

Acts 2 (Part 1)

Pentecost

also called "Festival of Weeks" or Festival of the Harvest (Exodus 23:16).

Hebrew: *Shavu'ot*

NT called "Pentecost" from greek word for 50th

50 days after the first fruits come and are given to the LORD, Weeks/Pentecost was celebrated

Leviticus 23:9-14 - first fruits

Leviticus 23:15-22 - weeks/Pentecost

- Feast of firstfruits praised God for his provision & thanked him for harvest that was to come.
- The celebration of Weeks/Pentecost was to honor and thank God for the harvest.

One of 3 pilgrimage festivals (Passover/Unleavened Bread, Weeks/Pentecost, /Ingathering or Booths)

Exodus 23:14-17

Deuteronomy 16:9-12, 16-17

Additional Tradition:

Jewish observance of Shavu'ot - commemorating the giving of the Torah/Law

([cool article](#) about Talmudic description of Pentecost celebration -

v - 1-4 - The spirit comes on Pentecost

v. 1 - disciples were most likely gathered in upper room

- probably not the Temple, or else Historian Luke would have said "the temple" (as he did 27x in Acts. v. 5-6 will tell us that "when the sound occurred, a crowd came together and the miracle of tongues was still ongoing)
- this room would have been near the temple grounds, as the large crowd (at least 3000 from v. 41) would have been able to fit.

v. 2-4 holy spirit comes (promise of Father, Acts 1:4-5)

- spirit comes in an observable way - "began to speak with other tongues as the spirit was giving them utterance."
 - tongues: Greek: *glossa* - tongue, as in language
 - sometimes used to talk about physical member "the tongue" like in James 3. Often used representatively for "languages" and the people who speak different languages (ex: Rev. 5:9)
 - many modern English translations will say "language"
 - utterance: Greek: *apophtheggomai* (a-pof-theng-omai) - to speak forth

The disciples were given the ability to speak in other languages (other than Aramaic/Hebrew/Greek).

v. 5-13 - International Crowd Hears, Gathers & Wonders

Since it was Pentecost (pilgrimage festival), it would have been very common to have so many different people groups visiting Jerusalem.

Nations of Pentecost (ESV Study Bible): Pentecost attracted Jews from all over the world to Jerusalem to celebrate the annual festival. Those who heard the apostles' message in their native languages at Pentecost came from various regions within the two great competing empires of the day—the Roman Empire and the Parthian Empire—with Jerusalem near the center.

What is being spoken when the disciples speak in these other "languages"?

- v. 11 - in our own TONGUE (*glossa*) "the mighty deeds of God"

Miracle of Pentecost was that the disciples spoke in other languages (v. 11)

(Remember Summary verse of Acts: Acts 1:8)

v. 12 - "what does this mean?"

Q - What is significant about the spirit coming on Pentecost?

- many people would have been in Jerusalem
- giving of torah in stone CP giving of spirit/law on hearts
- time when the people displayed what God had provided for them (harvest of crops CP holy spirit)

Acts 2 (Part 2)

v. 14-36 - Peter's Pentecost Sermon

Peter's sermon is in response to "What does this mean (v. 12)" and those who were mocking (v. 13)

v. 17-21 - Quote from Joel 2:28-32

Context: Joel 1 & 2

Joel 1:1-20 - locust plague described

v. 5,7,12 - grape crop destroyed

v. 10 - grain crop destroyed

v. 9 - with grape & grain harvest destroyed, they are unable to offer grain or drink offering - two offerings which were central to the first fruits & festival of weeks celebrations (cp. Leviticus 23:10-22)

Joel uses a present-to-his-preaching plagues of locust to call the people of Judah to attention.

locust - grasshopper like insect which travel in swarms, often great distances and devastate crops

He's basically saying "you think this (locust infestation) is bad (chapter 1), wait till you see what the day of the LORD is like (chapter 2)

Joel 2:1-11 - destruction/"day of the LORD" coming (cp. locust attack of Chapter 1)

v. 12 - "yet even now, declares the LORD, return to me with all of your heart (cp. Acts 2:38)

v. 12-17 - call for repentance in land

v. 18 - post-repentance there will be restoration

v. 28-32 - Then after the restoration (b/c of the repentance), the spirit will come → *before* the judgement aka "great and awesome day of the LORD comes (v. 31)" which was just described in Joel 1:1-11)

That's why Joel 2 ends with v. 32 - "Whoever calls on the name of the LORD will be delivered"

