

THE APOSTLES ON TRIAL BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN

QUOTE:

But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

Acts 4:19-20

The Name of Jesus Christ

God is visiting the Gentiles to call out a people for His Name (Acts 15:14). This is through the work of his Son

The things concerning the Name of Jesus Christ are an essential part of the Gospel - Acts 8:12.

There is salvation in no other name - Acts 4:12.

All are called to repent and to call on the Name of Jesus Christ by identification with his death in baptism for the remission of their sins unto salvation - Acts 2:21,38; 10:43; 22:16.

The name of Jesus Christ has healing power - both physical (Acts 3:6,16; 4:10,30) and moral (Acts 3:25-26; Gal 2:20; Rom 1:16-17; 8:3-4; 2 Cor 5:14-17).

The faithful bear his name (Acts 9:15), and are prepared to suffer for his name (Acts 5:41; 15:26) and even die (Acts 21:13), because all who call on that Name shall be saved (Acts 2:21).

The apostles knew they would suffer for His Name - Lk 21:12.

Acts 4 - Bible Marking

Acts 4:1-2 - See John 11:46-48 - Similar concern had been raised at the raising of Lazarus - because the Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection - Lk 20:27.

Acts 4:6 - **“gathered together”** - See Psa 2:1-2 - Here the rulers etc gathered together vainly imagining they could stop the Word of God growing and multiplying.

“Annas and Caiaphas” - Last time Peter was among these, he denied his Lord (Lk 22:56-57).

Acts 4:7 - **“By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?”** - They had used similar words against Christ - Matt 21:23 (mgn); Lk 20:2. The parable that Christ responded with had begun to be fulfilled by the actions of these very men (Matt 21:33-46; Lk 20:9-19).

Acts 4:8 - **“filled with the Holy Spirit, said unto them”** - See Lk 21:14-15.

Acts 4:10 - See Acts 2:23-24; 3:14-15 - Peter each time clearly points out the magnitude of their crime, convicting them of their sin (Jn 16:7-11), and aligning them with the murderous husbandmen of Matt 21:38-39.

Acts 4:11 - Peter quotes the words Jesus had spoken to them (Matt 21:42). Doubtless they knew what else Jesus had said - Namely - the vineyard would be taken from the murderous husbandmen and let out to others.

“Set at naught of you builders” - see Isa 8:14-15.

Acts 4:11 - **“is become the head of the corner”** - see Eph 2:19-22; 1 Pet 2:5-8.

Acts 4:13 - **“boldness”** - means “an unreservedness of utterance”. Came from their steadfast conviction of the truth (1 Pet 3:15).

“Unlearned” - ie. unversed in the learning of the Jewish schools (Thayer).

“Ignorant” - Means “an unlearned, illiterate, man, opposed to the learned, the educated” (Thayer). ie. The forthrightness, and power of their reasoning was beyond their expectation.

“they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus” - ie they doubtless remembered the parable of Matt 21:33-46 / Lk 20:9-19.

Acts 4:16 - **“notable”** - Indicates the thing spoken of is “in an emphatic sense, known of all”.

Acts 4:18 - Their command was opposed to the divinely given command (Matt 28:19; Mk 16:15-16; Acts 1:8).

Acts 4:20 - **“For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard”** - These are the things of Christ, of which they were witnesses (Lk 24:46-48; Acts 1:8).

Acts 4:24 - **“thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is”** - Allusion to Psa 146:6 But also Exod 20:11; Isa 42:5.

Acts 4:25-26 - See Psa 2:1-2 - Here is the first opposition to the ecclesia - the Christ body.

Acts 4:26 - **“kings of the earth”** - these Herod and Pontius Pilate (v27). See also v8,23 - **“rulers”** and **“elders”**.

Acts 4:27 - **“with the Gentiles”** - The heathen of Psa 2:1.

“and the people of Israel” - The people of Psa 2:1.

“were gathered together” - Psa 2:2 (LXX) has **“gathered themselves together”**.

Acts 4:28 - cp Psa 2:3 - their plans could only achieve what God allowed, and therefore their threatenings (Acts 4:29; cp Psa 2:3-4) could not stop the Word spreading.

“that with all boldness” - Rather than seeking despitte from that which they had been told would befall them (Mat. 24:9-12), they sought strength to continue the work, and to maintain the faith "unto the end."