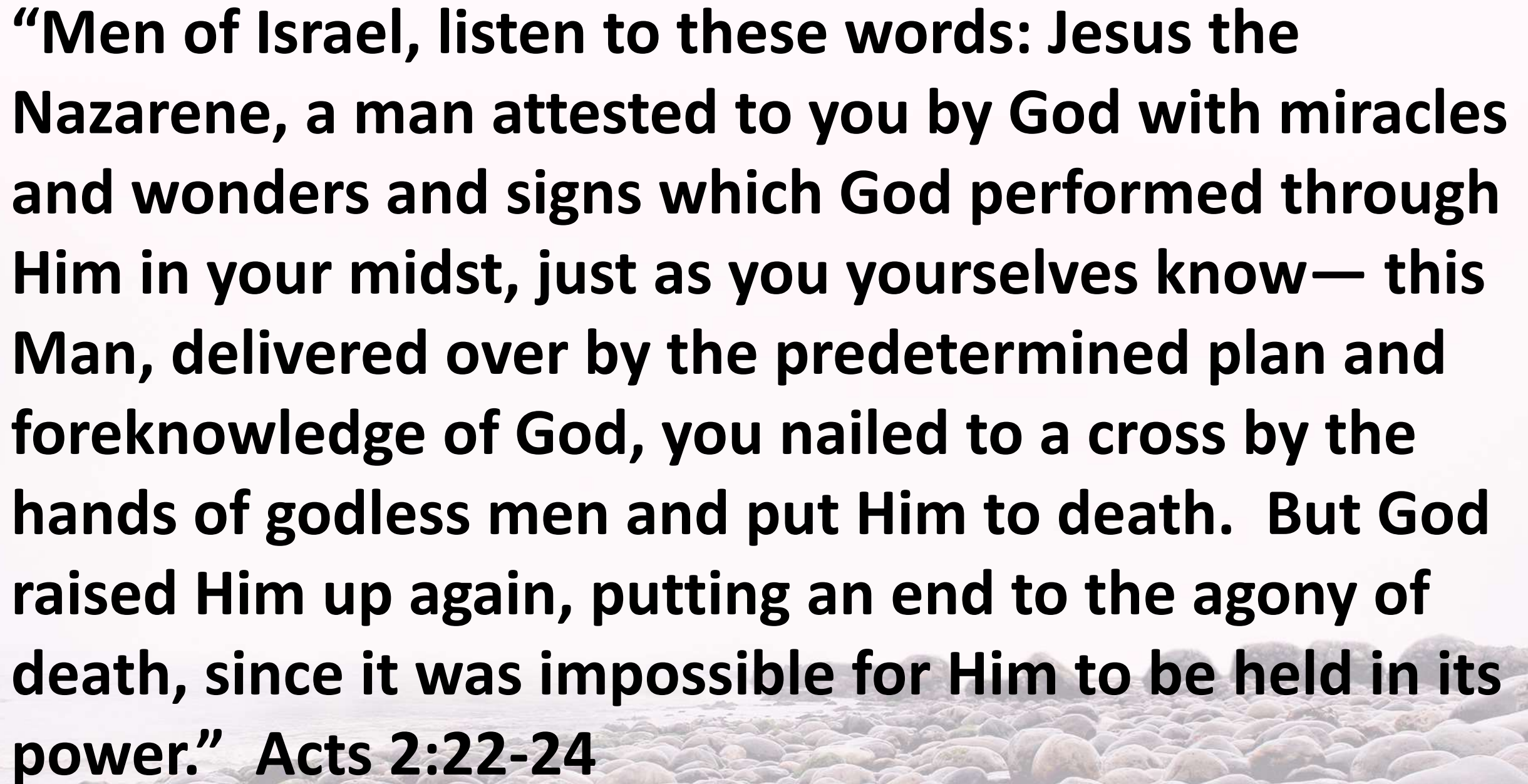
- **The Hebrew commentary Shemot Rabbah, translated as “Great Exodus”, records in 5:9, “On the occasion of the giving of the Torah, the Children of Israel not only heard the LORD’s Voice but actually saw the sound waves as they emerged from the LORD’s mouth.”**
- **It goes on to record Rabbi Yochanan saying, “God’s voice, as it was uttered, split up into seventy voices, in 70 languages, so that all the nations should understand.”**
- **The number 70 in Scripture is usually associated with “the nations,” meaning non-Jews.**
- **How incredible is it that rabbinic literature records the voice of God appearing like fire and the speaking of 70 languages being present at the first Shavuot?**

And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others were mocking and saying, “They are full of sweet wine.” But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: “Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words. For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day;” Acts 2:12-15

