

## **Matthew 24 Series - Acts 1**

### **Part 11 in the Series - The Second Coming of Christ in Acts**

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We are continuing our series on Matthew 24. The title of this message is the Second Coming of Christ in Acts - Part 11.

I am proving from the Scriptures that the Second Coming of Christ has already occurred. All the events spoken of by our Lord in Matthew 24 and in Luke 21 have already taken place. Just as Christ said, "Verily I say unto you - (this is Christ - to His disciples - 2,000 years ago) This generation shall not pass away, till all these things be fulfilled."

What things?

The destruction of the temple in verse 2.

Wars and rumours of wars. Famines, pestilences.

The persecution of the saints in verses 9 and 10.

False prophets.

The world-wide preaching of the Kingdom discussed in verse 14.

The abomination of desolation, first prophesied by Daniel - then repropheesied by Christ and Christ telling His disciples - 2,000 years ago - THEY would see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet.

The great tribulation - again - first prophesied by Daniel - then again by Christ - to His disciples - 2,000 years ago.

Then, in verses 26-31 the awesome second coming of Christ in the clouds with power and great glory in establishing the eternal Kingdom of God on earth.

In verse 33, Christ tells His disciples - So likewise YOU - when YOU shall see all these things - know that it is near, even at the doors.

Luke said in Luke 21:22 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

How many things which are written may be fulfilled?

All means all. If we are ever going to get anywhere in turning men and women to the truth of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, we have got to stop turning the words of

Christ into a lie. We must start believing them for exactly what they are.

My concern with people who refuse to accept the Words of Christ is this: Maybe they don't want people to accept the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

Maybe their love for the world, maybe their love for their constitution, maybe their love for the government they have created, maybe their love for their military machine they have created to keep their government going - is greater than their love for the Government of God and for the Only King they He has ordained to rule - that being King Jesus. Maybe the fact that they have sent some of their only begotten sons to die for their government - maybe that's why they refuse to accept the clear words of Christ as He spoke them 2,000 years ago.

I certainly don't get it. I don't understand why I can read the Scriptures and see things so clearly meaning something such as fulfilled Bible prophecy and the implication being that the Kingdom of Christ is now - but others look at the same passage and say it meant something 2,000 plus years in the future. I don't know. But it has reminded me of a song that I first heard as a young child. And I'd like to share that with you now.

Listen now, to Who Am I?

Now, you might say, Charlie, all that you said about people loving their earthly governments more than the Government of Christ - isn't that a bit harsh? I don't think so. Desperate times call for desperate measures, don't they? We need to wake people up and the modern milky pabulum that the 501(c)(3) government preacher spews out every week is just nothing but making people comfortable in their deception and even helping to deepen their sleep.

The Kingdom of God is today. It's right now. It is the responsibility of every living, breathing creature to conform to His Kingdom right now - and if you are not actively seeking to implement the Kingdom of God into your life today - you are lost. It's that simple.

I don't care how white you are. Of if you are Islam, I don't care how black you are. I don't care if you have been baptized in the river Jordan - if you are not seeking the Kingdom of God as a present-day reality - right now - you are lost. The Kingdom of God is not future. It is now.

Go with me to the first chapter of the Book of Acts.

In some of our earlier messages, we have touched on the book of Acts, but today we will spend more time. If we get through the book of Acts today, Lord willing we'll start on the epistles next week.

Beginning in Acts 1 verse 1.

[1] The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

[2] Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

[3] To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

[4] And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

[5] For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

[6] When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

[7] And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

[8] But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

[9] And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

[10] And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

[11] Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

[12] Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey. (Which means it wasn't very far.)

Now look back to verse 3. What was Christ doing for the forty days after His resurrection? He was speaking to them of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

What things does Donald Trump speak about? He speaks of things concerning the

kingdom of the U.S.

Putin speaks of things concerning the kingdom of Russia.

Christ spoke of things concerning His Government. His Kingdom. He had just finished conquering Caesar. Do you understand this? He had been accused of forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ a King. The preachers in Jerusalem had accused Him saying, Whoso maketh Himself a King, is not the friend of Caesar.

It was the Jews who cried out, Away with Him. Crucify Him. We have no king but Caesar.

