**“APPROVED BY GOD …JESUS”**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1) scripture – Acts 2:22-24…

 -a. these verses are part of one of the greatest recorded sermons within the

 pages of the New Testament.

 -b. With this lesson presented by the apostle Peter, the church was brought forth

 -1. Peter was given the *“keys to the kingdom”* – Matt.16:18-19

 (“keys” = gospel message of salvation thru Christ)

 -2. Here, for the first time these “keys” were “used” to open salvation unto all

 thru Jesus Christ, the savior

 -a-. specifically here, they opened the door unto the ***Jews*** – Acts 2:22

 -b-. later, Peter will speak and open the door of salvation

 unto the ***Gentiles*** – Acts 10:1-ff ..15:7

2) Acts chapter 2, Pentecost, one of the “three required feasts of the Jews” in which “ALL”

 WERE REQUIRED TO ATTEND IN JERUSALEM each year.

 -a. Exo.23:14 - ***“three times a year shall you celebrate a feast …”***

 Exo.23:17 - ***“three times a year shall all your males appear before the Lord…”***

 -b. for hundreds of years, yearly they had come to Jerusalem, the Temple

 -c. but this time something *“unexpected”* was to occur

3) Acts 2:1… ***“the day of Pentecost had come...”***

 -a. apostles were all “filled with the Holy Spirit” – Acts 2:1

 -b. the apostles were gathered “as they had been told to do” – Acts 1:4

 -c. suddenly the sound of a great rushing wind attracted the attention of everyone-Acts 2:2

 -d. these men started speaking all the different languages of all that had gathered

 -1-. These apostles were Galileans-common, everyday simple people

 -2-. read Acts 2:6-12

 (apostles were speaking “languages” of all these differing nations)

 -3-. By no normal way could such a thing be done

4) Now, the stage was set,

 -1-. people had gathered

 -2-. they were wanting an explanation

 Acts 2:12…. ***“what does this mean?”***

5) Peter, and the other apostles will proclaim what the Jews never imagined.!!!

**THOUGHTS:**

**(I) “APPROVED”**

 1) Acts 2:22… (some versions translate this word as “attested”)

 -a. a man approved by God

 OR

 proven to be what He claimed by the abilities he demonstrated

 -b. “his abilities PROVED what was claimed”, that he was the Son of God – John 10:25

 -c. as Nicodemus said concerning Jesus…

 John 3:2 ***“we know that you have come from God for no man can***

 ***do these signs you do unless God is with him..”***

 John 14:11..believe because of the works that I do

 -d. Christ affirmed the “works that he did” were PROOF – John 5:36

 -e. John 10:37-38

 2) To list what is recorded, such items as:

 -a. controlling the winds – Matt.14:32-33

 -b. healing the sick – Luke 4:40

 -c. raising the dead – John 11:4, 44

 -d. multiplying food to an abundance – Matt.14:19-21

 -e. as a summary, the crowds were saying…

 John 7:31 .. ***“when the Christ comes, he will not preform***

 ***more signs than those which this man has, will he?”***

 3) God PROVED to the world this this “Jesus of Nazareth” was “who he claimed”,

 and that by the abilities He possessed

 -a. Peter is able to say in Acts 2:22…***”just as ye yourselves know…”***

 -b. Peter was addressing some Jews who had ***SEEN*** these signs and wonders

4) These “signs, wonders” could not be refuted BECAUSE EVERYONE SAW THEM HAPPEN

 -a. John 11:47 … Jews say “what are we going to do?”

