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*Plymouth, United Kingdom*

"...greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world" I John 4:4  
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## **MONDAY BIBLE STUDY**

**DATE: 04/08/14.**

**"ACTS OF THE APOSTLES" CHAPTER TWO.**

**MEMORY VERSE: ACTS 2:17**

**"And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams".**

**OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER.**

- (1) To carefully consider the events surrounding the outpouring of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost.
- (2) To examine Peter's first gospel sermon, and the evidence presented in it for the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- (3) To observe the response to the sermon, and what people were told to do in order to be saved.
- (4) To note the establishment and characteristics of the church in Jerusalem.

**OUTLINE**

**I. THE OUTPOURING OF THE SPIRIT (1-4)**

Pentecost was a well-established Jewish feast. It means "fiftieth" and was a celebration of the grain harvest. Pentecost happened on the fiftieth day after Passover. It was also the occasion of the anniversary of the law being given on Sinai.

It's significance -old covenant by operation of the laws; new covenant by the operation of the Spirit. The new era is ushered in on the anniversary of the old as they meet together.

**A. ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST (1)**

1. A Jewish holiday, also known as the Feast of Weeks and Feast of Harvest, one of three great annual festivals (**Exod.23:14-18; 34:22**).
2. Fifty days after the Passover Sabbath, i.e., Sunday
3. They, most likely the apostles (**Acts 1:11,26; 2:7**) were gathered in one place.

**B. WITH AUDIBLE AND VISUAL SIGNS (2-3)**

1. A sound from heaven
  - a. As of a rushing mighty wind
  - b. Filling the house where they were sitting
2. Divided tongues
  - a. As of fire
  - b. One upon each one of them

### **C. FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (4)**

1. Speaking with other tongues (known languages, **Acts.2:8,11**).
2. As the Spirit gave them utterance.

A scene of godly disorder and holy disarray. Pentecost is the birthday of the Church. The start of the ministry of Jesus was affirmed by the Spirit (Matt.3:16), so it is appropriate for the start of the Church to be affirmed by the same Spirit.

## **II. THE REACTION OF THE CROWD (5-13)**

### **A. CONFUSED AND AMAZED (5-11)**

1. The crowd made up of devout Jews visiting from other nations
2. The effect of what they heard
  - a. Drew the multitude together
  - b. Confused them, for everyone heard them speaking in their own language
  - c. Amazed and marvelled them, for those speaking were Galileans
  - d. Yet were hearing languages of the countries of their birth
    - 1) Parthians, Medes, Elamites, dwellers in Mesopotamia
    - 2) Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia
    - 3) Egypt, Libya, Cyrene, Rome
    - 4) Both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs
3. Hearing in their languages the wonderful works of God

### **B. TWO RESPONSES (12-13)**

1. One of serious questioning: "Whatever could this mean?"
2. One of mockery: "They are full of new wine."

### **Questions-**

(1)What do you think must have felt like to be in Jerusalem on that particular Pentecost? Do you think you would have recognised God at work in all the noise, or would you have been on the side of the cynics (**v.13**).

(2) Discuss the pros and cons of "speaking in tongues". Try to put yourself in the position of a Christian who does not speak in tongues (if you do) or who does (if you don't)! How do you feel: Superior? Confident? Not bothered? (**Compare Acts 10:46; 19:6 with Acts 9:17-19**). (Common external sign of the Holy Spirit's activity VS. Essential manifestation of the filling with the spirit).

(3)What are the guidelines for its public use? - (**1 Corin.14:5-25**)

## **III. THE MEANING OF PENTECOST AS EXPLAINED BY PETER (14-21)**

Peter's restoration by Jesus (**John 21:15-22**) has transformed him. i.e. God does not wash His hands of us when we fail Him- (God of second chance)! He describes Pentecost as God keeping His promise to the Jews, releasing His Holy Spirit, just as Joel prophesied - a faithful God.

### **A. THEY WERE NOT DRUNK (14-15)**

1. Standing up with the eleven, Peter addresses the crowd
2. It was too early in the day ("third hour", i.e., 9 a.m.) for them to be drunk

### **B. THE FULFILLMENT OF JOEL'S PROPHECY (16-21)**

1. The events were those prophesied by Joel (**Joel 2:28-32**).
2. Which foretold of the outpouring of the Spirit
  - a. In the last days on all flesh.
  - b. Leading sons and daughters to prophesy, young men to see visions, and old men to dream dreams.
  - c. With signs and wonders in heaven above and earth beneath before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.
  - d. With salvation to those who call upon the name of the Lord.