So, Caesar's soldiers took Him and crucified. They mocked Him. They placed a crown on His head - a crown of thorns. They place a royal purple robe on Him then ripped it off in mocking this man who dared call Himself and allow others to call Him King.

So they murdered Him. Executed him officially. Then placed Him in a grave and rolled a giant stone in front of it to keep Him there. That's funny. Hadn't the big bad Roman soldiers killed Him sufficiently?

Well, their execution failed. Their stone wasn't big enough. And three days later He walked out of that tomb and as the Scriptures say:

And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

This is our King. Caesar? Are you kidding me? Trump? Are you kidding me?

Who is your King today? Trump? Putin? No thanks. Just give me Jesus.

So in verse 3 of Acts 1, Christ is speaking to His disciples the theme of the entire Word of God from Genesis 1 through all the Word that had been given to that time - He was speaking to them concerning the Kingdom of God. I find it very appropriate and just a given - that this would be the subject of the very last conversation that Christ would be having with His disciples.

Now let's examine verse 4.

And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have

heard of me.

Why did He tell them to stay in Jerusalem? There were two reasons. That's where they were going to receive the power of the Holy Ghost. That's where they were going to begin preaching the Second Coming of Christ and the full and complete establishment of the Kingdom of God.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Once again, the harmony of the Scriptures is awesome when we see it in its simplicity and its time and place.

Continuing in verse 5:

[5] For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

[6] When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

Once again, of all the things they could be speaking to Christ about - the last recorded question they asked of Christ was concerning His Kingdom.

Why? Because the establishment of that Kingdom is the central theme of the entire Bible. Listen, please. If you want to make your case that the birth of Christ is the central theme of the whole Bible - I'm not going to argue with you. If you want to make a case that the death of Christ is the central theme of the whole Bible - I'm not going to argue with you. I might sit there in silence - but I'm not going to argue about it.

If you want to make a case that the Resurrection of Christ is the central theme of the Scripture - I might perk up and join that conversation.

But if you ask me what I believe is the central theme of the whole Bible - I'm going to unequivocally say that the Kingdom of Christ is the central theme of the whole Bible. Without a doubt - it's everywhere. Everywhere you look - it's all about the Kingdom of Christ.

This is why it's the center piece of the final conversation that Christ had with His

disciples prior to His ascension.

Continuing with verse 7.

[7] And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

What's He saying? Is He contradicting His words in Matthew 24 and Luke 21? No. He's reinforcing His words from Matthew 24.

He's telling them again - EXACTLY what He told them in Matthew 24 verse 14.

The destruction of the temple. The second coming of Christ. The establishment of the Kingdom - all simultaneous events and He is telling them again what He had previously told them.

Think about this for a minute.

All these disciples were grown men. It's not as if they had been brought up their entire lives to understand the generation they were born into.

Listen, these men had been raised in the Old Covenant their entire lives. The New Covenant was far off for them in their early formative years of teaching.

The preaching of John the Baptist was a shock to them like it was everyone else. The only difference between the disciples and everyone else was that they believed John the Baptist and they believed the prophets of old and they believed that they had found Him of Whom Moses and the prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the King of Israel.

But they were still just men. They needed to be reminded. They needed to be led. They needed to be taught and have answers to their questions.

So in their eagerness for accepting the Kingdom of God and wanting it right then there - they premature in their zeal and needed to be reminded that there was a rather large task that needed to take place before the Kingdom would be restored.

Look at verse 8:

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

This gives me chills and I hope it does you, too.

Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

As I said before, the destruction of the temple, the second coming of Christ, the end of the Old Covenant age - and the establishment of the Kingdom of Christ are all simultaneous events - and they occurred in the time period of that generation to Whom Christ was sent.

Colossians 1:3-6

We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, [4] Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints,

[5] For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

[6] Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:

Colossians 1:23

If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

In their desire for the Kingdom - would to God we could have even a glimpse of that zeal today - they needed to be reminded of the job they had been given. To preach the Gospel throughout the entire Roman empire - then the end would come. Then, the Kingdom would be restored.

Now, let's continue in verse 9 of Acts 1:

And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud

received him out of their sight.

[10] And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

[11] Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

So what is being said here?

Remember the passage of Scripture I used to begin this whole series?

