



This is That!
Acts 2:1-25
(Lesson #4)

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OUTLINE of Acts Chapter 2:

- 1) The outpouring of the Holy Spirit (2:1-4)
- 2) The reaction of the crowd (2:5-13)
- 3) The explanation provided by Peter (2:14-21)
- 4) Peter preaches the first sermon (2:22-36)
- 5) The conversion of 3000 (Acts 2:37-41)

2:1 ¶ When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. **2** And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3** And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

2:1 - So, the day of Pentecost fully arrives. The Greek word translated “arrived” is **συμπληρώω (sumpleroo)** it is used **only three times** in the **New Testament** and all three **by Luke**.

It means to **fill something completely** or to **fulfill something in the sense of its ultimate meaning**.

I believe that is what Luke is saying here, the events he is about to write about happened when Pentecost, in its ultimate and final fulfillment and meaning came.

One more thing, notice they were all together in “one place.” Some believe this is the upper room, some believe it is the temple mount. I believe at this moment they are in the upper room, but it seems that somewhere during the day’s event they move to the temple mount.

Pentecost is not what the Israelites called this festival. They called it the Feast of Weeks (Shavout).

The Feast of Weeks is one of the seven Feast days, the Holy Celebrations that the nation of Israel were to keep as outlined in Lev 23:

- 1) **Passover** (Pesach) – 14th Nisan.
- 2) **Feast of Unleavened Bread** – 15th Nisan (last one week).
- 3) **Feast of Firstfruits** – Day after Sabbath during week of Unleavened Bread. Consider with me, this Holy Day **always fell on a Sunday!**
- 4) **Feast of Weeks** (Pentecost) - 6th of Sivan.
- 5) **Feast of Trumpets** – 1st of Tishrei.
- 6) **Day of Atonement** – 10th of Tishrei.
- 7) **Feast of Tabernacles** – 15th of Tishrei (lasted one week)

It is also one of the three Holy Festivals where all Jewish men (adherents to Judaism) had to be in Jerusalem in accord with Duet 16:16.

Men who believe in Yahweh, from nations all over the globe were there, in Jerusalem to celebrate the **Feast of Weeks, to celebrate (Shavout)**.

Here is what they did (Lev 23:16-17).

**** OF NOTE!** This is the only festival where leaven was required in the offering. In the Bible leaven generally points to sin. Here leaven was a requirement in both loaves.

Along with the two loaves we read in (Lev 23:18-19).

The celebration included the slaying of animals including burnt offerings, sin offering, and peace offerings. Notice it include drink and food offerings as well.

Here is what they did (Lev 23:20-21).

Jerusalem is busting with activity. The priest are busy providing the Feast of Weeks offerings per the Mosaic law. They are making burnt offerings, sin offering, and peace offerings.

SO YOU KNOW: The Rabbis teach that the Feast of Weeks also marked the giving of the law at Mt Sinai and the birth of the Jewish nation.

So that **completes verse 1**, Pentecost has fully arrived, and they are together in **“one place.”**

Vs 2 - In verses 2-4 we will find there is a **supernatural sound to hear**, an **amazing sight to see**, and an **undeniable miracle to experience**:

- 1) **Suddenly**, all the bustling activity, following the normal way the events of the Feast of Weeks went every year, but then **SUDDENLY**.
- 2) Suddenly, there came a **sound from heaven**. This sound, although it will be heard in the house has as its origin the heavens themselves **οὐρανός (Ouranos)**.
- 3) This sound which was coming from the heaven, was a sound **like a mighty rushing wind**. It does not say it was the sound of a mighty rushing wind, Luke says it was **like that**.
 - a. Wind is a **common symbol** in the Holy Scriptures for the Spirit (Joh 3:7-8).
- 4) There was this very loud sound like a mighty wind, but it appears no one felt the blast of wind, it was this incredible sound only.
- 5) This sound **filled the entire house** (the Greek word is house), thus at this point I believe they were still in the upper room. This is the house where the 120 were gathered.

Vs 3 - So amidst all the noise, the **supernatural sound to hear**, an **amazing sight to see**, occurs.

Divided togues, probably better understood as **dividing tongues** the KJV says “cloven” tongues **as of** fire appeared to them and “rested” on each one of them.

The **Greek word** translated **tongues** is: **γλῶσσα glossa**. Please tuck that away it will come back around here in a second.

Can you imagine. Like the sound, these were not fire, but were like fire. Equally we have no reason to believe there was any heat, just these dividing tongues **“as of”** fire.

