

Pastor Clifford
December 5th, 2021

The Early Church (Part 1): **THE EARLY CHURCH**

- **What was the early church like?**

- EARLY5 BC
- IMPERIAL300
- MEDIEVAL420
- MODERN1498-2000

EARLY CHURCH HISTORY

- BIRTH OF THE CHURCH 5-60 BC
- FIRST ERA OF PERSECUTION 60-218
- FIRST ERA OF PEACE 218-249
- SECOND ERA OF PERSECUTION 249-260
- SECOND ERA OF PEACE 260-302
- THE GREAT PERSECUTION 302-311

HISTORICAL RECORDS FILLS IN SOME OF THE GAPS THAT THE BIBLE DOES NOT ADDRESS BUT ULTIMATELY WE WILL GO TO THE SCRIPTURE TO SEE HOW THEY BEHAVED AND DEFINE THEIR PRACTICE.

Acts 2:1-31 "On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. **2** Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. **3** Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. **4** And everyone present was

filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

Acts 2:4-5 "And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; **5** for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

- This was a pivotal occurrence in the NT.
- Speaking in other languages is key!
- People had been filled with the Spirit before but this seems to suggest that this is also the seal of Ephesians 1.

5 At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. **6** When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. **7** They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, **8** and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! **9** Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, **10** Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome **11** (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" **12** They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other.

And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" **12 They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other.**

The Holy Spirit has divinely set up their hearts for what is to ensue. It is an open door for Peter's 1st address!

13 But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, "They're just drunk, that's all!" 14 Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. 15 These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that. 16 No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel.

- 17 'In the last days,' God says,
 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.
 Your young men will see visions,
 and your old men will dream dreams.
- 18 In those days I will pour out my Spirit
 even on my servants—men and women alike—
 and they will prophesy.
- 19 And I will cause wonders in the heavens above
 and signs on the earth below—
 blood and fire and clouds of smoke.
- 20 The sun will become dark,
 and the moon will turn blood red
 before that great and glorious day of the LORD arrives.
- 21 But everyone who calls on the name of the LORD
 will be saved.'

Because Peter is addressing Jews he continues to use the power of the scriptures to prophesy of the Messiah and proving it is Yeshua.

He also makes it very clear that they (the Jews) nailed Him to a cross as we will see in verse 23 which is reinforced in Acts chapter 4 –
Acts 4:11-12 "This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in

no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

22 “People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. **23** But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. **24** But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip.

25 King David said this about Him:

‘I see that the LORD is always with me.

I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.

26 No wonder my heart is glad,

and my tongue shouts his praises!

My body rests in hope.

27 For you will not leave my soul among the dead
or allow your Holy One to rot in the grave.

28 You have shown me the way of life,

and you will fill me with the joy of your presence.’

29 “Dear brothers, think about this! You can be sure that the patriarch David wasn’t referring to himself, for he died and was buried, and his tomb is still here among us. **30** But he was a prophet, and he knew God had promised with an oath that one of David’s own descendants would sit on his throne. **31** David was looking into the future and speaking of the Messiah’s resurrection. He was saying that God would not leave him among the dead or allow his body to rot in the grave.”