

“...LET ME SPEAK FREELY”

By Keith Greer

“Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.” {Acts 2:29} As Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost, he chose to “**speak freely**” of past events known to him and his audience. Let’s consider some things about which Peter freely spoke:

The guilt of the Jews. *“Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death...Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”* {Acts 2:23,36} The Jews in Peter’s audience were guilty of killing the prince of peace! Yet, even at the cross Jesus was willing to give them time and opportunity to repent, *“Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.’ And they divided His garments and cast lots.”* {Luke 23:34} Oh yes they were guilty! When they had the choice to release a murderer or Christ, who did they choose? *“The governor answered and said to them, ‘Which of the two do you want me to release to you?’ They said, ‘Barabbas!’ Pilate said to them, ‘What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?’ They all said to him, ‘Let Him be crucified!’”* {Matthew 27:21,22}

Jesus of Nazareth. *“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know...whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.”* {Acts 2:22,24} These Jews knew about Jesus of Nazareth—His claims and miracles, and the wonderful teaching He had delivered to them. There was overwhelming evidence of His true identify. *“And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”* {John 20:30,31}

David, the prophet and king. *“Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.”* {Acts 2:29} David had prophesied that the grave would not hold Christ: *“I have set the LORD always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.”* {Psalm 16:8-10} The angel who announced Jesus’ birth to Mary told of His connection to David: *“He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”* {Luke 1:32,33}

Christ’s exaltation. *“This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.”* {Acts 2:32,33} David also alluded to this earlier in his writings, *“The LORD said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your*

footstool.” {Psalm 110:1} If they had studied the Old Testament Scriptures, this should not have caught them by surprise. Their prejudice caused them to overlook it.

Terms of entrance into the new kingdom. *“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” {Acts 2:38} The terms of entrance into the new kingdom were unchangeable. We need to continue to “**speak freely**” as Peter did. No wavering, no reservations, no compromise—just speak the plain simplicity of the gospel message to sinful men. Lord willing, the results will be the same. {Acts 2:41} ****