ACTS 4

# No Other Name

*two fishermen before the high priests, a prayer that shook the room, and a church of one heart and soul*

> *"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."*
> ACTS 4:12

A SMITH FOR CHRIST STUDY · FOUR VOICES: GUZIK · SPROUL · SPURGEON · HENRY

# Where Luke has brought us

1. Acts 4 is the same afternoon as Acts 3.

2. The opposition comes from the temple establishment: the priests, “the captain of the temple guard” (the officer next in rank to the high priest, in charge of temple order) and the Sadducees (v. 1).

3. The next morning the Sanhedrin meets: “their rulers and elders and scribes,” with “Annas the high priest … and Caiaphas and John and Alexander” (vv. 5–6).



# By What Name?

*An arrest at evening, five thousand believers, and Peter before the court that condemned Jesus*

**ACTS 4:4**

*But many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.*

**DAVID GUZIK**

Meant to frighten; opposition did not slow the church; the only way.

**R.C. SPROUL**

Tolerance is the culture's creed; be ready to die for this claim.

**C.H. SPURGEON**

You cannot judge a sermon the day it is preached; behave boldly.

**MATTHEW HENRY**

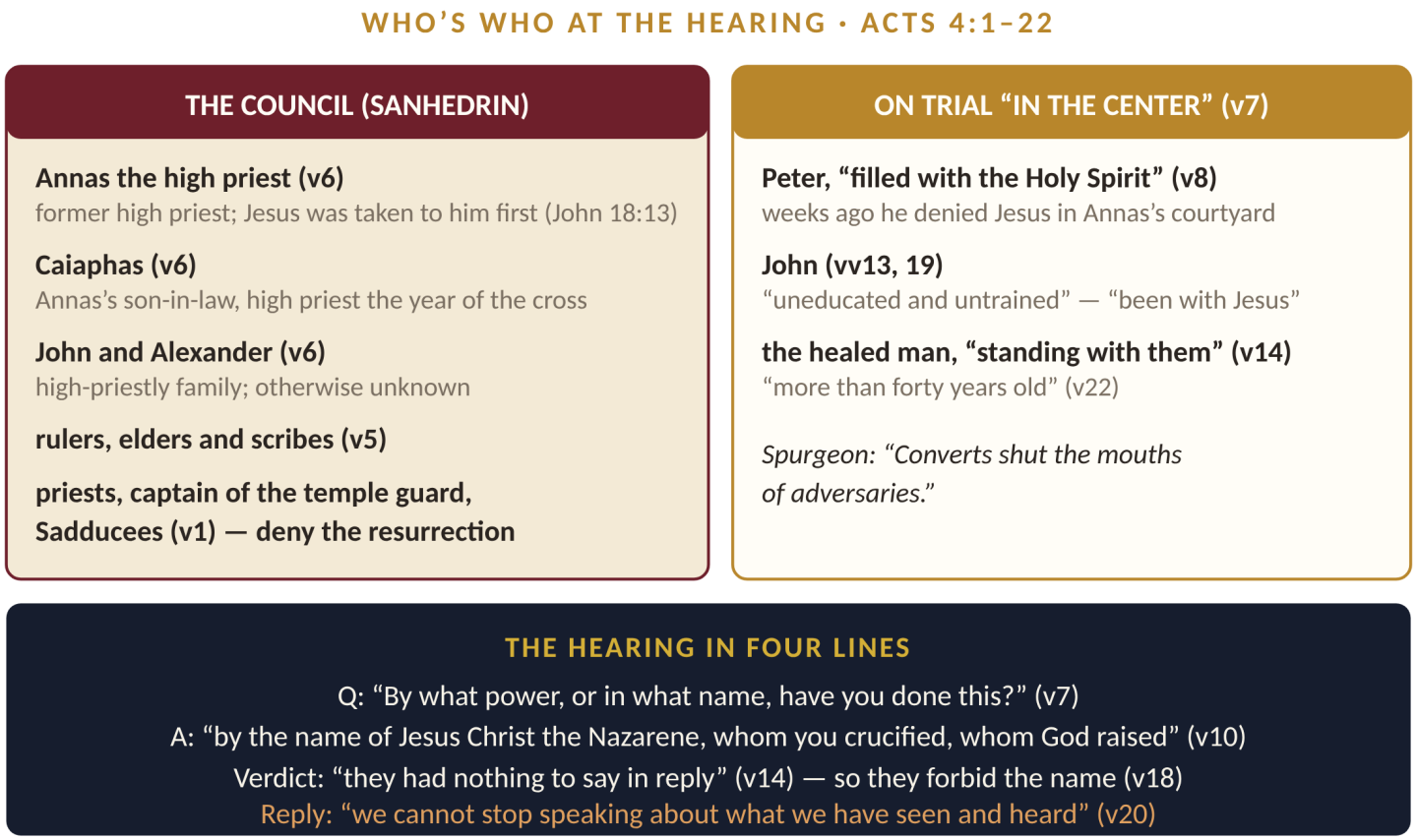
Suffering days, growing days; we cannot be saved but by Christ.

