ACTS 2

The Spirit Poured Out

wind and fire on the feast of Pentecost, a crowd from every nation, Peter's first sermon, and three thousand saved

> *"Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*
> ACTS 2:38

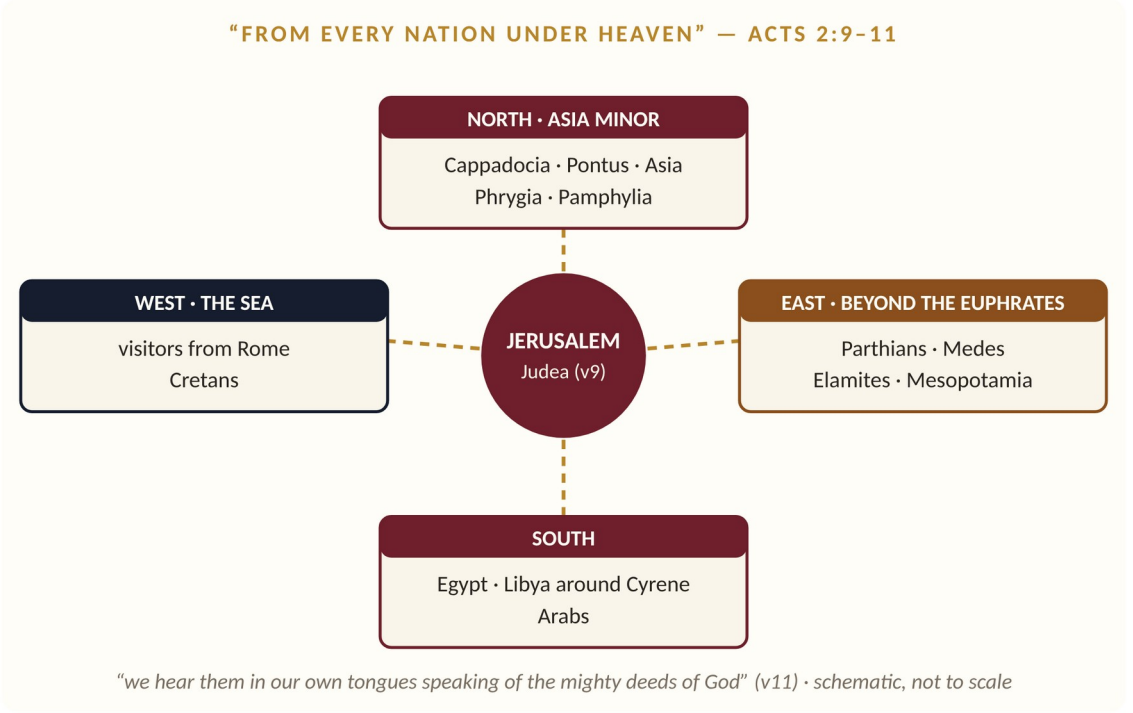
A SMITH FOR CHRIST STUDY · FOUR VOICES: GUZIK · SPROUL · SPURGEON · HENRY

Where Luke has brought us

1. Acts 1 ended with about 120 believers praying in Jerusalem and the Twelve made whole.

2. Jewish tradition later linked Pentecost with the giving of the Law at Sinai, where “the LORD descended upon it in fire” (Exodus 19:18).

3. The crowd came from the whole Jewish world: “devout men from every nation under heaven” (v. 5) — Jews and proselytes from Parthia and Persia in the east, Asia Minor in the north, Egypt and Libya in…



Wind, Fire, and Other Tongues

The day of Pentecost, a sound from heaven, and the promise of the Father poured out

ACTS 2:4

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

DAVID GUZIK

Comes as He wills; real but heard, not touched; on groups too.

R.C. SPROUL

A theophany; hearts on fire; as much for us today.

C.H. SPURGEON

Breath and fire; we need a new anointing, not new preachers.

MATTHEW HENRY

The feast tolled the bell; divided tongues, one accord.

πνοή

PNOĒ · "WIND, BREATH"

Luke does not use the ordinary word for wind here but pnoē, "breath," found only here and in Acts 17:25, where God "gives to all people life and breath."

Every Man in His Own Language

Devout Jews from every nation hear the mighty deeds of God — and some mock

ACTS 2:6

And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language.

DAVID GUZIK

Real languages never taught; Acts 2 and 1 Cor the same gift.

R.C. SPROUL

Languages they were unskilled in; the locals heard noise.

C.H. SPURGEON

The Spirit speaks to be understood; never a cold line.

MATTHEW HENRY

Despised languages honored; mockers blame the wine.

διάλεκτος
DIALEKTOS · "LANGUAGE"

A spoken language or dialect — our word "dialect."

Joel and the tongues

"THIS IS WHAT WAS SPOKEN" — THREE READINGS OF JOEL IN ACTS 2

FULFILLED THEN *Henry*	ALREADY · NOT YET *Guzik*	FUTURIST *this study*
Joel fulfilled in the apostolic age; the blood, fire and smoke point to Jerusalem's fall (AD 70).	"Last days" run from Christ's first coming to His return; Pentecost is the first fulfillment.	Pentecost is a firstfruits preview; the sun and moon signs and Israel's outpouring come at the Day of the LORD.

Futurist anchors: Joel 2:32 ("on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem"), Joel 3:1, Zechariah 12:10, Romans 11:26.

THE TONGUES OF ACTS 2 — WHERE TEACHERS AGREE AND DIFFER

AGREED: REAL LANGUAGES, UNDERSTOOD BY THE HEARERS

"each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language" (v6; vv8, 11) — Guzik, Sproul, Henry

DOES THE GIFT CONTINUE?	IS PENTECOST REPEATED?	IS IT FOR EVERY BELIEVER?
Continuationist: a gift still given Cessationist: a sign that has ceased Guzik presents both views	Sproul: its effects continue, the event is not repeated — the Spirit for every believer	Not every believer prays in tongues (Guzik); every believer has the Spirit (2:38; Sproul)

Hold these with charity: the text settles what happened; Christians differ on what is normal now.

The top row sets the three main readings of Peter's use of Joel side by side; the bottom rows show what our teachers agree on about the tongues and where Christians differ.

This Is What Was Spoken Through Joel

Peter stands with the eleven: not drunk, but the last days and the Spirit on all mankind

ACTS 2:17

'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHESY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS;

DAVID GUZIK

Near and final fulfillment; last days span both comings.

R.C. SPROUL

Expository and Christ-centered; the Spirit on all who are His.

MATTHEW HENRY

Signs fulfilled before AD 70 — the comet over the city.

ἐσχάταις ἡμέραις
ESCHATAIS HĒMERAIS · "LAST DAYS"

Joel's Hebrew and the Greek Old Testament read "after this" (Joel 2:28); Peter, by the Spirit, says "in the last days."

Both Lord and Christ

Jesus the Nazarene — attested, crucified, raised, exalted — and the two psalms of David

ACTS 2:23

this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

DAVID GUZIK

Peter did not flinch; death could not hold Him.

R.C. SPROUL

God works through real decisions; the Spirit from Christ to the church.

C.H. SPURGEON

Lord as God always; as God-and-man, now Lord and Christ.

MATTHEW HENRY

He that delivered Him to death delivers Him from death.

ὡρισμένῃ βουλῇ

HŌRISMENĒ BOULĒ · "PREDETERMINED PLAN"

Horizō means to mark out a boundary (our "horizon"), then to appoint or fix; boulē is a considered purpose or counsel.

Peter's first sermon



Follow the six boxes in order: Peter starts with Scripture and ends with a crucified Man who is Lord and Christ — and then the crowd asks what to do.

What Shall We Do?

Pierced to the heart — repent, be baptized, receive the gift — and three thousand souls

ACTS 2:38

Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

DAVID GUZIK

Conviction came by the gospel; baptism not indispensable.

R.C. SPROUL

Real guilt needs real forgiveness; debtors who cannot pay.

C.H. SPURGEON

Aimed at the heart; trust the Spirit, not the Word alone.

MATTHEW HENRY

Repent, repent; be washed; separate from the wicked.

κατανύσσομαι
KATANYSSOMAI · "PIERCED"

To be stabbed through, pricked sharply — used only here in the New Testament.

Devoted to the Apostles' Teaching

Teaching, fellowship, bread and prayer — awe, generosity, gladness, and the Lord adding daily

ACTS 2:42

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

DAVID GUZIK

God's prescription for growth; not communism.

R.C. SPROUL

No Spirit-filled Christian neglects the Word; generous, not forced.

C.H. SPURGEON

Fire on the disciples, then on all around.

MATTHEW HENRY

Daily worship; holy love; much in praise.

κοινωνία

KOINŌNIA · "FELLOWSHIP"

Sharing, partnership, having something in common — from koinos, "common" (G2839), the word in verse 44 ("all things in common").

What to carry from this chapter

1

Pentecost was a harvest feast.

The Feast of Weeks offered the firstfruits of the wheat (Lev 23:16).

2

Breath, not just wind.

Pnoē (v2), only here and Acts 17:25, is “breath.”

3

The tongues were languages.

“Each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language” (v6).

4

Babel reversed.

At Babel “the LORD confused the language of the whole earth” (Gen 11:9); at Pentecost one message — “the mighty deeds of God” — is heard in many languages.

More to carry

5

Joel began, but did not finish.

Peter quoted the darkened sun and blood moon, which did not happen that morning.

6

God's plan and man's guilt.

"Predetermined plan" and "you nailed to a cross" sit in one verse (v23).

7

The Lord of Joel is Jesus.

Kyrios links "calls on the name of the LORD" (v21) to "both Lord and Christ" (v36).

8

The sermon, not the sign, pierced them.

Guzik: "It wasn't until the gospel was preached that conviction from the Holy Spirit came."

Talk it through

1. The disciples did nothing to produce Pentecost except obey and pray. Where am I trying to manufacture spiritual power instead of asking for it?

2. Some heard the mighty deeds of God; others said, “They are full of sweet wine.” When God is at work around me, am I more likely to wonder or to mock?

3. Peter says the Spirit is poured out on sons and daughters, young and old, servants men and women. What gift or service am I holding back because I think I am not the kind of person God uses?

4. Peter told the crowd plainly, “you crucified” Him — and then offered forgiveness. Have I ever let the full weight of my sin and the full offer of grace land on me at the same time?

5. “What shall we do?” Peter answered: repent, be baptized, receive the gift. Which of those steps have I taken, and which am I still putting off?

CLOSING

Acts 2 is what happens when the promise of the Father comes on people who have waited and prayed: God breathes, the gospel is heard in every language, a fisherman preaches Christ crucified and risen, and three thousand guilty people are forgiven. The church that results is simple — Word, fellowship, bread, prayer — and glad. The same promise "is for you and your children and for all who are far off."

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

Full Deep Dive, O·I·A study and reflection journal: see the Acts study page.