**N.B.** This is the beginning of the new era opens to everyone who calls on the name of the Lord. This special offer has never been withdrawn & you can take advantage of it today as they did at the start of the first century.

#### **IV. THE SERMON BY PETER (22-36)**

##### **A. PROPOSITION: GOD RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD (22-24)**

1. Jesus, a man attested to by miracles, signs and wonders
  - a. Done by God in their midst
  - b. Which they themselves knew
2. Jesus, crucified and put to death
  - a. According to the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God
  - b. Which they did by lawless hands (via the Romans)
3. Jesus, whom God raised from the dead
  - a. Having loosed the pains of death
  - b. For it was not possible that He should be held by it

##### **B. EVIDENCE: THREEFOLD TESTIMONY (25-35)**

1. The testimony of David
  - a. For David prophesied of Jesus (**Psalms 16:8-11**). This is to demonstrate that God is doing what He said He would by calling David (one of the great heroes of the Jewish faith) as a witness for the prosecution of Jesus who is the focal point of God's purpose and plan for mankind.
  - b. David could not be speaking of himself
    - 1) For he was dead and buried
    - 2) With his tomb for all to see
  - c. But spoke as a prophet
    - 1) He knew that God had sworn with an oath that one of his descendants would be raised to sit on his throne
    - 2) He therefore spoke of the resurrection of Christ, whose soul was not left in Hades nor did His flesh see corruption
2. The testimony of the apostles
  - a. They were witnesses
  - b. That God raised Jesus
3. The testimony of the Spirit's outpouring
  - a. Jesus poured forth what they saw and heard
    - 1) Having been exalted to the right hand of God
    - 2) Having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit
  - b. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but prophesied of the Lord (**Psalms 110:1 VS. Mark 12:35-37**).
    - 1) Who would sit at God's right hand
    - 2) Until His enemies became His footstool (**1 Cor. 15: 25-26**)

##### **Questions:**

- (1) What does "be saved" (**verse 21**) mean? Saved from what? Why? How?.
- (2) Do prophecy, visions and dreams have a place in Church life today? What are the strengths / dangers of these things?

##### **C. CONCLUSION: JESUS IS LORD AND CHRIST (36)**

1. All the house of Israel were to "know assuredly" (i.e., believe with all their hearts)
2. That God made Jesus, whom they crucified, both Lord and Christ

**N.B.** The resurrection of Jesus is the central fact of this sermon as in **1 Cor. 15:5-6**. No doubt about it & the fact is beyond dispute. He concluded that -Jesus is the "Anointed One", fully God and fully man, the defeater of death and the baptizer with the Holy Spirit!.

##### **Questions:**

- (1) None of us saw the resurrection of Jesus with our own eyes. In what ways can we testify that it is true? In our experience? Intellectually?
- (2) Peter really emphasizes the resurrection. Why do you think it is such an important part of Christian faith? What would happen to Christianity if it wasn't true (**See 1 Corin. 15:14**)?

## **V. THE CONVERSION OF 3000 SOULS (37-41)**

Many in the crowd were convicted by the thought that they had contributed to the death of God's Messiah. Their spirits were in great distress, "cut to the heart", as they pleaded with Peter about what to do.

### **A. THE RESPONSE OF THE LISTENERS (37)**

1. They were cut to the heart
2. They said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

### **B. THE REPLY BY PETER (38-39)**

1. Two- step solution:
  - a. Repentance-a complete change of mind, turning around and going the other way.
  - b. Baptism- acknowledging that Jesus really is God's Anointed One.
2. Two promises
  - a. For the remissions of sins
  - b. You shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit
3. The extent of the promise
  - a. To them and their children
  - b. To all who afar off, as many as the Lord will call

### **C. THE RESULTS RECORDED BY LUKE (40-41)**

1. After Peter with many other words testified and exhorted them: "Be saved from this perverse generation"
2. Those who gladly receive his word were baptized
3. That day about 3000 were added (Acts 2:47).

## **VI. THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH (42-47)**

### **A. THEIR STEADFASTNESS AND REVERENCE (42-43)**

1. They continued steadfastly in:
  - a. The apostles' doctrine and fellowship
  - b. The breaking of bread and prayers
2. Fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles

### **B. THEIR CHARITY AND GROWTH (44-47)**

1. Those who believed were together and had all things in common
  - a. Those with possessions and goods sold them
  - b. Dividing them among all according to their need
2. They continued daily with one accord in the temple
3. Breaking bread from house to house, eating with gladness and simplicity of heart
4. Praising God and having favour with all the people
5. The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

### **Questions:**

- (1) What signs are there in a person's life when repentance is real?
- (2) Why do we find sharing our possessions so difficult? What do you think a first-century Christian would think of the way we treat the things we own?

