

## **“The Promise of the Father”**

### **Acts 2:1-13**

#### **Introduction:**

I worked with a man in the pipe trade who claimed to be a Christian but was void of the Holy Spirit. He was the kind of person who was always critical of church and the things of God. As my uncle shared with me on the job one day, he told me that this man joked that his church had bought a big expensive organ so there was really no room for the Holy Spirit in his church.

**Quote:** “The only people who make fun of the Holy Spirit are the people who do not possess him.” JRG

\* I believe in the Promise of the Father fulfilled. I believe Acts Chapter 2 is the fulfillment of all the prophecies and promises in the scripture concerning the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2 is God’s promise to the New Testament church fulfilled. The inauguration of the church happens here with the Baptism, filling, and power of the Holy Spirit in the church.

That day was the proper time for the mysteries of ages past to be revealed. The church has endured thousands of years because of God’s enablement through the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit saves us, seals us, sanctifies us, secures us, equips us, empowers us, and speaks to us.

If you take away the Holy Spirit, we are nothing more than a social organization.

**Quote:** Vance Havner said that if ever there were a group of people who would be qualified to witness and complete God’s will, it would

have been these 120 people. Yet, they would have been nothing without the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Application:** What does that tell us? If we try to “do church” without the Holy Spirit, we are wasting our time.

### **Let’s examine Pentecost in 4 ways:**

1. Historically
2. Individually
3. Corporately
4. Universally

#### **I. Historically:**

**Verse 1:** Luke tells us that the appointed time or the fulfillment of time came for Pentecost (**Sumpleroo**). This day was an appointed day in the will of God.

- “When”(**en**) a favorite construction with Dr. Luke. The gospel writers like the word “immediately.” *“When the fullness of time had come.”*

**Greek:** **συμπληρόω** -to fill completely, of time, to approach, to come, to accomplish, to implenish completely.

God had a perfect time for the coming of the Spirit and fulfilling the promise. This is not some charismatic explosion that was brought on by some false evangelist or prophet. It was absolutely not brought on by some human’s holiness and prayer. This was God’s appointed time.

This was a work of God in His timing that man had nothing to do with.

**Illustration:** This was a controlled and appointed event. Not out of control. The flesh is not controlled. This was not spontaneous or chaos, or confusion.

### **The Festivals:**

The Spirit brings things into control – the Demoniak got in his right mind with the Holy Spirit when Jesus healed him. The Spirit brings peace and order. The charismatics promote discord, confusion, and uncontrolled emotional outbursts with fleshly responses. God's works are never uncontrolled and out of His direction.

### **Leviticus 23 is our background and context.**

#### **Lev 23:1-8**

The Lord said to Moses, 2 "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'These are my appointed feasts, the appointed feasts of the Lord, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.

3 "'There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a Sabbath to the Lord.

4 "'These are the Lord's appointed feasts, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their appointed times: 5 The Lord's Passover begins at twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month. 6 On the fifteenth day of that month the Lord's Feast of Unleavened Bread begins; for seven days you must eat bread made without yeast. 7 On the first day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. 8 For seven days present an offering made to the Lord by fire. And on the seventh day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work."

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**Jewish men were required to attend 3 Feasts.**

1. Passover – flight from Egypt(unleavened bread)/ blood on door post, etc.
2. Pentecost – Feast of Weeks and First Fruits.
3. Day of Atonement today called Yom Kippur (day & atonement)

**Others:** Sabbath, Jubilee, Purim, Tabernacle/Booths, unleavened bread, Sabbath year –

The Jews were told to celebrate!

***It is significant historically that God chose Pentecost to empower the church.***

~ Pentecost was also known as a day to commemorate the laws given at Sinai. Now changed for the Jewish Christian as a day when the Spirit was given.

~ Pentecost was held on the fiftieth day after Passover. The day after the 7<sup>th</sup> Sabbath. Originally the celebration called First Fruits- Praising God for the harvest due to rain and God's blessing on the crops.

~ Historically, God chose to emphasize the Holy Spirit over the giving of the law and the joy of the Christian due to the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is significant that Jesus is called the first fruits or first born among the dead. We, with Christ, are the first fruits, born from the dead. The Holy Spirit **“in”** us, is proof that we have eternal life. The Holy Spirit became the seal of authority, ownership, and power for the Christian individually and for the church corporately.

