

# Acts Chapter Two

## Acts 2:1-4

**And when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent, rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.**

### Significance of Pentecost:

- Also called Feast of Weeks (Jews called Pentecost-'The joy of the law')
- When Moses said "let my people go that they may celebrate a feast to the Lord (Ex 5:1, 10:9)—probably foreshadows this feast.
- Comes from transliteration of Greek word for 'fifty'.
- Israel received the Law 50 days after leaving Egypt (Passover) and arriving at Mt. Sinai. God is about to teach slaves His ways.
- In the OT—Moses ascends and brings the Law down with him. In the NT—Jesus ascends and then the H.S. is sent down and will write the law on hearts of flesh(Grace in it's fullness)
- It is looked upon as a celebration of the giving of the Law.
- It takes place 50 days after the waving of the sheaf of first fruits—an agricultural festival. It is a time of thanksgiving and asking for protection for their crop.
- Lev 23:10—when you enter the land (which I give to you) and reap its harvest—then bring the first fruits to the priest. Jesus is the firstfruits.
- The number 50 symbolizes deliverance, freedom (Jubilee). In wilderness they celebrated deliverance from bondage to Pharaoh. In NT, we celebrate release from bondage to sin and the law.
- Passover spoke of death of Jesus: I Cor 5:7. Feast of First Fruits spoke of His resurrection. Pentecost speaks of when the H.S. becomes incarnate. Pentecost is now fulfilled.
- In OT: law given—written in stone—people involved in idolatry—3000 slain
- In NT: Holy Spirit comes—writes law on men's hearts—3000 saved
- Pentecost was celebrated by bringing a meal offering to the Lord—two loaves of fine flour with leaven—depicts beginning of church.
- Pentecost was often the best attended because of traveling conditions.

Pentecost happens at the disciples fulfill worship described in Romans 12:1-2

Rushing wind: (In Greek—word for Spirit is same as wind, breath)

- OT—breath—Gen 1:1-2: H.S. blowing over waters at creation
- OT—breath—Gen 2:7—breath of God into Adam
- OT—breath—Ezek 37:9-10—moving on dry bones of Israel

They were all together—united—not divided.

Holy Spirit is not visible. Makes His presence known by hearing and seeing—noise of wind—seeing tongues of fire on each head.

- Speaking in tongues—this is a reversal of what took place at the tower of Babel, The people here are speaking of the mighty deeds of the Lord. In Genesis they were speaking of their own mighty deeds.

### **Acts 2:5-13**

**Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were bewildered, because they were each one hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and marveled, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? "And how is it that we each hear *them* in our own language to which we were born? "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them in our *own* tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God." And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others were mocking and saying, "They are full of sweet wine."**

- Peter will later preach—using a language common in that day—Greek—Acts 2:14-40
- Proselytes=gentiles converted to Judaism.
- Tongues: primary purpose—to communicate with God. The people heard the disciples communicating with God—in their own languages. It is considered a personal language of prayer—given by God to communicate with God beyond the limits of human knowledge and understanding—I Corinthians 14:14-15
- Tongues can have an important place in a believer's personal life.

- I Corinthians 14:23
- People were in Jerusalem from a variety of locations...at this time, countries bordering the Mediterranean spoke a common language—Greek—as well as their native tongue. Alexander the Great had made conquest 400 years earlier and introduced a common language.
- Complete reversal of what took place at Babel. Promise to Abraham of seed through which the whole earth would be blessed—came directly after Babel. On Pentecost, language is reversed.

### **Acts 2:14-21**

**But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: “Men of Judea, and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give heed to my words. “For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is *only* the third hour of the day; but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:**

**‘AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,’ God says,  
 ‘THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT UPON ALL MANKIND;  
 AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY,  
 AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS,  
 AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS;**

**EVEN UPON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN,  
 I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT  
 And they shall prophesy.**

**‘AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE,  
 AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BENEATH,  
 BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE.**

**‘THE SUN SHALL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS,  
 AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD,  
 BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL  
 COME.**

**‘AND IT SHALL BE, THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF  
 THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED.’**

- Fruit of the Spirit is self-control. These men are not drunk.
- Peter focus's attention on Word of God—this does not quench the movement of the Spirit.

- At this time—birth of the Church—Peter quotes Joel—about The Last Days.
- Pouring forth of the H.S. is inclusive: all ages, both genders, all classes, to all who call on the name of the Lord.
- Salvation now comes by an entirely new means to God's people.

## **Acts 2:22-28**

**“Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— this *Man*, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death. “And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. “For David says of Him,**

**‘I WAS ALWAYS BEHOLDING THE LORD IN MY PRESENCE;  
FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, THAT I MAY NOT BE SHAKEN.**

**‘THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXULTED;  
MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL ABIDE IN HOPE;**

**BECAUSE THOU WILT NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES,  
NOR ALLOW THY HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.**

**‘THOU HAST MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE;  
THOU WILT MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH THY PRESENCE.**

- Agony of death—birth pangs—tomb was a womb for Jesus.
- Peter quotes Psalm 16:25-28, 31
- Holy One does not undergo decay: He would not be dead long enough for this to take place—He bore our sin without becoming a sinner—He remains Holy One.
- Resurrection fulfills specific promises made by God through King David—that the one raised from the dead is the true heir of David.
- David underwent decay.