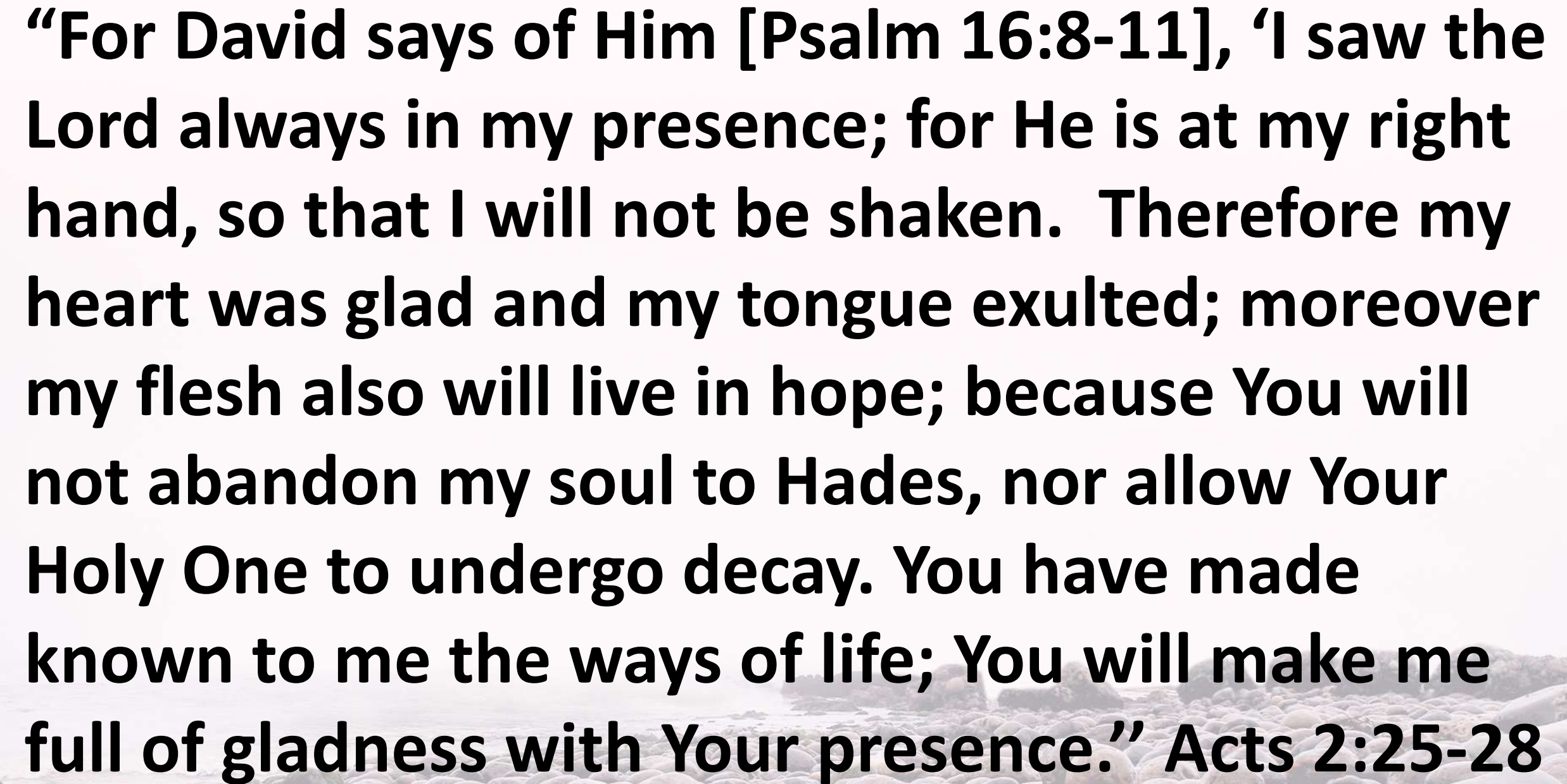


“but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel [2:28-32]: ‘And it shall be in the last days,’ God says, ‘That I will pour forth of My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on My bondslaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of My Spirit and they shall prophesy. And I will grant wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious day of the Lord shall come. And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’” Acts 2:16-21