This is more than likely an appearance of the **Shechinah glory of God**. Except here the **glory is diving**, it is **distributing**, and it is **resting on each of them!**

This is an audible and visual manifestation of the Holy Spirit of God!

Before we read this next verse, let me clarify some things about the **Spirit’s baptism**.

Spirit baptism occurs once when we are saved, at that time we initially filled with the Holy Spirit.

From there we can quench the Spirit, grieve the Spirit, but we are commanded to be continually filled with the Spirit.

“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,” (Eph 5:18 ESV)

This is a **present tense imperative**, a **present tense command**. It happened the day we were saved, the day we gave our life to Jesus and here Paul is telling us that we must endeavor to be continually being filled with the Holy Spirit.

We could translate that as “**be continually being filled**” or simply “**be being filled.**” How do we do that? See Eph 5:18-21.

Now I say all this to make sure we understand and to set the stage for what we read next.

Vs 4 - Here it is, this is it. **This is the baptism of the Holy Spirit**, which happens when we are saved, at that time, when we are baptized by the Spirit we are also were filled with the Spirit.

Here in this time of transition the Holy Spirit baptism was not yet available. But now it is here. Here in Jerusalem, **God poured out his Spirit on Jewish people**.

Luke tells us plainly, amongst the **supernatural sound to hear**, and the **amazing sight to see**, there was an **undeniable miracle to experience**:

It was here that the Promise of the Father was fulfilled to the early church, it was here that Spirit Baptism occurred, it was here they were given Holy Spirit power to be witnesses.

And being baptized by the Holy Spirit, we find an **undeniable miracle occurs**, they began to speak in other tongues. The Greek word is: **γλῶσσα (glossa)**.

The word glossa can mean tongue, like the one in your mouth or it can mean languages. Likely the ESV translators should have grabbed that secondary meaning, for that is clearly the point.

All of this is happening, and they are baptized by the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak different languages that they did not understand!

Keep in mind this is not gibberish, these are real actual known and used languages with all the rules of grammar, dictation, and syntax common to any language.

Do not miss the significance of the miracle. Multiple people are now speaking in a language they do not know.

5 ¶ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. 7 And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, 11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians — we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." 12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

Vs 5 - Then Luke tells us what we already know, devout Jews from every nation were there in Jerusalem.

God's law had commanded them to be there, if they truly loved God, unless providentially hindered, they were in Jerusalem. Luke is reminding his readers, Jerusalem was bustling with Yahweh worshippers!

Vs 6 - This was likely not the roar of the mighty wind. The word translated **sound** in verse 2 was **ἦχος (echos)**.

This was more the likely the sound of the multiple languages. The Greek word here is **φωνή (phone)**, this is the **sound of music** or the **sound of uttered words!**

This group, speaking in different languages is contextually what attracts the multitude to them. It is like catnip. You are in a foreign land, but then you start hearing your language, your native language.

So, as best I can tell, when the miracle took place, they left the “upper room” and headed towards the temple mount. We cannot be sure and I would not be dogmatic, but that seems to be what is occurring!

This massive sound might have brought the multitude to the location where it is occurring, but it appears as you will see momentarily that the loud noise has ended and they are **experiencing an undeniable miracle**.

Upon their arrival in this location, we are told that they were **bewildered, confused, or disturbed**.

They were shocked, for they are hearing this band of Galileans speaking in their own native languages.

Most is not all of this group are from the area around Galilee, (last week Pastor reminded us that was a rural area) and these (principally Galileans) are speaking but the **crowds upon their arrival are hearing them speak in their own languages**.

The Greek word is **διάλεκτος (dialektos)**, it means languages or dialects.

Vs 7 - They were all amazed and wondered, they were all shocked and marveled.

They began to say, are these men who are speaking all these different languages, **are they not Galileans!**

Fruchtenbaum wrote that the Galileans mispronounced the gutturals, I do not know if that is so or not. But the crowd recognized their Galilean drawl.

You can imagine they were indeed amazed and they were for sure astounded!

The crowd has been drawn to the group and they are witnessing a true miracle!

Vs 8-11 - As those in the crowd are **talking** with one another, they are confused and confounded for they are hearing these Galileans speak in **their own native tongue!**

Greek was the common language of the day, but these people were hearing in their **native languages**, what we might call their **heart language!**

Then we are told from some of the areas these people have come. Starting in verse 9 we are told some are: Parthians, Medes, Elamites, residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome.

