

Introduction & Review (Acts 1:9-26)

- The Ascension marked a key turning point in the New Testament. Jesus' earthly ministry ended, and He began His heavenly ministry of intercession.
- Angels told the apostles that *this same Jesus* is going to return. This will be *personal* and *public*. It won't be an *invisible spiritual* event.
- The disciples returned to Jerusalem to pray and wait for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. They also conducted some important church business, selecting Matthias to replace Judas Iscariot.

Acts 2 will now **set the stage** for the rest of the book – and it will set the stage for the entire course of Church history!

- We see the Holy Spirit coming upon all the disciples.
- Peter will preach the first Christian sermon.
 - He will explain what exactly is happening.
 - He explains its significance.
 - He calls people to repent and believe in Jesus.
- The chapter ends by showing us the growth of the Church.

When The Day Had Fully Come (Acts 2:1)

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

One of the most amazing prophetic teachings can be found in **the feasts of the Lord:**

1. Passover
2. Feast of Unleavened Bread
3. Firstfruits
4. Pentecost (Feast of Weeks / Shavuot)
5. Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah / "Jewish New Year")
6. Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)
7. Tabernacles (Sukkoth / Booths)

- These feasts lay out for us prophetically a portrait of Jesus' work of salvation.
- Jesus fulfilled them on the exact day that they occur on the Hebrew calendar.
- The Spring feasts were fulfilled by Jesus at His first coming, and He fulfilled them on their precise calendar day.

Passover

Jesus was called the Lamb of God, and as the One who would take away our sin, He fulfilled the elements of the Passover:

- He was brought in as a lamb and inspected.
- He was sacrificed at evening, and none of His bones were broken.

- His blood must be applied to our hearts.
- Jesus leads us out from the dominion of Satan, and we pass from death to life, symbolized by the Red Sea crossing, never to return to Egypt again.
- Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us (see: 1 Cor. 5:7).

Unleavened Bread

For seven days following Passover no one can eat anything containing leaven.

- This feast symbolizes the holy life of those who follow Jesus.
- Paul tells us in 1 Cor. 5:7b-8: *...Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us, therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

Firstfruits

Firstfruits celebrates the beginning of harvest. On this feast, people brought to the Lord the first thing that came out of the ground.

- Jesus was raised from the dead on the very day of the Feast of Firstfruits. And the Bible calls Him *the firstfruits of the resurrection*.

Pentecost...

Pentecost comes seven weeks or seven sabbaths after Passover. The Jews call it *Shavuot*, the Feast of Weeks. Our word *Pentecost* comes from the Greek word for *fifty*.

- Pentecost marked the beginning of the harvest season.
- The offering that the priests made on Pentecost was unusual because it involved two loaves of bread containing leaven.
- Pentecost also marks the celebration of the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai. Just as *that* Covenant was announced on Pentecost, the *New* Covenant began to be announced on Pentecost also.
- At Sinai the people sinned, and 3,000 sinners were condemned to death through the Law. But here, 3000 sinners received life through grace!
- At Sinai, God descended with fire and the sound of a great trumpet.
 - Centuries later, when the Temple was dedicated, the fire of God fell from Heaven, and the priests blew 120 silver trumpets.
 - In Acts 2, we have all these elements. The fire of the Holy Spirit comes upon 120 living sacrifices, and they declare redemption.

Wrapping up the Spring feasts

These feasts not only prophesy of Jesus, but He actually **is** that feast to us!

- Jesus not only died for us on Passover, He **is** our Passover.
- He wasn't only raised on Firstfruits, He **is** the firstfruits of the resurrection.
- We draw life from Him so we can live unleavened lives of holiness.
- Just as the Law was given to Israel on Pentecost as the basis for the covenant, Jesus Christ was presented as the basis of the *New* Covenant on Pentecost.

The Descent Of The Spirit (2:2-4)

1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- We can't be sure if this is the same Upper Room mentioned previously.
- They all remained in one accord!
- The fire of God is poured out upon each one of them, just as He once descended in fire on the mountain, and as He descended upon the sacrifices.
- All of them were filled — not just the leaders.
- The Spirit gave them speech. Paul's writings (esp. 1 Corinthians 14) give us more insight as to how this works: there is a flow of speech from the Holy Spirit to *our* spirits. When we pray in tongues our mind is unfruitful, but our spirit is praying. We're praying the very words that the Spirit wants us to pray.

What Does This Mean? (2:5-13)

5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak

Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.” 12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?” 13 Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.”

- Recall that all the men of Israel were required to attend this feast.
- There are nations here from both within and outside the Roman Empire.
- It’s also possible that there were many retirees present as well.
- If you learn the location of some of these places, it will aid your overall comprehension of the New Testament.
- A crowd gathers because of the sound. How might this have worked practically?
- The people were amazed to hear this happening. They could tell that the people speaking were Galileans. Sophisticated people saw Galileans as rubes.
- Greek and Aramaic were the common languages of the Eastern Mediterranean region. Educated people and businesspeople might have needed to have some Latin as well. But at this time, the Jewish people spoke Aramaic.
- It may be that in Judea and around Jerusalem, people did speak Hebrew. So, there might have been a *trilingual* or even a *quadrilingual* situation in Judea!
- However, this crowd heard the believers speaking not in Greek but in the languages of the various places where they had lived.



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- Some like to say that these tongues were given to *preach* the Gospel; however, the text says that the crowd heard the tongues-speakers *praising* God.

Prophecy Fulfilled (2:14-21)

14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. 15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 *'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke. 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. 21 And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.'*

- No one is drunk because it's only 9 o'clock in the morning!
- Peter says this is the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy.
- There are three key items in this section of Peter's message:
 - This is a *spiritual event*. No longer would the Spirit come upon prophets, kings, and judges only. Others will now receive revelation from the Spirit!
 - This is an *apocalyptic event*. There will be cosmic signs in the heavens that announce the coming Day of the Lord.
 - This is an *evangelistic event*. People must enter the kingdom of God by calling on Jesus, no matter who they may be. But all may come!

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