

ACTS 2:5-20

Introduction:

1. Pentecost was a miraculous demonstration of signs and wonders. God's dealings with Israel were always with **outward** signs and wonders, from the day He brought them out of Egypt. *God's dealings through signs are mentioned some **140** times in the Bible (Deut. 26:8; I Cor. 1:22, 14:22).

Mark 16:17-18 - And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; Mark 16:18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

2. God does not work through signs in this dispensation of **faith** today.

II Corinthians 5:7 - (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

3. All these signs to Israel looked forward to the **New** Covenant and the establishment of the Messianic Kingdom. God's Jewish messengers were to attack **Satan's** kingdom and defy sickness and death itself.
4. Also, there is a relationship between what happened at Babel (Genesis 10-11) and what took place at Pentecost. At Babel, God judged man's rebellion with the **confusion** of tongues. Here in Acts 2, God gives the gift of tongues (languages), with the purpose of **regathering** the scattered - beginning with Israel.

Luke 24:47 - And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

John 11:51-52 - And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; John 11:52 And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.

Romans 15:8-10 - Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises *made* unto the fathers: Rom. 15:9 And that the Gentiles might glorify God for *his* mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name. Rom. 15:10 And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people.

Matthew 15:24-27 - But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Matt. 15:25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. Matt. 15:26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. Matt. 15:27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

5. But we know (Acts 2-7) that Israel **rejected** Christ. They, like the rebels at Babel who were scattered worldwide, have been scattered to the Gentile nations. The Jews have **joined** the rebellion of the Gentiles in unbelief.

Romans 11:32 - [For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.]

- A. it shows the multitude of **Jewish** males who came to Pentecost.

In verses 5-13,

1. Pentecost was one feast the Jews did **not** want to miss (Exo. 23:14-17). Jews came from great distances to be in Jerusalem. There are **14** countries mentioned from where these Jewish men came. This was the 12's (Little Flock) greatest opportunity to reach the masses with the Gospel of the Kingdom.
2. It states that all heard the message in the language of their own country in which they were born. Israel had rejected the Father - represented by John the Baptist, rejected the Son - by crucifying Him, and now through the power and gift of the Holy **Spirit** (represented here by the 12 + 120), they have the Kingdom Gospel (Christ is the resurrected Messiah—Christ's final sign) spoken to them in their own **native** tongue.
*They now will be without excuse if they reject the Messiah.
3. Upon observing all these signs, some of these Jews were amazed, some doubted, while others made fun of the 12-120 - saying they were **drunk**.
This gave Peter (leader) the opportunity to answer their accusation and preach his famous Pentecostal sermon to Israel. His message is the first message after the ascension of Christ and the first message after the Spirit's **empowering.

Peter's Sermon

B.

Acts 2:14 - But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all *ye* that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

1. Remember who Peter is addressing. Israel has to be saved **first**, then through Israel, go to the Gentiles. So he is addressing **only** those of Israel (Jews only). Gentiles did not go to, nor participate in, Jewish feasts like Pentecost. Actually, they were not **per**mitted to.
2. Verse 14 - [Ye men of Judaea, and all *ye* that dwell at Jerusalem,]
 - a. Verse 22 - [ye men of Israel], Verse 29 - [Men and brethren], Verse 36 - [the house of Israel], Verse 39 - [For the promise is unto you]
*Plus, it speaks of Christ, Joel, David, and prophecy to the Jewish people.
 - b. *It is very clear that Gentiles are not addressed, nor have **any** part, in Peter's sermon. The only way a Gentile could participate here is if they had become a religious Jewish **pro**selyte.

C.

Acts 2:15 - For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is *but* the third hour of the day.

1. Normally people do not get drunk this early in the morning. This is **nine** o'clock in the morning!
Paul said: I Thessalonians 5:7 - For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.
2. Notice again in Verse 14 - [Peter, standing up with the eleven,] There are **12** apostles, showing Paul was not one of them. Also, it shows these 12 apostles were given authority to act officially in the Lord's absence (Matt. 18:18-20). There had to be 12 in order to **offer** the Kingdom to Israel. There had to be 12 apostles to sit on 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel (Matt. 19:28). This is why Matthias succeeded Judas **before** Pentecost.

3. Also, notice the greatest prominence of the 12 is given to **one** man - Peter! He **alone** is named.

Acts 1:15 - And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)

Acts 2:14 - But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all *ye* that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

Acts 2:37 - Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?

Acts 5:29 - Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

- a. ***Remember what Christ said to Peter:**

Matthew 16:19 - And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

- b. Authority in this early Messianic Church (**not** the Body Church) was given to the 12, with Peter being singled out as their **chief** Apostle.

***From** three denials **to** leading preacher at Pentecost...what a God!

D.

Acts 2:16-18 - But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; Acts 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: Acts 2:18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

1. Peter at this moment in time, **after**:

Acts 1:3 - To whom also he shewed himself **alive** after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them **forty days**, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

Luke 24:44-45 - And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me. Luke 24:45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

Acts 2:4 - And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

*He knew exactly, had an absolute **under**standing of, **where** he stood in the Jewish prophetic program here at Pentecost.

2. [..this is that...Joel] Peter does **not** say this is something **similar** to what Joel promised. Peter knew (scripturally from O.T. prophecies and his Lord's teachings) that Israel **at that moment in time** was in their **last** days. Peter only knew of Christ's **suffering** and Kingdom **glory** to follow. He knew **nothing** about the Mystery and Paul.