## **II. Individually: vv. 2-4**

The Holy Spirit came to each person individually. The Holy Spirit came to the group, but baptized each person. In verse 3 and 4 we have the words **each** and **them**. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is congruent with this at conversion.

## 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

<sup>21</sup> Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, <sup>22</sup> set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

### For the church 3 signs existed. Verse 2-4

1. **Verse 2: Rushing Wind**- Mysterious? Powerful and unseen. The sound (**echos, echo**) came suddenly (**aphno**) from heaven. Jesus will likewise come **aphno, without warning**. This sound was rushing. The Greek word is **phero**. Translated as rushing here but normally means to bear or to bring, to be driven.

This wind (**pnoe**) was also called by Dr. Luke as **biaios**, which is mighty or violent. Under God's control I like *mighty* better as a translation. We are told this mighty wind filled (**pleroo**) the house where they were staying. To cram, satisfy, finish, fill, fulfill, to fully preach, to complete, to supply, or perfect. You get the idea. This mighty wind was just the right, perfect, and complete spiritual necessity for the church.

2. **Verse 3: Flaming Tongues of Fire**- Tongues (**Glossa**) of fire cleansing, consuming, awesome. These tongues appeared (**Optanomai**) to be cloven (**Diamerizo, divided**). These tongues were like fire (**pur**). Same word as used in Luke 16 of hell fire. This is simply, fire. These tongues of fire sat down (**Kathizo, to settle, hover or dwell**) on the people in that room. To permanently sit down on.
3. **Verses 4: Filling and Speech (Languages)**. Each (**Hekastos**) person was filled with the Spirit of Holiness (**hagios, and pneuma**). The filling (API3pp) was followed by an enablement to speak in other languages or tongues. **Laleiv** is an infinitive that means to speak. Tongues here is

**glossa.** The key word here is the word other (**heteros, different, strange, or other dialects**). Why did Luke use the word **other**. Simply to refer to the fact that the 120 people in that room were enabled to speak in languages other than their native tongues. When Luke spoke of the tongues, he was clearly saying that the cloven tongues appeared to be fire. When he speaks of what the tongues allowed the people to do, he speaks of **language**. In verse 6 the Holy Spirit illustrates what happened by telling us of other nations and languages. Luke uses the word **dialektos (Dialect)**. When Luke speaks about what caused the sound it was a tongue. When he referred to what the tongue said it's a language. The Spirit gave them utterance or ability to do so (**apophtheggomai**) **to enunciate plainly**, declare, to say or speak forth). This enunciation is not gibberish.

4. The Spirit gives the gifts. Notice the text says, "as the Spirit gave utterance." No man can give the Spirit. No man!  
**Gave: didomi**- to give, grant, or commit.

OT- Temporary anointing for a task. Employed by the Spirit.

NT – Filling of the Spirit (Continual abiding), spiritual gifts, power.

### **For the Christian: These are evidences of God's gift.**

1. A fresh wind – A mighty spiritual sound in one's life.
2. Fire or holiness- Cleansing from above.
3. Praise immediately becomes part of your life.
4. Spiritual gifts.
5. Conviction, guidance, protection, **unction**.
6. All the fullness of the Godhead in Christ (Col. 2:9-10)

No Holy Spirit – No Salvation.

It is impossible to be saved without the personal, individual awareness of the Holy Spirit. I believe that you will know God lives in you.

**Acts 1:5** uses the word **baptizō**.

**Acts 1:5**

5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be **baptized** with the Holy Spirit."

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**Greek: baptizō**

1. Literally to submerge.
2. Figuratively to identify with.
3. Sealing.
4. Authority, ownership.

\* 1 Corinthians 12:13 says we are all baptized into one body by one Spirit. (Literally)

A baptized believer is a part of the body corporately.

Romans 6:4 speaks of symbolically being baptized into death with Christ. (Figuratively)

**Rom 6:3-4**

3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **(Literal)** 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death

in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life **(Figuratively)**.

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\* Water Baptism is a person's public identification with Christ **(Symbolically)**.

\* Holy Spirit baptism places you into the body of Christ **(Literally)**.

**Filling** – Acts 2 also uses the word filling, verse 4 – They were all filled. Jesus said the Holy Spirit would baptize the believers but the main emphasis is on the filling, power, and gifts.

We are **NEVER** commanded to be baptized into the Spirit. That's God's job. **However**, we are told to be filled with the Spirit. All the occurrences of spirit baptism, not water baptism, are passive or middle passive verbs. There are no imperative commands to be baptized in the spirit. Approximately 70 uses of the word baptize in the NT there are no imperatives for Spirit Baptism.

