

The Acts of the Apostles

Part I: Peter and the Other Apostles Witness in Jerusalem and the Surrounding Areas

Session 3: The Holy Spirit Arrives on Pentecost (2:1-41)

Videos of this Bible Study may be found on YouTube under “Joseph Polzin”, or through this link: <https://bit.ly/2WWBV1t>

- I. *Note:* Pentecost (meaning “fiftieth”) is the Greek name for the Feast of Weeks, also known as the Feast of Harvest. It took place fifty days after the Feast of the Passover and is one of the three major festivals in the Jewish year. The Feast of Weeks also commemorates the giving of the Law at Mt. Sinai after the Exodus.
- II. Who is gathered in v. 1? (cf. 1:15) Note the fulfillment of Jesus’ words from 1:5.
 - a. What were they able to do in v. 4? Who was directing it?
 - b. How was this the start of the fulfillment of our theme verse, Acts 1:8?
- III. What might have been the “sound” the multitude heard in v. 6?
 - a. When we hear the term, “speaking in tongues,” what do we often think of nowadays? What did it mean in the Bible (v. 4, 6; also cf. 1 Cor. 14:26-28)?
 - b. What event in the Bible was the opposite of Pentecost? (hint: Genesis 11)
 - c. How is Pentecost God’s answer to this event?
 - d. What were the disciples proclaiming in v. 11? What does this mean?
 - e. Why did some assume they were “filled with new wine”? (v. 13)
- IV. *Note:* “third hour of the day” = 9 a.m. This was an hour of prayer and sacrifice at the temple. Jews wouldn’t have had breakfast yet, and wine was only drunk with meals.
- V. When are the “last days” Joel talked about? (v. 17)
 - a. Do vv. 19-21 point towards a past or future event?

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- VI. What was the purpose of Jesus' miracles? (v. 22)
- Whose plan did Jesus accomplish? (v. 23) What does this tell us about when sinful and evil things occur?
 - Initially, what kind of news, good or bad, was Jesus' resurrection to those who killed him? (v. 24)
- VII. What is the purpose of pointing out that David "both died and was buried"? (v. 29)
- Who was David talking about, then, in vv. 25-28 (Psalm 16)? (cf. Acts 2:31)
 - Could anyone refute what Peter says in vv. 32-33? (cf. 1 Cor. 15:6) Why?
 - Psalm 110:1 (vv. 34-35) is the most often quoted or referenced OT verse in the New Testament (cf. Matthew 22:41-46). It's a bit of a riddle. How does Peter use it to prove what he has just said in vv. 32-33?
- VIII. What would be the spiritual impact of the Jews hearing v. 36?
- How is that demonstrated in v. 37? What is Peter's answer in vv. 38-39?
 - How is this the only appropriate answer to any convicted sinner (i.e. all of us)?
- IX. What does it mean to be "far off" (v. 39)? Note how both Jews and Gentiles could be "far off." Why is that significant?
- Are there any limitations, according to v. 39, for whom the gift of the Holy Spirit and baptism are to apply?
- X. What is the miraculous effect of Pentecost? (v. 41)