Vs 11 - This was Jews from every nation, and of course those who had converted to the Jewish faith, they were here, and they were hearing people from the group speak in their own language.

This miracle involved **Cretans and Arabians** as well.

They were hearing in **their own glossa, the mighty works of God**.

We do not know exactly what was being said, but we know it was in the **languages of the people present** and it was **focused on the mighty works of God**.

This was an **astounding, undeniable miracle!**

But place yourself there, they are all hearing these people tell of the **mighty works of God in their own languages!**

Clear sentences, clear paragraphs, that are conveying a clear message!

Vs 12 - All were **amazed (astounded)** all were **perplexed (bewildered)** and they began to say to one another **what does this mean?**

But imagine what they are thinking, imagine what they are wondering.

It does not appear that they were questioning the miracle, only what was the **meaning of the miracle**.

This is an amazing **miracle** that in one instance reversed the **curse that occurred at the Tower of Babel**.

At the tower of Babel, God confounded the languages to **stop the rebellion**, here **God breaks down the language barrier**, so that all of these men could hear the mighty works of God in their native tongue!

Vs 13 - But among the group there were those who **mocked**, those who **derided**, those who **jeered**.

This word is only used twice in the New Testament and both times by Luke, here and again in Acts 17:30-32).

14 ¶ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. 15 For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: 17 "'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; 18 even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. 19 And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; 20 the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. 21 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Vs 14 - But then Peter stands up with the eleven (pause for a second)... OK, so Mathias is with them and he is, as least as far as Luke is concerned, numbered with the apostles.

So, once again Peter takes the lead, while all this is going on, the all that has happened earlier and now the crowds rush upon them, as they are speaking in different languages as the Spirit is giving them the ability. **Some are amazed**, but others declare **these men are just drunk!**

The **Rabbis sat** when they taught. Peter stands as a **herald of the gospel**.

Here is what Peter said, initially: *"Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.*

So, he is initially speaking to those **from Jerusalem and Judea**. He calls for those who live in the surrounding areas to listen to what he is about to say. To **pay attention** to what he is **about to declare!**

He is ready to **explain the significance** of the miracle that they are experiencing!

Vs 15 - First, he responds to the charge that the people doing this are simply muttering because they are drunk. He tells them that is not what is going on, since it is 9:00am.

This is the time of the **morning offering** and of **prayer**, this is not the customary time that Jews drank wine.

His logic is clear, these men have barely got their first cup of coffee down, this is the time of the morning sacrifice, these men cannot be drunk, it is way too early in the day.

Vs 16 - Peter then says that **this is that, which was spoken** by the prophet Joel.

This is crystal clear in the Greek and the meaning is clear. What you are seeing is **what the prophet Joel spoke about**.

Now we have not read his quote yet, but it comes from **Joel 2:28-32**.

We will look at what he says here, we will look at what Joel says and we will come to **some conclusions** that Peter would want us to come to, the ones he **wanted his original audience to come to**.

But let it sink in. These men are not drunk, **but this is that, which what was spoken long ago by the prophet Joel**.

Today, Jerusalem and men from Judea, **today an ancient prophecy as spoken by Joel, God is at least, beginning to fulfill**.

I am going to read the whole prophecy, as Peter quotes it, Look at what Joel wrote (2:23-32) and then walk our way through it.

Now let's follow Peter's logic and catch Peter's points.

Under the Old Covenant, certain people were filled with the Spirit at certain times for specific purposes. Now, under the New Covenant, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is for all who call upon the name of the LORD, even **menservants** and **maidservants**!

"There had been no provision for, and no promise of, an abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of any Old Testament saint." (Hughes). This changes under the New Covenant.

Vs 17 - First, God has promised something in the **"last days."**

The Greek words are:

ἔσχατος (eschatos) – last

ἡμέρα (hemera) - days or times

In the New Testament, this timeframe represents to time period beginning when Jesus first came until he comes again.

You and I right now are living in the last days. Let me show you a few verses that make this point (II Tim 3:1; Heb 1:1-2; II Pet 3:1-3).

In the last days, the time between the first coming of Jesus and his second coming, God made a promise, through the prophet Joel that He would **pour out his Spirit on all flesh!**

This event would be accompanied by **supernatural events** and **manifestations of God's power** to make it **undeniable**. Then we are provided with a list of nine, here in verse 17 we find the first three:

- 1) **Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy**
- 2) **Your young men shall see visions**
- 3) **Your old men shall dream dreams**

Vs 18 – Here in verse 18 we are provided with two more:

- 4) God will **pour out his Spirit** even on the lowly, your male and your female **servants** in those days.
- 5) **Even they will prophesy.**

Vs 19-20 – Before we read these last four items there are really three schools of thought: First, this all happened prior to Pentecost, some happened even after Pentecost, all of these items happened around Pentecost, but will happen to a great degree before the Lord returns.

