



Forsake My Soul in Hell

(Acts 2:22-27 KJV) Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: {23} Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: {24} Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. {25} For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on



my right hand, that I should not be moved: {26} Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: {27} Because thou wilt not leave [forsake or abandon] my soul [me] in [into] hell [hades], neither wilt thou suffer [give] thine Holy One to see corruption.

You might be wondering who spoke these words. We need to read verse 14 to determine that:

(Acts 2:14) But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

The Apostle Peter received this revelation, and was, in part, quoting from Psalm 16. He was speaking about Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God. God approved His son, Jesus, through his son's miracles, wonders and signs. God did these by His son in the midst of the men to whom Peter spoke. None of them could deny these great acts. Can you imagine, just for a moment, what must have gone through those men's minds? They saw Jesus

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walking among the people. They heard his voice when he spoke to the people. They may even have been subjects of those great acts. God may have reached into some of their hearts through Jesus. None of them could deny Peter's words. That's what Peter meant when he said, "as ye yourselves also know."

It was those same men who got together and determined to kill Jesus. No matter how horrific his death, the Word declares that God knew it was going to happen – "foreknowledge of God." God, through Peter, stated that these evil men used their wicked hands to crucify and slay Jesus. But their power knew definite bounds, unlike God's, whose power is boundless. We know this from Peter's words "Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death." Consider this. How fantastic! None of us have this kind of power without

God alive in us. Life, in all of its forms, belongs to God. And, God had already determined that Jesus was not going to "be holden of" death. This is where Peter quoted Psalms.

(Psa 16:8-10) I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. {9} Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. {10} For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

One of the most remarkable identifiers of Jesus Christ rested in the fact that death would not take hold on him. Yes, he was to die, but he was never to remain dead. This is what allowed David to proclaim, "I shall not be moved," in verse eight. This hope is what made David's heart

glad and his glory to rejoice. This is what allowed him to focus on the future and trust that his "flesh also shall rest in hope." His flesh is still resting in that hope. And then comes the great tenth verse, "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."

Most people stop at the word "hell" and boldly claim that Jesus didn't have to remain in that strange and unknown place. I'd like to take you past where most people ever go with Jesus and with the subject of hell.

The second part of this verse claims that Jesus would not suffer corruption. Corruption means, "decay." If Jesus did have to go to hell, or remain there, he certainly would have seen corruption. But what does the word 'hell' mean?

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“Hell” comes from the Greek word *hades*, and the Hebrew word *sheol* meaning, “grave.” It never means “hell” as is usually taught. If you have followed the many previous Artios articles on the subject of “hell,” you know that no such place exists. If we use the word “grave” instead of “hell,” the meaning of the verse suddenly will spring to life.

{10} For thou wilt not leave my soul in the grave; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

God did not leave Jesus in the grave; Jesus’ body never was allowed to become corrupted.

How do we know this? Because it takes at least three full days for the corruption process to begin. God raised Jesus from the dead before Jesus’ body had a chance to decay or corrupt. Isn’t our God wonderful?

Let’s look again at Acts. Peter talked about David, that Jesus was of the fruit of his loins according to the flesh.

(Acts 2:29) Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

This same David looked forward to Christ’s first coming. It was his great hope.

(Acts 2:30-32) Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

David believed that God would send Jesus, and that Jesus would sit on his throne. He believed

that God would raise Jesus from the dead.

{31} He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

Peter confirmed, by revelation, David’s words from Psalms. David “saw” this by revelation before it ever happened. If I would have seen something like this, I think I’d have the same confidence and believing that David had. What a marvel that he had shared in this experience.

{32} This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

Then Peter declares the truth of God’s great act. God raised Jesus up from the dead! All the people present were witnesses. No one there could rightfully deny this

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even if they tried.

Jesus never visited hell as it seems like according to the Acts 2:27 translation. He did visit the grave, but only for a short three days and nights. His body never saw corruption or decay. Why? Because God raised him up before it could have happened. Now, Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

(Acts 2:34-36) For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, {35} Until I make thy foes thy footstool. {36} Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Jesus, and all Christians, will never be forsaken in hell. Jesus,

and all Christians, will never be forsaken in the grave.

Much love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown