

October 12, 2022

Acts 2 / Joel 2 Part I

The Promise of the Holy Spirit and Miraculous Signs

ACTS 2-7	ACTS 8	ACTS 9
Acts 2:10 Jews & Proselytes 2:14 Men of Judea 2:22 Men of Israel 2:36 House of Israel	Samaritan Acts 8:25 Ethiopian Proselyte 8:26-40	Saul Converted <u>GENTILES</u> Kings Israel
Men of Israel Acts 3:12	Hellenists Acts 6:1 Nicolas, a Proselyte 6:5	Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
Captain of Temple Priests Sadducees Acts 4:1; 5:24	Stephen Preaches to His People Martyred Acts 7	
Elders Children of Israel Acts 5:21		
Transitional Period – Judaism to Christianity		

JOHN 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

JOHN 15:26–27 “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

2:1 The day of Pentecost was an annual feast that followed the Feast of Firstfruits by a week of weeks (i.e., seven weeks, or 49 days) and therefore also was called the Feast of Weeks (cf. Lev. 23:15–22). The name “Pentecost,” of Greek derivation, means 50 because it was the 50th day after the Firstfruits feast (Lev. 23:16).

Where the followers of Christ were gathered at this time is not definitely known. Luke simply wrote, **They were all together in one place**. Perhaps they were in the temple precincts. However, the place is called a “house” (Acts 2:2), an unlikely designation for the temple, though it may be referred to as a house (cf. 7:47).

2:2–3 The references to “wind” and “fire” are significant. The word for “Spirit” (*pneuma*) is related to *pnoe*, the word translated “wind” here. It also means breath. Both nouns—“spirit” and “wind” or “breath”—are from the verb *pneō*, “to blow, to breathe.” The **sound like the blowing of a violent wind ... from heaven** points to the power of the Holy Spirit and the fullness of His coming. No believer there was exempt from this experience, for the flames **separated and came to rest on each of them**.

The **tongues of fire** portray the presence of God. Several times in the Old Testament God displayed Himself in the form of flames (Gen. 15:17; Ex. 3:2–6; 13:21–22; 19:18; 40:38; cf. Matt. 3:11; Luke 3:16).

2:4 The filling **with the Holy Spirit** is separate from the baptism of the Spirit. The Spirit’s baptism occurs once for each believer at the moment of salvation (cf. 11:15–16; Rom. 6:3; 1 Cor. 12:13; Col. 2:12), but the Spirit’s filling may occur not only at salvation but also on a number of occasions after salvation (Acts 4:8, 31; 6:3, 5; 7:55; 9:17; 13:9, 52).

An evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit was **other tongues/Languages** (*heterais glōssais*; cf. 11:15–16). These were undoubtedly spoken living languages; the word used in 2:6, 8 is *dialektō*, which means “language” and not ecstatic utterance. This gives insight into what is meant by “tongues” in chapters 2; 10; 19; and in 1 Corinthians 12–14.

2:5–13 Jews of the “diaspora” (dispersion; cf. James 1:1; 1 Peter 1:1) **were ... in Jerusalem** for the feast. They were dumbfounded to hear Jews from Galilee speaking the languages of peoples surrounding the Mediterranean Sea.

It is a question whether only the Twelve spoke in **tongues** or all 120. Several factors support the idea of only the Twelve being involved in this phenomenon: (1) They are referred to as **Galileans** (Acts 2:7; cf. 1:11–13). (2) Peter stood up with “the Eleven” (2:14). (3) The nearest antecedent of “they” in verse 1 is the “apostles” in 1:26. However, a problem with this view is that the number of languages listed in 2:9–11 is more than 12. But one apostle could have spoken more than one language, in sequence.

The topic the people discussed in all these languages was **the wonders of God**. It seems they were praising God. Unable to explain this miracle away, the Jewish unbelievers were puzzled, and some resorted to scoffing and asserted, **They have had too much wine**.

2:14–15 Peter began with a rebuttal of their accusation of drunkenness. It was **only 9 in the morning** (lit., “the third hour of the day”; days began at 6 A.M.), far too early for a group of revelers to be inebriated!

2:16–21 The believers were experiencing what was described in Joel 2. In Peter’s words, **This is what was spoken by the Prophet Joel**. This clause does not mean, “This is *like* that”; it means Pentecost fulfilled what Joel had described. However, the prophecies of Joel quoted in Acts 2:19–20 were not fulfilled.

2:22 Jesus’ **miracles**, Peter said, were God’s way of verifying Jesus’ claims **to you**, the Jews (cf. 1 Cor. 1:22; 14:22).

2:23 The point of this verse is clear: the Crucifixion was no accident. It was in **God’s set purpose** (*boulē*, “plan”) and was God’s determined will, not merely His inclination. It was a divine necessity. When Peter referred to **you**, he meant Jews; and by **wicked men**; “wicked” means lawless (*anomōn*). Both Gentiles and Jews were implicated in Christ’s **death**. Many times the apostles accused the Jews of crucifying Jesus (2:23, 36; 3:15; 4:10; 5:30; 7:52; 10:39; 13:28), though the apostles also held the Gentiles culpable (2:23; 4:27; cf. Luke 23:24–25).

2:24 The resurrection of the Lord is a basic doctrine in Acts (v. 32; 3:15, 26; 4:10; 5:30; 10:40; 13:30, 33–34, 37; 17:31; 26:23). Here is another indication that He is the Messiah for **it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him** (John 20:9).

ACTS 2:16–21

¹⁶But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.

¹⁹I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.

²⁰The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

²¹And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.’

JOEL 2:28–32

²⁸“And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.

²⁹And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

³⁰“And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.

³¹The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

³²And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.