Matthew 16:27-28

For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

[28] Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

So when the angel told these men as they watched Christ ascend into heaven, that He would come again in like manner, it's ridiculous to insert into the passage here - well - actually - He'll be coming again in about 2,000 years or more. Several milleniums later, He'll come again.

In J. Stuart Russell's great book, *The Parousia*, he says this about the verses we have just examined:



## THE PAROUSIA IN THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES.

### THE 'GOING AWAY' AND THE 'COMING AGAIN.'

Acts i. 11.—'This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go unto heaven.'

THE last conversation of Jesus with His disciples before His crucifixion was concerning His coming to them again, and the last word left with them at His ascension was the promise of His coming again.

The expression 'in like manner' must not be pressed too far. There are obvious points of difference between the manner of the Ascension and the Parousia. He departed alone, and without visible splendour; He was to return in glory with His angels. The words, however, imply that His coming was to be visible and personal, which would exclude the interpretation which regards it as *providential*, or *spiritual*. The visibility of the Parousia is supported by the uniform teaching of the apostles and the belief of the early Christians: 'Every eye shall see him' (Rev. i. 7).

There is no indication of *time* in this parting promise, but it is only reasonable to suppose that the disciples would regard it as addressed *to them*, and that they would cherish the hope of soon seeing Him again, according to His own saying, 'A

little while, and ye shall see me.' This belief sent them back to Jerusalem with great joy. Is it credible that they could have felt this elation if they had conceived that His coming would not take place for eighteen centuries? Or can we suppose that their joy rested upon a delusion? There is no conclusion possible but that which holds the belief of the disciples to have been well founded, and the Parousia nigh at hand.

End quote. He is referring specifically to John 16 when Christ tells His disciples that He is going to go away for a little while. But after a little while, they would see Him again. I believe that John 16 is exactly what the angel was referring to in Acts 1.

Now let's going on finding the Second Coming of Christ in the book of Acts.

Chapter 2. This is the day of Pentecost. This is a great day of the beginning of the Gospel being preached to the whole world - the Roman empire - and then the end would come. This is where the apostles start to get down to business.

The apostles were obviously the first ones to get filled with the power of the Holy Ghost that was promised to them by Christ in chapter 1.

Acts 2 tells us that there devout men, Jews living in Jerusalem out of every nation under heaven. The word devout here tells us that they were sincere. They were "religious" but they were sincere. Some of them there that day were seeking truth. Some - not all - but some maybe even most - were sincerely seeking truth.

From the context of the passage we conclude that not all of the people who were there spoke the same language. The Scripture speaks of about 15 different regions of the world where these people were from.

And yet, the passage tells us that a miracle took place that every man was able to hear Peter's sermon in their own tongue. Peter did not possess the ability to speak to each

of these in their own language, but Peter spoke his language - and miraculously every one was able to understand in their own language.

They all began to wonder at what was taking place here. They questioned how that the Galileans were able to speak in their own tongue, but every man heard in their own language.

There were mockers there also, who accused the apostles of being full of new wine and drunk.

But Peter, in fulfilling his command to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to the whole world began to explain what was going on.

Remember that the text started out by saying that Peter was preaching to devout men. These were men who had read the prophets. These were not people who knew nothing about what was written in the prophets - unlike most modern American "so-called christians" who pretty much don't know anything about the prophets because they were men who wrote in that nasty, mean old covenant.

So Peter took the opportunity to remind these people of what was written specifically from the book of Joel. Beginning in verse 14 of Acts 2, Peter says:

For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

[16] But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

[17] And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

[18] And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

[19] And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

[20] The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

[21] And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Previously, when we addressed this passage, we read the entire book of Joel and we read how that what Peter said here - was nearly word for word what was written in the prophecy found in Joel.

Peter says - without a doubt - so plain and clear that any and all heard exactly what he said and there was no mistake about it -

But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

Friends, how can this be any plainer for us today? How can we read this passage of Scripture and say that Peter was talking in riddles and his words were really meant to speak of a time 2,000 plus years later from the day he was speaking them? Look, that is just plain stupid.

