



***Book of Acts (Pt.3):  
Pentecost & Joel's Prophecy (Acts 2:1-41)***

Billy Humphrey - January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**I. Review**

- A. Jesus was raised from the dead and confirmed by many infallible proofs. There are at least a dozen unique post-resurrection appearances of Jesus recorded in the Bible. There are at least 10 that are identified at different times between the resurrection and the ascension. The most notable one was the 500 people who saw Him at one time (1 Corinthians 15:6).
- B. Jesus spent forty days meeting with the disciples and speaking to them about things concerning the Kingdom.
- C. The commission He gave the Church is to be witnesses of Him in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the end of the earth. These spheres accord with our locale, our region, across social and cultural barriers, and to the ends of the earth.
- D. Last week we discussed many of the distinguishing traits of the Church in the Book of Acts, including the empowerment of the Spirit, their devotion to prayer and worship, their commitment to the Word, their radical generosity and unity, their joy in suffering, and their engagement in mission.
- E. He told them to wait to be filled with the power of the Spirit so they could accomplish His commission. This is our invitation as well, to be filled with the Spirit and accomplish the commission.
- F. We see Him in Acts 1:1-11 as the Son of David who will rule and reign on the throne of Israel over the Kingdom of God on the earth and we see Him as the Son of Man from Dan 7:13-14, who will return to the earth on the glory of the Father and destroy antichrist.
- G. This week we are going to cover Acts 2:1-41 and look at the Day of Pentecost.

**II. Introduction**

- A. Acts 2 represents one of the most pivotal moments in the New Testament and a direct continuation of Jesus' redemptive work accomplished in His incarnation, crucifixion and resurrection.
- B. It's important to recognize that what is happening on Pentecost is directly aligned with the Jewish festival calendar. Just as Jesus crucifixion took place on Passover, Pentecost, 50 days after Passover is the fulfillment of the Feast of Weeks.



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- C. This connection has deep prophetic significance. If we are to understand what is happening in Acts Chapter 2, we have to understand the significance of the timing of the outpouring so we can comprehend what it means for the Church now.
- D. Pentecost was an extremely strategic time for the Lord to birth the Church because there were pilgrims from all over Israel who had gathered to Jerusalem for the Feast of Weeks. This moment was divinely orchestrated for the Church to be born in a national moment of celebration and festival.

**III. Feast of Weeks Brief Overview**

- A. The Feast of Weeks, known in Hebrew as Shavuot, (Leviticus 23:15-21; Deuteronomy 16:9-12) marked the completion of the grain harvest and the offering of the first fruits of the grain harvest to the Lord. Worshipers brought the first and best of their wheat harvest as an offering to the Lord. It was a time of celebration for the Lord's faithfulness in the beginning of the harvest.
- B. The Feast of Weeks is traditionally associated with the time the Lord descended on Mt. Sinai in fire and glory, initiating His covenant with Israel in the wilderness, establishing them as His chosen people. During this time, the Lord gave the Ten Commandments to Moses and Israel, marking the moment He betrothed Israel to Himself and formed a new community of believers in the wilderness.

**IV. Mt. Sinai & Pentecost**

- A. At Mt. Sinai the Lord birthed the new community of believers in the wilderness. On the day of Pentecost, the Lord birthed the new Christian community into the earth.
- B. At Mt. Sinai, the Lord descended in fire, glory, thunder and lightning. On the day of Pentecost, He came down with the sound of a mighty rushing wind and fire that appeared and separated and landed on each of the believers.
- C. At Mt. Sinai the Lord gave the Ten Commandments written on stone. On the day of Pentecost, the Lord gave them the Law written on their hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- D. At Mt. Sinai the Lord gave the gift of His presence in fire and glory in the midst of the people. On the day of Pentecost, the Lord gave the gift of the Holy Spirit immersing the believers.



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- E. At Mt. Sinai the Lord initiated His covenant with Israel, marking them as His chosen people (Exodus 19:5-6). On the day of Pentecost, established the New Covenant through the Holy Spirit, forming the church, from many tribes, tongues, people, and nations, as His people (Jeremiah 31:31-34, Acts 2:4, 41).

**V. Unity unto Outpouring**

- A. "They were all in one accord and one place" – it is unmistakable how unity of the Spirit draws the presence of God.
- B. At the onset of the Church, the Lord had them wait together until the promise of the Holy Spirit was released. This was not simply a one-time event. This is a pattern for the Church that was instilled at the very beginning.
- C. Throughout the New Testament, there are multiple admonitions to preserve the unity of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:3), recognize we are built together as a dwelling place for God (Ephesians 2:22), and agree with the fact that we are part of one another in one body (Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27).

**VI. Response at Pentecost**

- A. It may be easy to imagine that an outpouring of the Spirit would bring about a positive response from all who experience it. At the beginning of the Church, we see the most powerful outpouring of the Spirit, with visible evidence—tongues of fire and miraculous languages—yet the response from those who witnessed it was mixed.
- B. Some were amazed and some were perplexed (Acts 2:7, 12)
- C. Others mocked and misunderstood the entire experience, accusing the believers of being drunk (Acts 2:13)
- D. I believe the Lord allowed this to establish important principles for how we approach and respond to the manifestations of the Holy Spirit.
  - 1. It requires everyone to be humble - those experiencing the outpouring, like the disciples who surrendered to the Spirit's work, and those watching, like the crowd who struggled to understand it.
  - 2. It requires everyone to not judge by the eye, but by the discernment of the Spirit.



