

# PART 3: THE PROMISED HOLY SPIRIT

## ACTS 2:1-41

Mike Taylor

[www.TaylorNotes.Info/monday](http://www.TaylorNotes.Info/monday)



### I. SUMMARY

- A. At his ascension, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples (Luke 24:49).
- B. As promised, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples at Pentecost, giving them the power to be effective witnesses.
- C. The disciples from Galilee began praising God in other languages which they did not know but were understood by Jews who had come from all over the world to Jerusalem.
- D. Peter explains that this was promised hundreds of years before by the OT prophet Joel.
- E. As a result of this, about 3,000 Jews repented and were baptised.

### II. THE DAY OF PENTECOST (2:1-4 ESV)

- A. Pentecost ("fifty") was an event that took place 50 days after the Feast of Passover.

- B. Pentecost was also known as the "Day of First-Fruits" or "Jewish Feast of Weeks." (Exod. 22:29; Num. 18).
- C. These new believers were the "first-fruits" of all believers to come.
- D. At Pentecost, the promised Holy Spirit came, giving disciples the power to be effective witnesses.
- E. Pentecost also marked the beginning of the church age.
- F. The divided tongues as of fire (2:3) were not literal flames (for Luke says "as of") but looked enough like fire that this was the best description that could be given.
- G. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit (2:4a)<sup>1</sup>
- H. In the OT sin could remove the Holy Spirit but in the NT sin does not remove the Holy Spirit. See Figure 1.

