

Main Teachings of the Evangelistic Sermons in Acts

John Hepp, Jr.

The Book of Acts gives nearly eighty summaries of “gospel” sermons to the unsaved: (a) 12 summaries in two sentences or more, (b) about 60 summaries in a sentence or less, (c) about 6 summaries by unbelievers. In those sermons five main teachings are found over and over. Each of those main teachings is summarized in the first row of the table below (see A to E). In two cases (B,C) related but secondary teachings are added in parentheses. In the column below each teaching is the evidence for it in Acts. Using this table, a serious student can verify that these teachings were emphasized—and can infer what was not taught.

The evidence for each teaching is given (a) on row 2 from the “general” (short) Acts summaries, then (b) on the other rows from most of the longer summaries. Excluded are two self-defense sermons (7:2-53 and 24:10-21) and one pre-evangelistic sermon (14:15-17). A term different from but equivalent to one in my summary, is marked “EQ.” In order to remember the import of the title Christ, its equivalent Messiah is used instead. The following abbreviations are used:

<i>col.</i> column	<i>L</i> Lord (Master)	<i>res.</i> resurrection
<i>EQ</i> equivalent	<i>M</i> Messiah (coming King)	
<i>J</i> Jesus		

Refer- ence in Acts ↓	A Jesus is Messiah/Lord. [Coming King/Master]	B MJ suf- fered & died (a Jewish crime).	C God raised MJ from the dead (as the first of many, and exalted Him to His own throne).	D MJ will return to rule. [Many of these are implied.]	E Repent (turn to God) & believe in MJ for for- giveness; be baptized in Jesus’ name.
Stated in a general summary	<i>Messiah, or Jesus (is) Messiah:</i> 5:42; 8:5,12; 9:22; 17:3; 18:5,28; 20:21; 24:24; 28:31 <i>Jesus or Lord</i> <i>Jesus:</i> 8:35; 9:15, 28; 11:20; 16:31; 18:25; 19:4 17:7 another king 9:20 EQ Son	implied by col.C 17:3	<i>The res. or Jesus & the res.:</i> 4:2, 33; 17:18; 23:6 17:3 25:19	<i>EQ The king- dom (of God):</i> 8:12; 19:8; 20:25; 28:23,31 (assuming that the king- dom is future and as pre- dicted)	11:1 EQ received the word 16:36 believe in the LJM 19:4 believe on MJ 20:21 repen- tance toward God & faith in LJM 24:24 faith in M 24:25 EQ righteousness, self-control

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2:14-41 (includes response)	31 Messiah 36 Lord & M 30 EQ David's Heir 22 EQ did Mes- sianic works	23 by Jews	24-32 33-35 adds His ascension to God's throne.	Implied by col.A 35,40	38 Repent,be baptized 41 received his word, were baptized
3:12-26	18,20 13,26 EQ Servant 14,15 EQ titles	13-15 by Jews 17-18	13-15 21 involves His ascension.	20-23 He will bring refresh- ing and restore all.	16 faith 19,26 repen- tance 22-23 EQ listen
4:8-12	10b	10c by Jews	10d	11-12 EQ cornerstone, to save	
5:29-32	31 EQ Prince & Savior	30b by Jews	30a, 32a 31a adds His ascension.	implied by col.A	31b repentance 32b obey
10:34-43	36 Jesus Messiah, Lord of all 38 God anointed Him 38b-39a miracles	39b by Jews	40-41	42 EQ appoint- ed judge of living and dead	43 believe [cf. 47-48 be baptized]
13:16-41	23 EQ promised Savior from David 34 EQ to give the sure blessings of David 33 EQ Son	27-29 by Jews	30-31 32-37	40-41 EQ com- ing judgment	38-39 believe [also 48]
17:22-31	implied by col.D		31b His res. proves He will judge.	31 EQ a day fixed for judgment	30 repent
22:1-22	8,10,21,etc. Lord 14 EQ the Righ- teous One [7:52]		implied by col.E 6-10 requires as- cension [7:55- 56]	implied by col.A	16 be baptized
26:1-29	15 Lord 23 Messiah		implied by col.E and 6-8 23b first to rise 13-18 requires His ascension.	implied by col.A	18 forgiveness & inheritance 20 repent 27 believe