

Acts: To the Ends of the Earth

Spring & Summer Sermon Series



April 22, 2012

Volume 1, Issue 2

The Tower of Babel and Pentecost in Acts 2

The miraculous event in Acts 2 is an event that has its roots all the way back in Genesis. Genesis 11 is very specific. Chapter 11 of Genesis is about the tower of Babel.

To recap, humanity has gathered to live in one place. They speak only one language, and because of their pride and desire to make a name for themselves they build a tower to heaven. Sadly, all of humanity had the idea of 'storming the gates of heaven' itself. They did not want to follow God's Word or command.

Greatly concerned about His creation and because of the great wickedness of the people, God decides to confuse them with giving them multiple languages. Essentially God creates culture for the protection of humanity!

With language and culture in place not everyone could work or communicate together. Yet, on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy

Spirit came, God unites the languages in a unique way. Where once, He sent the confusion of language to prohibit humanity's sin for the purpose of His law; God now (Acts 2:4) uses the gift of languages so that the gospel message may be proclaimed to all.

Cyril of Jerusalem (ca. 313-386) states "The Holy Spirit taught them many languages at once, languages which in all their lives they never knew." God used the tower of Babel event to force humanity to follow His command to fill the earth (Gen. 1:28). Now God uses the miraculous gift of speaking other known languages by the Apostles to force the gospel message to spread wide and far.



The Pentecost by Alexander Sadoyan

The Day of Pentecost

The day of Pentecost is a festival day in the Old Testament. It is the last day of the Feast of Weeks which is on the 50th day after Pentecost found in Leviticus 23:15-21. On this day the people of Israel gathered to the temple and offered their firstfruits to the Lord. This became a liturgy of procession as the king along with the farmers would carry baskets of food singing and praising God (probably singing Psalms 120-136) for creating the earth and delivering the people out of Egypt.

It is amazing that God uses this day to give out His fruits of offering to His people. The Holy Spirit is often followed with the fruits of the spirit. God now gives out His gifts in a very special way.



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Study Questions

Read Acts 2.

1. Where were Jesus' followers on this day of Pentecost? (Acts 2:1; Luke 24:53)
2. What were Jesus' followers doing?
3. For what purpose did the Spirit give the apostles the ability to speak in other known, understandable languages?
3. Why did the people at the temple mock Jesus' followers?
4. Does the gospel always receive a warm welcome? (Matthew 10:21-22; John 15:18-20)
5. What evidence is there that the Holy Spirit is living within you right now? (Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 12:3; 2 Thessalonians 2:13)
6. What was Peter like before the Pentecost experience? (Matthew 16:21-23; Matthew 26:69-75; John 18:10-11)
7. Describe what change has the Holy Spirit brought to Peter?
8. In appealing to his Jewish listeners, why do you think it was essential that Peter witness to Jesus' crucifixion as well as to His resurrection? (Isaiah 53:2-10; Psalm 16:8-11)
9. How are you responsible for Jesus' death on the cross? (Romans 3:9-18)
10. How does Peter show that the Old Testament proclaims and points to Jesus and His resurrection?
11. After Peter's sermon/speech how did the hearers receive the Holy Spirit? (John 3:5; Matthew 28:19)
12. What is the "apostles' teaching"? (Matthew 28:20; Acts 2:22-24, 36, 38-39)
13. What do you think "breaking bread" means? (1 Corinthians 10:16, 11:24; Acts 20:7)