### **SUMMARY**

Ten days after Jesus ascended to heaven, on the Jewish feast day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit is poured out as promised. With the sound of a rushing mighty wind, and with tongues of fire appearing above their

heads, those filled with the Holy Spirit begin to speak in other tongues (1-4). Devout Jews visiting from other countries are attracted and amazed as they hear wonderful works of God proclaimed in their own languages (5-13).

Peter, standing with the rest of the apostles, explains that what has happened is a fulfilment of Joel's prophecy (Joel 2:28-32), who

foretold that God would pour out His Spirit in the last days (14-21). He then preaches Jesus of Nazareth to the crowd, reminding them of His miracles, their involvement in His death, and proclaiming that God raised Him from the dead. As proof for the resurrection, Peter offers three lines of evidence: (1) the prophecy by David, who foretold of the resurrection (Psalms 16:8-11); (2) the twelve apostles as witnesses; (3) the Spirit's outpouring itself, indicative of Christ's exaltation and reception of the promise of the Spirit from the Father. In conclusion, Peter pronounces that God has made Jesus, whom they crucified, both Lord and Christ (22-36).

Cut to the heart, the people ask the apostles what they should do. Peter commands them to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins and gift of the Holy Spirit. With many other words he exhorts them to be saved, and about 3000 souls gladly receive his word and are baptized (37-41).

Thus begins the church in Jerusalem, which continues steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and prayers. Signs and wonders are done by the apostles, while the believers display their love and devotion through acts of benevolence and frequent worship. They enjoy the favour of the people, and the Lord adds to the church daily those being saved (42-47).

#### REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER TWO.

1) What are the main points of this chapter?

- ..... (1-4)
- ..... (5-13)
- ..... (14-21)
- ..... (22-36)
- ..... (37-41)
- ..... (42-47)

2) What day had arrived? Who was gathered in one place? (1)

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3) What audible and visible signs were evidence of the Spirit's outpouring? (2-3)

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4) What did those filled with Spirit begin to do? (4)

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5) Who was present in Jerusalem at that time? (5)

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6) What indicates that the "tongues" were known languages of men? (6,11)

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7) What evidence is that those speaking were only the apostles? (7)

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8) What was the reaction of those who heard? (7,12-13)

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9) How did Peter and the eleven discount the charge that they were drunk? (14-15)

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- 10) To what does Peter attribute the events of that day? (16)  
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- 11) When would the events described by Joel occur? (17)  
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- 12) Upon whom would the Spirit be poured out? (17,18)  
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- 13) What did Joel prophesy would be some of the effects of the Spirit's outpouring? (17-18)  
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- 14) What other events were foretold by Joel? When would they occur? (19-20)  
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- 15) What reassuring promise was made by Joel? (21)  
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- 16) How was Jesus attested to by God? (22)  
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- 17) Could the audience deny that Jesus did these signs? (22)  
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- 18) Though crucified by lawless hands, according to what was Jesus' death? (23)  
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- 19) What is the main proposition of Peter's sermon? (24)  
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- 20) What first line of evidence did Peter present to prove his proposition? (25-31)  
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- 21) How was Peter able to prove that David did not speak of himself? (29,34)  
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- 22) What two prophecies of David did Peter reference? (25-29,34-35)  
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- 23) What second line of evidence did Peter present to prove his proposition? (32)  
- The apostles were witnesses of the resurrection
- 24) What third line of evidence did Peter present to prove his proposition? (33-33)  
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- 25) What did Peter want his audience to know assuredly? (36)  
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- 26) How did this impact the audience? What did they ask? (37)  
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- 27) What two commands did Peter give them? (38)  
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- 28) What two promises did Peter offer them? (38)  
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29) To whom was the promise offered? (39)

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30) What else did Peter say? (40)

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31) What did those who gladly received his word do? How many? (41)

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32) What did those who were baptized then do? (42)

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33) Who were doing many wonders and signs? (43)

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34) What did those who believe do with their possessions? (44-45)

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35) What did the disciples do during those first days of the early church in Jerusalem? (46-47)

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36) What did the Lord do during those days? (47)

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PRAYER POINTS:

- (1) FRESH FIRE OF THE HOLY GHOST POSSESS MY LIFE TODAY, IN JESUS NAME.
- (2) ANOINTING OF THE HOLY GHOST, FALL UPON ME AND BREAK EVERY NEGATIVE YOKE, IN JESUS NAME.
- (3) ALL SPIRITUAL CAGES INHIBITING MY PROGRESS, BE ROASTED BY THE FIRE OF THE HOLY GHOST, IN JESUS NAME.