

Acts 2 The Beginning of the Church

- James D. Bales: *The Hub of the Bible*
- One of the greatest chapters of the Bible (Gen. 1, Is. 53, Rm. 8, 1 Cor. 15, Heb. 11)
- This day was the pinnacle of God's eternal plans & purposes, Eph. 3:10-11
- Ac. 11:15: Peter calls this chapter the "beginning"

1. Crowd – v. 1-13

- 1: 3 major feasts: Passover (mid-April), Pentecost (early June), Feast of Tabernacles (Oct). *Purim*, *minor feast*, *Esther 9:29-32*
- Pentecost: Feast of Weeks (Ex. 34:22), 7 wks after Passover. Feast of Harvest: completion of barley harvest, Ex. 23:16; Day of First Fruits Ex. 23:16. GK name, not in OT, 3x in NT: 2:1, 20:16, 1 Cor. 16:18
- Name means "fiftieth," 50 days after Passover.
- All able-bodied men expected to be in Jerusalem for feast, Ex. 34:23
- 2: not an actual noise! Temple area
- 3: tongues, glossā, muscle in mouth or speech producing muscle. "Glossary." Speaking in tongues is glossolalia.
- Cloven/dividing tongues: KJV as adj. modifying tongue; NASB as verb, action of diving apostles
- 4: action: filled w/HS, not gibberish; signifying this is what God approved of
- 5: devout men: only these would make long trip to Jerusalem, most receptive of Gospel
- 6: all bewildered at the events
- 7: Galilean account distinctive. Peter was identified by his speech in Mk. 14:70
- 8: Jews scattered by persecution & economic necessity, spoke Heb, Aramaic, Koine GK; not a miracle of hearing but of speaking
- 9-12: 15 regions/nations present E (Babylon, Persia) to W (N Africa, Rome). Proselytes: Gentile converts to Judaism; Lg pop in Rome
- 13: new wine: audience thought apostles were drunk at 9am

2. Sermon – v. 14-36

- Peter preached the 1st Gospel sermon in its fullness.
- 14,15: immediately dismisses charge of crowd; 3rd hour, 9am (start at 6am). Argument invalid: orthodox Jews didn't eat or drink before 9am on Sabbath or Holy Day. Most didn't before 10am, some even before noon on Pentecost.

- 16-18: Joel 2:28-32, qt LXX, not pouring out of fermented drink, but of divine spirit of God (Eph. 5:18); last days: messianic reign; “the moment you have anticipated for years is here! The last days have arrived!” to all men.
- 19-21: finished Joel’s qt for context, no expl.; calling on the name of the Lord = submitting in obedience
- 22: told them what they wanted to know; now tells what they need to know! Key: you (5x), finger pointing; signs done openly.
- 23: as a nation, all rejected Him. Godless – Rom. Soldiers, audience painfully aware of Peter’s statements. Hurdle: died on Rom cross, cross validated claim to messiah.
- 24: answered questions seen at empty tomb
- 25: verifies claim, qt Ps. 16:8-11
- 26-28: not abandoned in Hades
- 29: Patriarch David – Israel’s spiritual fathers spoke of Jesus; D’s tomb not empty, they could check it out
- 30-31: prophet, Ps. most qtd book; ref. 2S7 promise; 1st use of Christ (Christos, X = Chi), Lazarus’ body began to decay; Christ’s didn’t.
- 32: proof: apostles, 2/3 witnesses needed, they get 12! Dt. 19:15
- 33: proof: miracles they were witnessing, see and hear *still*
- 34-36: Answers where Christ was, ascended, Ps. 110:1; sit = authority. Footstool reminds of 1 Cor. 15:25-26. Logical conclusion: He is both Lord & Christ – and YOU killed Him!

3. Reaction – v. 37-47

- 37: no mention of direct operation of HS! Heard > asked question, pain in question!
- 38: cannot imagine relief – hope! Repent (change) & baptized (converted) under new authority. For: in order to receive, Mt. 26:28; gift? ~~indwelling~~, forgiveness, miracles
- 39: continuous nature of promise: all are called through Gospel, 2 Thess. 2:14
- 40: gave add’l proofs, perverse – skolios – scoliosis, curving of spine
- 41: 3000 had no problem w/ command, pools
- 42: early church continually worshipped
- 43: reverence
- 44-45: ex. of fellowship, daily, not requirem’t
- 47: daily in Temple: only place big enough to fit them all, 1st thing they did was worship – happy to be a Christians! The Lord adds to the church, no voting before a board!

Lessons:

- Although we were not physically in Jerusalem, we are guilty of crucifying Jesus because of our sins. He willingly died for you and me.
- The only way we can be saved today is by repentance and being baptized in the name of JC for the remission of sins. We learn in 4:12 there is salvation in no other.
- We do not join any local congregation; the Lord adds the saved to His church upon baptism. We then submit to a local eldership so they can watch over our souls (Heb. 3:17) and keep us accountable to God.

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Post Office Box 292, Woodbury TN 37190
justinreedbible.com justinreedbible@gmail.com
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