

Acts 2

Acts 2.1-13

V1 – Day of Pentecost (Greek for "50")

- What day was Jesus crucified on?** Friday before Passover (remember the Jews were rushing to complete the burial before sundown on Friday)
- Day of Pentecost?** Sunday, 7 weeks and one day later (50 days)
- What was the purpose of the Passover celebration?** To celebrate the Lord's passing over the Israelites in Egypt and sparing the lives of the first-born sons
- Jews came from many foreign countries for the Day of Pentecost (to celebrate the wheat harvest)

V2 – God was often symbolized by a wind – *Ezek. 37.9-14*

V3 – Tongues of fire – See *Matt. 3.11, Luke 3.16*

- Jesus was to baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire
- Who got the tongues of fire?** The 12 apostles (not the 120) – Compare *Acts 2.1* with the "*11 apostles*" in *Acts 1.26* – The antecedent to the pronoun "they" in *v 1* and *v 3* is the last noun mentioned: the apostles
- The Pentecostals are wrong in saying that all the 120 received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the gift of tongues – that only occurred with the 11 apostles

V4 – "Other tongues"? Other languages

- Proof: See *v 6* and *v 11*

V5 – Why were "devout" Jews here? Many had to come a great distance (must have been devout)

- The best Jews present from around the world

V6 – What was the reaction of the people to hearing the different languages? Confused

V7 – The accents of the apostles? They were from Galilee

- See *Matt. 26.9-75* – They were betrayed by their accents

V9-11a – Parthians, Medes, Elamites (between Tigris and Euphrates rivers), Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia Minor, Phrygia, Pamphilia, Egypt, Lybia, Cyrene, Rome, Cretans, Arabs – 15 different groups and nationalities

V11b – Were the apostles speaking in the "language of the angels" (as the Pentecostals claim)?

- No, they were speaking in the known languages of the people gathered there

V12 – What was the reaction of the crowd to hearing the apostles speak in these 15 languages?

- They were amazed and confused

V13 – What did some people in the crowd suggest? They thought the apostles were drunk

Acts 2.14-21

V 14 – Peter spoke – Remember *Matt. 16.19* – Christ gave Peter the keys of the kingdom
-**How many keys was Peter given?** 2 keys: Jews and Gentiles

V 15 – **Why were they not drunk?** Too early in the day
-3rd hour of the day (9:00 a.m. on Sunday)

V 16 – A reference to the "day of the Lord" from *Joel*
-Another stupendous event from the hand of God: the locust attack was just a prelude to *Acts 2*

V 17-21 – Notice the apocalyptic language of the prophets (as in *Revelation*)
-**How would you define apocalyptic language?** Highly symbolic with special meanings for God's people
-**Best way to convert people?** To use their own book (the Old Testament)
-**Were the Jews expecting a Messiah?** Yes – the "wise men" had seen the star over Bethlehem
-**Why did the Jews reject Jesus?** They were expecting a political leader

V 18 – **Prophecy?** Remember the four daughters of Philip and the prophet Agabus (later in *Acts*)

V 19 – **Other signs of the establishment of the kingdom (in apocalyptic language)?** Wonders in the sky and on the earth

V 20 – **Sun darkened?** – See *Luke 23.44-45*
-Incredibly beautiful apocalyptic language!

V 21 – How will people be saved? By calling on the name of the Lord
-**How does a person "call on the name of the Lord"?** Read *Acts 22.16* – by being baptized

Acts 2.22-29

V 22 – **Title of Jesus?** Jesus the Nazarene
-Miracles, wonders, signs
-**Did Jews acknowledge the miracles of Jesus?** Yes

V 23 – The Jews charged Peter with being drunk
-**What did he charge the Jews with?** Crucifying the son of God
-Remember Pilate tried to restrain the Jews; he wanted to release Jesus
-That must have gotten their attention!

V 24 – God raised him up again, putting an end to the agony of death
-**Why is death an agony?** Final (supposedly)

V 25-28 – Peter quotes *Psalms 16.8-11*

V 29 – **Explain the reasoning of Peter here?** The tomb of David was in Jerusalem (*1 Kings 2.10, Neh.3.16*)

Acts 2.30-36

V 30 – In what sense is Jesus on the throne of David? The spiritual kingdom

V 31 – Prophecy of David in *Psalm 16.8-11*? That the Messiah would not be abandoned in Hades (the waiting place of the dead) and that his body would not undergo decay

V 32 – There were many witnesses
-Read **1 Cor. 15.6-8** – 500 witnesses

V 33 – Proof that Jesus is the Messiah? 15 languages being spoken there that day

V 34-35 – LORD? God the father
-Lord? God the Son
-See the footnotes on *Psalm 110.1* and the forward in any modern translation of the Bible

V 36 – Had Peter presented convincing evidence that Jesus was the Christ? Yes
-The word for Lord here is "YHWH" (the name of God)

Acts 2.37-42

V 37 – Sermon was completed – Length of time? Relatively short by today's standards
-A very dramatic ending to the sermon – Not: "Wow, what a great preacher," but "We are guilty before God" – That is what preaching ought to do today
-Explain "pierced to the heart" – They realized what they had done
"Brethren" - Not Christians yet, but all Jews
-Explain their question, "What shall we do?"

V 38 – Peter's instructions? Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins
-... "in the name of Jesus" –
-Why not in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit"? Because they already believed in the Father and the Holy Spirit
-Why does the Great Commission in *Matt. 28.19-20* require baptism in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? Because it is worldwide in scope (not just for the Jews)
-It is important to understand this in dealing with the "Jesus Only" Pentecostals (they do not believe in the Father and the Holy Spirit, only Jesus – a very bizarre false doctrine!)
-Gift of the Holy Spirit? The general indwelling of the Spirit (See *Romans 8*) which identifies us as Christians in the eyes of God
-This does not refer to Holy Spirit baptism or the baptism by fire coming at the end of time or to the miraculous gifts of the Spirit

V 39 – The promise? Forgiveness and salvation
-"Far off"? Gentiles
-Who are called to God? Read **John 12.32**

V 40 – More preaching

Note: Sometimes people say that Peter didn't make any unscripturally married couples separate; he didn't tell the homosexuals to stop living in their sin, etc. – but he spoke "*many more words*" (as

later revealed to us in the New Testament books)

V 41 – How to be added to the church? We cannot "join" the church, or pay an entrance fee in money, no application to fill out, etc.

-But God adds us to his church when we obey his terms of admittance

-**Number of new Christians?** 3000 souls

V 42 – Four characteristics of a healthy congregation? Studying the apostles' teaching, having fellowship with one another, sharing meals together, praying together

Acts 2.43-47

-**Like communism today?** Not Marxism (or communism with a capital "C"), but they shared everything, so that no one had need of anything

-That is not political Communism, but the Christian way of doing things when there is a great need

-**Why was there a great need at this time in Jerusalem?** People from many countries who had been baptized and probably had not brought enough money and food to stay awhile and learn more about the gospel

V 43 – What kind of atmosphere developed toward the church? A sense of awe

-**Why a sense of awe?** Because they had never seen any kind of organization like this before

V 44 – A sign of their love? They shared everything they had with each other

V 45 – How committed were they to taking care of each other? Sold what they had and shared the proceeds with each other

V 46 – Is "breaking of bread" here a reference to the Lord's Supper or to fellowship meals? The latter – See *Acts 20.1-7* for more details

V 47 – Who adds people to the church? The Lord (we should not a vote on membership, as with some denominations, such as the Baptists)

Revised 2013-01-21