\* Ephesians 5:18 – be filled Present Passive Imperative (Permissive - Passive).

### **Eph 5:18**

18 Do not get drunk on wine (To be out of Control), which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit (Which brings control)  
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- Present Tense- Do it now and keep on doing it.
- Passive Voice- You can't fill yourself; filling comes from God and God only, you have to ask for it.
- Imperative Mood- This responsibility is commanded.

\* Dr. Gray Allison says we have a problem – We leak. One God ordained baptism and many fillings.

\* We are baptized once and have many fillings.

**Read:** Note – Colossians 2:8-10. All the fullness of Christ dwells in me.

### **Col 2:9-10**

9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,



10 **and you have been given fullness in Christ**, who is the head over every power and authority.  
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\* If all of God is in Christ because He is God, and you have Christ in you, what second blessings could you need? If the Holy Spirit is God, then what else could you possibly be baptized with that is better than that?

“I need not a 2<sup>nd</sup> blessing or a 2<sup>nd</sup> Baptism. How disrespectful to God’s Spirit. We only need fillings.”

### **John 13:6-11**

6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"  
7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."  
8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."  
Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."  
9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"  
10 Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.  
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~Judas was actually there and Jesus washed the betrayer’s feet. Wow!

### **Quote:**

Vance Havner says we need **vival**, not revival. Stay **vived**.

### III. Corporately - v. 4

**All** Filled and **all** given ability to speak in tongues

Though not specifically mentioned here, it is mentioned elsewhere in Scripture, that the Holy Spirit gifted the church to fulfill the work of the ministry.

(Eph. 4:3ff) – Gifts to the church)

1 Corinthians 12 – speaks of gifts given to edify the body.

1 Corinthians 13 – in-between Chapters 12-14 to show love as supreme.

#### **Eph 4:1-8**

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is **one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.**

7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. 8 This is why it says:

"When he ascended on high,  
he led captives in his train  
and gave **gifts** to men."

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#### **Eph 1:22-23**

22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

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Gifts are sovereignly assigned and used for body edification. The corporate church is important enough that Jesus died for it, create it, baptized it, empowered it, and gifted it for service.

### **From Articles of Faith:**

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible progression of faith, and associated for worship, work, and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

Ephesians 2:19-22; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:19-21; Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:23-15

**Church Defined (Baptist Faith and Message):** A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its two scriptural offices are that of pastor/elder/overseer and deacon. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor/elder/overseer is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

*[Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.](#)*

### **God fulfilled the Promise:**

Historically, Personal or Individually and Corporately, But also...

### **IV. Universally: vv. 5-13**

Jews from all places and languages are in Jerusalem for Pentecost as well as non-Jews. They are called devout or pious.

*The Holy Spirit comes on the Disciples – They are either in the upper room or in the Temple. The event spills out into the streets. The sound draws a crowd.*

\* The Disciples speak in other languages.

**Greek: - διαλέκτω** - We get dialects from this word. It is used in v.6, v.8. This is the context of the entire speaking passages. At the most powerful display of the Holy Spirit, in all of history, the Galileans were speaking in languages they had never learned. This was each man speaking in multiple languages or dialects. This is as clear as it's going to get. This was not *gibberish*. ***This is a known language, unknown to the speaker.***

Tongues is **γλῶσσα (glossa)** – It also means language.

\* A known language – unknown to the speaker. We all use this terminology. We ask, “what is your native tongue?”

### **Points to Note:**

1. Was the miracle in the hearing or in the speaking. Was it both? Verse 6 and 8 uses the word **ακουω (acoustics)**. The crowd **heard** each, or every man, speaking in his **(idios) own** dialect (Note Freud's tripartite of the psyche). Man from every **nation (ethnos)**.

**Verse 8:** The question is asked... how is it that we hear in our own language? The Greek text says, “How can we hear in our own dialect from where we were born. Our native language- HCSB, NIV. “And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born,? KJV.