It's no wonder the modern preacher today is ridiculed and mocked. He'll stand up in front of his congregation and say that any ridicule he receives is because it's the fulfillment of Bible prophecy concerning the last days. That's absurd. He's ridiculed because he preaches a powerless gospel. He's ridiculed today because he is preaching false doctrine that has no foundation in the only One capable of providing a foundation that will stand in the face of cruel mockings and persecutions.

A preacher that takes Acts 2 and tries to explain it away into the future is guilty of destroying the simple truths of God's Word and he is leading people astray from the Kingdom of God and he will not be held blameless - even if he does so ignorantly.

Peter says in verse 17 after saying that what they were saying that day was what was spoken by the prophet Joel and he says - again - as clearly and plainly as it can be said:

And it shall come to pass in the last days,

The phrase "the last days" as recorded in the Scripture does not have dual meanings or dual interpretations. It means the "last days of the Old Covenant age." It was the last days where God allowed Israel to have a king like all the other nations. It was the last days preceding the FIRST days of the glorious, eternal, Kingdom of God where Jesus Christ ALONE is King of kings and Lord of lords. And not only is He King of kings and Lord of lords - but He is the LAST of the kings of this earth that Yahweh God of Heaven allows for men to call King.

In I Timothy 6 it was said of the SAME TIMES that Peter was speaking:

I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;

[14] That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the

appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

[15] Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

[16] Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting.

Amen.

If we were preaching and living the Gospel of the Kingdom of Christ as was lived and preached by the first century saints - we'd revolutionize this world for righteousness and it would happen in a very short period of time.

But as long as we allow the lie of futurism to prevail - we will see nothing but the unrighteous ruling and where the unrighteous rule - the people are in misery.

The plain, clear truth that the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to this world was imminent in the generation to which Christ was given cannot be any clearer than what Peter preached in the second chapter of Acts.

This is that - and - these are the last days are language that any first grader could understand if we simply allow the Word of God to speak for Itself and refuse to allow the Zionist agenda to pervert the Word into sayings it does not say and meanings it does not mean.

Acts 2:19 continuing with what Peter said was that which was spoken of by the prophet Joel and it shall come to pass in the last days; Peter says

And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

[20] The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

The Second Coming of Christ is again clearly seen in verse 20 and described in perfect harmony with all the other second coming passages when Peter refers to it as "that great and notable day of the Lord."

The establishment of the Kingdom of God in full and complete power and glory - in that generation - 2,000 years ago - is seen again in Acts 2 when beginning in verse 29 Peter reveals the glorious truth of the promise to David found in II Samuel 7 - which most preachers refer to as the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant.

While the modern, false teachers say that the promise to David concerning an earthly kingdom is yet to occur - the clear and simple truth is that the promise to David was fulfilled with the resurrection of Christ.

Peter explained in verse 29:

Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

[30] Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

[31] He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

Again, the text tells us that Peter was preaching to devout men. Religious men who knew the prophets. They knew the Law. They knew the history of Israel including what may have been Israel's greatest earthly king - David. They knew what Yahweh had promised to David in II Samuel 7 and Peter was telling them that day that the fulfillment of the promise to David - was the resurrection of Christ.

This is why when Peter had finished up his message - he said:

[32] This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

[33] Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

[34] For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, Yahweh said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

[35] Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

[36] Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

[37] Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

[38] Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

[39] For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Peter had convinced many of these men that the prophecies found in what we call the

Old Testament were fulfilled in Christ and were being fulfilled that very day in front of their very eyes - and they knew it - and cried out to God in repentance and their that day alone three thousand men embraced the present-day reality of the Kingdom of God.

Would to God that today - we could find three thousand men all gathered together in the same place embracing the fact that God hath made this same Jesus, both Lord and Christ. The word Lord here means One Who is Supreme in Authority.

He has ALL authority. No one else has any - unless they have received it from Him - and they keep whatever authority He has given them in direct servitude and submission to Him.

Still examining Acts 2 looking for more evidence of the fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

Look at verse 40.

And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

What's Peter saying here?

This is now a direct reference to Matthew 23 where Christ was preaching to the rebellious Jews, the scribes, the Pharisees and as He called them, hypocrites. He called them blind fools and murderers.