- 1 - day of the LORD coming (Joel 2:1-11)
- 2 - call for repentance in light of day of the LORD coming (Joel 2:12-14)
- 3 - if there is repentance, God will save those who call out to him. (Joel 2:14, 18, 32)
- 4 - he will then give them a blessing, restoring to them what was lost by locust, etc. (Joel 2:18-27)
- 5 - he will then give them his spirit (Joel 2:28-29)
- 6 - and then the day of the LORD will come (Joel 2:30-31)

You've got to think that the story of Joel is on Peter's mind

- because of Pentecost (feast of grain and drink offering and harvest time)
- and the coming of the spirit which was quoted in Joel 2
- Chapter 3 of Joel speaks of the coming day of Judgement

You've got to think Peter is astonished by the events of the moment, based on all that is happening. He must truly believe that the end is near.

- Messiah & miracles (Acts 2:22)
- Messiah killed by Romans & chief priests (Acts 2:23)
- Resurrection of Jesus (Acts 2:24)
- Ascension
- Coming of Spirit

And according to Joel, the spirit's coming is a sign of the day of the LORD coming!

Acts 2 (Part 3)

Review:

- 1 - day of the LORD coming (Joel 2:1-11)
- 2 - call for repentance in light of day of the LORD coming (Joel 2:12-14)
- 3 - if there is repentance, God will save those who call out to him. (Joel 2:14, 18, 32)
- 4 - he will then give them a blessing, restoring to them what was lost by locust, etc. (Joel 2:18-27)
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With that backdrop, let's return to Peter's message:

Acts 2:22-23

v. 22 - Peter believes his audience would have been aware of Jesus.

perhaps they were some of the same crowd (+/-) at passover, which was another pilgrimage festival (cp. Luke 24:18-21)

Luke 24:18-21

18 One of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?"
19 And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people,
20 and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him.
21 "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened.

(side note: cp. Luke 24:19-23 & Acts 2:22-24)

Acts 2:24-31

Peter now quotes Psalm 16:8-11 with central point being Acts 2:27.

Acts 2:27 - BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.

cp. v. 29 - David's tomb is still with "us" in Jerusalem at the time of Acts 2 (David dies and is buried in 1 Kings 2:10).

Peter's point is that obviously Psalm 16/Acts 2:27 **cannot** be talking about David, but David's son/descendant (**Acts 2:30**, see 2 Samuel:7:12-ff).

v. 32 - Peter informs the crowd that he & the others are the witnesses to Jesus' resurrection

v. 33 - Peter attributes what was "seen (rushing wind/fire?) and heard (speaking in tongues)" to Jesus' exaltation and glorification

v. 34-35 - again clarifying known scriptures written by David and attributing them to Jesus because of the impossibility of them being applicable to David.

In fact, with the Psalm 110 quote (Acts 2:34-35) written by David, David himself is clearly talking about someone other than himself because he says "the LORD (YHWH), says to my Lord (*adoni*) sit at my right hand, etc.

So Far:

- 1 - Today is a fulfillment of Joel 2 & thus sign post to the "day of the LORD"
- 2 - Jesus has been raised from the dead, because God/Bible said it would happen, giving understanding to Psalm 16 verses
- 3 - Jesus' exaltation is given as reason for the events of the day and thus clarifying Psalm 110.

Peter's closing line - **v. 36:**

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know **for certain** that God has made Him both Lord and Christ-- this Jesus whom you (btw. at your last visit to Jerusalem) crucified."

No wonder we get to **v. 37**

Acts 2:37 - 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?"

Peter, with Joel fresh in his mind responds with "repent" cp. Joel 2:12-14a (et al)

v. 38 - Repent

Be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins
You will receive the holy spirit (b/c v. 39 cp v. 17/Joel 2:28-29)

v. 40 - solemnly: very serious

exhorting: strongly urge, urgent appeal
"be saved from this perverse generation"

Remember the parallel events of the day, corresponding to Joel & Pentecost leaves Peter **convinced** the day of the LORD is next.

(Plus, things have moved/accelerated very quickly:

- Jesus's ministry/expectation
- Death → resurrection in 3 days
- 40 days later, ascension (c. Acts 1:6-8)
- 10 days later, the spirit

Side note: Peter knew Scripture. He knew Joel well enough, with the spirit's help, to know what to say next and what was to happen next. We have the OT and NT testimony to rest on to know what we say and what events happen next.

Acts 2:41-47 - what would you do if you heard all that we have heard?!