### **Illustration:**

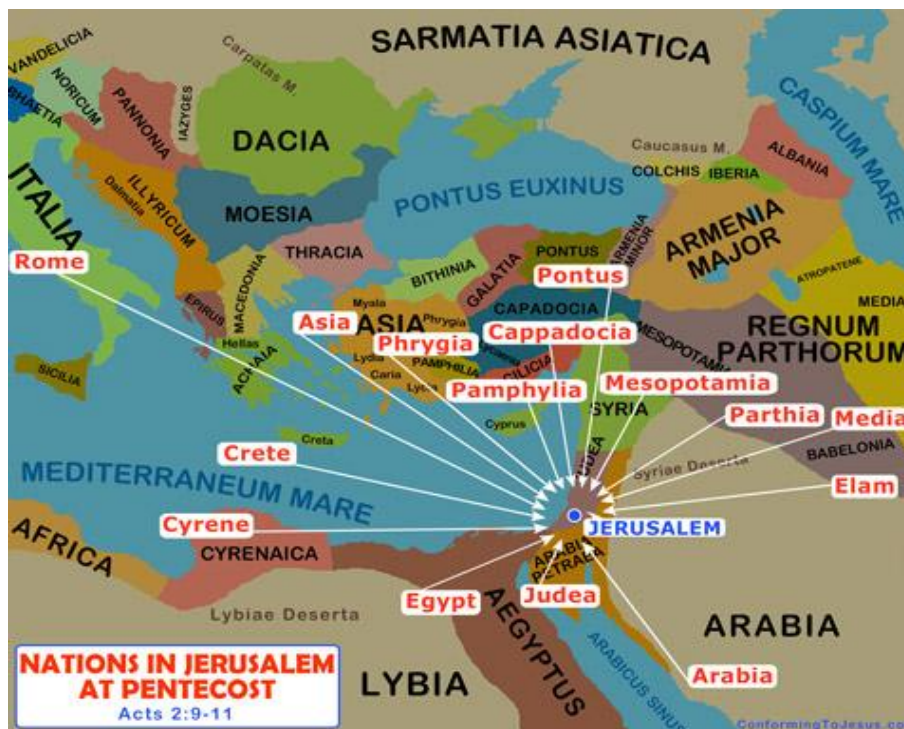
Spanish woman heard me preach in Spanish. I do not have a gift of gibberish, nor do I claim to have the “Charismatic” gift of

tongues, nor do I claim to be super-spiritual. What happened to me and this visitor was a miracle of God for a moment in time and that's it.

2. **Verse 11** – The Disciples did not preach or give some strange message. They praised God in other languages.

The first public display of tongues was simply a praise service in known languages. The purpose was to send the gospel message out to the known world of that day- quickly. This was miraculous and sovereignly fulfilled. To change this event into anything other than what God intended, takes away from the miraculous event and leaves the false teacher looking blasphemous. This event was the Father's promise fulfilled for the world to see and future believers to experience at conversion.

The Represented People Present at Pentecost



- Parthians-** In Acts 1:9, the Parthians are mentioned as one of the groups of people present when Jesus ascended to heaven. The Parthians were a powerful empire in ancient Iran that existed from 247 BC to 224 AD<sup>12</sup>. east. The Parthians were located in the northeast of the region that is now modern-day Iran<sup>1</sup>. Parthia proper was the region stretching along the southern flank of the mountains which separate the great Persian desert from the desert of Kharezm. It lay south of Hyrcania, east of Media and north of Sagartia<sup>1</sup>. The ancient Parthians are called a "Scythic" race, and probably belonged to the great Turanian family<sup>1</sup>. After being subject in succession to the Persians and the Seleucidae, they revolted in B.C. 256 and under Arsaces succeeded in establishing their independence<sup>1</sup>. Parthia was a power almost rivalling Rome --the only existing power which had tried its strength against Rome and not been worsted in the encounter<sup>1</sup>
- Medes-** Parthians, Medes, and Elamites are ancient peoples who lived in the region that is now modern-day Iran<sup>1</sup>. They are mentioned in the Bible in Acts 2:9 as being present in Jerusalem during the Pentecost. The Medes were a people who lived in the area of modern-day Iran and Iraq and were one of three groups that comprised the Persian Empire. They are mentioned in the Bible by name in the books of Daniel and Ezra<sup>123</sup>. The Bible predicts that the Medes would overtake Babylon<sup>45</sup>. The Medes were originally tribal and had no central government<sup>4</sup>. They were enemies of Assyria, which sacked them, but the Zagros intervened and the Medes survived<sup>4</sup>. The Medes were closely allied in descent, language, and religion with the Persians<sup>2</sup>. In Genesis 10:2, the Hebrew word "Madai" occurs in the list of the sons of Japheth, but probably this is an ethnic and not a personal name, and denotes simply the Medes as descended from Japheth<sup>3</sup>.
- Elamites-** The Elamites were a people and a country in the southern area of the Iranian plateau in the Zagros mountains east and northeast of the valley of the Tigris<sup>1</sup>. They are mentioned in the Old Testament as descendants of Elam, son of Shem<sup>23</sup>. The name derives from the Elamite Haltamti. Scholars are not agreed in regard to the relationship of the language of the Elamites to the other languages of the Near East<sup>1</sup>. The earliest stage of the language is written in a script not yet completely deciphered, but from which there developed in c. 1600 b.c. a cuneiform writing which in its turn gave way at the end of the 6th cent. b.c. to the Elamite adaptation of the writing of the Achaemenid Pers<sup>1</sup>. The history of the Elamites is known largely from the records of other peoples which makes breaks in its continuity inevitable<sup>1</sup>.
- Mesopotamia-** Mesopotamia is a historical region of West Asia situated within the Tigris-Euphrates river system, in the northern part of the Fertile Crescent. Today, Mesopotamia is known as present-day Iraq<sup>1</sup>. The region was home to several civilizations, including the Sumerians, Babylonians, Assyrians, and Persians<sup>2</sup>. It is recognized as the cradle of some of the world's earliest civilizations<sup>1</sup>. Mesopotamia is the site of the earliest developments of the Neolithic Revolution from around 10,000 BC. It has been identified as having "inspired some of the most important developments in human history, including the invention of the wheel, the planting of the first cereal crops, and the development of cursive script, mathematics, astronomy, and agriculture"<sup>1</sup>.



