



Acts: The Power of the Gospel



Acts Chapter 2

Introduction to Chapter 2

In Acts Chapter One, Jesus told the apostles and others to wait in Jerusalem until they receive the Holy Spirit, then they would have “Power” to be witnesses in Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”



In chapter two, we see the beginning of the church, when the Holy Spirit comes on those in the Upper Room. From there, the Kingdom of God begins its advance on the fallen world, with the “Power” of the Holy Spirit. Through the “Blood” of Christ, the Redeemed are empowered to carry out the work of God. But what is the work of God?

The work of God is to witness the Good News of Redemption to lost and fallen world. What was the purpose of the Holy Spirit? It was to give power to be “My witnesses”. To bring the Good News of salvation to a lost world, without the Holy Spirit, it would just be human effort. With the Holy Spirit, we become an extension of Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit in addition to giving us power, allows fellowship with God, we have a direct line of communication, because God is literally dwelling inside of us, giving unction to our inner person, to make the right choices, transforming us into the image of Christ (2 Cor 3:18). We become the physical and spiritual representative of Jesus in this world; the God of Heaven has chosen to use fallen redeemed human flesh as His instrument to spread the Good News of Salvation. The Holy Spirit ministers to us while we await the completion of redemption.

John 16:4-15

7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

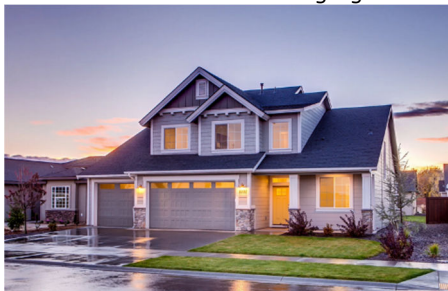
8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;

10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer;

13 When **the Spirit of truth** comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.



A downpayment is a “Guarantee” the buyer completes the transaction

The Holy Spirit serves as God’s Guarantee of Redemption—a promise that believers will ultimately be fully redeemed to God. The Greek word *arrhbon* means “pledge” or “downpayment,” and was used in ancient transactions to signify part of the purchase price paid in advance as assurance that the full amount would be delivered. In this context, the Holy Spirit is God’s downpayment, assuring us that the process of redemption—the act of being saved from sin and brought into right relationship with God—will be completed. As followers of Christ prepare



for their mission to share the Good News, the Holy Spirit not only empowers them but also provides the certainty that their efforts are part of God's larger plan. The goal of Acts is to bring the harvest of souls into God's barns, the barns of the saved. This empowerment and guarantee from the Holy Spirit are not just for life in this world, but are intended to guide believers toward the ultimate goal: entering the eternal Kingdom of God, where God's promises are fully realized.

Ephesians 1:13-14

13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with

the promised Holy Spirit,

14 who is **the guarantee¹ of our inheritance** until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

The Coming Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-13

1 When the day of **Pentecost** arrived, they were all together in **one place**.

2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

4 And they were all filled with the **Holy Spirit** and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.

6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them **speak in his own language**.

7 And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"

8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?

9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome,

11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

13 But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

Verse 1.

In Acts Chapter One, Jesus is taken up 40-days after his resurrection, in the clouds with the angels, the Feast of **Pentecost** takes place on the 50th Day, so there is 10-days between Acts 1 and 2. An important point to understand, there are Seven Feasts prescribed for Israel (Leviticus 23), these feasts are foreshadows of God's plan of redemption. Three of those feasts—Passover, Unleavened Bread, and Firstfruits—took place 50 days before Pentecost and, according to Christian tradition, were fulfilled in the First Advent of Christ through his death, burial, and resurrection. Jesus died on Passover, he was in the grave during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and he was resurrected on the Feast of First Fruits, because he is the "First Fruits" of the Resurrection. Pentecost or The Feast of Weeks is when the "New Grain" of the Wheat harvest is presented before the LORD, two loaves baked in anticipation of the coming harvest. This prefigured the harvest of "souls" being gathered into the Kingdom of God.

7-Feasts of Israel	Date/Gregorian	Leviticus 23	Fulfillment
Feast of Passover	Nisan 14/ March/April	Leviticus 23:4-5	Jesus died as our Passover Lamb
Feast of Unleavened Bread	Nisan 15 March/April	Leviticus 23:6-8	Jesus was in the grave during the Feast of Unleavened Bread
Feast of First	Nisan 16	Leviticus 23:9-14	Jesus resurrected on the Feast of First

¹ ἀρραβών....*arrhabōn* Of Hebrew origin [H6162]; a *pledge*, that is, part of the purchase money or property given in advance as *security* for the rest: - earnest.