**ἐξουθενηθείς**

EXOUTHENĒTHEIS · "REJECTED"

From exoutheneō, to treat as nothing, to despise.

# Who's who at the hearing




*On the left, the court that condemned Jesus; on the right, the two fishermen and the healed man; the dark panel gives the whole hearing in four quotations.*

# They Had Been with Jesus

*Untrained men, a miracle no one could deny, and the question of whom to obey*

**ACTS 4:13**

*Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.*

**DAVID GUZIK**

Untrained, but they knew the Scriptures and had been with Jesus.

**R.C. SPROUL**

Obey God when men command sin — but know what God commands.

**C.H. SPURGEON**

Courage the brass, love the gold; behold Christ, become like Him.

**MATTHEW HENRY**

You can tell they have been on the mount by their faces.

**παρρησία**

PARRĒSIA · "CONFIDENCE, BOLDNESS"

From pas (all) and rhēsis (speech): saying everything, plain and open speech without fear.

# Grant Your Servants Boldness

*The church prays Psalm 2, owns God's sovereign purpose, and the place is shaken*

**ACTS 4:24**

*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,*

**DAVID GUZIK**

God in control; ask boldness, not safety; walls are not holy.

**R.C. SPROUL**

Sovereignty believed absolutely; where is that boldness among us?

**C.H. SPURGEON**

Predestination in a prayer meeting; discord is harmony to God.