- **Judea-** is a mountainous region of the Levant, located in present-day Palestine and Israel<sup>1</sup>. It was the territory of the ancient Kingdom of Judah, which was one of the two kingdoms that emerged in the region of ancient Israel and Judah by Iron Age II<sup>2</sup>. The Kingdom of Judah lasted from about 922-586 B.C. and consisted of 2 tribes (Judah and Benjamin)<sup>3</sup>. The name Judea is a Greek and Roman adaptation of the name “Judah”, which originally encompassed the territory of the Israelite tribe of that name and later of the ancient Kingdom of Judah<sup>1</sup>. The term Judea was revived by the Israeli government in the 20th century, as part of the Israeli administrative district name “Judea and Samaria Area” for the territory that is generally referred to as the West Bank<sup>1</sup>.
- **Cappadocia-** is a historical region in Central Anatolia, Turkey<sup>12</sup>. It is largely in the provinces of Nevşehir, Kayseri, Aksaray, Kırşehir, Sivas and Niğde<sup>1</sup>. The region is known for its unique landscape, which includes dramatic expanses of soft volcanic rock, shaped by erosion into towers, cones, valleys, and caves<sup>2</sup>. Cappadocia is also famous for its underground cities, which were dug to offer protection during periods of persecution<sup>12</sup>.
- **Pontus-** Pontus was an ancient district in northeastern Anatolia adjoining the Black Sea<sup>1</sup>. It was an independent kingdom with its capital at Amaseia (modern Amasya) established at the end of the 4th century BC in the wake of Alexander’s conquests<sup>2</sup>. The Kingdom of Pontus was ruled by the Mithridatic dynasty of Persian origin, which possibly may have been directly related to Darius the Great of the Achaemenid dynasty<sup>1</sup>. The kingdom was proclaimed by Mithridates I in 281 BC and lasted until its conquest by the Roman Republic in 63 BC<sup>1</sup>. The Kingdom of Pontus reached its largest extent under Mithridates VI the Great, who conquered Colchis, Cappadocia, Bithynia, the Greek colonies of the Tauric Chersonesos, and for a brief time the Roman province of Asia<sup>1</sup>. After a long struggle with Rome in the Mithridatic Wars, Pontus was defeated<sup>1</sup>. The western part of it was incorporated into the Roman Republic as the province Bithynia et Pontus; the eastern half survived as a client kingdom until 62 AD<sup>1</sup>.
- **Biblical Asia-** In the Bible, Asia refers to the Roman province on the far western side of Asia Minor<sup>1</sup>. It included such regions (from north to south) as Mysia, Phrygia (which it shared with Galatia), Lydia and finally Caria in the south<sup>1</sup>. The wealthy capital of the province was the port city of Ephesus<sup>1</sup>. Asia is mentioned twenty times in the Bible, all in the New Testament, including fourteen times in the Acts of the Apostles.
- **Phrygia-** Phrygia was an ancient district in west-central Anatolia, Turkey<sup>123</sup>. It was named after the Phrygians, a people whom the Greeks called Phryges and who dominated Asia Minor between the Hittite collapse and the Lydian ascendancy<sup>3</sup>. The Phrygians, perhaps of Thracian origin, settled in northwestern Anatolia late in the 2nd millennium<sup>3</sup>. According to Greek mythology, several legendary Phrygian kings existed, including Gordias, whose Gordian Knot would later be cut by Alexander the Great, Midas, who turned whatever he touched to gold, and Mygdon, who warred with the Amazons<sup>1</sup>.