Fruits	March/April		Fruits " Barley Harvest"
Feast of Pentecost (Weeks)	Sivan 6 May/June	Leviticus 23:15-22	50-Days later was the Feast of the First Fruits of the " Wheat " harvest
Feast of Trumpets	Tishri 1 Sept/October	Leviticus 23:23-25	Feast of Trumpets, Holy gathering to Israel, (Rapture, Restoration of Israel)
Feast of Atonement	Tishri 10 Sept/October	Leviticus 23:26-32	Day of Atonement, Self affliction, mourning for sins (Tribulation)
Feast of Tabernacles	Tishri 15-21 Sept/October	Leviticus 23:33-44	Celebration, rejoicing in the glory of the Lord (Millennium)

The purpose of the "Power" given in Acts 1:8 is so that "Church" can be Witnesses of Jesus, "my witnesses" to testify of the Good News, the Gospel to the whole world. Jesus equates salvation with God's "Harvest", in John 4, the Samaritan Woman, an outcast, is told about a day when God can be worshipped directly, not in Jerusalem or Samaria but in person. The woman later, goes back into the city of Sychar and tells everyone about Jesus, and the city comes to meet him. He stays there two days, and many believe. Before this, while talking with the disciples Jesus saw the city coming out to meet him, he then tells the disciples, "Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest". Souls for eternity is the harvest for God, proclaiming the Gospel is harvesting God's field.



John 4:28-30

28 So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people,
29 "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?"
30 They went out of the town and were coming to him.

John 4:35-38

35 Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes,

and see that the fields are white for harvest.

36 Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.

37 For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.'

38 I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."



The earthly grain harvest is a type, to illustrate the greater fulfillment of the harvest of souls for the Kingdom of God, another important point is the shared responsibility of the *Sower* (the one who plants the seeds) and the *Reaper* (the one who harvests the seeds), Jesus lets us know both share in the eternal wages benefit for eternal life. This is the focus of Acts, sowing and reaping the fruit of the Gospel for eternal wages.

One place: Acts 1:13 one tells us there were 120, including the apostles, Mary the mother of Jesus and his brothers, they were in the "upper room", probably the same location of the "Last Supper" (Luke 22:12). Because of Passover and the following Feasts of Pentecost, this would have been a rented large hall to host 120 people.

Verse 2-3

While they were gathered, **from heaven, a sound** filled the room, it was about 9 AM, or the "Third hour" of the day (Acts 2:15). They were preparing to eat or they were in prayer, when all their attention was taken by the sound of the wind. It was like a "**rushing wind**", and it did not only get their attention, it drew

attention from Jerusalem as we will see later. In the same way, the rushing wind preceded God's Spirit, Elijah was on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 19:11) and wind broke the rocks, but God still small voice spoke to Elijah and commanded him to go and proclaim His WORD. The commotion of the wind will bring the people to hear Peter proclaim the Gospel.

Fire followed the wind, a fire that did not burn, but was clearly fire, again we see an example of this in a few areas of scripture, on the Mount Sinai, God was in the "Burning Bush" which was not consumed (Exodus 3:2) and Daniel's three friends were tossed into a burning furnace, but were protected by one who is was like the "son of the gods" (Daniel 3:25). As Jesus had power over the sea, and could walk on the water, both fire and wind were subject to the will of God.

Verse 4

The Holy Spirit

Filled with the Holy Spirit: This was not the first time in the world people were filled with the Spirit, but this was a unique time, because now the relationship between God and humanity has changed. God's spirit filled Samson (Judges 14:6), Saul (1 Sam 1:10) and David (1 Sam 16:13), and others, but these fillings were temporary, even David feared losing God's Spirit.

1 Samuel 16:13
13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

Psalms 51:11
11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.



The Upper Room, where the Last Supper and Acts 2 took place

Here is the difference, now the Spirit of God, has come to dwell within the believer for eternity, because of the Blood of Christ, which takes away all sins. Prophets wrote about this day, A day when the **New Covenant**, that would replace the **Mosaic Covenant**. Jeremiah proclaimed this six-hundred years before this day, when the relationship between God and man would change. God promised one day the people of Israel would receive His Spirit. Now, even though the nation rejected Jesus for the time, God was going to pour out His Spirit on the whole world, and in the end times Israel would one day accept him and fulfill this prophecy. Notice in Jeremiah, the promise is to the **House of Israel** and the **House of Judah**, we as Gentiles have been grafted into the promises of Israel. Paul speaks about this in Romans², there will be a national conversion. But their rejection has opened the promises of the New Covenant to the nations, we see this in the Parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14:12-24) and Parable of the Tenants (Matthew 21:33-46).



Jeremiah 31:31-34
31 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,
32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.

² **Romans 11**, Paul says the Gentiles are a wild olive branch grafted into the covenant promises of Israel, until the "fullness of the Gentiles" Romans 11:25...Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26. And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob"; During the Tribulation period, Israel accepts Jesus as Messiah, Christ then returns as the nation will know their Messiah.

