

EASTER

MESSAGE: NATHAN BAIRD

MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE, JESSICA CERMENELLI-HALBARDIER

DATE: MARCH 3RD, 2024

The Cross and Tomb: God's Plan Made Public

Acts 2:22-31

The Identity of Jesus - God Affirmed It

Acts 2:22 *"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—*

The Plan for Jesus - God Ordained...

...His Death

Acts 2:23 *this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.*

By God's Design, Jesus's Real Humanity Made Him a Real Substitute, Rescuing Us From Death's Power.

Heb 2:5 *But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone...¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.*

"The concept of substitution may be said, then, to lie at the heart of both sin and salvation. For the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for man."

— John R.W. Stott, *The Cross of Christ*

...His Resurrection

Acts 2:24 *God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵ For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'*

The Ascendency of Jesus to David's Throne - God Promised It

Acts 2:29 *"Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, 31 he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption.*

Luke 1:32 *He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,*

2 Samuel 7:12 *When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*

Reflect, Discuss, Apply

- 1) What part of Peter's message surprises you or grabs your attention? Why?
- 2) Spend time this week thinking through this passage each day. What beneficial insights impacted your thoughts, emotions and choices?
- 3) If you have trusted Jesus and become one of his loyal citizens, identify an area(s) of your life that is not yet characterized by the freedom, hope and joy God has provided in Christ. How can you make Peter's gospel about God's purposes in Christ reshape your thinking?

Notes:

SONGS

"We Praise You"
"Firm Foundation (He Won't)"
"Worthy Of It All"
"Jesus Paid It All"

BUDGET

Giving Last Week: \$26,768.61
Weekly Need: \$38,322.00
YTD Giving: \$236,973.84
YTD General Need: \$306,576
Altamont Expansion Fund (2/29): \$126,362.98

COMMUNICATION & GIVING

Envelopes for financial gifts, prayer requests, & communication to our church leadership are in the seatback pockets. Please pass the envelopes to the ushers or deposit them in the offering boxes by the exit doors. Thank you!

GET ON THE VBC FAMILY ROSTER

