

IGNORANCE IS NO LONGER AN EXCUSE
FROM LOCAL TO UNIVERSAL!
CH4:8-12

ILLUSTRATION

Explain secularism, pluralism and postmodernism!



THE SPIRIT! V8a

Peter filled with the Holy Spirit. The verb “plesthesis” - filled, is the one used to describe the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost in Ch2:4. However, the same verb is also used in Ch4:31 in a way that suggests a further “filling” for boldness in proclaiming. Either way, Jesus' promise of “words and wisdom” that non of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict was being fulfilled – Luke Ch21:12 -15!

The name of Jesus is given prominence in Ch2:38, Ch3:6, Ch3:16 and continues in Ch4:7, Ch4:10, Ch4:12, Ch4:17, Ch4:18 and Ch4:30!

THE SPEECH! V8b-10

This is the third time that Peter uses the formula “you killed Him, God raised Him” (Acts Ch2:23-24, Ch3:15).

Now watch how Peter moves from the local to the universal. Verse 10: "Let it be known to all of you," Peter says, "that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by him this man is standing before you well." So Peter starts with the offensive fact that Jesus is from a particular, local village that nobody expected any good to come from — Nazareth (Can anything good come out of Nazareth? John Ch1:46). Worse yet, this Jesus was less than a local nobody. He was such a menace you crucified as a criminal. He's got a common name, Jesus, (Josh for short!); He's from a town that is so insignificant it's not even mentioned in the Old Testament, Nazareth; He was executed like a common murderer. That's who healed this man. This very Jesus.

Because He is alive. And now the unheard of claim comes out: "whom God raised from the dead." Now that is not so local any more! Because God is not local! God is universal! God knows everything and is everywhere and runs the world. If God took note of this man and raised Him from the dead, then there is something very non-local, non-provincial, something very global about who He is and what He does.

THE STONE! V11-12

- Psalm 118:22-23 - "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes." The last Psalm that Jesus sang at the last supper – Matthew Ch26:30 - "And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives."
- Isaiah Ch28:16 - "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, 'Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: Whoever believes will not be in haste'."
- Matt Ch21:42 - Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?" (Mark Ch12:10-11; Luke Ch20:17)
- 1 Peter Ch2:7 - So the honour is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone"

John Piper sees it this way - "Then Peter in v11 uses the words of Psalm 18:22 to say the same thing in a word picture: "This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone." If you compare the kingdom of God to a building, then the builders are the religious leaders. They examined the stone called Jesus of Nazareth to see if He could be a brick in the wall of truth. They said "No" and rejected Him and threw Him out as unusable. But God, the main architect, came along and saw the stone lying in the grave and picked Him up and made Him not only a brick in the wall, but the head of the corner—the chief stone in the building! Men rejected Jesus as a merely local menace with no significance beyond the killing hill of Golgotha. But God has made Jesus the universal head over all His house. As Acts Ch2:36 says: "God has made him both Lord and Christ."

The builders are meant to be the wise, the experienced and the experts, but they have rejected this particular stone, feeling that it was useless for their purposes! However, it is precisely this stone that God has chosen this stone, initially Israel from all the nations, but also (and always) JESUS!

The Old Testament writers used this text to illustrate how world leaders had rejected God's chosen Israel and the New Testament writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke and Peter, use this particular text to illustrate that the powerful figures, i.e., the Jewish Leaders, rejected Jesus!

According to Piper "Peter draws out the implication of this universal lordship of Jesus in verse 12: "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Since God raised Jesus of Nazareth from the

dead and since God has made him head over all his house — over all the kingdom and all the redeemed — therefore Jesus is now the only way to heaven, and the confession of his name is the only hope of salvation from sin and judgment.

We need to feel the force of this universal claim in our pluralistic age. "There is salvation in no one else!" Do you really mean no one, Peter? Or are you just speaking in a limited Jewish context — only among the Jews there is no other way to heaven than their true Messiah? No, he says, the reason there is salvation in no one else is that "there is no other name under heaven (not just no other name in Israel, but no other name under heaven, including the heaven over every country in the world) given among men (not just among Jews, but among humans) by which we must be saved."

Peter focuses on the NAME of Jesus. But why does Peter focus on His name? "There is no other NAME under heaven by which we must be saved." He is saying something more than that there is no other source of saving power that you can be saved by under some OTHER name. The point of saying, "There is no other NAME," is that we are saved by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus. His name is our entrance into fellowship with God. The way of salvation by faith is a way that brings glory to the name of Jesus. Peter says in Acts Ch10:43, "Every one who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." The name of Jesus is the focus of faith and repentance. In order to believe on Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, you must believe on His name. That is, you must have heard of Him and know who He is as a particular man who did a particular saving work and rose from the dead."

APPLICATION

Can you see how Peter shows Jesus going from "a local, common, insignificant person to the Universal Saviour"?

How does v12 silence "false religions"?

Why can't the Jews or the rest of the world say they were ignorant (Ch3:17 + Ch4:10)?