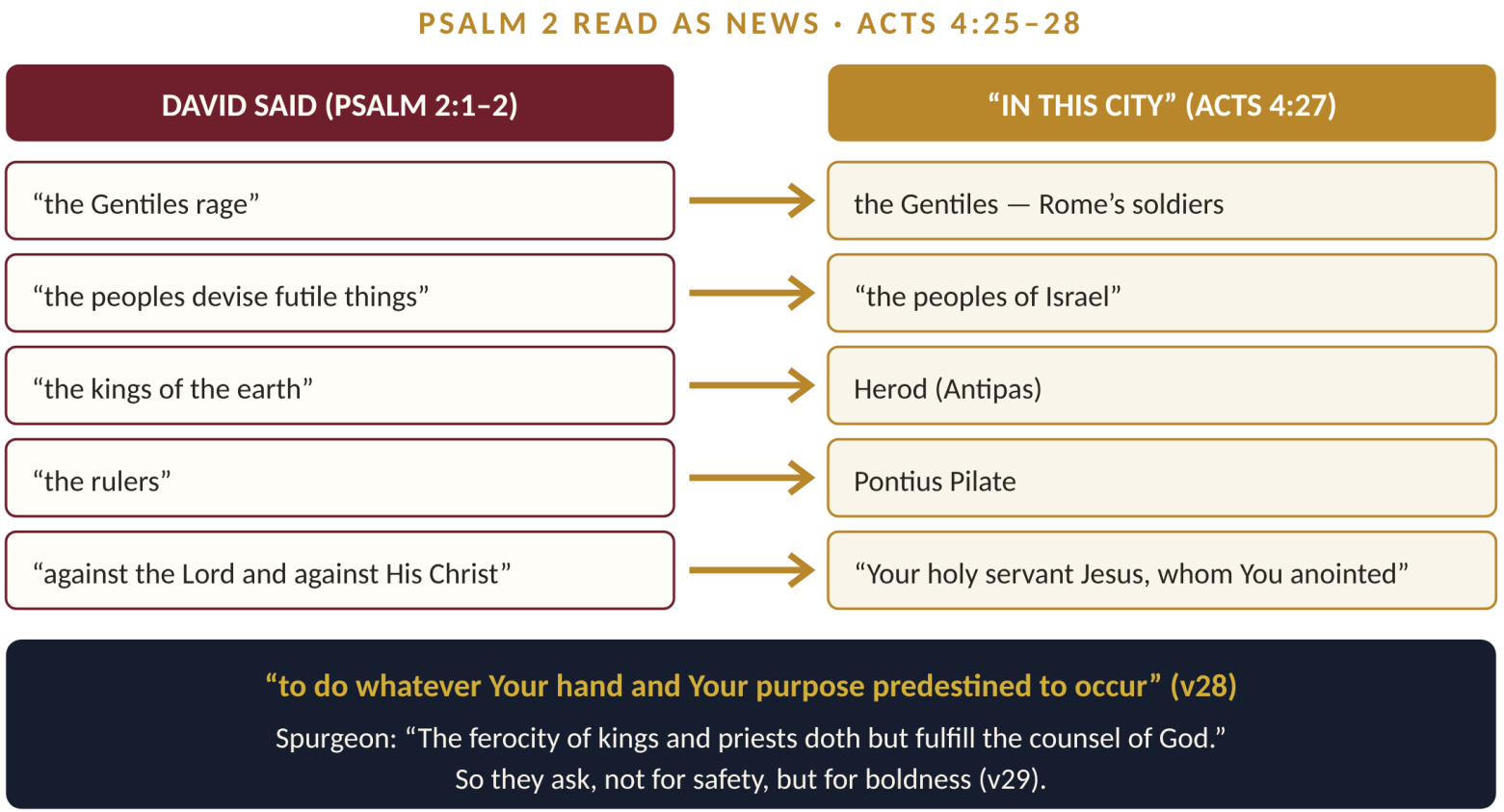
**MATTHEW HENRY**

Ask not chiefly that trouble be prevented; let us not be sneaking.

**δέσποτα**
DESPOTA · "O LORD"

Not the usual kyrios but despotēs — the master with absolute authority, the owner of slaves.

# Psalm 2 read as news




*Read each row left to right: the church matched every line of David's psalm to the people who gathered against Jesus in Jerusalem — and saw God's hand behind it all.*

# One Heart and Soul

*Great power, great grace, no one in need, and a man called the Son of Encouragement*

**ACTS 4:32**

*And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them.*

**DAVID GUZIK**

Not communism; voluntary, as needs arose; soon abused.

**R.C. SPROUL**

Not required; Barnabas gave all; Ananias pretended to.

**MATTHEW HENRY**

Grasping causes wars; those that gather much have nothing over.

**κοινά**

KOINA · "COMMON"

Koinos, shared, held in common — the root of koinōnia, fellowship (2:42).

# What to carry from this chapter

1

### Suffering days, growing days.

The apostles go to jail and the number of the men rises to about five thousand (4:3–4).

2

### The same court, a different Peter.

Weeks earlier Peter denied Jesus in Annas's courtyard; now, "filled with the Holy Spirit," he tells Annas and Caiaphas, "whom you crucified, whom God raised" (4:6–10).

3

### They counted Him as nothing.

Peter's exoutheneō (4:11) is stronger than the psalm's "rejected": the builders treated the cornerstone as worthless.

4

### Not a way — the way.

Guzik: "Peter didn't merely proclaim Jesus as a way of salvation, but as the only way of salvation."

# More to carry

5

### Educated where it counts.

Uneducated and untrained, “Yet they were educated in two more important ways: they knew the Scriptures, and they had been with Jesus” (Guzik).

6

### A healed man is an argument.

With him standing there, “they had nothing to say in reply” (4:14).

7

### Obey God — and know what He says.

Sproul: never “I’m just obeying orders” as an excuse for sin, but no disobedience for mere inconvenience; we must know “what God commands and what God forbids.”

8

### They prayed for boldness, not safety.

“Take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence” (4:29).

# Talk it through

1. The apostles were jailed and the church grew to five thousand men. Where has a hard season in my life become a growing season?

2. Peter said there is “no other name under heaven … by which we must be saved.” Why is that claim hard for people today, and how would I explain it to a friend with love?

3. People could tell Peter and John “had been with Jesus.” What would people notice about me this week that shows I have been with Him?

4. “We cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.” What have I seen Jesus do that I have kept to myself?

5. When the church was threatened, they prayed for boldness instead of safety. What would change if I prayed that way about my own threats?

CLOSING

*Acts 4 puts two fishermen in front of the men who killed Jesus and lets them say the plainest sentence in the book: there is no other name. Threatened, the church prayed for boldness and got it; filled with the Spirit, it shared until no one was in need. Be with Jesus, and people will be able to tell.*

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

Full Deep Dive, O·I·A study and reflection journal: see the Acts study page.