

ACTS 4:1-31: PETER PUTS THE SANHEDRIN ON TRIAL!

To this point in recording some of the acts of our risen Lord, Luke has told us of Christ's empowering of the Apostles through the Holy Spirit and the subsequent preaching of Peter to thousands of Jews gathered in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost (ch. 2); he then documented Peter's preaching to thousands more who gather at the Temple upon the healing of the lame man (ch. 3); now in chapter 4, he records how the Sanhedrin, the most august religious and judicial council of the Jewish nation, is directly confronted with the saving message of Jesus the Messiah!

I. v. 1-3 EFFECT OF THE SERMON ON JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS

A. v. 1,3 Religious leaders (sent by the _____) arrest them.

"priests" = _____ priests: Codex B reads "chief priests."

"captain of the temple" = ranked 2nd only to the _____.

"Sadducees" = _____ of the Levites of Christ's day - did not believe in _____.

B. v. 2 Why they arrested them: due to _____ over the message!

"because they _____ the people and _____ the resurrection.

II. v. 4 EFFECT OF THE SERMON ON THE JEWISH POPULACE (Jerusalem)

— Many believe and the number of the _____ ($\alpha\nu\eta\rho$ / aner) becomes 5,000.

III. v. 5-7 ACTION OF THE SANHEDRIN: "BY WHAT POWER / NAME DID YOU DO THIS?" (See vs. 10, 12, 17, 18 for their understanding of "NAME")

v. 5-7 The Sanhedrin is called the _____ in 4:15: it is the senate and supreme court of the Jewish people. As such, it regulated the internal affairs of Israel in concert with the Roman governors.

— "rulers and elders" = mainly Sadducees from chief priestly families at this time

— "scribes" = mainly Pharisees ("separate ones") at this time

— Sanhedrin = the High Priest plus 70 Levites.

IV. v. 8-12 PETER'S REPLY TO THE SANHEDRIN

"having been filled with the Holy Spirit" = Aor. Passive Ptcp. from πιμπλημι / pimplemi*

- A. v. 8,9 "I assume (1st CCS) we are being judged about a good deed (not a crime)"
- B. v. 10 "the authority of the NAME of Jesus Messiah of Nazareth made the lame man whole (not us)."
- C. v. 10b "The same Jesus Christ (Messiah) whom YOU YOURSELVES killed by crucifixion and whom our God raised from the dead."
- D. v. 11 "Christ's (Messiah's) rejection and exaltation was predicted in Psa. 118:22."
- E. V 12 "MOREOVER, salvation is solely through Him / His NAME."

Note the boldness of Peter: this very same Sanhedrin aggressively pursued and crucified Jesus: see Luke 22:66-71; John 18:12-14, 23, 28.

V. v. 13-22 FURTHER HARDENING OF THE SANHEDRIN

- A. They chose to ignore the issue of the resurrection of Jesus.
- B. v. 14 They could not ignore the man who was healed standing whole in their midst.
- C. v. 15, 16 They could not ignore that all Jerusalem knew of this miracle.
- D. v. 17, 18 They choose to attack the source of the miracle: the NAME of Jesus.
- E. v. 19-22 They cannot stop Peter & John from witnessing to their resurrected Lord.

CONCLUSION: PETER'S SAVING MESSAGE IS REJECTED & ATTACKED BY THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE!

VI. v. 23-31 EFFECT UPON THE BELIEVERS

- A. v. 23-28 They pray to their creator, prophetic, sovereign God.
- B. v. 29,20 They ask for boldness and more Christ-produced-signs.
- C. v. 31 They are filled (πιμπλημι / pimplemi in Aor. Pass. Indic.*) with the Holy Spirit and speak boldly.

*In reference to the filling of the Holy Spirit, this verb is used only by Luke in the following 8 passages:

Luke 1:15	- John the Baptist	Acts 4:8	- Peter
Luke 1:41	- Elizabeth	Acts 4:31	- They all
Luke 1:67	- Zecharias	Acts 9:17	- Paul
Acts 2:4	- They all	Acts 13:9	- Paul

IN EVERY REFERENCE, ALWAYS:

- aorist tense (except Lk. 1:15, Fut. Pass.) signifying a special moment or event (not a continual state);
- passive voice meaning the person(s) was/were acted upon sovereignty by the Holy Spirit;
- like filling in the O.T., the event had to be repeated (Peter in Acts 2:4, 4:8, 31);
- there were no conditions placed on this filling;
- therefore, this filling was special and temporal to accomplish a specific task desired by God, much like those in the O.T.