

## 5 ENDORSEMENTS OF JESUS FROM GOD

Acts 2:22-36

"Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. [23] This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. [24] But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. [25] David said about him:

" I saw the Lord always before me.  
 Because he is at my right hand,  
 I will not be shaken.  
 [26] Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;  
 my body also will live in hope,  
 [27] because you will not abandon me to the grave,  
 nor will you let your Holy One see decay.  
 [28] You have made known to me the paths of life;  
 you will fill me with joy in your presence.'

[29] "Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. [30] But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. [31] Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. [32] God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. [33] Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. [34] For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

" 'The Lord said to my Lord:  
 "Sit at my right hand  
 [35] until I make your enemies  
 a footstool for your feet." '

[36] "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

There has been a reconciliation movement in recent years

Maybe you have heard about it

Church leaders rising up and calling the church to repentance for racism By  
Calling the church to seek forgiveness from black leaders in this country for  
Slavery that took place before the 1860's

Calling the church to seek forgiveness from Muslims for the brutality of the  
crusades

**How do you feel when you hear about such movements?**

I think for many there is an initial feeling of denial and resentment that  
something so far away, so long ago - could even begin to be laid at their  
feet.

“Why do I have to ask Muslims to for give me for the crusades when I was  
not even there.”

“Why do I have to apologize for slavery..I never owned any slaves

I think that must have been the reaction of hundreds of the people Peter was  
talking to when he told them YOU KILLED JESUS.

There were 1000's of Jews in the vicinity of Peter on the day of Pentecost

Some of them may have been among the mobs that shouted, "Crucify him!  
Crucify him!"

For the most part they were not directly responsible with the death of Jesus.

Most of them WEREN'T EVEN THERE ON THAT DAY.

But Peter doesn't seem to be worried about that.

In verse 23 he says, "**and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross..**"

And at the end, in verse 36, he says, "**This Jesus YOU crucified.**"

### **HOW CAN HE SAY THAT?**

He can say it because

**Everybody in that crowd was involved in the crime against Jesus that brought him to his death.**

What you must realize is that the crime against Jesus was not the ending of his physical life.

The crime against Jesus was the rejection of God in Jesus' life.

THINK WITH ME CAREFULLY ABOUT THIS.

It is tremendously important and has major implications for us today.

Jesus was handed over to be crucified on the grounds of blasphemy.

He claimed to be the Son of God

Luke 22:70-71

They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?"

He replied, "You are right in saying I am."

[71] Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips."

Jesus claimed that God was endorsing him as Messiah (Luke 22:67-69).

Luke 22:67-69

"If you are the Christ," they said, "tell us."

Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me, [68] and if I asked you, you would not answer. [69] But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God."

The Jewish rulers rejected That God was involved in the life of Jesus

They called him a blasphemer.

Therefore, if a person rejects the role of God in the life of Jesus, **that person votes for the charge of blasphemy.**

And to cast your vote on the side of blasphemy –

To reject God's endorsement of Jesus –

**Is to say in your heart, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"**

The question before us this morning is

Do you agree with God about Jesus?

Or do you reject his endorsement of Jesus?"

"Do you join God in his affirmation of Jesus,

or do you stand against God in the life of Jesus?

### **BEFORE YOU ANSWER THAT QUESTION**

Let me show you from this text the five ways in which God endorses Jesus

What I want to demonstrate to you is the stark contrast between the way God treats Jesus and the way the Jews treated Jesus

-- and perhaps the way you have treated Jesus.

So as I unfold these five ways that God stands up for Jesus, examine yourself and see if you are standing with God for Jesus

or casting your vote another way.

**PRAY**

## **1. GOD ENDORSED JESUS BY WORKING MIRACLES AND SIGNS AND WONDERS THROUGH HIM.**

Acts 2:22

"Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

Two times Peter says

God is the one at work in the miracles of Jesus.

First he says "Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, "

The miracles were God's certification of Jesus.

They were God's vote,

God's testimony.

When Jesus did a miracle, it was God's endorsement -- Luke 9:35  
 , "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him."

the sentence goes on and says, ". . . , wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

God's power was the power at work in Christ.

God was in Christ to heal the sick

God was in Christ to still the storm

God was in Christ to cast out demons

God was in Christ to raise the dead.

In fact while he was on the earth God gave Jesus the fullest endorsement any human ever had. He gave him his Spirit "without measure" (John 3:34).

John 3:34

For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.

**Are we with God in this or against him?**

## **2. GOD ENDORSED JESUS BY PLANNING HIS DEATH FOR THE SINS OF HIS PEOPLE.**

Acts 2:23

This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

You can hear a superficial cynic respond to this and say,

"What kind of approval is that?"

If God planned to hand over Jesus to be killed then all he did was link arms with lawless men and help them put Jesus to death!

That's not much of an endorsement."

That response ignores everything else the Bible has to say about **why God planned the death of Jesus.**

Listen to what Jesus said about why God planned his death.

Luke 24:46-47

He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, [47] and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

In other words, God planned the suffering and death of Jesus so that forgiveness of sins could be preached to all the nations

The difference between God's plan to crucify Jesus and Pilate's plan to crucify Jesus was that Pilate was rejecting Jesus as mere pretender and God was honoring Jesus as the Servant of the Lord and the Savior of the World.

