

**The Acts of the Apostles I**  
***The Appearance Before the Council***  
**Acts 4:1-37**

- I. OPPOSED BY THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS (Acts 4:1-12)
  - A. Held Overnight in Prison (Acts 4:1-4)
    - i. The chief of the Jews (Acts 4:1)
    - ii. To grief of the Sadducees (Acts 4:2)
      - 1. That the people were taught (Nehemiah 2:10; John 11:47-48)
      - 2. That Jesus was preached (1 Corinthians 1:18)
      - 3. That the resurrection was proclaimed (Matthew 22:23)
    - iii. The relief of the apostles (Acts 4:3)
    - iv. The belief of the multitude (Acts 4:4)
  - B. Questioned by the Council (Acts 4:5-7)
    - i. The gathering of the council (Acts 4:5-6)
    - ii. Historically called the Sanhedrin
    - iii. The Jewish Supreme Court
    - iv. Composed of 70 members
    - v. New Testament references
      - 1. Jesus (Matthew 26:57-59)
      - 2. Peter and John (Acts 4:5-6)
      - 3. The apostles (Acts 5:27-29)
      - 4. Stephen (Acts 6:12)
      - 5. Paul (Acts 22:30)
    - vi. The question of the apostles (Acts 4:7)
      - 1. The question of ability – “power”
      - 2. The question of authority – “name”
  - C. Answered by the Apostle Peter (Acts 4:8-12)
    - i. By the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:8-10)
    - ii. By the power of the Head Corner Stone (Acts 4:11-12)
      - 1. The Stone of Israel (Genesis 49:24)
      - 2. The Stone set at nought (Psalm 118:21-23; Matthew 21:42; 1 Peter 2:4)
      - 3. The Corner Stone (Isaiah 28:16; 1 Corinthians 3:11; 1 Peter 2:6-7)

## 4. The Stone of stumbling (Isaiah 8:14; 1 Peter 2:8)

### II. THREATENED AGAINST PREACHING JESUS (Acts 4:13-22)

#### A. Council Among the Jews (Acts 4:13-16)

- i. The power of the word (Acts 4:13; Isaiah 50:4)
- ii. The power of the work (Acts 4:14-16)
  1. Nothing against it (Acts 4:14; Titus 2:8)
  2. A notable miracle (Acts 4:15-16, 22)

#### B. Warning to the Apostles (Acts 4:17-22)

- i. Commanded to cease preaching (Acts 4:17-18)
- ii. Refused to compromise (Acts 4:19-20)
  1. Render unto Caesar his due (Matthew 22:21)
  2. Be subject unto higher powers (Romans 13:1)
  3. Submit to man's ordinances (1 Peter 2:13)
  4. But obey God before man (Acts 4:19-20; Acts 5:29)
- iii. Released with further warning (Acts 4:21-22)

### III. EMPOWERED THROUGH PRAYER TO GOD (Acts 4:23-31)

#### A. Its Recognition of the Lord (Acts 4:23-24)

- i. They prayed with the saints (Acts 4:23)
- ii. They prayed to God (Acts 4:24; Psalm 55:16-18; Psalm 62:5-8)
- iii. They spoke of God (Acts 4:24; Nehemiah 1:4-5; Jeremiah 10:10-12)

#### B. Its Application of the Word (Acts 4:25-28)

- i. The raging of the heathen (Acts 4:25-26; Psalm 2:1-3)
- ii. The opposition to Jesus (Acts 4:27-28)
  1. From all directions (Acts 4:27)
  2. By God's counsel (Acts 4:28; Acts 2:23; Luke 22:22)

#### C. Its Presentation of the Need (Acts 4:29-30)

- i. To behold the threatenings (Acts 4:29; Isaiah 37:14-17; Psalm 132:1)
- ii. To grant holy boldness (Acts 4:29; Ephesians 6:18-20)
- iii. To stretch forth God's hand (Acts 4:30)

#### D. Its Revelation of God's Power (Acts 4:31)

- i. The shaking of the place
- ii. The filling of the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)

iii. The boldness of their witness

E. Examples of Scriptural Prayer

i. Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1:4-11)

1. Appeal to God
2. Confession of sin
3. Appeal to scripture
4. Petition

ii. Daniel (Daniel 9:3-19)

1. Appeal to God
2. Confession of sin
3. Petition

iii. Apostles (Acts 4:24-30)

1. Appeal to God
2. Appeal to scripture
3. Appeal to Christ
4. Petition

iv. Paul (Colossians 1:9-17)

1. Petition
2. Appeal to God
3. Appeal to Christ

F. Elements of Scriptural Prayer (1 Timothy 2:1)

- i. Supplication – to make request humbly (Philippians 4:6)
- ii. Prayer – to make request (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- iii. Intercession – to make request on behalf of another (2 Timothy 4:16)
- iv. Giving of thanks – to express gratitude (Ephesians 5:20;  
1 Thessalonians 5:18)

G. Qualities of New Testament Prayer

- i. Submission – according to the will of God (Romans 8:26, 27;  
1 John 5:14, 15)
- ii. Access (Romans 5:1, 2; Ephesians 2:18; Ephesians 3:12)

IV. STRENGTHENED THROUGH COMPLETE UNITY (Acts 4:32-37)

A. The Extent of Their Unity (Acts 4:32)

- i. One spirit (Philippians 1:27)
- ii. One purse

- B. The Power of Their Unity (Acts 4:33)
    - i. Great power (Judges 6:14-16)
    - ii. Great witness (Acts 3:15)
    - iii. Great grace (2 Corinthians 9:8)
  - C. The Blessings of Their Unity (Acts 4:34-37; Psalm 133:1)
    - i. The blessing of provision (Acts 4:34)
    - ii. The blessing of sacrifice (Acts 4:35-37)
- V. THE SELLING OF THEIR GOODS (Acts 4:34-35)
- A. The Problems Caused
    - i. This passage is used to teach communism
      - 1. No private land ownership
      - 2. Redistribution of wealth
    - ii. This passage is used to teach a communal living
  - B. All Things Were Common (Acts 4:32, 34-35; Acts 2:44-45)
    - i. Taking care of the needs of others
    - ii. According to every man's need
  - C. A Contextual and Scriptural Answer to the Passage
    - i. Done Voluntarily (Acts 4:34, 37; Acts 5:4)
      - 1. This was done not by a compulsory abolition
      - 2. It was done by the leading of the Holy Spirit in order to provide for the needs of others and for the furtherance of the gospel.
    - ii. Not to be abused
      - 1. By those who would not provide for themselves (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12; 2 Thessalonians 3:10)
      - 2. By those greedy of financial gain (1 Timothy 3:8)