

ACTS 2:1-8

Introduction:

1. Acts 2 is a **hot**bed, the most contested battleground in the New Testament and perhaps in all of the Bible. It is a bloody, fiercely fought over chapter. Many Biblical things are won and lost in this chapter.
 - a. Example: There are groups **today** who say they follow the Pentecost signs, wonders, and tongues. They are Pentecostalists or Charismatics. How does that affect one?
 - b. Example: Then there are those who use Pentecost's coming of the Spirit as the **beginning** of the Church **Body** of Christ. All good Baptists believe this.

*This has led to being the most **confused**, **mis**interpreted, false challenging passage of Scripture. Plus, it is an encourager to relate to the Four Gospels in such a way that they follow Christ's earthly ministry under Law. That creates all kinds of unbiblical doctrine for **today**.
2. Also, they have misinterpreted the baptism of the Holy **Ghost** here in Acts 2 with the Spirit baptism of a believer into the Body of Christ as stated by Paul in I Corinthians 12:13. What is different?
3. Acts 2:38 has created denominations and even **cults** claiming baptismal regeneration taught by: the In Jesus' Name Only, the R.C.C., the Church of Christ, many Christian churches, the Apostolic Church, the Mormons, the Jehovah's Witnesses, and many others.
4. Then there are the T.V. programs and preachers claiming from Acts 2 miracles, signs, wonders, baptism with the Holy Spirit, speaking with other tongues, prosperity, and seed-faith (into **their** bank accounts). Who does this the most?
5. *|All of this comes from the assumption that Acts 2 is the normal for the pattern of the Church today, *|which is **not** true.
 - a. Most do not see or understand God's Covenants with Israel, the Jews, Messiah, and the Kingdom offer. So they **replace** Israel with **themselves**, even though they are in Jewish passages and Israel's prophetic program. **This affects **how** they then interpret the Scriptures.
 - b. It is vital to know that Pentecost does not have our roots and does not involve the Mystery Body of Christ that we (believers) are in today. When we hear "back to Pentecost" rather than on to perfection, it is unscriptural and unsound - leading only to **confusion**.

A. Acts 2:1 - And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

1. Now that there were **12** apostles, they were ready to be endued-filled with the Holy Ghost for power in order to offer the Kingdom to Israel. "They" is referring to the **Little** Flock. This offer would be from the Acts 2-7 period.
2. [Pentecost] simply means **50**. It was a Jewish feast of weeks. Since it was a national holiday, Jewish males were required to attend if at all possible.
 - a. In the O.T., Pentecost occurred **7** weeks and **1** day after Passover.

- b. In Acts 2, Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit occurs **50** days after Christ's resurrection. Remember, Jesus had been with them for **40** days. So they had been waiting in Jerusalem for **10** days. This makes 50 days and time for Pentecost.

*There are 120 men + women in place, and all are ready to celebrate their Jewish Pentecost upon receiving the Spirit's power. But understand, the Holy Spirit was **not** poured out on them because the disciples had attained a state of **super**-spirituality. It was simply that the set time for His coming had arrived.

B. Acts 2:2 - And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

1. When a tornado approaches, many say it sounds like an oncoming train. Here in Acts 2:2, a powerful roaring sound is made by the **wind**. The Apostles knew the Holy Spirit was coming, but it still took them by surprise. The sound was dramatic (mighty wind-sudden).
2. Usually wind blows horizontally. But here it comes directly from **heaven**, showing the supernaturalness of God being in their midst.
3. [wind] in the Hebrew and Greek are the same word for Spirit. Also, wind in the Bible is used for a picture of the Holy Spirit.

Examples: Ezekiel 37:9-10 - Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. Eze. 37:10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

John 3:8 - The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

4. Notice the fact that the disciples were not praying, but "sitting". The point? It was **God's** set time that brought the Holy Spirit down to them. The promise was "Firstfruit" (resurrection), then fifty days later Pentecost.

*His coming was **not** the result of believers tarrying-praying-or some spiritual high. Their obedience was just to wait in Jerusalem, which was not their **home**.

C. Acts 2:3 - And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

1. They had sound and now they have a visible **sign** of the Spirit's arrival (tongues like as of fire).

*Once again, remember that the Jews **require** a sign. With these two signs, the Apostles **knew** the Spirit was there as promised. I Cor. 1:22a - [For the Jews require a sign,]

2. Some confuse Acts 2:3 with Matthew 3:11 - [I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:]
 - a. The "fire" in the Matthew 3:11 **context** is referring to the **future** judgment to come upon them when Christ returns to earth. So, it is **not** the same as what is recorded in Acts 2:3.

Note: Matthew 3:10, 12 - And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Matt. 3:12 Whose fan *is* in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

- b. The "baptism" of Matt. 3:11 does look forward to Pentecost in Acts 2. Christ had **promised** this baptism of the Spirit to the Jews.

John 7:37-39 - In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. John 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. John 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

D. Acts 2:4 - And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

1. Again, this is **not** the beginning of the New Dispensation of the Mystery Body of Christ. That will begin with Paul in Acts **9**.
2. Speaking in these tongues was not some ecstatic jibber-jabber. These tongues were **un**learned, intelligible, literal language of **words**.

Note: Acts 2:5-8 - And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Acts 2:6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. Acts 2:7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? Acts 2:8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

3. The word [other] emphasizes languages that were not their own. God gifted them, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to communicate with other Jews from different nationalities with **out** their ever having learned the language **prior** to this.
4. Question? Why was it necessary for them to speak with other tongues (languages).
 - a. It was because God was **equipping** them to be witnesses from Jerusalem "to the uttermost part of the world". Because the Jewish people had been in captivity in foreign lands - had been scattered all over many nations, the world of Jews had **come** to the Apostles to celebrate Passover.

*This should have given them **faith** that they could witness anywhere once Israel believed...but Israel would **not** believe.

- b. Also, if Israel would not repent, be water baptized, and believe Jesus was the Christ - their **Messiah**, tongues were a sign of God's coming **judgment** upon them.

Deuteronomy 28:49 - The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;

I Corinthians 14:21-22 - In the law it is written, With *men of* other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. 1Cor. 14:22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying *serveth* not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

5. Think: What is inspiration? **God**-breathed

- a. Acts 1:16 - Men *and* brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.
- b. In Acts 2, the Apostles spoke as the Holy Spirit **gave** them utterance.

*It is a parallel to when men of God **wrote** down Scripture.
- c. Matthew 4:4 - But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.
- d. II Samuel 23:2 - The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word *was* in my tongue.
- e. II Peter 1:20-21 - Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. II Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

[moved] is the same Greek word for [rushing] in Acts 2:2.

*So there is a connection between inspiration of Scriptures and speaking in **tongues** in Acts 2, as these Apostles spoke when **moved** along by the Spirit.

- f. Today's Charismatic movement is wrong because it is a **continuation** of inspiration of which God is not doing today! When the Scriptures were **completed**, there was no longer any reason for **any** kind of inspiration, and especially tongues! Saying tongues are for today is saying the Bible is **not** complete.

I Corinthians 13:8-10 - Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away. 1Cor. 13:9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 1Cor. 13:10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

Questions?

- 1. Rightly Dividing proves what about Pentecost?
- 2. What does the New Covenant have to do with Pentecost?
- 3. Why were there wind and tongues like fire?
- 4. What was the baptism of the Holy Ghost at Pentecost?
- 5. How were tongues a sign of judgment?