FIRST, these items are all associated with the future return of Jesus Christ, the great and magnificent day. It could be that is Peter's point. Simple enough.

SECOND, These things all happened during the life and ministry of Jesus up to and including Pentecost.

THIRD, These things happened in a lesser way during the life and ministry of Jesus and prior to Pentecost, but will happen to a greater and more significant degree prior to the return of Jesus.

So all of these wonders on the earth, will be accompanied by wonders (miracles) in the heavens!

6) **Wonders in the heavens above!** We do not know what Peter had in mind, but we do know that a star announced the birth of the Messiah.

7) **Signs of the earth below:**

- a. **Blood** – Jesus had sweat great droplets of blood in Gethsemane and then he had shed his blood at Calvary.
- b. **Fire** – There had been divided tongues of fire that had rested over the apostles.
- c. **Vapor of Smoke** – Columns of smoke.

These things had happened, and that may be the point, the main point that Peter is driving to and you will see that in a moment.

Vs 20 – Here we find points 8 and 9:

8) The **Sun shall be turned to darkness**. Here is what Matthew records (Mat 27:38-45).

9) The moon will be turned to blood. This is a **very technical term** that refers to a **lunar eclipse**, when the moon comes into the full shadow of the sun and appears dull red, the ancients called this a **blood moon**.

SO YOU KNOW: The best evidence points to Jesus **being crucified on 3 April 33 AD**, by our calendar or **during the daylight hours of Nisan 14, 33 AD**.

On April 3rd, 33AD there was a **60% Lunar eclipse** as viewed from Jerusalem that evening as the sun set.

Peter says, that Joel said that all of these things will happen (before the great and final) day of the Lord, the **great and magnificent day**.

Most Scholars agree that great and notable day is the Lord's return.

And based on all that has happened, based on the **nine things** outlined above, they appear to be connected to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

OK, so Peter has tied things that have happened in Jerusalem, to the ancient prophet Joel and to a prophecy that he gave in **approximately 586BC**.

Vs 21 - This is totally new, yet this is what Joel had promised. God would pour out His Spirit and after that, it would come to pass that **all who called upon the name of the Lord would be saved!**

We are living during the days when all who call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved!

22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know — 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. 25 For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; 26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. 27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

Vs 22 – Peter addresses the men of Israel who are worshippers of Yahweh, they are the men of Israel who have been reading the prophet Joel for all their lives.

Men of Israel, here this and he is about to make three points, **point number three being the clencher!**

FIRST POINT: This Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus born in Bethlehem of Mary, this Jesus was a man **attested to you by God** through with and by:

- **Mighty works** – These would likely be undeniable works.
- **Wonders** – These are miracles.
- **Signs** – These are specific signs. Those that authenticate the message being presented.

This Jesus was approved and declared to you by God through might works, wonders, and signs. That is Peter's **FIRST POINT!**

SECOND POINT: God did all of this **"in your midst."** This is not something you read about, or even heard about, God did all of this through the man of Jesus in your midst. In your cities and in your towns.

He fed thousands in your midst, He healed the sick and infirmed in your midst, He raised the dead, in your midst, remember Lazarus, He did that in your midst!

This all did not happen in another land, it happened recently and **here in the land of Israel.**

This brings Peter to his third and final point.

THIRD & MAIN POINT: *as you yourselves know* —

You know this, you have witnessed what God is done. You cannot deny what you have seen with you own eyes. **You, all of you, know this is so!**

Pause for a second. A mighty rushing wind fills the house, distributing tongues as if on fire are distributed across the group, they begin to speak in other languages.

This brings the crowds to where the apostles are, upon the arrival of the crowds they here these Galileans declaring the mighty works of God, each in their own language!

Now this argument will only work if what? Yes, the crowd knows all that **Peter has just said is true**, they have observed all that he has said. If not, this makes no sense and would be a horrible argument.

For all in Jerusalem had heard about Jesus, many had seen Jesus. They knew!

This leads us to Peter's sermon. The first sermon of the infant church! It begins in Acts 2:23 and goes to 2:36. In the ESV it is 311 words in its totality. You can read the sermon in about **one minute.**