

ACTS 2

Main Point: The Birth of the Church (Acts 2:1-21)

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:2

Digging Deeper

The Sound of Wind:

John 3:8 Tells us "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." The wind is commonly used as an analogy or metaphor for the holy Spirit. We can not see it, but we can feel its effect and see the result of its action.

Understanding Pentecost

The term Pentecost comes from the Greek Πεντηκοστή (Pentēkostē), meaning "fiftieth". It refers to the Jewish festival of Shavuot (thankfulness) celebrated on the fiftieth day after Passover. Jews believe that it was precisely at this time that God gave the Torah to the people through Moses on Mount Sinai. It is also known as the "Feast of Weeks" and the "Feast of 50 days" in rabbinic tradition. This feast featured two loaves of bread baked with Leaven signifying to us the sinfulness of men VS the purity of Christ (Feast of Unleavened Bread), as well as both Jews and Gentiles being welcomed to the presence of God.

Read Leviticus 23

Consider how each feast points to the death and resurrection of Christ. (Discuss)

Discussion Questions

1. God very specifically uses the symbolism of the old testament to point to Christ. Why do you think this is so important? (2 Tim 3:16. Did Jesus quote the Old Testament or the new?)
2. Why was the day of Pentecost so significant to the birth of the church? (Contrast Moses and Jesus?)
3. What does the Bible mean by 'Last Days' and 'Last Day'?
4. The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost and spoke of the mighty deeds of the Lord. Are we speaking of His work or ours daily?
5. How can we seek a new filling of the spirit each day?
6. The Church is unified under Christ as One body (1 Cor. 12:12-16) how are we seeking that unity with each other every day?