33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

In the Upper Room we are seeing the fulfillment of God's promises taking place, the Holy Spirit would come and dwell inside the believer for all eternity. The Holy Spirit is God's downpayment until redemption is complete, not to be removed as it was in the past. This is the point of a "Guarantee", but this is what separated the Holy Spirit's filling in the past from the present, in the past it was temporary, now its eternal.

For this reason, Paul says, our sin can "Grieve" the Spirit, because we are sealed, so the Holy Spirit is with us when we sin. It's the battle between our old nature and our new nature (Romans 6:6, Romans 7:6)

Ephesians 4:30

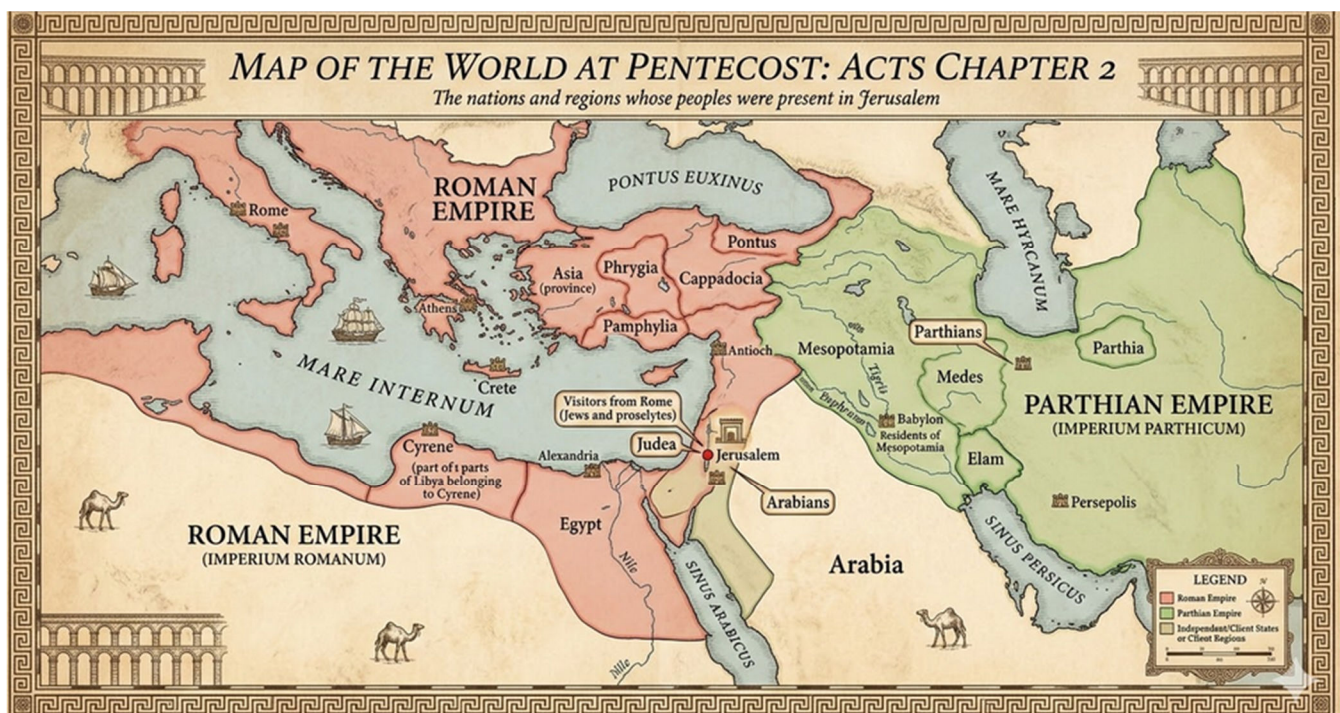
30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Now the time had come, it was time for Kingdom of God to advance on this fallen world, and it started in the Upper Room on the day of Pentecost. The Good News of Salvation needed to be communicated, but there were so many barriers. Language being one of them, but just as God scattered humanity at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11) by confusing the language, He could harvest, by opening communication, so the Good News could be spread. Why did they **speak in other tongues**? Because the harvest of souls was about to begin, and message of the Good News, the Gospel had to be communicated to the lost world. Just like God gave Moses the ability to overcome his stutter (Exodus 4:10), God would give his people the ability to communicate the Gospel.

The Spirit gave them utterance: We are the vehicle God has chosen to communicate the Gospel, but we need to remember, its God not us. This is what we are about to see in the book of Acts, God uses fallen, but redeemed humanity to overcome demonic deception. He advances the Gospel by moving his witnesses and putting them in places to share the Gospel.