I Peter 1:11 - Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

Zechariah 13:6-7, 14:9 - And *one* shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, *Those* with which I was wounded *in* the house of my friends. Zech. 13:7 Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man *that is* my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered; and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones. Zech. 14:9 And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

3. Peter's and all believing Jews' understanding was that Christ's suffering was **over**. Now the Spirit was being poured out in anticipation-preparation for the glory to follow. To Peter those promised days had **begun**.

Joel 2:27-31 - And ye shall know that I *am* in the midst of Israel, and *that I am* the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed. Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, *that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh*; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: Joel 2:29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. Joel 2:30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. Joel 2:31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.

4. Notice that Peter does not say these were signs of the "**first** days" of the Body of Christ, but were of the "last days" of Israel's trouble, sorrow, and sin when God would restore Israel to Himself.

*The fact that Peter uses "last days" in Verse 17 shows he did not know about God's divine **mystery** to be revealed to Paul at a later date.

- a. The prophets nor the Lord had predicted **anything** about the dispensation of grace.

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5, 8-9 - If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: Eph. 3:3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Eph. 3:5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; Eph. 3:8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; Eph. 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

- b. Get clear in your mind the **timing** of these verses. No one except God had any knowledge of God's revelation to be given to Paul in the future. We cannot read **Paul's** Body truth into **Peter's** message. Here in Acts 2, Peter is explaining to Jewish listeners that prophecy, which many of them knew, was being fulfilled (**if** they would believe).

*Peter will be offering Israel the return of Christ-Messiah and the long-promised times of refreshing (Kingdom glory).

Acts 3:19-21 - Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; Acts 3:20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Acts 3:21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

5. The promised signs of the "last days" (of Israel) began to appear at Pentecost, but **not** all appeared. As a matter of fact, we will see that after awhile even those signs that had appeared began to **dis**appear.

*Sadly, Peter's and the eleven's message began to be **re**jected by the religious leaders (Theocracy) and continued.

E.

Acts 2:19-20 - And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: Acts 2:20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

1. It is obvious that Joel's prophecy of signs in the heavens did **not** take place.

Why? It is because the rulers of Israel again hardened themselves in unbelief and **ex**treme opposition to Jesus Christ as Messiah (even today). It was because of their rejection of Christ that the signs and wonders did **not** continue as was prophesied by Joel.

2. Hebrews comments about this unbelieving **Jewish** generation.

Hebrews 2:3-4 - How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; Heb. 2:4 God also bearing *them* witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

Hebrews 6:4-6 - For *it is impossible* for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, Heb. 6:5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, Heb. 6:6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame.

*God says He judged those unbelieving Jews (a nation) and there was **no** hope for them. They had committed the **un**pardonable sin against the Holy Spirit.

3. [before that great and notable day of the Lord come:] According to Israel's prophetic program, miraculous signs were to be followed by signs in the heaven and earth. The pouring out of God's Spirit in Acts 2-7 is to be followed by God's **wrath** (7 years Tribulation), **then** Christ's return to set up His Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

4. **Think!** Thank God, the latter signs did not appear to go into the Tribulation. These signs have not yet appeared, but they will one day.

- a. *God hasn't altered His plan to judge the unbelieving world, but in unimaginable grace and love, He has **in**terrupted **Israel's** prophetic program, held off the day of judgment, saved the chief

of

sinner and ushered in the mystery period of grace. This truth was **first** revealed through Paul, who later revealed it to Peter.

- b. Peter writes in his last epistle **ex**plaining how Christ would have come to them (Jews-Israel) as his messages in early Acts said. But God had now **de**layed their program, as Paul had said.

II Peter 3:9, 15 - The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 2Pet. 3:15 And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

Romans 11:25-26 - For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, **until** the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. Rom. 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

Concluding Remarks About Books and Dates:

Shawn Brosseau:

Chronologists often disagree as touching numerical years. Therefore, some Bible students prefer to date Paul's earliest epistles by using chapters of Acts as benchmarks. In other words, it is much easier to establish where a Pauline Acts epistle was written *in relation to Acts* (as in, Chapter 20) than to establish its *absolute year* (for example, A.D. 55). Human calendars are simply too ambiguous concerning such ancient history, but the Word of God is a sure basis for timelines. Dates based on Scripture are much more reliable than human reckoning of time.

CONCLUSION:

Using Scriptural data, we can say the following about Paul's Acts epistles:

1. **Galatians** (written Acts chapters 17/18) - penned in ?
2. **1 Thessalonians** (written Acts chapter 18) - penned in Corinth
3. **2 Thessalonians** (written Acts chapter 18) - penned in Corinth
4. **1 Corinthians** (written Acts chapters 19/20) - penned in Ephesus
5. **2 Corinthians** (written Acts chapter 20) - penned in Macedonia
6. **Romans** (written Acts chapter 20) - penned in Corinth

SUPPLEMENTAL: PAUL'S PRISON EPISTLES

While Paul was under house arrest in Rome during the two years following the Acts period (Acts 28:30-31), he wrote Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. Luke penned the Book of Acts here. Paul was released for some time, writing 1 Timothy and Titus during that free period. Recaptured, he was imprisoned in a dungeon in Rome. There, Paul penned a final epistle to Timothy; the Roman government put him to death shortly thereafter (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

***Ephesians** - sent by Tychicus (6:21-22) - penned in Rome

***Philippians** - sent by Epaphroditus (2:25, 28-29) - penned in Rome

***Colossians** - sent by Tychicus and Onesimus (4:7-9) - penned in Rome

***Philemon** - sent by Onesimus (verses 10-17) - penned in Rome

***1 Timothy** - ?

***Titus** - sent by Tychicus and/or Artemas? (3:12) - penned en route to Nicopolis (3:12)

***2 Timothy** - sent by ? - penned in Rome (1:17) - **Paul's farewell**