ACTS 5:19-32

A. Angelic Deliverance

Acts 5:18-20 - And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison. Acts 5:19 But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, Acts 5:20 Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.

1. It is interesting how a **pur**ged church (Ananias-Sapphira) regains its power and purpose, only to be attacked **again**. Satan hated seeing this Little Flock making spiritual-prophetic progress!

2. The high priest and Israel's religious leaders were behind the constant attacks against Christ and His disciples. Remember:

   Matthew 27:20, 25 - But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus. Matt. 27:25 Then answered all the people, and said, His blood *be* on us, and on our children.

   a. A few days later, confronted with the evidence of Christ's resurrection, they would take responsibility. They gave the Roman guards money to **change** their account of what they had seen and heard.

      Matthew 28:11-15 - Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. Matt. 28:12 And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, Matt. 28:13 Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him *away* while we slept. Matt. 28:14 And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. Matt. 28:15 So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

   b. From this point on the chief priests and elders remained **silent** so as not to stir up any matters. But the disciples, being empowered by the Holy Spirit, were [continuing daily with one accord in the temple] (Acts 2:46).

   c. Things grew worse for these religious leaders as the temple's lame beggar was healed through Peter, and many others believed in Christ Messiah as a result of this miracle.

      (1) *The Sadducees' system was being **under**mined by the message of Christ's **re**surrection. They needed to stop it from any **fur**ther spread, so they brought the disciples to trial.

      (2) The trial did not go well for these religious leaders. They were put on the defensive as the disciples charged them with murdering Christ and warned them He was **alive** again!

      Acts 4:8, 10 - Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

   d. These religious leaders, in their own hearts, were convinced that Jesus had been **with** His disciples.

Acts 4:13 - Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. (believed Jesus was alive)

e. The religious rulers had made a mistake by bringing in the disciples. There was **no** evidence of their wrongdoing, so they had to let them go. This was in spite of Peter's and John's words in continuing to preach Christ Messiah. The rulers threatened the disciples, then let them **go**.

Acts 4:20-21, 23 - For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. Acts 4:21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all *men* glorified God for that which was done. Acts 4:23 And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

f. The chief priests withdrew, hoping this storm for them would go away. But instead, the Messianic Church was blessed with more followers, powers and **wonders**.

Acts 4:29-31, 33 - And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, Acts 4:30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

3. Now the religious rulers, hearing that the disciples continued spreading the news of Christ's resurrection, are filled with **anger**. They lash out and have the disciples arrested and placed in the common prison.

4. But God! An **angel** is sent and he opens the prison doors and leads the disciples out. He tells them to continue preaching in the **temple**!

*The disciples do this. They do not flee for their lives, but fearlessly proclaim Messiah (what a change in them).

a. Note: It is another blow to the Sadducees since they also did not believe in the existence of **angels**.

b. Sir Robert Anderson said: "Do you know of a single account in the church body history that angels came down and delivered God's people?" (Romans - Philemon)

*But here on kingdom message ground, they did intervene.

5. [angel...said...speak...temple...all the words of life.]

*The message the disciples were preaching was a life-giving message.

a. John 6:63 - It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

John 5:24-26, 28-29 - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. John 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. John 5:26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; John 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, John 5:29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

b. By believing Jesus was Christ-Messiah-resurrected, the Jewish believer would receive resurrection life **then**. He was also guaranteed that one day he would be resurrected from the dead to life and then go into the **kingdom**.

(1) They (believers) will come out **from** the dead (separated by a 1000 years).

(2) The resurrection **of** the dead is at the end for the white throne judgment.

c. This is all about resurrection concerning the **pro**phetic program.

B.

The Shock and Surprise

Acts 5:21-28 - And when they heard *that,* they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. Acts 5:22 But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned, and told, Acts 5:23 Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors: but when we had opened, we found no man within. Acts 5:24 Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow. Acts 5:25 Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people. Acts 5:26 Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned. Acts 5:27 And when they had brought them, they set *them* before the council: and the high priest asked them, Acts 5:28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.

1. All the leaders of Israel (council and senate) are gathered together to give their judgment about the disciples' testimony about a living Messiah and Israel's opportunity to be born **again**, if they would believe also in Him.

2. Unaware of the disciples' supernatural release, the guards are sent to fetch them. Surprise! They are not there, but in the temple preaching.

*This report is given to the rulers and they are dumbfounded!

a. They were **alarmed** that the disciples' message would continue to impact and gain momentum. Finding out where they were, the guards were sent to get them...cautiously take them and present them to the rulers.

b. Note: This is going to be an important event in the life of Israel, because the **fate** of the whole nation is hanging in the balance.

Acts 4:11 - This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

(1) *Who were these ruling men supposed to be? They were to be the ones to build **up** the house of Israel. God had set up Israel's system to proclaim and use His **Word** to build up the nation to be strong and prosperous. But they turned out to be exactly the opposite.