God planned the death of Jesus  
**not** to disown him or  
**dishonor** him  
**or reject** him,

but to **glorify him**  
**as the perfect,**  
**flawless**  
**Lamb of God,**  
 who takes away the sin of the world.

God's plan for Jesus to die was not an indictment

like the plan of the Jews,

But an **ENDORSEMENT** of his infinite worth

so that he could save the Jews.

Are we with God in this or against him?

### **3. GOD ENDORSED JESUS BY RAISING HIM FROM THE DEAD.**

Verse 23 ends, "This Jesus you killed and crucified."

Then, in stark contrast, verse 24 gives God's powerful response to that act,

Acts 2:24

But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

He says,  
 You voted no **against Jesus**.

But God voted **YES for Jesus**.

You denounced him,  
but God endorsed him.

You killed him,  
but God raised him up.

Then, in verses 25-31, Peter shows that the resurrection of Jesus fits with Old Testament prophecy and that it means that Jesus is

the son of David (v. 30);  
he's the Messiah (v. 31).

So it was the Messiah himself that they had killed.

### **BUT GOD RAISED HIM UP.**

Peter means for his audience to feel the clash between their rejection of Jesus

and God's acceptance of Jesus;

their defamation of Jesus

and God's affirmation of Jesus.

What matters here ultimately is not that they killed a man,

**BUT THAT BY NOT ACCEPTING THE CHRIST  
THEY ARE AGAINST GOD.**

Now this is a shocking and stunning thing for people to hear and extremely hard to admit.

These are religious people that Peter is talking to.

They are moral people.

They are worshipping people.

They are people who know hundreds of verses in God's Word by heart.

And he is telling them that they are totally at odds with God.

**THEY CLAIM TO KNOW GOD.**

**THEY CLAIM TO LOVE GOD**

**AND WORSHIP GOD**

**AND FOLLOW GOD.**

And Peter says that they are diametrically opposed to God.

They are anti-God.

The test of whether we are anti-God or not

IS NOT

whether we say we believe in God, or whether we say we know God, or love God, or serve God.

**THE TEST IS WHETHER WE EMBRACE JESUS.**

If we say we know God,  
but reject Jesus as the worker of miracles;

if we say that we know God but reject Jesus as the Passover sacrifice that  
takes away sin;

if we say we know God and reject Jesus whom God raised from the dead,

**THEN WE DON'T REALLY KNOW GOD.**

Hearing this message cut Peter's hearers to the heart.

They saw that in their zeal for "God"

they had been against God all the time

They had not realized 2 Cor. 5:19

that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them.

Jesus is the test of all true knowledge of God.

Are we with God in his endorsement of Jesus, or are we against God?

#### **4. GOD ENDORSED JESUS BY EXALTING HIM TO HIS RIGHT HAND AND PUTTING ALL HIS ENEMIES UNDER HIS FEET.**

Verse 33: "Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God . . ." Then in verses 34-35 Peter quotes Psalm 110 to show the significance of this exaltation.

He says, "For David did not ascend into the heavens; but he himself says, 'The LORD (that is, God the Father) said to my Lord (that is the coming Messiah, Jesus), Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet.'"

In other words, David already foresaw that God would exalt the risen Messiah to his right hand and give him a place of rule and supremacy over every other person and power in the universe.

#### **THIS ENDORSEMENT OF JESUS EXPOSES THE ULTIMATE HORROR OF REJECTING HIM.**

In rejecting Jesus not only have they rejected the one God declared to be Messiah by raising him from the dead (cf. vv. 30-31);

They have also rejected the one whom God declared to be the Lord of the universe by exalting him to his right hand.

This is the decisive thrust of Peter's sermon as he sums it up in verse 36,

Acts 2:36

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

God endorsed Jesus as the Lord

by exalting him all the way to the highest place in the universe and making him supreme over all his enemies.

God endorsed Jesus as the worker of miracles on the earth.

God endorsed Jesus as the perfect sacrifice for sins.

God endorsed Jesus as the risen Messiah.

God endorsed Jesus by exalting him to be Lord of the universe.

To reject Jesus then is to reject GOD!

To vote no on Jesus is to oppose GOD.

That's the issue.

Acts 2:37

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

So I ask again,

Did you kill Jesus?

Not: Were you bodily there?

But: Do you join God in his affirmation of Jesus, or do you stand against God in the life of Jesus?

There is one more endorsement of Jesus that God gives in this sermon.

I save it for last because it is full of hope.

## **5. GOD ENDORSED JESUS AS ONE WORTHY TO RECEIVE THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**AND POUR HIM OUT IN GREAT BLESSING ON SINNERS WHO REPENT.**

Acts 2:33

Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

God gave Jesus the privilege of pouring out the Holy Spirit – the privilege of baptizing with the Spirit

Acts 1:5

For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

the privilege of filling us with the Spirit

Acts 2:4

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

the privilege of clothing his people with the Spirit's power from on high

Luke 24:49

I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

What is at stake here and at every point in this sermon is God.

The miracles of Jesus,

The death of Jesus,

The resurrection of Jesus,

The exaltation of Jesus,

The privilege of Jesus to baptize his church in the Holy Spirit

all these are endorsements from God almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth.

Are we with him or against him?

Do we join him in his exaltation of Jesus?