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**(II)”DISAPPROVED”**

 1) Acts 2:23…

 -a. but by so many other, He *“WAS NOT”* approved of as to who He was

 -b . ***“by the hands of lawless men nailed to the cross…”***

 -c. “delivered over” –

 -d. God “knew” because of His foreknowledge what man was going to do one day

 2) As Christ came forth, He did not **“fit the picture”** of what they expected…

 -a. John 1:11

 ***“…they that were His own received Him not…”***

 -1. As he came to His hometown and proclaimed who he was – Lk.4:16

 -2. We see then their reaction –Lk.4:28-29

 NOTE: the Jews were looking for a great leader---

 -a-. to lead their nation in war

 -b-. to overcome their enemies

 -c-. to enlarge their territory as it once existed

 -d-. to promote their race/religion as superior to all others

 ------------ HE WAS NOT THE SAVIOR THAT THEY WERE EXPECTING -------------

 -b. his teachings were “not in agreement” with the Jews beliefs

 -1-. Matt.15:2…

 -2-. Matt.5: fff… ***”you have heard, but I say unto you”*** saying as He

 correctly explained what had for 100’s of years been misapplied

 -3-. Matt.6:16 .. ***“when you fast, don’t put on a gloomy face…”***

 -4-. John 6:41 … Jews were grumbling,

 -5-. In the temple, he turned over the tables of the money changers,

 in opposition of their “cheating the people” in the value of their coinsMark 11:15

 -c. He knew the “thoughts of their hearts”, their inner motives

 -1-. Matt.23:25… outside looks clean, but inwardly are corrupt

 -2-. Matt.6:5 … actions done “to be seen by men”

 -3-. Mark 12:14-15 .. ***“…but He knowing their hypocrisy***

 ***said , why are you testing me???”***

3) Matthew 21:42 speaks of the **“stone which the builders rejected”**

 -a. quoting from the Old Testament Psa.118:22

 -b. the one “by whom” all was to be established, ***WAS REJECTED***

 -c. Jesus sets forth to the Jews concerning their “downfall” for rejecting Him

 -d. Matt.21:45

 4) Christ, causing such a stir among the Jews that the leaders

 decided “he had to die” – Luke 22:2

 -a-. without any true reasons, it was determined he had to die

 -b-. three times the Roman leaders stated there was “no reason” for

 His death – Luke 23:4, 14, 22

 -c-. but to satisfy the crowds, HE WAS PUT TO DEATH

 -1-. Phil.2:8 ***“even the death on the cross”***

5) Matthew 27:23-25 ….

 -a. Pilate said, “I am innocent of this man’s blood”

 (I want no part in this matter)

 -b. Jewish reply was “His blood be on us and our children..”

6) The Jews GOAL had been accomplished – Christ was put to death!

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**(III) “PROVED”**

 1) Acts 2:24… ***“But God raised Him up…”***

 -a. “you” put him to death, but God RAISED Him up…

 but God gave Him life once again

 -b. Phil.2:9… God highly exalted Him…

 -1-. Man did everything they could do to “reject”

 -2-. But, God raised Him up

2) Although he “was the stone which the builders rejected”,

 He became the “cornerstone”(stone from which all others are positioned)

 I Peter 2:7

 Hebrews 5:8-9…

3) Romans 1:4…

 -a. by the resurrection was declared to be the Son of God

 -1-. Although sin, Satan and death had attempted to overcome

 -2-. God claimed the VICTORY by the resurrection

 (and sin, Satan, and death were all overcome)

 -3-. Acts 2:31…

 ***“he was neither abandoned to Hades,***

 ***nor did His flesh see corruption”***

 -4-. Acts 2:32

 -5-. Rev.1:18… “..I was dead, and behold I am alive forevermore..”

4) A parallel statement from the book of Genesis about Joseph seems to

 fit right in here…

 -a. Joseph’s brothers sold him into slavery/ to eventually die one day

 -b. later they appear before “their brother” who was raised to great authority

 -c. Genesis 50:20

 ***“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it***

 ***for good in order to bring about this present result,***

 ***to save many people alive***…”

5) Although man had “disapproved”,

 God’s approval WAS MADE KNOWN UNTO THE WORLD

6) Acts 2:36… this one whom you were rejecting

 IS both LORD and CHRIST

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**CONCLUSION:**

1) On this Pentecost, history was made, the world was changed

2) Church came into existence – Acts 2:41

3) The means of the world’s salvation was revealed, and that same teaching is

 what still will bring salvation some 2000 years later

 -a. the truth was taught

 -b. the people then ask “what shall we do” - Acts 2:37