And in complete disgust He places ALL the sins of their fathers going all the way back to Abel - squarely on the backs of those people who would ultimately kill the Lord Jesus - and even brazenly state that His blood be upon them and on their children. In Matthew 23:36 Christ says: Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

Then in Matthew 24, as He is talking to His disciples and reminding them of the great wrath to come, He warns them that when they began so see all the prophecies of Matthew 24 beginning to occur, they were to flee into the mountains for safety.

Likewise, Peter, on the Day of Pentecost tells those newly converted followers of Christ exactly the same things that Christ had told His disciples privately. These were the things that Peter told them with many other words did he testify and exhort saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

The harmony of God's Word is so awesome - it should be sending chills up and down your spines as we see these things together.

In Acts 3, we begin to see the promises from our Lord to His apostles when He told them earlier that they would perform some of the same kinds of miracles that He did.

The lame man was made to walk by the power and authority of Christ through His apostles.

Peter has another opportunity to preach of the majesty and Kingship. In Acts 3:12, he says - now watch this closely:

And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.

[12] And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

[13] The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.

[14] But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

[15] And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

It should be noted here that the Greek word for Prince here is not the same word where prince is found in other parts of the New Testament. Here it comes from the Greek word arkaygos and it means chief leader. It's found again in Acts 5:31 when it says that God has exalted Christ to be Prince - chief leader. I also do not find it a coincidence that in our English Bibles - even the modern King James - these two passages are the only times the word Prince is capitalized. Continuing with verse 16:

[16] And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

[17] And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.

Now hold on to your seats. Watch what he says.



**[18] But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.**

[19] Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

The times of refreshing...

Peter is referring directly to that specific time period when he calls out "the times of refreshing." This is an exact reference to the work that was begun by John the Baptist. I'm going to again defer to Russell regarding this passage. Here's what he says:

It is scarcely possible to doubt that in this address the apostle speaks of that which he conceived his hearers might and would experience, if they obeyed his exhortation to repent and believe. Indeed, any other supposition would be preposterous. Neither the apostle nor his auditory could possibly be thinking of 'times of refreshing' and 'times of restoration' in remote ages of the world; blessings which were at a distance of centuries and millenniums would hardly be powerful motives to immediate repentance. We must therefore conceive of the times of refreshing and of restoration as, in the view of the apostle, near, and within the reach of that generation.

But if so, what are we to understand by 'the times of

refreshing and of restoration' ? Are they the same, or are they different, things ? Doubtless, virtually the same ; and the one phrase will help us to understand the other. The restitution, or rather restoration [*ἀποκατάστασις*] of all things, is said to be the theme of all prophecy ; then it can only refer to what Scripture designates ' the kingdom of God,' the end and purpose of all the dealings of God with Israel. It was a phrase well understood by the Jews of that period, who looked forward to the days of the Messiah, the kingdom of God, as the fulfilment of all their hopes and aspirations. It was the coming age or æon, *αἰὼν ὁ μέλλων*, when all wrongs were to be redressed, and truth and righteousness were to reign. The whole nation was pervaded with the belief that this happy era was about to dawn. What was our Lord's doctrine on this subject ? He said to His disciples, ' Elias indeed cometh first, and *restoreth all things*' (Mark ix. 12). That is to say, the second Elijah, John the Baptist, had already commenced the restoration which He Himself was to complete ; had laid the foundations of the kingdom which He was to consummate and crown. For the mission of John was, in one aspect, restorative, that is in *intention*, though not in *effect*. He came to recall the nation to its allegiance, to renew its covenant relation with God : he went before the Lord, ' in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just ; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord ' (Luke i. 17). What is all this but the description of ' the times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord,' and ' the times of restoration of all things,' which were held forth as the gifts of God to Israel ?

End quote: Let's go back to Acts.

[20] And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

He's going to send Jesus Christ to who? To them!

[21] Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

[22] For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

[23] And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

Now watch this very closely.

[24] Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.

All the prophets from Samuel to the last of the prophets - HAVE LIKEWISE FORETOLD OF THESE DAYS.

This is that, which was spoken of by the prophet Joel. It shall come to pass in the last days.

Those were the days. Our Lord said in Luke 21:22 - For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

Well, I managed to get through a couple chapters in Acts. Lord willing, we'll need to pick up from here and continue on seeing the fulfillment of Bible prophecy in the book of Acts. Yahweh bless you and keep you until we meet again.