



## Acts 4:1-12 “The only Name that Saves”

**Introduction:** *Deuteronomy 6:4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.”*

Secular, atheistic, and multi-religious world views promote the acceptance of every imaginable philosophy or belief. They claim that truth is relative, and that all humanistic viewpoints should be expected and accepted. The world perceives Christianity as offensive and retrogressive, claiming that Biblical principles are intolerant and narrow-minded for the modern times. In essence, the world rejects the idea of one true God and instead promotes the belief that all religions lead to the same destination—if there is any beyond this life.

### **V.1-4. The only Name that Saves... and provokes hostility**

“And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.”

- As Peter addressed those who were amazed by the lame man’s healing, the religious leaders rushed to apprehend them, greatly annoyed because they were proclaiming the Gospel. Particularly the Sadducees resented the message because they didn’t believe in the resurrection (Mark 12:18).
- The same hostility will be faced today by those who proclaim Jesus as Lord because the Gospel exposes the evil in human hearts and produces animosity against the Holy God and those who believe in Him.
  - o John 3:20 “For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.” John 15:18-19 “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”
- In contrast many of those who heard the Gospel believed in Jesus and were saved, because “faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17)

### **V.5-6. The only Name that Saves... and unites its opponents**

“On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.”

- In Jesus’ day, most religious leaders were associated with two sects, the Pharisees and the Sadducees. The Sadducees denied the resurrection, the afterlife, and the existence of angels and demons. By contrast, the Pharisees affirmed the resurrection, believed in future reward and punishment, and accepted the existence of the spiritual realm. These differences would sometimes result in disputes among the two groups (Acts 23:6-7)
- Despite their radical differences, they found common ground in their opposition to Jesus and His disciples. The Gospels show Romans and Jews united against Jesus; Acts shows Pharisees and Sadducees united against Jesus’ followers; Revelation shows Satan, kings, nations, political powers and false religions together against the Lord. (Rev.17:12-14, 16:13-16, 19:19). Nowadays, religious and secular philosophies stand together against Christianity.
- John 16:33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

### **V.7-12. The only Name that Saves... and must be proclaimed**

“And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

- Peter's bold response to the same court that sent Jesus to the cross was the work of the Holy Spirit indwelling him. Jesus said in Matthew 10:19-20 "But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you."
- Scripture consistently presents Jesus as the cornerstone (Isaiah 28:16-17, Ephesians 2:19-21, 1 Peter 2:4-8), the foundation of God's redemptive plan, yet He was rejected by those who should have received Him as Messiah.
- Charles Spurgeon said "Jesus' salvation includes cleansing from past guilt, delivery from our evil propensities, restoration of our fallen state, secure standing before God forever. It first heals our wounds, it removes our diseases, it takes away our curse, it puts our feet upon the rock Christ Jesus, and having thus done, at last it lifts our heads far above all principalities, and powers, to be crowned forever with Jesus Christ, the King of heaven."
- So, why is Jesus the only name by which we must be saved?
  - o First, Jesus himself declared in John 14:6 "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me", and in John 10:9 "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved."
  - o Secondly, no one is holy or righteous enough to earn salvation by their own merits (Romans 3:10-12, Isaiah 64:6)
  - o Thirdly, the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23); therefore, Jesus' substitutionary death on the cross, bearing our sins, is the only sacrifice sufficient to satisfy God's justice and secure our salvation. For only Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18), only Jesus was in every respect tempted, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15), only Jesus pleased the Father (Matthew 3:17, 17:5), only Jesus had the authority to lay His life down and to take it up again (John 10:18), only Jesus died for our sins and declared His work was finished (John 19:30), only Jesus resurrected from the death (Matthew 28:5-9), only Jesus ascended to be seated in the throne (Mark 16:19), only Jesus intercedes for us (Hebrews 7:25), and only Jesus will return to take us back with Him forever (John 14:3).

### **Conclusion and Main Idea:**

Evidence is clear, no one can be saved by their own merit or effort, nor by adhering to any religion or philosophy. Salvation is found only through faith in Jesus Christ and His atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, we must go to Him outside of the camp and bear the reproach He endured (Hebrews 13:13), boldly proclaiming that salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.

