

**Ministry of The Holy Spirit**  
**Pentecost – Peter’s Witness**  
**Acts 2:14-40**

Last time...The Feast of Pentecost and the baptism of the Holy Spirit – the Holy Spirit upon  
The 120, which were in isolation because of a stay-at-home order from Jesus,  
go out into the streets of Jerusalem preaching the Gospel

The spiritual gift that was the best gift for that situation – the gift of tongues/languages

The faithful, Spirit-filled witnesses were mocked and slandered by the multitude that  
did not understand

1. How...can these uneducated Galileans speak in all of our native  
languages?
2. What...does this mean?

This time...Peter stands up and bears witness of

- How
- What
- Who

We are still in Acts 2

v14a Peter, standing up with the eleven:

In response to the 120 being doubted, mocked, and slandered, Peter stood up

A natural leader of men...but this is a “different” Peter

No longer the Peter of

Matt 16:22-23

Matt 26:33-35a

Matt 26:69-75

rebuked Jesus at Caesarea Philippi

I will never be offended...will die with You

denying he knew Jesus

What is different about Peter?

The Holy Spirit

1. He is born-again of the Spirit of God  
John 20:22 Receive ye the Holy Ghost
2. He has been baptized with Jesus’ baptism, of the Holy Spirit  
Acts 2:2-4
  - a. filled with the Spirit
  - b. empowered by the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49)

Peter stands up with...

- the eleven  
NOT the 12!  
Matthias is NOT Jesus' 12<sup>th</sup> Apostle
- no voice amplification, no videoconferencing, no social media  
Some say this took place on the Southern Steps of the Temple

He obviously speaks in a common language, either Hebrew or Greek

Addressing the doubters and mockers of v9-11, Peter answers their questions of  
“How” and “What” and bears witness of “Who”, Jesus Christ

v14b-16 be this known unto you...spoken by the prophet Joel:  
Peter's ministry of being a fisher of men begins

This is not what they think, the 120 are not intoxicated.  
After all, it is only 9am!

This is not public drunkenness, this is the fulfillment of Scripture!

The very words of God spoken to and recorded by the prophet Joel

- “Jehovah is God”
- prophet to Judah during the reign of Uzziah
- calling the nation to repentance
- ~ 767 years prior to the fulfillment of the quoted passage
- ~ 45 years before unrepentant Israel was taken into captivity
- ~ 180 years before unrepentant Judah was taken into captivity

The inspired words of God preserved by God are now happening

Spirit-filled Peter...John 14:26, John 15:26, John 16:13...  
in v17-21 quotes Joel 2:28-32

Note regarding prophetic Scripture: 2 fulfillments

1. Near...hundreds at 1<sup>st</sup> Coming of Jesus Christ
2. Far...hundreds at 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus Christ

Regarding the Joel passage quoted by the Spirit-filled Peter,  
v17-18 is Near fulfillment  
v19-20 is Far fulfillment  
v21 is both

The Near fulfillment first

v17-18 And it shall come to pass:

Because God said it

Num 23:19 God *is* not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man,  
that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do *it*?  
or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

in the last days...Heb 1:1-2

last = “*eschatos*”...eschatology, the study of the end times

I will pour out...”pour out”, “bestow”

of My Spirit...the 3<sup>rd</sup> Person in the Godhead

- the Living Water and the Comforter promised by Jesus, the Son of God
- the power from on high promised by God the Father

upon...”*epi*”, in addition to “*para*” and “*en*”

all flesh...mankind, Jew and Gentile

your sons and daughters shall prophesy...your descendants, starting with these  
120, will “inspired speaking”, will “foretell” of things to come

At Pentecost, the best spiritual gift for the 120: tongues/languages

your young men shall see visions...youth will be given “inspired sights”

your old men shall dream dreams...ask Monica!

on...”*epi*”

My servants and on My maidservants...”bondservants”,  
willing servant not unwilling slaves

Now the Far fulfillment of Joel’s prophesy...foretelling of the return of Jesus

v19-20 great and notable day of the Lord:

I will shew...”give”

wonders in heaven above...2<sup>nd</sup> heaven, outer space

signs in the earth beneath...upon/*epi* the habitation of mankind

blood, fire, smoke...those wonders above and signs beneath  
(more details will be provided in Rev 6-16)

the sun shall be turned into darkness...the light created to rule the day will be transformed into darkness

the moon into blood...the light to rule the night will be transformed into blood (red)

before...prior to

great and notable..."conspicuous, memorable"

day of the Lord come...7 years of worldwide judgment

"day of the Lord" appears 31x in Scripture...5x in Zephaniah

Zeph 1:14-18

v21 it shall come to pass:

Because God said it!

whosoever...who is excluded?

Who is not invited/called?

