

# \* ACTS

The Continuing Work of Jesus

<sup>23</sup> When they had been released, they went to their own *companions* and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them.

<sup>24</sup> And when they heard *this*, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, it is You who MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM, <sup>25</sup> who by the Holy Spirit, *through* the mouth of our father David Your servant, said,

'WHY DID THE GENTILES RAGE,  
AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS?

<sup>26</sup> 'THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND,  
AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER  
AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST.'

<sup>27</sup> For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, <sup>28</sup> to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.

<sup>29</sup> And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, <sup>30</sup> while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus."

<sup>31</sup> And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and *began* to speak the word of God with boldness.

(Acts 4:23-31)

## Example of Prayer

### A. Affirmation of God

➤ *They affirmed God's sovereignty*

(1) He created all things

- God's unlimited power
- God's unrivaled authority

## Example of Prayer

### A. Affirmation of God

➤ *They affirmed God's sovereignty*

(2) He rules over hostile rulers (Psalm 2)

- the rulers rage against God in vain
- God is not threatened but scoffs

## Example of Prayer

### A. Affirmation of God

➤ *They applied God's sovereignty*

- Psalm 2 has its ultimate fulfillment in the hostility of the rulers against Jesus, the Messiah
- God predestined their hostile, evil actions to bring to pass His saving purpose

## Example of Prayer

### A. Affirmation of God

- *They applied God's sovereignty*
  - this truth reassured them that God is sovereign in and through the evil actions of those who oppose the gospel

## Example of Prayer

### B. Petition to God

1. Boldness to speak the gospel
  - fear is natural and paralyzing
  - boldness is not natural but God-given

## Example of Prayer

### B. Petition to God

2. Continuation of signs and wonders
  - these "signs" served to authenticate Jesus as the risen Messiah and that salvation is available in His name alone

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*Q: Should we pray for this today?*

## Example of Prayer

### ➤ God's Answer

1. An outward display of power signifying His answer to their prayer
2. A fresh filling/outpouring of the Holy Spirit to enable bold speaking of the gospel

What keeps us from speaking to others about Jesus?