Phrygia reached its peak in the late 8th century BC under King Midas, who dominated most of western and central Anatolia and rivaled Assyria and Urartu for power in eastern Anatolia<sup>1</sup>. However, this later Midas was also the last independent king of Phrygia before Cimmerians sacked the Phrygian capital, Gordium, around 695 BC<sup>1</sup>. Phrygia then became subject to Lydia, and then successively to Persia, Alexander and his Hellenistic successors, Pergamon, the Roman Empire, and the Byzantine Empire<sup>1</sup>. Over this time, Phrygians became Christian and Greek-speaking, assimilating into the Byzantine state<sup>1</sup>.

- **Pamphylia-** Pamphylia was an ancient maritime district of southern Anatolia, originally a narrow strip of land that curved along the Mediterranean between Cilicia and Lycia<sup>12</sup>. The region was on the western edge of the Hittite sphere of influence during the Late Bronze Age<sup>1</sup>. The main towns were Estwediiys (later known as Aspendus) and Side<sup>3</sup>. After the demise of the Hittite Empire after 1200 BCE, Pamphylia was the center of a new, Neo-Hittite kingdom called Tarhuntassa<sup>3</sup>. Under the Roman administration, the term Pamphylia was extended so as to include Pisidia and the whole tract up to the frontiers of Phrygia and Lycaonia<sup>1</sup>.
- **Ancient Egypt-** Egypt is a country located in northeastern Africa and southwestern Asia<sup>1</sup>. It is home to one of the world's oldest continuous civilizations, with a rich history and culture<sup>2</sup>. The ancient Egyptian civilization coalesced around 3150 BC with the political unification of Upper and Lower Egypt under the first king of the First Dynasty, Narmer<sup>2</sup>. The civilization lasted for thousands of years, with periods of both stability and turmoil<sup>2</sup>. Egypt is known for its iconic pyramids, which were built during the Old Kingdom period (2686-2181 BC)<sup>2</sup>. The Great Pyramid of Giza is one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World<sup>2</sup>. The country is also home to the Nile River, which has been a source of life and prosperity for thousands of years<sup>2</sup>. Egypt has a rich cultural heritage, with contributions to fields such as art, architecture, literature, and religion<sup>2</sup>. The country is also known for its cuisine, which includes dishes such as koshari, ful medames, and ta'meya<sup>2</sup>.
- **Libya-** is a country located in northeastern Africa and southwestern Asia<sup>1</sup>. It has a rich history, with periods of both stability and turmoil<sup>2</sup>. The country was under foreign control for centuries until it gained independence in 1951<sup>3</sup>. Soon after, oil was discovered and earned the country immense wealth<sup>3</sup>. The history of Libya comprises six distinct periods: Ancient Libya, the Roman era, the Islamic era, Ottoman rule, Italian rule, and the Modern era<sup>2</sup>. Prehistoric Libyan rock paintings in Tadrart Acacus reveal a Sahara once lush in vegetation and wildlife<sup>2</sup>. The coastal plain was inhabited by Neolithic peoples from as early as 8000 BCE<sup>2</sup>. The onset of the Piora Oscillation's intense aridification resulted in the "green Sahara" rapidly transforming into the Sahara Desert<sup>2</sup>.
- **Cyrene-** Cyrene was a Greek colony in Libya, founded in 631 BCE by a group of emigrants from the island of Thera<sup>12</sup>. The city was a vital cultural center and port of trade in North Africa, and became the foundational city of the region of Cyrenaica, also known as the Pentapolis ("five cities")<sup>1</sup>. The region was exceptionally fertile, and