Who does God chose to exclude?

call..."appeal", "a sincere and earnest plea for help and mercy"

on the name..."authority, character"

of the Lord...Jesus Christ

What authority does He have? Matt 28:18

shall be saved...delivered/preserved/protected from God's wrath and eternal death

Having quoted the prophet Joel, Peter (Holy Spirit thru) gives the clear meaning of the passage, giving the hearers understanding (Neh 8:8)

He now witnesses of "Who" behind the "How" and "What"

v22 Jesus of Nazareth:

hear these words..."hear/listen" and "understand"

Jesus of Nazareth...not to be confused with any other Jesus/Joshua

a man...Gen 3:15 and John 1:14

approved of God..."exhibited", and not hidden in a corner but openly

Col 2:14-15

Acts 26:26

by miracles and wonders and signs which God did by Him ...John 5:19

as ye yourselves also know...they cannot deny, they cannot claim ignorance,  
they are without excuse

v23 determinate counsel and foreknowledge:

being delivered..."surrendered"

by the determinate counsel..."appointed purpose and will"

and foreknowledge..."forethought, foreknown" from before the  
foundation/creation of the world

Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised  
before the world began

of God...His will, His purpose, His all-knowing  
Deut 4:6...The 3 Persons of the Godhead in one accord, one mind

you have taken..."seized"

by wicked hands..."lawless" (Jewish – Caiaphas, etc), "Gentile" (Romans)

have crucified and slain..."murdered", breaking the Letter (Ex 20:13) and the  
Spirit of the Law (Matt 5:22) 50 days ago

v24 God has raised up:

God has raised up...from the dead, Resurrection  
(primary theme in the testimonies of Jesus in the Book of Acts)

having loosed the pains of death...loosened/released the" pangs (ala birth),  
travail, and sorrow" of death

Heb 2:14-15

because it was not possible...impossible

that He should be holden of it...not possible that the Jesus (John 1:1-4) could be  
“bound, retained by” death

The Creator has power all His creation  
Death has no power over its Creator  
John 10:17-18

Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, answered the mockers’ questions “How” and  
“What” and testified of “Who” as he spoke and gave the clear sense of the  
passage from Joel 2

Now, in v25-32, he (by the Holy Spirit) does the same with Ps 16:8-11  
In keeping with the words of Jesus: “It is written”, asserting the  
importance of the written Word of God

v25-28 David spoke concerning Him:

David speaketh...also prophesied...spoke God-breathed, inspired words...  
about the resurrection of the Messiah

concerning Him...about Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God, murdered,  
and resurrected

I foresaw...Jesus saw in advance (everything, from before the world began)

The Lord always before My face...never abandoned by the Lord

for He is on my right hand...My strength, My power

that I should not be moved...not “destroyed”

rejoice and glad...even in the most dire of circumstances

my flesh shall rest in hope...the “expectation and confidence” of resurrection  
Job had the very same hope (Job 19:25-27)

The Father did not deliver Jesus from the ordeal of death  
(His agony in Gethsemane, His crucifixion)  
But He did deliver Him from the power of death

You will not leave my soul in hell...You will not abandon Me in the grave or in  
Abraham’s Bosom

neither will You suffer Your Holy One to see corruption...You will raise Me up  
on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day  
(decay/decomposition starts on the 4<sup>th</sup> day after death)

made known to me the ways of life...eternal life, victory over death

make me full of joy with Your countenance...with Your Presence and Person

Having quoted Ps 16:8-11, Peter gives the clear meaning of it so the hearers have understanding...and are now accountable for it!

v29 let me freely speak:

“Let me speak frankly about David.”

- He is dead...“expired”, has taken his last breath on earth
- He is buried...in the grave, to this very day
- (He is NOT risen from the dead, he did not defeat death...therefore “his words” in Ps 16:8-11 cannot be about him!)

v30 being a prophet:

Therefore...since v29 is true

being a prophet...speaking the inspired words of God before they happen

Note: David was also a shepherd and a mighty warrior and a king

knowing that God had sworn an oath to him...knowing without any doubt that God had promised to bring the Messiah/Christ about Whom these words speak thru his “house”

1 Chron 17 this past Tuesday night

The Savior and King of kings would be of AAIJJ&D

v31-32 He seeing this before...we all are witnesses:

seeing this before...David foresaw, as did Abraham (per Jesus said in John 8:56)

spoke of the resurrection of Christ: the plain meaning of Ps 16:8-11

This Jesus...the Christ, the Son of David, the Son of the Father

we all are witnesses...David foresaw, we have seen (eyewitnesses),

David spoke of, we speak of (witnesses)

v33 by the right hand...exalted...has shed forth this:

Jesus Christ

- by the right hand of God in heaven
  - ascended back from whence He came
  - Stephen will see Him there in Acts 7
- (humbled then) exalted...[Phil 2:5-11](#)
- having received the promise of the Father...the baptism of the HS  
Matt 3:13-17, baptized by both John the Baptist and His Father

has shed forth..."poured out" in v17

- the promise of the Father
- power from on high
- the baptism of the Holy Spirit

which you now see and hear..."How" answered, "What" answered, and  
"Who" testified of

v34-35 David is not ascended...he saith himself:

David is dead and buried...to this day

He did not defeat death

He is not ascended to heaven, yet he said...by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit  
about the promised Son of David the Messiah...

