A. Jesus, the True Messiah (vs. 22):

1. Peter commands everyone to give him their undivided attention.
   
a) “Hear these words” with its decisive aorist imperative for hearing that actually grasps continues the tone of authority from v. 14. [[1]]

3. What Peter is saying are words that come directly from God. These are the inward thoughts and outward expressions of God.

4. Jesus is someone that came from among them. They are familiar with Him and can track His heritage. They knew Christ and His family.

5. Jesus publically and vividly demonstrated by His mighty powerful works that He is from God. He did this through: 
   
a) Supernatural powers that can only come from God demonstrated by how Christ transformed impossible circumstances.
   b) The amazing works Christ performed are transformations man can only imagine.
   c) The miracles and wonders are events that they knew could only come from God.
   d) "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.” (John 14:11-12; NASU).

6. All that Christ did took place among them. As they lived out their day to day lives, Christ performed powered acts right before them.

7. Because all these miracles, wonders and signs took place among them, they have a full understanding of each event.

B. You are Always on His Mind (vs. 23):

1. Jesus demonstrated supernatural power before His death so man could not crucify Him unless God allowed it.

2. God’s plan was definitive and He had no desire to alter it.

3. God’s plan, which came about after reflection and deliberation, allowed Christ to be delivered to evil men to die.

4. Christ being handed over was something that was decided ahead of time knowing the wickedness that was in the hearts of Jews and Gentiles. God knew that the Jews would reject the goodness of God among them so He sent Christ at a time when they would willfully reject Him (Galatians 4:4).

5. **By the hands of godless men:**

   a) The Jewish crowd at Pentecost could not avoid their responsibility in Jesus’ death. Nonetheless, in the mystery of the divine will, God was working in these events of willful human rebellion to bring about his eternal purposes, bringing out of the tragedy of the cross the triumph of the resurrection. The Jews were not alone in their responsibility for Jesus’ death, however. They worked through the agency of “lawless men” (“wicked,” NIV), a term used by Jews to designate Gentiles. Jesus died on a Roman cross;¹¹² Gentiles too shared the guilt. ²²

6. The execution of Christ was an appointed sacrificial offering before God.
7. Sinful man unwittingly presented to God His holy sacrifice for sin so that sin and its penalty can be removed from man.

### C. The Sting of Death is Gone (vs. 24):

1. God can allow Christ’s crucifixion because His power naturally overcomes the power of death (John 10:18).
2. God once and for all destroyed any hold that death can have on anyone.
3. God destroyed the power of evil forces by overcoming death. Satan and his demons, who would love for us to be separated from God forever, no longer can have the power to willfully take us to hell. We now have a Savior who can deliver us from their power and give us life eternal.
4. God removed the pain of death. “…to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 5:8) “And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, 'Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'” "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them." (Revelation 14:13; NASU)
5. Christ’s inner strength and power makes it forever impossible for death to hold Him (John 10:18).
6. Death cannot continuously hold Christ down.

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