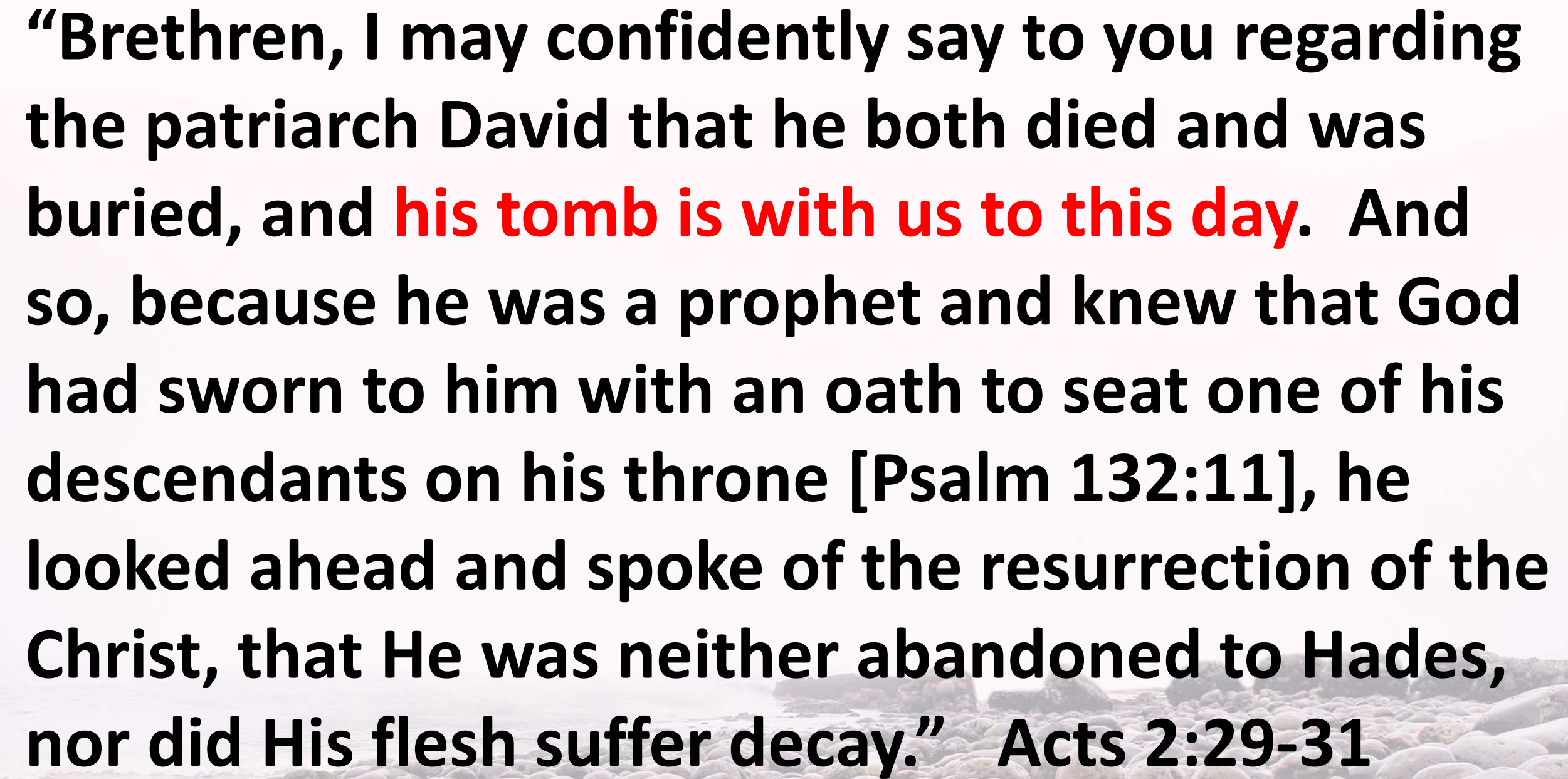
“Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.” Acts 2:22-24



“For David says of Him [Psalm 16:8-11], ‘I saw the Lord always in my presence; for He is at my right hand, so that I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart was glad and my tongue exulted; moreover my flesh also will live in hope; because You will not abandon my soul to Hades, nor allow Your Holy One to undergo decay. You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of gladness with Your presence.’ Acts 2:25-28



“Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and **his tomb is with us to this day. And so, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants on his throne [Psalm 132:11], he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay.” Acts 2:29-31**



Peter said, “This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says [in Psalm 110:1]: ‘The Lord [God the Father] said to my Lord [God the Son], “Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.” ’ Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.” Acts 2:32-36

Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”

Acts 2:37-39

And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!” So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about **three thousand souls. Acts 2:40-41**

- On that Shavuot, Israel saw an amazing reversal. After receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai, 3,000 souls perished because of the sin of the golden calf (see Exodus 32:28).
- On this same day 1,400 years later, this same number of souls were saved after the Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh) was poured out! About 3,000 people were added to the community of Believers on Shavuot.
- The Spirit of God reversed the destruction caused by the sin of man!



**Southern steps leading up to the
Jewish Temple in Jerusalem**



**A mikveh
(Jewish
ritual bath)
near the
Southern
steps
leading up
to Temple
Mount in
Jerusalem**

They were continually devoting themselves to the **apostles' teaching** and to **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** and to **prayer**. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.

Acts 2:42-45




We know the thousands of people spoke different languages and lived in different areas. We can assume they dressed differently and looked differently and had different skin colors.

Racism is evil and unbiblical and breaks the heart of God and can never be tolerated by those who profess to follow Jesus as Savior.

Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 2:46-47



What should followers of Jesus do?

Acts 2:42-47

- 1. Learn the apostles' teachings (God's Word)**
- 2. Fellowship**
- 3. Break bread together**
- 4. Pray**
- 5. Share with those in need**
- 6. Praise God**
- 7. Talk about the salvation found in Jesus**
- 8. Do all these things with people who look like you and those who don't look like you**

What should followers of Jesus do on Shavuot?

- Jesus said to His followers, “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”
- Then he [Moses] took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, **“All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!”** Exodus 24:7
- “The order is important. Israel did not pledge to figure out God’s instructions before they acted on them. They did not undertake to understand the whats, whys and wherefores of God’s directives before they would walk them out. When they stood at the foot of Mount Sinai, they promised to do what and as God commanded, and as a result of doing, they would understand. **On Shavuot, Israel accepted the yoke of the uncertain and unknown to embark on a journey with God.**” - Moshe Kempinski