

but God

Pentecost Explained -
"But God"

Acts 2:23-32

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In Genesis we are told about a person by then name of Joseph

- He was the 11th son of Jacob, mother was Rachel
- In two visions, Joseph was told he would be in a position of authority where even his father, mother and brothers would bow down to him
- His brothers sold him into slavery for 20 pieces of silver, and he was taken to Egypt

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- For over 10 years he was a slave in Egypt and became the manager of Potiphar's house
 - Falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and thrown in prison
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In Genesis we are told about a person by then name of Joseph

- **Genesis 50:18-21** NIV 18 His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. “We are your slaves,” they said. 19 But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. 21 So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

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This is also the story within a story of Pentecost

- Yes, God sent His Holy Spirit upon all His believers to live in them and fill them with His presence and power
- The first question asked of the crowd was “What does this mean?”
- The next question would be, “How did God do this?”
- Peter was able to explain similar to Joseph’s brother, “You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good.”

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- **Acts 2:23-24 NIV** 23 This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him

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Isaiah 55:8-9 NIV 8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. 9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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God has taken the most heinous of evils and brought something marvelous out of it

- **Romans 8:28 NIV** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
 - Know – To understand, recognize, realize
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- Peter described Jesus as a man accredited by God through the miracles, wonders and sign done by Jesus in front of those in attendance
- Peter's question is, "How did you respond to this one so evidently sent by God to us?"
 - But you put Him to death by nailing Him to a cross
 - You killed your Messiah sent to you by God

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- Stephen in **Acts 7:51-52** NLT 51 “You stubborn people! You are heathen at heart and deaf to the truth. Must you forever resist the Holy Spirit? That’s what your ancestors did, and so do you! 52 Name one prophet your ancestors didn’t persecute! They even killed the ones who predicted the coming of the Righteous One—the Messiah whom you betrayed and murdered.

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- But God...raised Him from the dead
- There is the difference between “But Man” and “But God”
- God took the most vile and heinous act of evil and brought something beautiful out of it—our salvation

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- Jesus did the same thing that Adam did in the Garden of Eden! He made Himself obedient to death and put Himself into the hands of God's enemy, Satan. Only He did it—He committed this act not by treason, but by choice. He did it in order to pay the price for Adam's treason.

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Your next question should be, “How can God do this?” and the answer is “*nothing catches Him unprepared*”

- Go back to Joseph. God needed Joseph in a position of power to protect and provide for His struggling new nation of Israel
- God already knew a drought was coming to the area
- So, he takes the evil Joseph’s brothers intended and works the skills into Joseph he would need then places him in a position to be a blessing

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 - If God did not spare Jesus to bless us, how can we not allow God to not spare us to bless others

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The inevitability of death is shattered by the reality of the resurrection of Jesus

- Here you have another “But God” – You inflicted evil upon a sinless man who was unworthy of death, but God raised Him from the grave
- This is to be the message of the church and the message to your children
- Mankind is separated from God by our sin. How do we know?

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- **Genesis 3:23-24 NLT** 23 So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. 24 After sending them out, the Lord God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

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- But God--**John 3:16 NLT** “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

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- Notice Peter says, “it was impossible for death to keep his hold on Him”
 - Death had no claim on the sinless One
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- **Acts 2:25-28 NIV** 25 David said about him: “I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, 27 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. 28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

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- This can't be about David because--[Acts 2:29-31](#) NIV 29
“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. 30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay.

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- **Acts 2:32 NIV** God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.
- Here is another marvelous truth, death no longer has a claim or hold on us as well, because we are hidden in Christ Jesus
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- **Colossians 3:1-4 NIV** Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with (in) Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

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- **1st Corinthians 15:51-53 NLT** 51 But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! 52 It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. 53 For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

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So what does this mean to me?

- **Romans 8:31-32 MSG** 31 So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? 32 If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us?

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 - **Ephesians 2:4-5 NLT** 4 But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, 5 that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead (*current condition*). It is only by God's grace that you have been saved (*and preserved*)!

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