A MAN NAMED JESUS CHRIST

Acts 4:10-12

Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Introduction

There were tense times for the people of Israel. Rome was tightening her grip on the nation, insurrections and rebellions against Rome were growing and a rag tag group of people were creating a stir in the name of a man named Jesus. It seems that an amazing thing is happening in the city of Jerusalem. Thousands of people are turning from their Jewish beliefs to embrace Jesus Christ (Acts 2:41; Acts 4:4). Of course, this is upsetting to the leaders of the Jewish people. After the second of these events, two of the ringleaders Peter and John are arrested in Acts 4:3, and called to give account for their actions and for the radical, new message they are preaching.

To fully understand where we are in these verses, on Sunday, we took a look back in chapter 3, Peter and John were going up into the Temple to worship at the time of the evening prayer and sacrifice, about 3 PM. As they were passing through the Beautiful Gate, they met a crippled man who had been lain there so that he might beg for pennies from the people who were headed to the Temple to worship. Instead of giving this man a few coins and passing right on by as many others did, Peter takes him by the hand and heals him in the name of Jesus. When the people, who knew this was the lame man, see this man leaping and jumping and praising God, they gather and inquire as to what is going on. Peter seizes upon this opportunity to tell them about Jesus. While he is preaching, the leaders of the people, the Sanhedrin, counsel come on the scene to see what the ruckus is all about. When they hear Peter preaching about Jesus Whom they had crucified, anger builds up inside of them. When they hear that Peter is claiming that this Jesus arose from the dead, they are absolute furious and they arrest the two preachers. But, the message had already been delivered and 5,000 men were saved by the grace of God on that day! This is the second sermonic presentation by Peter were thousands of souls were saved. 8,000 men total, not count the women and children.

After spending the night in jail, Peter and John are brought before the Sanhedrin council to explain their actions to the council. We are told in Acts 4:7 that this question is asked, "By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?" That was the wrong question to ask a Spirit-filled preacher! That question opened the door for Peter to preach a fresh message to these Jewish leaders. It was a message all about Jesus. That’s what I want to highlight tonight. A message “ALL ABOUT JESUS!”

Acts 4:10 - Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

1. WE ARE TOLD OF HIS PERSONALITY

Without even realizing it, every time His name is mentioned, whether it be in cursing or in blessing, His glory if revealed. Just the mention of His Name tells us much about Him. This double Name for our Lord, used 256 times in the New Testament, tells of His dual nature and His glory.

1. Jesus Is The Name Of His Humanity.  The name Jesus means "Jehovah Is Savior (or Salvation).” It is the equivalent of the Old Testament name Joshua. This is the name Jesus bore while He was here on earth. It is the name that identifies Him with humanity. It also could be said that this is the name of His humiliation.
2. The name Jesus was a very common name in those days. In fact, thousands of Jewish men were named Jesus. This name reminds us that He was a man. A man Who knew His share of sorrow and rejection. Isa. 53:3 says, “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.” John 1:11 says, “He came unto his own, and his own received him not.”
3. It was this name that was chosen for Him by His Heavenly Father. Matt. 1:21 says, “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.” This was the name worn by the Man Who came into this world for one purpose: that of going to the cross to die for our sins (John 18:37). God cannot die, but men die every day. God had to become man so that He might die for men, so that men might be free from the wrath of God. That is why the name Jesus is so special. It reminds us that He was a man and that He died for all men on that cross. Rom. 5:8 says, “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
4. Christ Is The Name Of His Honor.  The name “Christ”means "Anointed One". This name identifies Jesus as the Messiah. He is announced as the fulfillment of all the promises of the Old Testament. The Anointed One is found in every book of the Bible, you just have to know what to look for to see Him. For example, in…

* Genesis - The Seed of the Woman
* Exodus - The Passover Lamb
* Leviticus - The High Priest
* Numbers - The Cloud by Day and Pillar of Fire by Night
* Deuteronomy - Prophet like unto Moses
* Joshua - The Captain of the Lord's Host
* Judges - Messenger of Jehovah
* Ruth - The Kinsman Redeemer
* 1 Samuel - The Faithful Priest
* 2 Samuel - The Tower of Salvation
* 1 Kings - A Greater Than Solomon
* 2 Kings - The Reigning King
* 1 Chronicles - The Ark of the Covenant
* 2 Chronicles - The Blood on the Mercy Seat
* Ezra - The Return from Captivity
* Nehemiah - The Awesome God
* Esther - Our Mordecai
* Job - The Risen and Returning Redeemer
* Psalms - King of Glory
* Proverbs - The Friend that sticketh closer than a Brother.
* Ecclesiastes - The Giver of Life and Breath
* Song Of Solomon - The Altogether Lovely One
* Isaiah - The Suffering Substitute
* Jeremiah - The Lord our Righteousness
* Lamentations - The People's Portion
* Ezekiel - The River of Life
* Daniel - The Ancient of Days
* Hosea - The Former and Latter Rain
* Joel - The Refuge for His People
* Amos - The Rescuer of Israel
* Obadiah - The Deliverer upon Mount Zion
* Jonah - The Buried and Risen Savior
* Micah - The God Who Pardons
* Nahum - Our Stronghold in the Day of Wrath
* Habbakuk - The Anchor of our Faith
* Zephaniah - In the Midst for Judgment and Cleansing
* Haggai - The Smitten Shepherd
* Zechariah - The Branch
* Malachi - The Son of Righteousness Risen with Healing in His Wings.
* In the New Testament His story continues:
* Matthew - King of the Jews
* Mark - The Servant of Jehovah
* Luke - The Perfect Son of Man
* John - The Son of God
* Acts - The Ascended Lord
* Romans - Our Righteousness
* 1 Corinthians - The Firstfruits of the Resurrection
* 2 Corinthians - The Exalted Son of God
* Galatians - The End of the Law and our Redeemer
* Ephesians - The Head of the Church
* Phillipians - The name above every Name
* Colossians - The Preeminent One
* 1 Thessalonians - Our Returning Lord
* 2 Thessalonians - The Returning Judge
* 1 Timothy - The Mediator
* 2 Timothy - The Bestower of Crowns
* Titus - Our Great God and Savior
* Philemon - The Father's Partner
* Hebrews - The Mediator of the New Covenant
* James - The Lord of Glory
* 1 Peter - Chief Cornerstone
* 2 Peter - The Bright and Morning Star
* 1 John - The Propitiation for our Sins
* 2 John - God's Son come in the Flesh
* 3 John - The Truth
* Jude - The Believer's Security
* Revelation - The King of Kings and the Lord of Lords

