

# Verse Analysis – Acts 2:40

## Categories:

A	adjective
C	conjunction
D	adverb
I	interjection
N	noun
P	preposition
DA	definite article
DP	demonstrative pronoun
IP	interrogative/indefinite pronoun
PP	personal pronoun
RP	relative pronoun
V	verb
X	particle

## Person:

1	first person
2	second person
3	third person

## Voice:

A	active
M	middle
P	passive

## Case:

N	nominative
G	genitive
D	dative
A	accusative
V	vocative

## Gender:

M	masculine
F	feminine
N	neuter

## Tense:

P	present
I	imperfect
F	future
A	aoist
X	perfect
Y	pluperfect

## Mood:

I	indicative
D	imperative
S	subjunctive
O	optative
N	infinitive
P	participle

## Number:

S	singular
P	plural

## Degree:

C	comparative
S	superlative

## Frequency:

Number of times the word is used in the NT. Words with freq. < 30 are not worth memorizing. They are why God made the Internet.

H	High frequency – used more than 750 times
M	Medium frequency – Used from 101 to 750 times
L	Low frequency – Used from 30 to 100 times
R	Rare – Used less than 30 times

→ Memorizing all words used 150+ times will give you a handle on 70% of the NT.

→ Memorizing all words use 30+ times will give you a handle on 85% of the NT.

Acts 2:40

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Word	Dictionary Form of Word	Meaning	Frequency	Category	Person	Tense	Voice	Mood	Case	Number	Gender	Degree
ἑτέροις	ἕτερος	other, different	L	A					D	P	M	
τε	τέ	and, but (often not translated); with και: both...and	M	C								
λόγοις	λόγος	word, spoken or written	M	N					D	P	M	
πλείοσιν	πολύς	many, great, large; (compar.) more than, greater than; (super.) the most; very large	M	A					D	P	M	C
διεμαρτύρατο	διαμαρτύρομαι	to make solemn affirmation, protest; to make a solemn and earnest charge, Lk. 16:28; Acts 2:40; to	R	V	3	A	M	I		S		
καί	καί	(as a connective) and; (connecting and continuing) and then, then; (as a disjunctive) but, yet, however;	H	C								
παρεκάλει	παρακαλέω	to call for, invite to come, send for, Acts 28:20; to call upon, exhort, admonish, persuade, Lk. 3:18; Acts	M	V	3	I	A	I		S		
αὐτοῦς	αὐτός	he, she, it; also used as inten.p., himself, herself, itself, themselves; the same one; also an adv. of place: here,	H	PP					A	P	M	

Word	Dictionary Form of Word	Meaning	Frequency	Category	Person	Tense	Voice	Mood	Case	Number	Gender	Degree
λέγων	λέγω	say, said, the most general term for speaking in the NT, translated contextually with more specific	H	V		P	A	P	N	S	M	
Σώθητε	σώζω	save, keep safe, preserve, make whole/healthy	M	V	2	A	P	D		P		
ἀπὸ	ἀπό	from, away from; by means of; out of; against	M	P								
τῆς	ὁ	(often not translated) the, this, that, who	H	DA					G	S	F	
γενεᾶς	γενεά	pr. birth; hence, progeny; a generation of mankind, Mt. 11:16; 23:36, et al.; a generation, a step in a	L	N					G	S	F	
τῆς	ὁ	(often not translated) the, this, that, who	H	DA					G	S	F	
σκολιᾶς	σκολιός	crooked, tortuous, Lk. 3:5; met. perverse, wicked, Acts 2:40; Phil. 2:15; crooked, peevish, morose, 1 Pet.	R	A					G	S	F	
ταύτης	οὗτος	this, this one, these; (as object) him, her, it, them; with διά or εἰς it means for this reason	H	DP					G	S	F	

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Greek Verse

Acts 2:40 ἑτέροις τε λόγοις πλείοσιν διεμαρτύρατο, καὶ παρεκάλει αὐτοὺς λέγων· Σώθητε ἀπὸ τῆς γενεᾶς τῆς σκολιᾶς ταύτης.

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Word-for-Word Translation

In other words many he declared, and call them saying, Be saved from this dark generation.

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Proper Translation

He declared many other things to them, and implored them to "Save yourselves from this twisted culture."

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Comments and Questions

**καὶ παρεκάλει αὐτοὺς λέγων** with a finite verb and a redundant participle is a very common construction in the LXX. It is much less common elsewhere in Koine Greek. For first century people who knew the LXX, it gave what Peter was saying a "biblical flavor".

The **λέγων** almost functions like a quotation mark. You could translate this as:

- He implored them, saying, "Save yourselves...."
- He implored them and said, "Save yourselves...."
- He implored them, "Save yourselves...."

**παρεκάλει** is an imperfect. This is a marker of ongoing action. There is an implication here that his speaking to them took some *time* to unfold. It was not a single sentence and then finished.

Of course, this would be implied by **ἑτέροις τε λόγοις πλείοσιν** as well.

**διεμαρτύρατο** is aorist, so refers to the whole of his message. Aorist speaks of action as a whole-thing, not as continuous action.

"Save yourselves from this twisted culture" and from the consequences that are coming its way. There is punishment coming for them. But also, salvation from living in a dark and twisted culture comes with a better life, living in the light. Certainly the next few verses point to how it was that people were living, as it were, in a little pocket of the culture that was very like living in the Kingdom of God.

Crooked generation = wicked people = twisted culture.

διαμαρτύρομαι and παρακαλέω mean approximately the same thing. Both words are used several times in Acts.

While I have translated Σώθητε as though it was an active voice verb (Save yourselves...), it is actually passive (Be saved...). God is the one doing the saving. The people are the ones receiving it.

Yet Peter is still exhorting them to take action. Salvation is gift and task, both at the same time.

Indeed, the ones who call on God are the ones whom, as the verse before says, God himself has already called.

This twisted generation/culture. Σκολιός is the word from which we get the medical condition *scoliosis*.

In Canada, we tend not to talk about "our generation" as much as we do "our culture". Hence my translation.

It is possible that the people hearing Peter speak heard an echo of Deut. 32:5.

*His people have been unfaithful to him;  
they have not acted like his children—this is their sin.  
They are a perverse and deceitful generation.*

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Twisted, yes. To take Jesus and crucify him in the name of God was a bent and twisted thing to do. Our

own culture had not the opportunity to crucify Jesus, but is similarly twisted.

There is time compression here. So far, what Luke reports of Peter's remarks would only take 2 or 3 minutes to express. Peter's dialog with his audience took considerably longer than just 3 minutes.