

## The Definite Plan; Acts 2:22-24

### I. Impromptu

- A. Without a plan, impulsive
- B. "Let's go to Luxembourg!"
  - 1. Traveling in Europe is a bit different
  - 2. It is like traveling state to state (except Texas) in the US
- C. While we may be able to travel impulsively we cannot live our lives like that
- D. We plan, some of us do that very meticulously
  - 1. I did not plan to join the Air Force
  - 2. I did plan to reenlist and make it a career (I almost joined the LA County Sheriff's Department)
- E. God put a plan in place for us

### II. Attested

- A. Acts 2:22 (ESV); "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—
- B. Jesus was a very common name in the Jewish community in the 1st Century
  - 1. God Rescues
  - 2. The time was right for the Messiah to appear (if you follow Daniel's road map)
  - 3. Daniel 7:23–24 (ESV); <sup>23</sup> "Thus he said: 'As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. <sup>24</sup> As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings.
  - 4. Daniel 8 tells us that the nations are Media and Persia, then Greece and Alexander the Great — and it even details the four kings who divided Alexander's kingdom after he died
  - 5. The fourth nation is Rome
- C. God had this planned out — and gave us the ability to follow it
- D. God even gave us mighty works, wonders, and signs "that God did through Him"
  - 1. The Gospels record 34 of Jesus' mighty works, wonders, and signs
  - 2. Luke 7:11–17 (ESV); <sup>11</sup> Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. <sup>12</sup> As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. <sup>13</sup> And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." <sup>14</sup> Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." <sup>15</sup> And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. <sup>16</sup> Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!" <sup>17</sup> And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.
- E. But I think that while we only have 34 written down for us, there were many more
- F. John 21:25 (ESV); Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.
- G. Just as it became clear to 3000 people that day, it is clear to me that this Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Savior of the World

### III. Crucified

- A. Acts 2:23 (ESV); this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.
- B. This was the plan from the very beginning

1. Genesis 3:15 (ESV); I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”
  2. John 13:21-30
  3. God’s plan was to send His Son to the cross, to be the only acceptable sacrifice for our sins
  4. The wages of sin is spiritual death!
  5. Hebrews 9:13–14 (ESV); <sup>13</sup> For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, <sup>14</sup> how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.
- C. God has shown us the Plan and His Son — who fulfilled the plan through His crucifixion
- IV. Raised up
- A. Acts 2:24 (ESV); God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.
  - B. Jesus broke the chains of death, thereby freeing us from spiritual death
    1. 1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (ESV); <sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,
    2. 1 Corinthians 15:50–55 (ESV); <sup>50</sup> I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup> Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” <sup>55</sup> “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”
  - C. The plan from the very beginning has always been for us — to save us from spiritual death
- V. The Definite Plan
- A. To defeat Satan through Jesus’ sacrifice
  - B. To Save us through Jesus’ blood
  - C. To ensure our spiritual survival and death’s defeat