

The Acts of the Non-Apostles

by Nancy Kuhlman

Lesson 4 – God's Plan is People

Review:

- Who has been empowered and instructed by God to carry out His work?
- What “resource” has God provided for bringing the message of Salvation to the world?

Read Acts 2

1. Look at Peter’s quotation of the Old Testament prophet Joel in verses 17 - 21. What does Peter want the audience to understand?

Why does he use an Old Testament (Joel 2:28-32) prophecy to make his point?

2. Remember the timing here. It is only a matter of weeks since Jesus was crucified, buried, and rose again. His empty tomb gave rise to rumors that became rampant. See Matthew 28:11-15. How might the people whom Peter addressed have been dealing with the empty tomb rumors?
3. In light of the context of the timing and the people’s familiarity with Old Testament prophecy, why is Peter’s emphasis in verse 24 and verses 31-32 particularly important?
4. Peter explains to a spiritually convicted crowd what they must do in verses 38-39. Explain *in your own words* how a person receives salvation and becomes a Christian.
5. What does God promise in verse 39, and to whom does He promise it?

What does this say about our individual and corporate places in Joel’s prophecy today?

6. Following Pentecost, as we saw in previous lessons, the Jews were dispersed as they fled persecution, and they proclaimed the Gospel wherever they went.

How does this persecution and dispersion show that the prophecy in Joel 2:28-32 is being fulfilled?



Persecution and hardship do not usually look like opportunities for great blessing. How can remembering what has been promised in Joel, and restated by Peter, complete with the “object lesson” of the persecution following Pentecost, help us view the difficult times in our lives differently? What can we do with those times?

7. In the following references, pick out the non-Apostles and tell how the Holy Spirit worked through them to advance God’s mission.

Acts 9:10-17

Acts 9:25

Acts 10:3-8, 23

Acts 11:20-21

How do these seemingly small actions fit into God’s very large plan?

8. Trace the unfolding of God’s plan presented in Acts for getting His message of salvation to the world.
9. What is *your* place in that plan today?

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