Cyrene's wealth was derived in large part from the cultivation and trade of the silphium plant, which was highly valued in antiquity as an aromatic and seasoning, an abortifacient, and for medicinal properties <sup>1</sup>. Cyrene is best known as the birthplace of the philosopher Aristippus of Cyrene, the poet/scholar Callimachus, and the polymath Eratosthenes <sup>1</sup>. The city was conquered several times, yielding to, amongst others, Alexander the Great, before being Romanized in 74 BCE <sup>3</sup>. The loss of the silphium crop, expansion of Cyrenaica which exhausted natural resources, warfare and civil strife (notably the Jewish uprising during the Roman era), and natural disasters such as drought and earthquakes led to the decline of the city, which was nearly deserted by the 4th century CE <sup>1</sup>. The first modern-day excavations began in the mid-19th century and continued into the 20th. In 1982, Cyrene was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site and, in the past ten years, has been declared endangered owing to encroaching development, looting, and vandalism <sup>1</sup>.

**Rome-** Rome is the capital city of Italy and one of the most historically rich cities in the world <sup>1</sup>. It was founded in the mid-8th century BC as an Iron Age hut village <sup>2</sup>. Rome's history spans over 28 centuries, making it one of the oldest continuously occupied cities in Europe <sup>3</sup>. The city was the center of the Roman Empire, which at its peak, encompassed most of Europe and stretched into Africa and Asia <sup>4</sup>. The Roman Empire followed the Roman Republic, which waned with the rise of Julius Caesar, and by all measures concluded after a period of civil war and the victory of Caesar's adopted son, Octavian, in 27 BC over Mark Antony <sup>1</sup>.

Ancient Rome's history can be divided into the following periods <sup>1</sup>:

- Pre-historical and early Rome, covering Rome's earliest inhabitants and the legend of its founding by Romulus.
- The period of Etruscan dominance and the regal period, in which, according to tradition, Romulus was the first of seven kings.
- The Roman Republic, which commenced in 509 BC when kings were replaced with rule by elected magistrates. The period was marked by vast expansion of Roman territory. During the 5th century BC, Rome gained regional dominance in Latium. With the Punic Wars from 264 to 146 BC, ancient Rome gained dominance over the Western Mediterranean, displacing Carthage as the dominant regional power.
- The Roman Empire, which followed the Republic, and by all measures concluded after a period of civil war and the victory of Caesar's adopted son, Octavian, in 27 BC over Mark Antony. The Western Roman Empire collapsed in 476 after the city was conquered by the Ostrogothic Kingdom. Consequently Rome's power declined, and it eventually became part of the Eastern Roman Empire, as the Duchy of Rome, from the 6th to 8th centuries. At this time, the city was reduced to a fraction of its former size, being sacked several times in the 5th to 6th centuries, even temporarily depopulated entirely.
- **Cretans-** The Cretans were the inhabitants of the island of Crete, which is located south of Greece <sup>1</sup>. The history of Crete goes back to the 7th millennium BC, preceding the ancient Minoan civilization by more than four millennia <sup>1</sup>. The Minoan civilization was

the first civilization in Europe and was centered on Crete <sup>1</sup>. The civilization was overrun by the Mycenaean civilization from mainland Greece <sup>2</sup>. During the Iron Age, Crete developed an Ancient Greece-influenced organization of city-states, then successively became part of the Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire, the Venetian Republic, the Ottoman Empire, an autonomous state, and the modern state of Greece <sup>1</sup>.

- **Arabs-** The recorded history of the Arabs dates back to the mid-9th century BCE, which is the earliest known attestation of the Old Arabic language <sup>1</sup>. The term “Arab” originally referred to any of the largely nomadic or settled Arabic tribes from the Arabian Peninsula, Syrian Desert, North and Lower Mesopotamia <sup>1</sup>. Today, “Arab” refers to a variety of large numbers of people whose native regions form the Arab world due to the spread of Arabs and the Arabic language throughout the region during the early Muslim conquests of the 7th and 8th centuries <sup>1</sup>. The Arabs forged the Rashidun (632–661), Umayyad (661–750) and the Abbasid (750–1258) caliphates, creating one of the largest land empires in history <sup>1</sup>. The Arab world has made significant contributions to fields such as mathematics, science, literature, and art <sup>2</sup>.

## **The People’s Reaction**

**It would be the same today.**

1. Bewilderment – v. 6 means to pour together, perplex astonishment, dismay, consternation. Lost people just cannot understand the movement of the Holy Spirit.
2. Utterly amazed, v. 7 – to be beside oneself. Astonished.
3. Marveled – Wonder
4. Amazed & perplexed, v. 7 – to be at a loss, confused.
5. Scoff – Mock & ridicule – people make fun of us constantly. Many sneered and claimed they were drunk. This lets us know the Baptist were there. The complainers are always around.
6. Remember 1 Samuel 1:13? Eli the priest thought Hannah was drunk when she prayed. Wow!