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3. It requires followers to stand courageously in the activity of God, even if those standing by don't agree or appreciate it, as Peter did when he boldly addressed the mocking crowd (Acts 2:14-15). Notice that he didn't shy away from the truth, but offered a clear explanation to any who would listen. The outcome was that many were converted and baptized that very day.
4. Ultimately, we have to believe that the Holy Spirit is the greatest drawer of human hearts and can minister exactly what He wants to whomever He wants. He will sometimes use out of the ordinary means (Balaam's donkey, John the Baptist, Jesus healing with spit and mud) to reveal the status of individuals' hearts. Humility is always key.

**VII. Sound of a Mighty Rushing Wind**

- A. It's noteworthy that there wasn't physical wind, but rather the *sound* of a mighty rushing wind, perhaps a deafening roar that filled the place with supernatural presence. Consider what this may have sounded like.
- B. The Lord's voice is described like the sound of many waters (Ezekiel 43:2, Revelation 1:15) while the sound on Pentecost was as of a mighty rushing wind. Think of a hurricane's roar or the thunder of Niagara Falls, the sounds are very similar, they are both awe-inspiring, overwhelming, and nearly identical in power and resonance.
- C. Could it be that the sound of the mighty rushing wind more than just a noise, but the voice of the Lord? The Bible often describes God's voice like the sound of many waters (Ezekiel 43:2, Psalm 29:3-4).

**VIII. The Southern Steps**

- A. The southern steps of the Temple mount was the entry way for pilgrims who came to the temple mount for Jewish festivals. Often large crowds would gather in this area, along with the surrounding plazas. The area itself was able to accommodate up to 10,000 people during a festival.
- B. Many scholars believe that the southern steps were the actual location where the 120 were filled with the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. The word, "house" in Acts 2:2 comes from the Greek word, "oikos" which could mean place or area, not just a physical house.



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- C. The Southern steps featured multiple mikvahs (ceremonial baths), which the pilgrims used for ritual purification before they entered the Temple Mount. It would've been nearly impossible for the disciples to baptize 3,000 people without any preparation unless there were already ceremonial baths ready to receive those who wanted to be baptized. These same baths were likely used to baptize the 3,000 new believers (Acts 2:41).
- D. Just as God revealed His glory publicly on Mount Sinai to establish His covenant with Israel, He revealed His glory publicly at Pentecost to inaugurate the New Covenant community. Both events emphasize that God's work is meant to be seen and shared among His people.
- E. Just like on Mt. Sinai God's Glory came with thunder and fire, so too on the day of Pentecost, God descended with the sound of a mighty rushing wind and tongues of fire.

**IX. Peter's Sermon**

A. Introduction

- 1. This is Peter's first public moment since he denied the Lord before a slave girl. His boldness is noteworthy. He stands and corrects the multitude for their false accusation of drunkenness, noting that it was only the third hour (9 AM).
- 2. This moment marks a dramatic transformation in Peter. Just weeks earlier, he had denied Jesus three times out of fear, but now, filled with the Holy Spirit, he stands boldly to proclaim the gospel to thousands.
- 3. He then launches into a profound exposition and apologetic for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the truth of Jesus' identity as the Son of David.

B. Joel 2 - Joel's Prophecy

- 1. It's notable that He was able to quote this entire series of verses. Undoubtedly, He had studied and was looking into the coming of the Spirit. He was waiting for the promise of the Father.
- 2. This portion of Joel's prophecy was well-known in Jewish eschatology and the connection between what was happening in that moment and was prophesied by Joel was unmistakable.



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3. It's important to note that the birth of the Church marks the beginning of the Last Days.
  4. The outpouring of the Spirit includes prophecy, dreams, visions, and supernatural signs. These manifestations of the Spirit's power are not confined to Pentecost but are for the Church in every age who walks in the fullness of the Spirit.
- C. Psalm 16 – David's Prophecy
1. Peter next quotes Psalm 16 emphasizing key details of how the Son of David would be resurrected and Jesus has fulfilled this prophecy
  2. He also confirms that He and his fellow disciples are witnesses of the fact that He has been resurrected.
- D. Psalm 110 – David's Prophecy
1. Finally, Peter quotes Psalm 110, which is the most frequently quoted Old Testament passage in the New Testament because it clearly identifies the Messiah as more than a King – He is a divine figure seated at the right hand of God, sharing His authority and glory.
  2. He explains that Psalm 110 points to Jesus, not to David, for the simple fact that David is still in His tomb and has not ascended to heaven, but Jesus has.
  3. The crowd was cut to the heart at this revelation. This was a clear sign of the Spirit's work of conviction, as they realized their role in crucifying the Messiah and desperately sought how they could be saved.
- E. "Repent and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, the promise is for you, your children, and all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."
1. Turning away from sin and following the Lord in baptism, a public means of professing faith and repentance, is still the prescription today.
  2. Repentance is not just a private turning away from sin but a public declaration of faith and a new life in Christ through baptism. This was as true at Pentecost as it is today.
  3. Peter extends the offer of salvation to anyone who is far off, as many as God will call. This is still the call of the gospel today.
- F. Three thousand souls were added, and the church was born!