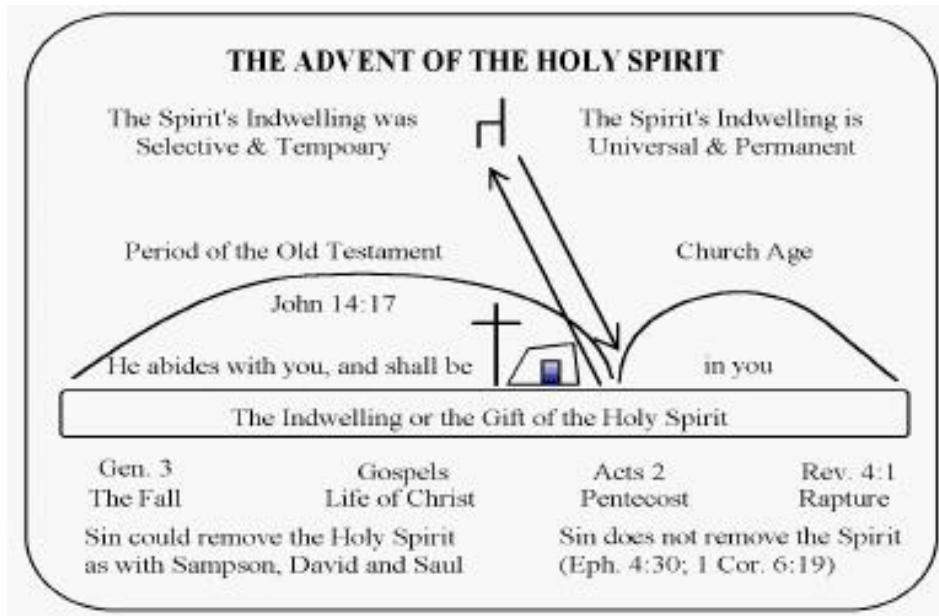


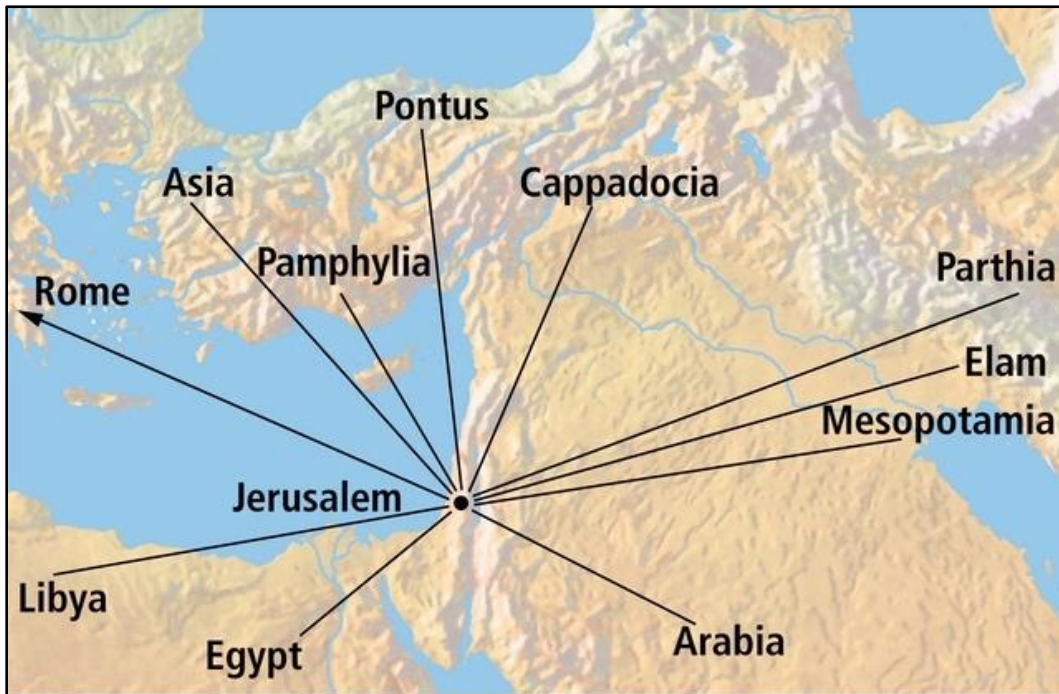
Figure 1 The Holy Spirit in the OT and NT

- I. They spoke in other tongues (2:4b). These were known languages (dialects<sup>2</sup>) which were understood, unlike the Tower of Babel, where God judged the people by making them unintelligible to each other (Gen. 11).

<sup>1</sup> See Figure 1: <https://bible.org/seriespage/24-spirit-filled-life-part-1>

<sup>2</sup> Dialect: a particular form of a language which is peculiar to a specific region or social group.

- J. Traditionalists, Pentecostals, and Charismatics all agree that the "tongues" in Acts are known human languages (see Acts 2:6, "in his own language").<sup>3</sup>



### III. THE RESPONSE TO PENTECOST (2:5-13)

- A. Jewish people (2:5) from throughout the Roman and Parthian worlds would gather for the three main feasts (Tabernacles, Passover and Pentecost).
- B. As the believers were speaking, each pilgrim in the crowd recognized the language or dialect from his own country (2:6).
- C. The disciples were Galileans who spoke with a distinct regional accent and were considered to be unsophisticated and uneducated by the southern Judean Jews (MacArthur 1435)
- D. Because of this, when Galileans were heard speaking so many different languages, the others were amazed and astonished (2:7).
- E. Those who were speaking so many different languages were declaring the mighty works of God (2:11).

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<sup>3</sup> For more about the issue of speaking in tongues, go to <https://www.gotquestions.blog/gift-of-speaking-in-tongues.html>

#### **IV. PETER EXPLAINS PENTECOST (2:14-36)**

- A. Pentecost means Joel's OT prophecy has been fulfilled (2:16).
- B. Pentecost means everyone can know God intimately and should make him known faithfully (2:17b-21).

#### **V. THE RESPONSE TO PETER'S EXPLANATION (2:37-38)**

- A. Peter's listeners were stunned by his indictment that they had killed their Messiah (cf. 2:23).
- B. Peter calls his listeners to repent (2:38). To repent generally refers to a change of mind and to turn from sin to God (1Thess 1:9).
- C. However, Peter is calling these people, who rejected Jesus (Acts 2:36), to change their minds and acknowledge that He is indeed "Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36).
- D. Peter is calling the people to change their minds, to abhor their past rejection of Christ, and to embrace faith in Him as both Messiah and Savior."<sup>4</sup>

#### **VI. THE INCLUSION OF GENTILES (2:39-41)**

- A. Gentiles would also share in the blessings of salvation (2:39).
- B. About 3,000 people who received the word, believed what Peter was preaching, were baptized (2:41).

#### *Resources used in this study*

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MacArthur, John. *The MacArthur Bible Commentary*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2005.

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<sup>4</sup> Houdman, "What is repentance and why is it necessary for salvation?"; <https://www.gotquestions.org/repentance.html>