

6 Acts 2:1-24; Deuteronomy 16:9-12

GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR ALL PEOPLE

1. Pray for the Spirit to guide your thinking and provide insights into his Word. Read Acts 2:1-22.
2. What reason did the believers have for staying in Jerusalem (cf. 1:4-5)?
3. In verses 2-4 the Spirit's coming is described in three different ways: audible, visual and speech.

a) Audible

Wind often accompanies God's presence in the OT.

Look up 1 Kings 19:11, Isaiah 66:15, Ezekiel 37:9-14.

What is it about the writer's description of the wind here in Acts 2:2 that speaks to what God is doing and his character?

b) Visual

Fire also often accompanies God's appearance in the OT.

Look up Exodus 3:2; 19:8; 1 Kings 18:38-39; Ezekiel 1:27.

What is distinctive about the fire in Acts 2:3 compared to those mentioned?

c) Speech

What is the significance that 'All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit' and 'they began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them' (v.4)?

4. What did the crowd hear in verses 6-11? What was the miracle?
5. Jews would customarily eat at 'the fourth hour', and especially so on a feast day. So at 9am, (literally 'the third hour', v.15), it was the time for prayer, not drinking wine.

What is the reason Peter gives, drawing on the prophet Joel, for the Spirit's coming and what it points to (v.16-21)?

What action is Peter calling the crowd to (v.21)?

6. The backdrop to the events in Acts 2 was the Feast of Weeks, which always fell fifty days after Passover (cf. Lev 23:16), on a Sunday. Also known as Pentecost (fifty in Greek), it was the second of the three great harvest festivals of Judaism, coming between Passover and Tabernacles.

How was this festival to be celebrated, according to Deuteronomy 16:9-12?

7. How could the backdrop of this Festival perhaps enrich our understanding of God's work at Pentecost and our own response to his abundant blessings in Christ?

8. What role(s) did the Holy Spirit play throughout this Acts 2 Pentecost event?

9. A large emphasis in the way that the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost is that God's Spirit will be poured out on all people (2:17).

Does knowing God's purpose motivate your day-to-day witness of Jesus to those around you of different backgrounds?

If there was a next step you could take to grow in your capacity or desire to witness to others, what might that be?

10. Pray for each other.