Ps 110:1

The Lord = Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah Who has in fact ascended into  
heaven (Acts 1:9)

The Holy Spirit, thru Peter, answers Jesus' question of His enemies in

[Matt 22:41-46](#)

v36 know assuredly...both Lord and Christ:

Therefore...since all above is true

let all the house of Israel...to whom was promised and sent the Messiah

know assuredly...without a doubt, vs v12

that same Jesus...of Whom David prophesied

Jesus of Nazareth

The Son of David, the promised Messiah

not the Jesus of Joseph Smith, not the Jesus of Charles Taze Russell,  
not the Jesus of Mohammed, etc



both Lord and Christ...Master and Savior, God and Man

Spirit-filled Peter is bearing witness of what

- Jesus said...John 5:39 with John 1:4 (Life: conqueror of death)
- Scripture says...Heb 10:7 (quoting Ps 40:7-8)

btw...had Peter prepared for and rehearsed this sermon?

No...an instance of Matt 10:19-20

...take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

What is the reaction of the hearers who were given the clear sense and understanding of Messianic Scripture?

v37 pricked in their heart...shall we do:

The hearers...or some of them, as we shall see next week...were

1. pricked/"pierced" in their heart
2. moved to action...What shall we do?

What should they do?

John 6:29

v38-39 Repent...baptized...receive:

The hearers are not in a right relationship with the Living God

Now they know it...it has been revealed to them by the Holy Spirit  
testifying of Jesus Christ

Hab 2:4

Evidence of faith:

a. repent

- think differently, change of mind/thoughts
- turn to God, change direction of your life

b. baptized

- Rom 6:3 many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death
- Col 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.
- every one of them...no proxies are acceptable
- in the name of Jesus Christ...Matt 28:19
- for the remission of sins...forgiveness, pardon, Heb 10:4

c. receive

- by faith, not by knowledge
  - the gift of the Holy Ghost
  - the baptism of the Holy Spirit (2<sup>nd</sup> baptism, Jesus')
  - the promise of the Father
    - to mankind...all flesh in v17
    - to Israel...Is 44:1-3
    - to the Gentiles...Eph 2:8-22
    - to whosoever will believe in His Son...  
1 Tim 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9, all are invited/called
- by His foreknowledge
  - the Father knows who will believe (and who will not)
  - He calls/summons them unto Himself/His Presence

v40 many other words...Save yourselves:

And with many other words, not recorded, Peter by the Holy Spirit

- witnessed of Jesus Christ
- exhorted the hearers to
  - believe in Jesus Christ, trust Jesus for Life (conquest of death)
  - Save/separate themselves from this  
untoward/"warped"/"perverse"/"corrupt"/"crooked"  
generation/people, the unbelievers of v23

### **Application**

A timely word for 4 groups of people

1. For all:

- a. Peter was a denying coward 50 days ago...now look at him!  
A changed life is proof that Jesus Christ, the Son of David, is God
- b. "it shall come to pass"...because God cannot lie!  
He said it, He meant it, He will do it  
He inspired, recorded, and preserved the written Word so that we would know

2. For Jesus' friends:

- a. Rom 8:37...we "in Christ" are more than conquerors, 2<sup>nd</sup> death has no power over us
- b. v40...Save yourselves from this untoward generation!

Phil 2:15      be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world

1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming

When is Jesus returning to the clouds to meet His Bride?  
Imminently  
Be watching, be ready!

c. Be busy about the Father's business in the meantime, sharing what we have received  
Faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ...in but not of the world

2 Peter 3:3-4 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation

Rom 10:8-15

3. For Jesus' foes  
The children of Satan

Eph 2:2-3 walk according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience...in the lusts of the flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and are by nature the children of wrath

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God

Having heard the Word of God...given the clear sense of what God said and having understanding...

- you are
  - accountable
  - without excuse
- are you
  - pierced in your heart?
  - moved to act?

The global pestilence of COVID-19

The genesis for all the irrational behavior seen due to COVID-19 is fear  
The headlines of the news services stoke fear

The Creator has power all His creation  
Death has no power over its Creator  
Death has no power over those "in Christ"

1 Cor 15:51-57 (next Sunday)

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years

Eternal life is a gift of God for whosoever believes in Jesus Christ

Rom 2:4 despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

Phil 2:9-11 Every person will, with worshipful joy or with agonizing remorse  
If your life is evidence of a choice that will end in agonizing remorse,  
make the correcting choice – repent, call on the name of the Lord

Call on the name of the Lord...a sincere and earnest appeal for His help and mercy...  
in this time of global uncertainty, trial, and affliction

4. For the USA...and for the Church in USA:

The prophet Joel's mission: call the nation to repentance

2 Chron 7:12-14

1 Peter 4:17

Given the circumstance in which we find ourselves (COVID-19), the Lord God is

- trying to get mankind's attention
- showing very clearly the weakness of all mankind's idols
- testing the faith of every believer
- calling the Church to repentance (Rev 2-3)
- perhaps laying the groundwork for a great revival (during Israel's watch?!)

May we all

- hear the Word of God
- know assuredly that Jesus Christ is Lord of all!

Communion