

Acts 2a

Verses 1-21

1 – 4 The one place was probably the upper room where they had met for the Last Supper and where they chose Matthias. "All" probably means the 120 referred to in the first chapter. It was the day of Pentecost. The Jewish feasts were very significant times for the Jews and the early church. It was a time when Jews from all over the known world came to worship JHWH. Jesus arose from the dead on the day after the Sabbath. It was the same day that a firstfruits sheaf of grain was waved before the Lord. Jesus is therefore referred to as the firstfruits from among the dead (1Corinthians 15:20). Just as they offered the first ripe grain to the Lord in expectation of the coming harvest (Leviticus 23:15), so Jesus was the first and we can expect the full harvest of resurrected souls at the rapture of the church. Fifty days after that grain offering began Pentecost, another firstfruits offering (Leviticus 23:20). This was symbolic of the firstfruits of our inheritance. See 2Corinthians 5:5; Ephesians 1:13-14. The 120 and 3000 were the firstfruits of all believers, the great harvest.

Again we see the sovereignty of God over the details of history and even free will of man. They were gathered continually in prayer on the day God appointed. We can't say it was a result of their prayer, or any other effort of man, but that was included. It was God's appointed time. The 3000 that believed came of their own free will, and yet it was ordained of God that they would come on that day.

The Scripture does not say a wind, but a sound like the blowing of a violent wind. In both Hebrew and Greek, the word "wind" is the same word for "spirit". This heavenly sound was what brought the people together. They wondered what was going on. Ezekiel 43:2 The 120 witnessed a physical manifestation of the Spirit in the form of tongues as of fire, reminiscent of the burning bush.

Jesus ascension and glorification made the way for the Spirit to be poured out. John 7:37-39 Some Scriptures seem to indicate that the baptism of the Spirit is when a person becomes a member of the body of Christ. See 1Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:26,27 Is this different from being filled with the Spirit? Peter was filled a second time in Acts 4:8,31. We are not commanded to be baptized in the Spirit, but we are commanded to be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18 See other places people were filled with the Spirit and spoke in tongues: Acts 8:14-19; 10:44,47; 19:1-7. In Acts these tongues are obviously foreign languages. That is made clear by the context.

5-11 Pentecost is one of the three main feasts of the Jews. The Law requires that the men attend regardless of where they live. The crowd is from all over the known world. They are the serious Jews that believe in keeping the traditions.

Each heard in their own language the mighty acts of God. Some have argued that the miracle was in the hearing. I think they actually spoke the language of the different people groups that were there, as the different regions are listed. The people were amazed that men from Galilee had this ability. John 1:45,46 The Pharisees considered Jesus' followers to be blasphemers. How could they extol the greatness of God and be blasphemers. This praise in the native language of those listening convinced the crowd that these men were devout worshippers just like they were. That prepared the crowd to receive the message.

12-13 Some will refuse the truth even when God presents them with the miraculous. They will come up with some excuse. The excuse of drunkenness is a bit ridiculous, because inebriation causes a loss of speaking ability not an advancement in it. Logic doesn't matter though, they have decided they will not believe. Any excuse make sense to them.

14-21 From the beginning of the church, God has used preaching as the key element in sharing the Gospel and building the church. See 5:42, 8:4 This book of Acts is a book of history and sermons of the early church. They were following Jesus' pattern. Matthew 4:17; Luke 4:43

Peter is no longer cowering behind locked doors, but is speaking out boldly for all to hear. He is probably speaking in Aramaic, the local common language. He began by refuting the false charge of drunkenness with a simple reality, drunkards are asleep at 9AM. Then he connects it with the fulfillment of prophecy, Joel 2:28-32. The last days, or "days to come" are the days in which the Messiah would establish His kingdom. Most of the descriptions are of the physical kingdom in which the government would be on His shoulders, but Peter was starting to understand that it also applied to the kingdom in the hearts of man ushered in by the suffering servant of Isaiah 53. That is the beginning of "the last days". 1Peter 1:20; Hebrews 1:2 What part of the Joel prophecy is yet to come?

The final verse is the simplest salvation message in Scripture. "The name" means all the name represents in authority and character. This abbreviated plan of salvation does not discount the fact that you must repent, as the Holy Spirit makes clear later in the sermon. If anyone calls on Jesus as Master over all, there will be recognition of our past defiance of His will and character.

Thy Kingdom Come

Pouring out the Spirit now: Titus 3:5,6 then Joel 2:28

Kingdom peace now: Philippians 4:7 then Isaiah 9:7

Christ reigns now: Hebrews 13:21 then Philippians 2:9-11

Christ judges now: 1Peter 4:17 then 2Corinthians 5:10