Jesus Christ is the Anointed one and there is none like Him.

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1. WE ARE TOLD OF HIS PROVISION
2. Jesus Provided The Payment. Peter reminds them of the death of the man name Jesus Christ. He reminds them that it was a death on a cross. The most horrible of death known to men at that time. Jesus suffered through death so that He might pay the sin debt of all humanity, even those who were responsible for hanging Him on the cross. Do you know why He died on the cross? Isaiah 53:4-6 gives us the answer. It says, “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.” 2 Cor. 5:21 says, “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”
3. Jesus Provided the Proof. Then, Peter declares the part of the Gospel that bothered them the most. He reminded them that this same Jesus, Whom they had crucified, had been raised from the dead by the power of God. This was a documented fact and they could not deny the resurrection. The resurrection is declared in Mt. 28:1-6, when they discovered an empty tomb. In 1 Cor. 15:6, he was seen after the resurrection. And in Acts 1:9-11 the ascended back to heaven on a cloud.
4. Jesus Provided A Promise.  Peter doesn't mention this in his sermon here, but the Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Cor. 15:20, “But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.” Jesus is called "the firstfruits from the dead." This is a reference to the Old Testament wave offering, in which the first of the grain harvest was waved before the Lord (Ex. 29). The firstfruits were a picture of the fact that more was on the way. In the same manner, when Jesus arose from the dead, His resurrection was a statement that more would follow. Every person who follows Jesus in death to sin unto salvation will one day follow Him out of the grave in resurrection.  1 Thes. 4:13-18 tells us the dead in Christ will rise and those who are alive will be changed in the twinkle o an eye and caught up in the air to meet the Lord. Old preachers call this, “A great gettin' up morning.”

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1. WE ARE TOLD OF HIS POWER

As Peter continues His sermon, He tells the Sanhedrin that the cripples man at the Beautiful Gate was healed through the power of the name of Jesus. This serves to remind us of the fact that Jesus has the power to change lives! Jesus Christ is in the life changing business.

* 2 Cor. 5:17 - Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
* Mt. 8:2-3 - And, behold, there came a leper and worshiped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.
* Read about the “Gaderene Demonic” in Mark 5, “Bartimaeus” in Matthew 10; The Thief on the cross in Luke 23; Lazarus in John 11)

Acts 4:11-12 - This is the stone which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

1. WE ARE TOLD OF HIS PREEMINENCE
2. He Is The Lofty (Exalted) Savior.  Peter refers to Psalm 118:22, a noted Messianic prophecy, and applies it to Jesus. He is making the case that Jesus is the Messiah. He is the promised One. He is the One Whom God has exalted above all others. His name is above every name (Phil. 2:5-11). Jesus is worthy of our faith! He is worthy of our honor. He is worthy of our praise. He alone is worthy to be exalted! Therefore, let the redeemed of the Lord say so and magnify His Name!
3. He Is The Lone Savior.  Peter finishes his sermon by reminding these men that salvation can only be found in the Lord Jesus Christ! He and He alone is the source of salvation for all men. Note the word "must". If you will escape the fires of Hell and will enter into the glories of Heave, you will do so through none other than the Lord Jesus Christ! He alone can save the soul of man, John 14:6.

Conclusion

What do you believe about this man named Jesus? Is He the Savior of your soul? Are you trusting His death and resurrection to get you into Heaven?

These men to whom Peter was preaching were good men as far as their cleanliness of life was concerned. However, each one of them was as lost as man could be. They needed to hear what Peter told them that day and if you are lost, you need to hear it today. Are you saved? Have you trusted Jesus? Will you receive Jesus today?

The Bible tells us that this man who was healed had been laid at this gate daily, 3:2. After he had been healed the Bible tells us that all the people knew who he was, 3:10. I gather from this that he had been coming there for a long time. Now, Jesus had only been gone for a couple of months at this time. Imagine how many times Jesus must have passed this man by and yet He hadn't healed him. Why didn't Jesus heal this man? The answer may be that Jesus was waiting for the precise time when God would get the most glory. That happened the day God healed this man through Simon Peter. His time had come!

I said all of that to tell you this. Salvation may have passed you by many times before. But, today, the Lord is dealing with your heart. Right now is your time! The Lord is calling. He is willing to save you if you will come. He wants to save you. If you need to be saved, come to Jesus now and call on Him.

If you are saved, you might just want to praise His for Who He is! If so this altar is open for your need right now. Will you just mind Him as He speaks to your heart?