They say we are drunk on wine.

**γλεῦκος, gleukos** (English word glucose) – fresh wine, not fully fermented. Honey & spices mixed with it. May have been buried for a while to help it not ferment too quickly.

I have heard preachers say we are to be intoxicated with the Holy Spirit. That's not a good analogy. I picture this as a controlled event wherein the disciples were totally in control of their spirits and fulfilled God's will as they received God's Spirit. I have not seen too many drunks that were in control of their faculties. This is my main concern with the modern charismatic movements. The scripture says that the prophet's spirit is subject unto the prophet. That means that the Holy Spirit never, never, ever, puts you out of your mind or overtakes your mind or body so as to slay you in the spirit or make you flop around in the floor. The Holy Spirit brings clarity, control, and holiness.

### **Scripture:**

#### **Mark 5:15-17**

15 When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and **in his right mind**; and they were afraid. 16 Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man — and told about the pigs as well. 17 Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

NIV

#### **1 Cor 14:22-25**

22 Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is for believers, not for unbelievers. 23 So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and some who do not understand or some unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? 24 But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, 25 and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!"

NIV

### **1 Cor 14:27-28**

27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, two — or at the most three — should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. 28 If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God.

NIV

### **1 Cor 14:29-33**

29 Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. 30 And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. 31 For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. 32 The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. 33 For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.

NIV

Jesus would not even dull the pain of the crucifixion by taking wine vinegar. He was in full control.

This is the start of the NT church- Holy, powerful, righteous, in control, and prophetically fulfilled. The church was started with ordinary people with apostolic leadership that were filled and led by the Spirit of God.

### **Closing:**

The NT church cannot have started, survived, or continue today without the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the chief instigator of salvation. Nothing happens without the Holy Spirit's influence. How do we know if the Holy Spirit is calling or drawing? Where are you right now? Do you sense Him? Is He tugging on your heart? Do you feel a drawing desire to believe what I am saying? Are you desirous to believe the truth I am speaking to you? Are you literally being physically moved by this truth – Give in, submit, release, invite Him in. Receive Jesus Christ as your

Savior and become a part of the church, the family of God, heaven, and receive the baptism and filling of the Holy Spirit, now.

**Rev 3:20**

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

KJV

**A Sailboat Is Useless without Wind, So Is a Believer without the Spirit:**

Imagine that you've decided to go sailing. The problem is that you know next to nothing about sailing. So you go to the store and you purchase several books to find out what's involved. You carefully read them and then you talk to a veteran sailor who answers questions for you. The next day, you rent a sailboat. You examine it closely to make certain that everything needed for a successful sailing experience is present and in good working order. Then, you take your boat out onto the lake. Your excitement is at a fevered pitch, though you're also afraid. But you follow the instructions you've read and the counsel received from the experienced sailor, and you launch your boat into the water. You carefully monitor each step and hoist the sail.

At that precise moment you learn a crucial lesson. You can study sailing. You might even be able to build a sailboat. You can seek counsel from the wisest and most veteran of sailors. You can cast your boat onto the most beautiful of lakes under a bright and inviting sun. You can successfully hoist the sail. **But— only God can make the wind blow!**

*Sam Storms adds, "You and I can study the Bible.... We can orchestrate a worship service according to biblical guidelines. We can do everything that lies in the power of a Christian man or woman. But only the Spirit can make the wind blow."*

*You can get the best fog machine around and have the best lighting and singers money can buy, but without the Holy Spirit, you have not worshipped. **Many people today that claim to be saved have bought into false worship.***

**Verse 12 has a phrase in it that I love-**

**τι αν θελοι τουτο ειναι– What is this or what does this mean?** A modern translation of this could be, “What it is? or “What does this wish to be?” We would say today, “what in the world is going on?”

**Several observation:**

- If you do not recognize the work of the Holy Spirit, you are either lost, out of God’s will, or have no faith.
- Most people do exactly what the people there did that did not have the Spirit; they didn’t understand, so they criticized and sneered (v. 13). **διαχλευαζω**– only used here in the NT. To deride, to make fun of, to mock, to sneer. How about you. Have you met the Holy Spirit or are you skeptical?