## Acts 2:29-36

**“Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. “And so, because he was a prophet, and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT *one* OF HIS DESCENDANTS UPON HIS THRONE, he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY. “This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. “Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. “For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says:**

**‘THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD,  
“SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,**

**UNTIL I MAKE THINE ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR THY FEET.” “Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.”**

- Exalted to the right hand of God—Dan 7 and Ps 110
- Psalm 110—quoted in NT more than any other OT verse. It is quoted or referred to at least 25 times.
- Establishes the Messiah as being divine.
- An anointed King will come as wickedness reaches full height—where greatest human systems display greatest corruption (Rome and religious Israel).
- By quoting these verses—plain indication that what happened to Jesus was God's intention.

## Acts 2:37-40

**Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” And Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. “For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself.” And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!”**

- Throughout the gospel of Luke—Jesus brings warning to Israel. This accelerates in chapters 19-21. He warns them that without repentance, their enemies will come and destroy them (Luke 13:5, 19:41-44).
- Jesus went to place of judgment upon Israel and bore the judgment Himself. Luke 23:31 speaks of Himself as the green tree—not expected to be thrown on the fire. He replaces the dry—Israel.
- Pierced to the heart—conviction—cut to the heart. They understand now that they are responsible for the death of Jesus.
- Called to repent: not just sorrow—it is to change your mind and direction. Call to turn from their ways to God's ways—from the kingdom of the world to the Kingdom of God.
- Repentance is not something we do before we came back to God—it is what coming to God is.
- Be baptized—sign of the New Exodus—coming through the water to leave behind slavery and sin. (John the Baptist starts with this/Ma 3:2—Jesus starts with this/Ma 4:17—Peter starts with this).
- Theme here is salvation (not just going to heaven—but salvation here and now—to newness of life).
- In normal seasons of ministry—the evangelist seeks the sinner. In times of revival—the sinner seeks the evangelist.

## **Acts 2:41-47**

**So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.**

**And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together, and had all things in common; and they *began* selling their property and possessions, and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.**

- 3000 souls—die when law given—saved at Pentecost
- Continually devoting themselves—a steadfast and single minded fidelity to a certain course of action.

- Four components necessary for life of the Church: apostles teaching, fellowship, breaking bread together, prayer.

**Apostles teaching**—when there is no teaching—people think like The culture thinks.

**Fellowship**—without fellowship, people become isolated—hard to sustain life of faith.

**Breaking bread**—Lord's Table keeps death/resurrection the central message.

**Prayer**—connects us to the Lord—gives access to heavenly realm.

All that was accomplished by the early church—flowed from these four foundational practices.

- Kept feeling a sense of awe—experiencing Jesus and love for others
- All things in common—hospitality normal for feast time—travelers are now staying on in Jerusalem and have needs.

Earliest Christians lived as a single family—with all possessions in common. Jesus and disciples shared a common purse.

Since they continued to meet from house to house—they must have been selling excess properties.

# Acts Chapter Two—Workbook

## Key Words:

## Harmonize:

Read Deuteronomy 16:9-10. Why did the Jews celebrate Pentecost?

## Dig:

- 1) The word for 'Spirit' is 'Pneuma'—which means wind. How is the outpouring of the Spirit described? In what ways is the Spirit similar to the wind?
- 2) Pentecost was a time of supernatural understanding of languages—is there any significance to this? (2:12)
- 3) If the outpouring on the day of Pentecost fulfills Joel 2:28-32---have all of these signs been fulfilled?
- 4) If the outpouring on the Day of Pentecost fulfills Joel 2:28-32---have all of these signs been fulfilled? What is the definition of 'signs' and 'wonders'?
- 5) The outpouring of the Holy Spirit came following Christ's Ascension---is there a reason for this timing?
- 6) How did the disciples know that the gift of the Spirit had been given?
- 7) When God pours out His Spirit—what categories of people receive?
- 8) What can we learn about how the Holy Spirit operates by looking at the ministry of Jesus?

- 9) What elements does Peter include as he witnesses to the crowd on Pentecost?
- 10) What are the important aspects of conversion that Peter shares with this crowd?
- 11) List every place where you see God remove a barrier in this chapter.

**Discuss:**

- 1) What did Pentecost represent to the Jews?
- 2) What is the symbolism of "tongues of fire resting on each one of them"?
- 3) In verse 2:17, it talks about sons and daughters prophesying. Is this a gift that you understand? Is there a difference between the prophesies in scripture and the promise in this verse?
- 4) What is the difference between prophecy, word of knowledge and word of wisdom?
- 5) Share your understanding of why we are baptized following our own profession of faith.

**Point of Prayer:**

Pray for the Lord's power to witness to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Integrate:**

What other scriptures come to mind as you read this chapter?

**Application:**

- 1) In Acts 1:16 and 2:16-21—there are indications that these disciples were beginning to see Christ in all the scriptures. How have you learned to unlock the Old Testament with your New Testament point of view?
  
- 2) In verse 40, Peter warns, "Be saved from this perverse generation"---how can we repent from the culture of the kingdom of this world to the Kingdom of God?
  
- 3) Verse 42 is a description of the spontaneous behavior of the early church following their salvation. Does this describe your spiritual lifestyle? Do you have any convictions as you read this description? Are there ways the church needs to repent corporately?
  
- 4) This initial description of the church describes a communal sharing. How is this impractical today? How is it necessary today?
  
- 5) In vs 38-42, there is an attractive description of church life. Are there any ways we can repent to this as a Biblical model?
  
- 6) What is your first response when you are in a situation where it appears that people are "out of control"?
  
- 7) Have you ever prophesied? What do you think that means?
  
- 8) When was the last time your heart was grieved?
  
- 9) What are visible ways that set the church apart to a watching world?
  
- 10) When did you make your initial commitment to Christ? How did this come about?