

Acts, Chapter Two

1. The Dispensation of the Church began on the first Day of Pentecost following the crucifixion and resurrection (Acts 2:1-4).
 - a. The Apostles and other believers in the upper room in Jerusalem received the filling of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. The Spirit manifested Himself through them with miraculous linguistic ability for Jewish evangelism, and a warning for Jewish unbelievers (1st Cor. 14:21,22 cf. Isa. 28:11(vv.1-13)).
2. The blessing of Tongues on Pentecost provided for the Gospel of Jesus Christ to be proclaimed to the believing Jews who were saved under the Dispensation of Israel (Acts 2:5-41).
 - a. They are “devout men” (εὐλαβῆς #2126 v.5) a term only used of Jewish believers (Lk. 2:25; Acts 2:5; 8:2; 22:12). The noun εὐλάβεια #2124 *reverence*, occurs in Heb. 5:7; 12:28.
 - b. Peter explains that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is a prophesied feature of the coming Kingdom (vv.14-21; Joel 2:28-32).
 - 1) Peter does not claim that Joel 2 is entirely fulfilled by this Acts 2 event.
 - 2) Joel 2 highlights Prophecy, but Acts 2 featured Tongues.
 - 3) Joel 2 indicates a world-wide outpouring of the Holy Spirit, but Acts 2 records a limited outpouring of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles in the upper room, followed by an outpouring upon 3000 additional souls. Subsequent passages in Acts record the progressive outpourings of the Holy Spirit upon believers ignorant of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (4:31; 8:14-17; 9:17; 10:44,45; 11:15; 19:1-7).
 - c. The Jewish believers were pierced to the heart, and ushered into the Church as the Gospel of Jesus Christ was made clear (Acts 2:37-41).
3. The expanding progression of Peter’s addressed audience is an important feature of this chapter.
 - a. Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem (v.14). Recipients of Joel’s prophecy (Joel 2:28-32).
 - 1) Those mindful of the great and awesome day of the Lord (Joel 2:30,31) must look at the present outpouring of the Holy Spirit as something entirely unexpected.
 - 2) This sense of wonder will only grow as it becomes clear that the Gentiles are also recipients of the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:44,45; 11:15-18).
 - b. Men of Israel (v.22). Eyewitnesses to the miracles & wonders & signs of Jesus Christ. Crucifiers of the Christ can take some comfort in the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God (v.23), and yet must immediately change their thinking concerning the One they put to death (v.38).
 - c. Brethren (v.29). Recipients of David’s prophecy (Ps. 16:10). Those who failed to recognize the Greater Son of David must recognize the Resurrection of Jesus Christ as supreme evidence of His office.
 - d. All the house of Israel (v.36). Those still looking forward for their coming Messiah must look back and face the reality that they crucified their Messiah.
4. The Dispensation of the Church is the only economy in the outworking of God the Father’s Grace Eternal Plan of the Ages for the Maximum Glorification of Jesus Christ that required a “matriculation” from one corporate body into another.
 - a. The peculiar term “added” is uniquely employed in this context (Acts 2:41,47; 5:14). “To the church” τῆ ἐκκλησίᾳ occurs in certain Byz. mss. of 2:47.
 - b. Gentile believers continued to be Gentile believers following the call of Abraham.
 - c. Both Jewish believers (Acts 2) and Gentile believers (Acts 10) needed to be ushered into the Church.
 - d. Both Jewish believers and Gentile believers will continue to be such as they are brought into the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ.
5. Following Pentecost, Jerusalem Bible Church[†] established a four-fold pattern of activity (Acts 2:42-47).
 - a. Devotion to Apostolic teaching, fellowship, partaking communion, and corporate prayer.
 - b. Observation of Apostolic miracles, establishing the authority for New Testament Scriptures.
 - c. Mutual financial support for one another in the face of immediate national persecution.
 - d. Daily ministering to one another and witnessing to the lost.

[†] Pastor Bob’s nick-name for the local church of believers at Jerusalem.