



Acts 2:1-13 “The Coming of the Holy Spirit”

Intro:

Jesus had promised His disciples that the Father would send them another Helper, the **Holy Spirit**, to be with them forever (John 14:16). In His final instruction before ascending to heaven, Jesus told his disciples to wait for this **promise**, which would **empower them to become His witnesses** in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:4-8). Acts 2 records the fulfillment of that **promise** through the outpouring of God’s incomparable gift, the Holy Spirit, who gives spiritual life and transforms the hearts and minds in those who repent of their sins and believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

V.1 “When the day of *Pentecost* arrived, they were *all together in one place*.”

1. The Anticipation of the Promise

- Pentecost (Shavuot), also known as the Feast of Weeks, was one of God’s seven appointed feasts celebrated fifty days after the Feast of Firstfruits. At this feast, Israel presented an offering of new grain to the Lord (wheat), including two loaves of leavened bread (Leviticus 23:15–21). Prophetically, Pentecost anticipated the birth of the Church (the new grain harvest) and the inclusion of both Jews and Gentiles in God’s redemptive plan (the two leavened loaves).
- The disciples were all together (G3661 *homothymadon*: with one mind). This word is used 12 times in the New Testament, 11 of which occur in the book of Acts, highlighting the unique bond among believers.

V.2-4 “And suddenly there came from heaven a sound *like a mighty rushing wind*, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided *tongues as of fire* appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And *they were all filled with the Holy Spirit* and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

2. The Fulfillment of the Promise

- God’s Spirit is often described as a wind-related experience in both the Old and New Testaments: Spirit hovering over the waters (Gen. 1:2), Breath giving life to man (Gen. 2:7), God’s creative power (Psalm 33:6), Spiritual birth (John 3:8 and 20:22). Additionally, the imagery of fire is frequently used to denote God’s presence and character (Exodus 3:2, Daniel 7:9-10, Malachi 3:2, Hebrews 12:29, 2 Timothy 1:6).
- Ultimately, Christ fills all in all (Eph. 1:23), meaning that He reigns collectively over His Church, and individually in the life of every believer. This is the work of the Lord Almighty, who moves suddenly and clothes His children with mercy and power.
- The purpose of being filled with the Holy Spirit is to be effective witnesses of Christ and to bring Him glory. We need God’s power for the common good of His church (1 Cor. 12:7), to serve one another and be good stewards (1 Peter 4:10-11), and to equip the saints for the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:12)

V.5-11a “Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, *devout men from every nation under heaven*. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking *Galileans*? And how is it that we hear each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia,

Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—”

3. The Reach of the Promise

- Those who were speaking in foreign languages supernaturally were Galileans, commonly regarded as lower-class and uneducated people in Israel. It was evident that God’s power was at work (1 Corinthians 1:26-31).
- From the beginning, God’s redemptive plan included believers from all nations, tribes, people, and tongues. Beginning with the Abrahamic covenant in Genesis 12:3, and continuing through multiple declarations in the Psalms (22:27-28, 67:1-4, 86:9) and the prophets (Isaiah 43:6-7, Habakkuk 2:14, Amos 9:11-12), God continues to fulfill His everlasting promise through His Church.

V.11b-13 “—we hear them telling in our own tongues *the mighty works of God.*” And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “*What does this mean?*” But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.””

4. The Proclamation of the Promise

- The mighty (G3167 “megaleios”: magnificent, excellent, splendid, wonderful) works of God include among many other things:
 - God’s incarnation in Jesus Christ, who came to earth to die for the sins of those who would believe in Him (1 Timothy 3:16, Philippians 2:5-8, Romans 5:8)
 - Jesus’ resurrection and ascension to the throne of glory (Luke 24:6-7, Acts 1:9, Hebrews 12:2)
 - God’s purpose for His people (Isaiah 43:7, Matthew 5:13-14, Matthew 29:18-20)
- The meaning of this wonderful sign was the fulfillment of God’s promise in Jeremiah 31:33, of which they were witnesses. These events marked the birth of Christ’s Church, and we continue to witness the fulfillment of God’s mighty works even today.

Conclusion and Main Idea:

The fulfillment of God’s promise to send His Holy Spirit reminds us that He is a promise keeper. He has always fulfilled His promises, and we can trust that He will continue to accomplish all that He has spoken, including the completion of the work He began in us (Philippians 1:6), His return to reign as King of Kings (Revelation 19:11-16) and our eternal dwelling with him forever (2 Corinthians 5:1-2, Revelation 21).

As we await the fulfillment of these promises, we have been called and equipped to serve Him in the expansion of His glorious Kingdom by the power of the Holy Spirit.

