

Acts #3 (5.10.20) # 20035
The Promise of the Father
Acts 2:1-13

I. What is God doing in the world? It takes a crisis for people to ask that question...

A. The story arc of the Bible is the account of how God is taking his fallen world back under his personal lordship and grace. Reuniting us with Him and saving us forever.

1. Creation, Fall, Redemption, Renovation/Resurrection

II. In the OT there are several specific promises that God would save and share his own life with people who belong to him.

A. The OT prophets told of a coming wholesale work of God's Spirit.

1. **Jer. 31:31-34.** I will make a new covenant and write my word/torah/instruction on their hearts...Forgive them for everything, know them personally (be their God)
2. **Ezekiel 36:24-28.** I will cleanse you, give you a new heart, put my Spirit in you.
3. **Joel 2:28-30.** I will pour out my Spirit on all kinds of people, male and female, and they will speak for me (prophesy) and receive from me (dreams and visions).

B. Jesus and John the Baptist said that people would be immersed in God's Spirit.

1. **John the B. Luke 3:16-17.** He will baptize you with Spirit and fire ...

(1) *Note: John the B is the last of the OT prophets and he and Jesus stand together.*

2. **Jesus before the Cross.**

a) **Jn. 7:37-39.** Out of his inner being will flow rivers of living water (Isa 12:3)

b) **Jn. 14:16-18; 16:1-15.** The Helper will come in my name ...

3. **Jesus after the Cross**

a) **Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5,8.** The promise of the Father, immersion in God's own life. The Spirit.

III. Acts 2:1-13: The Promise arrives, right on time ...

A. In a specific city—Jerusalem.

1. The most important city in the world and in God's Word. (over 800 times in the Bible)
2. Where God's name dwells. Deut.12:11; 2 Kings 21:4; Joel 3:16-17

B. Among a specific group of people.

1. Disciples of Jesus the Messiah. 120 of them. Jn.1:12-13

C. At a specific moment in history.

1. After the Cross: the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus the Messiah.
2. *Jesus is resurrected and seated now in heaven at the Father's right hand.*

D. On a specific Day—Pentecost. *Because there is a plan that the OT foreshadows (Eph.1:11; Col.2:16ff)*

1. Pentecost: "fiftieth", what to know...

a) 2nd of the three great pilgrim feasts. Lev.23

(1) Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles.

(2) Exactly 50 days after Passover (when Jesus was crucified, buried and resurrected)

b) Beginning of Harvest: (mid-May)

(1) Feast of harvest (early, barley harvest) Feast of Weeks, Feast of Ingathering.

c) Reminder of God's presence with Israel. Ex.20; Deut.5

(1) The commemoration of the giving of the Law to Moses. Ex.20; Deut.5

(2) When God spoke directly of his covenant with Israel, at Sinai.

2. *The OT feasts were pointing beyond themselves to Christ (Co.2:16)*

E. With 3 simultaneous supernatural phenomena that symbolize God's personal presence and a New Covenant Work.

1. Sound: They hear something. Wind...

- a) *Like at Sinai, but joyful instead of frightening*
- b) Symbolizing God's Spirit: Wind/ ruach/ pneuma. s

2. Sight: They see something. Fire...

- a) *Like at Sinai, but drawing people in rather than driving them away.*
- b) Symbolizing God's presence (like the burning bush in Ex.3)
 - (1) Like John the B said (Luke 3:15-17)
- c) *It is individualized, but unifying as well. 1 Cor.12:12-13*

3. Speech: They were enabled to speak about and for the Lord:

- a) *Like at Sinai, but they all receive and communicate God's word rather than just Moses.*
- b) And intended for the whole World. The languages, international.
 - (1) A momentary, symbolic reversal of the curse of Babel. Gen.11 language confusion.
- c) *It's not about "Tongues"—it's about Mission.*

4. Filled with God, The Spirit.

- a) God is now pouring his own life into people through faith in Jesus.
- b) This is what God is doing, and has been doing all along through the gospel.
- c) *Drawn into God's life rather than running from him.*

IV. What does this mean for you and me? Well it depends on who you are...

A. If you are a Christian it means at least two things

- 1. You are spiritually alive forever—guaranteed.
 - a) Titus 3:4-6. He has washed you clean with a new life
 - b) 1 Pet.1:3.23. He has put His DNA in you through the seed of His Word, the Gospel.
- 2. You are called into a Plan that is bigger than you and cannot fail.
 - a) The Word of the Gospel to the whole world.

B. If you are not yet a Christian, it means that eternal Spirit life is being offered to you. You should trust Christ and be born again.

- 1. **Jn.3:3. You must be born again...by believing in Jesus Christ (3:16)**