

*The Amazing Case for the Resurrection*  
*Acts 3:12-26*

We live in an age of historical uncertainty. The sermon Peter preached in Acts 3 offers us great confidence that the resurrection of Jesus took place as the Scripture proclaims.

It seems normal that Peter was the bold preacher of this Pentecost sermon. But if we view Acts 3 from a 1<sup>st</sup>-century lens, we would be stunned. Only 53 days earlier Peter denied he was a follower of Jesus. What could possibly change a man in less than 2 months from a gutless denier to a defiant herald? There is no more likely explanation than that he had encountered the risen Jesus. The 1st, convincing clue about the veracity of the resurrection of Jesus is the enduring existence of a global church, built by those same cowering fugitives whose sudden, fearless willingness to die for their message became the foundation of a 2-millennium legacy.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> compelling pillar of historical evidence for the resurrection is the content of Peter's sermon itself. What makes it compelling evidence is that no one refuted Peter's claim. At the time of his sermon and the completion of Acts, there were plenty of people who could have discredited his message, but no one did.

The final bit of corroborating evidence for the death and resurrection of Jesus is the stunning prophetic voices. Voices from different times and settings prefigured the events of the gospel record, predicting them with striking accuracy. Consider **Psalm 22**, **Psalm 69:19-21**, and **Isa. 53**. When we look at prophecies from 1,000 BC and 700 BC, we are looking at a historical transcript that describes the 'Pierced One' and the 'Holy One who sees no decay' with a precision that defies any conclusion except that God was announcing His plan for resurrection.

The question then becomes, "What must I do about it?" I can do nothing or what the text instructs: A reorientation of your life. God wants to bless you with abundant and eternal life if you will reorient your life away from the world and toward Him.