(2) These rulers did not want to build on the **rock** foundation of Jesus Christ Messiah (Matt. 16: 16-18). They had been building Israel's religious life on **sand** and preparing it to fall!

3. Ephesians 2:12 - That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

a. [the commonwealth of Israel] This means a commonwealth stands or falls based on their leaders' decisions. Israel's religious leaders would determine, by their actions, what would happen to the nation. These leaders demonstrated they were not Israel's **true** leaders.

Matthew 21:23, 42-45 - And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? Matt. 21:42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Matt. 21:43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. Matt. 21:44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. Matt. 21:45 And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them.

b. To whom did God give the kingdom? Who are the **true** leaders of Israel?

Luke 12:32 - Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

c. Here in Acts 5, Israel's leaders demonstrate, through their unbelief and apostasy, that they are **un**qualified to lead the nation.

*However, Peter and the Little Flock are demonstrating they are the true nation God promises to give the kingdom to. It is that believing remnant within the nation who will receive the kingdom. God will not forget them during the 1000 years and even in **eternity**.

Revelation 21:14 - And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

4. In verse 28, the religious leaders charge them for preaching that the blood and death of Christ was because of **them** (leaders).

a. *Interestingly, they would not even say Jesus' name. Also, they evidently had conveniently **for**gotten what they had said to the crucifying of Christ.

Matthew 27:24-25 - When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but *that* rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed *his* hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye *to it*. Matt. 27:25 Then answered all the people, and said, His blood *be* on us, and on our children.

b. And that is exactly what they (apostles) were doing. They were **charging** the religious leaders with the death of Christ. Also, they were getting what they had asked Pilate to give them! (Blood)

C. Peter's and the Apostles' Response

Acts 5:29-32 - Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. Acts 5:30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Acts 5:31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand *to be* a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. Acts 5:32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and *so is* also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

1. Peter answers their first question about their command not to preach Jesus Christ? We obey **God** rather than men!

   Note: When men set up a law that tells us to violate what God tells us to do...what do we do? We obey **God**!

2. Peter answers their second statement by charging them and making them guilty of crucifying Christ. He tells Jerusalem all about it.

   a. *Peter is **not** a bashful guy. He just tells them truth like it is. He says [Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree]. Pow!

   b. Les Feldick: "Peter is bringing that picture - understanding to the Nation of Israel. This is what they had really done with their Messiah Christ. They had treated Him like a rebellious drunken, rebellious wicked son. They had killed Him and hung Him on a tree."

   c. But notice in verses 31-32, after telling them they killed Messiah, Peter then told them there is **hope** for them if the nation would **repent** and believe in a risen (on the right hand of the Father) Savior.

   *Peter does not give them the gospel (**D.B.R.**) to be saved from their sin unto salvation. Rather, Peter uses the crucifixion and Christ's resurrection in order to show Israel it wasn't too late. They could repent and Christ Messiah could still be their King and fulfill Israel's covenant promises.

3. In verse 30, it says: [God of our fathers]. Do you see how **Jewish** this is? This is referring to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob - who were the forefathers of Israel. This also goes along with what Paul says about Jesus Christ's **earthly** ministry.

   Romans 15:8 - Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises *made* unto the fathers:

   *This just shows again that God is **still** dealing with Israel, and the Body of Christ had not begun yet - not until Paul in Acts 9.

4. In verse 31, it says Christ is to be [a Prince and a Saviour]. He is to be a political righteous ruler (Isa. 9:6) and a spiritual Savior. Notice it says [for to give repentance to Israel]. You just can't see any **Gentile** in this at all.

Note: Luke 1:67-75 - And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, Luke 1:68 Blessed *be* the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, Luke 1:69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; Luke 1:70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: Luke 1:71 That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; Luke 1:72 To perform the mercy *promised* to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; Luke 1:73 The oath which he sware to our father Abraham, Luke 1:74 That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, Luke 1:75 In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.

5. Peter echoes Zacharias' message (John the Baptist's dad!). Nothing has changed from Acts 2-5. Christ had come to forgive their sins and be their **King** if only they (Israel) would repent. But now they have killed Messiah Christ, but God raised Christ up alive. So in Acts 5: if Israel's leaders would **repent** of the many things done against Christ, every covenant promise to Israel could still happen as God had promised. **This is still on **Jewish** ground.

D.

The Council's First Decision

Acts 5:33 - When they heard *that,* they were cut *to the heart,* and took counsel to slay them.

1. They had killed their Master, now they will not have **any** problem killing His servants!

2. At first they are upset and convicted. All they wanted to do was kill the apostles, to **stop** their mouths and message. Religion only knows how to stop truth.

3. In verse 32, Peter mentions he had two witnesses (and more) to the truth of what he was testifying - himself and the Holy Ghost. It takes **two** witnesses to establish a **truth**. Peter had these two witnesses to prove that what he had said and preached was true, along with the other apostles.

   Question? What is the one question asked the most by **non**-believers about dispensations?