

Kefa's First Public Sermon

In my last post, we examined **Kefa Calls for the Replacement of Y'hudah**. In this post, we examine **Kefa's First Public Service**.

Some fifty days after **Pesach** when **Yeshua** was arrested, the Believers were gathered in **Yerushalayim** for Shavu'ot. *Suddenly there came a sound from the sky like the roar of a violent wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.* ³ *Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire, which separated and came to rest on each one of them.* ⁴ *They were all filled with the Ruach HaKodesh and began to talk in different languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.* ~ Acts 2:2-4 (CJB)
Now when the pilgrims heard the sound *a crowd gathered; they were confused, because each one heard the believers speaking in his own language.* Acts 2:5-6 (CJB)

¹⁴ *Then Kefa stood up with the Eleven and raised his voice to address them: "You Judeans, and all of you staying here in Yerushalayim! Let me tell you what this means! Listen carefully to me!*

¹⁵ *"These people aren't drunk, as you suppose - it's only nine in the morning.* ¹⁶ *No, this is what was spoken about through the prophet Yo'el:*

¹⁷ 'Adonai says: "In the Last Days, I will pour out from my Spirit upon everyone. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸ *Even on my slaves, both men and women, will I pour out from my Spirit in those days; and they will prophesy.* ¹⁹ *I will perform miracles in the sky above and signs on the earth below — blood, fire and thick smoke.* ²⁰ *The sun will become dark and the moon blood before the great and fearful Day of Adonai comes.* ²¹ *And then, whoever calls on the name of Adonai will be saved."* ¹

²² *"Men of Isra'el! Listen to this! Yeshua from Natzeret was a man demonstrated to you to have been from God by the powerful works, miracles, and signs that God performed through Him in your presence. You yourselves know this.* ²³ *This man was arrested in accordance with God's predetermined plan and foreknowledge; and, through the agency of persons not bound by the Torah, you nailed Him up on a stake and killed him!*

²⁴ *"But God has raised Him up and freed Him from the suffering of death; it was impossible that death could keep its hold on Him.* ²⁵ *For David says this about Him:*

'I saw Adonai always before me, for he is at my right hand, so that I will not be shaken. ²⁶ *For this reason, my heart was glad; and my tongue rejoiced; and now my body too will live on in the certain hope* ²⁷ *that you will not abandon me to Sh'ol or let your Holy One see decay.* ²⁸ *You have made known to me the ways of life; you will fill me with joy by your presence.'* ²

²⁹ *"Brothers, I know I can say to you frankly that the patriarch David died and was buried - his tomb is with us to this day.* ³⁰ *Therefore, since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn an oath to him that one of his descendants would sit on his throne,* ³¹ *he was speaking in advance about the resurrection of the Messiah, that it was he who was not abandoned in Sh'ol and whose flesh did not see decay.*

³² *God raised up this Yeshua! And we are all witnesses of it!* ³³ *"Moreover, he has been exalted to the right hand of God; has received from the Father what he promised, namely, the Ruach*

¹ Joel 2:28-32

² Psalm 16:8-11

HaKodesh; and has poured out this gift, which you are both seeing and hearing. ³⁴ For David did not ascend into heaven. But he says,

³⁵ 'Adonai said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.'" ³

³⁶ Therefore, let the whole house of Isra'el know beyond doubt that God has made him both Lord and Messiah — this Yeshua, whom you executed on a stake!"

³⁷ On hearing this, they were stung in their hearts; and they said to Kefa and the other emissaries, "Brothers, what should we do?" ³⁸ Kefa answered them, "Turn from sin, return to God, and each of you be immersed on the authority of Yeshua the Messiah into forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Ruach HaKodesh! ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for those far away — as many as Adonai our God may call!"

⁴⁰ He pressed his case with many other arguments and kept pleading with them, "Save yourselves from this perverse generation!"

⁴¹ So those who accepted what he said were immersed, and there were added to the group that day about three thousand people. ~ Acts 2:14-41 (CJB)

Kefa disposes of the closed-minded skeptics and scorners before addressing the open-minded but bewildered remainder. In quoting from **Yo'el**, he explains that *the Last Days* have already begun. We know that they are continuing now, and they will culminate on the *Last Day*, here called *the great and fearful Day of Adonai*.

Men of Isra'el...you killed Him! Like a knife, the accusation pierced their hearts. But the **Messiah's** death was in accordance with **God's** predetermined plan and foreknowledge. It was not an accident, not a miscalculation on the part of **Yeshua** and His **talmidim**. God knew and planned **Yeshua's** death as atonement for humanity's sins. But that provides the killers no excuse; they had free will and could have chosen to act differently. Also, Gentiles – **Pontius Pilate** and Roman soldiers – were directly involved in killing **Yeshua**. **Kefa** does not measure the degree of their guilt because he is not speaking to them.

But God has raised Him up. It is of the essence of Messianic faith that Yeshua is alive. If He were not, we could feel sorry but could do nothing to repair the relationship between Him and us, and **Kefa** would not have delivered this sermon.

The patriarch David died. According to Jewish tradition, he died on **Shavu'ot**, as **Kefa's Shavu'ot** audience was undoubtedly aware, The **Tanakh** says he was buried in the **City of David**, southeast of the present Western Wall (1 Kings 2:10).

Kefa's central point is that all **Jews, the whole house of Isra'el**, should acknowledge **Yeshua** as **Lord and Messiah** because **God** had made Him fulfill those roles in Jewish life and human history.

Verse 41 is a mindblower to me. Most preachers are grateful when a handful accepts the invitation, and I am sure none of them used the tactics **Kefa** used. I know that the late Billy Graham did use the same tactics, but do not know his stats for one message. My wife and I attended two of his meetings at Anaheim Stadium and saw many come forward. But his message was much more low-keyed than **Kefa's** and the response was probably only in the high hundreds.

In my next post, we will learn that **Kefa Heals a Disabled Beggar**.

³ Psalm 110:1