Verse 5-13

For Feasts of Passover, Pentecost (Shavout/Weeks) and Tabernacles Jewish males were called to return to Jerusalem and stand before the Lord (Deut 16:16). So, it was **Jews** from all over the world had come



to Jerusalem at this time. Now travel was not easy back then, so by its very nature the people returning would have been **devout men**, who wanted to celebrate the Feasts in obedience. Many might have witnessed the crucifixion of Jesus, many would have heard about his healing and the talk of the resurrection, they would have stayed in Jerusalem after Passover to celebrate the Feast of Weeks. **This sound** of the rushing wind in verse 2 caused alarm and people were probably looking for the source of the sound; it was from the Upper Room. So, meandering through the streets they made their way to the sound, and at its source they saw these men, proclaiming God's works in their **own languages**. They were Jews, and Jewish converts who were visiting Jerusalem from the Greek, Roman and Parthian (Persian) Kingdoms for the Feasts, many heard and saw events that took place 50 days ago, now another strange event was taking place. Galileans speaking in all these foreign languages.

Just as today, people from larger, more cosmopolitan cities often view themselves as more sophisticated than those from rural areas, so too was it two thousand years ago. **Galileans**, people from Galilee, spoke with a distinct dialect and were generally regarded as less educated compared to those from major urban centers. To the astonishment of the crowd, it was these Galileans who were speaking, and they were communicating fluently in a variety of foreign languages.

Parthians: Persia, Iran today	Pontus	Rome
Medes: Kurds	Asia	Jews
Elamites	Phrygia	proselytes
Mesopotamia: Iraq	Pamphylia	Cretans
Judea	Egypt	Arabians
Cappadocia: Northern Turkey	Cyrene	

These men in Jerusalem would have also been men of means, travel was not cheap, so it was more of an elite luxury, so these devout men were higher the socio-economic scale than many of the country Jews. The Roman Empire was very prosperous, so many of these Jews would have been educated in Greek, Roman and Persian culture. Having business and leading positions in their hometowns they would have been the elite, so hearing their languages being spoken by uncultured

country folk they could not help but ask, "**Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?**" they did not understand, how these men could have possibly learned all these languages. What was the source of their learning, "**how is it that we hear, each of us in his own language?**" We see another principle of God at work here: God's get the glory through humble means, God uses the foolish things of this world to confound the wise. (1 Cor. 1:18-31)



1 Corinthians 1:27-29

27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,

29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.



By using these despised Galileans, God gets the glory. Remember two of the main characters in the Book of Acts, **Peter** and **Paul**, would not have met the qualifications to get the job, if applying for the job of "Chief" Christian evangelist. Peter was a cursing fisherman, who speaks before he thinks, who ran when questioned by a servant girl. Paul, formerly known as Saul, was a educated Pharisee who not only rejected Jesus, but actively killed Christians. He in fact was on a Christian hunting mission to Damascus when Jesus called him. Why would God choose to use these misfits for the Kingdom? Because God get the glory, its not through human skill or effort, but by the Spirit of God.

In our own tongues: So, God had opened the mouth of these Galileans, to communicate outside of their language. This is not the same as the "Tongues" of I Corinthians 14:5-39³, this is fully recognizable language, versus the tongues of Corinthians which is a "spiritual language" requiring interpretation. This was literally the opposite of the Tower of Babel, when

God confused and scattered humanity by language, here he is gathering and uniting humanity for the purpose of spreading the Good News of Salvation.

What does this mean: One of the methods of spreading the Gospel is to draw attention, then explain the situation. The status quo keeps us in non-reactive state, we just coast along in our thoughts and actions in life. First the sound pulled people to the site, second once they arrived, they saw Galileans talking in foreign languages that would have taken years to learn. This broke the status quo, this gave Holy Spirit filled Peter the perfect chance to explain the Gospel, to this massive throng of people.



Jesus used soil to show the different responses to the Gospel, the Good Soil produced and abundant crop of 30,60 or 100-fold

Others mocking: Human beings are the same today as they were yesterday, since the fall of Adam and Eve, the nature of mankind is the same, with a spectrum of thoughts and emotions. In the same group of those amazed are people who mocked, it will be the same throughout the book of Acts, just like it is today. As Peter and Paul presented the Gospel, there were those who responded favorably to the message and those who rejected, mocked and used the message for their own profit. Jesus explained the Gospel was like the "Seed" in the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-9,18-23), falling on different types of soil, everyone will not respond the same way to the Gospel. Like

Peter, our job is to present the Gospel, God does the rest.

³ Tongues: 1Co 14:2 For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.

Verse 14-41

Peter's Sermon at Pentecost

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.

15 For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

17 "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

18 even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

19 And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;

20 the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

21 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—

23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

25 For David says concerning him,

"I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope.

27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption.

28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

29 "Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

30 Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne,

31 he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption.

32 This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.

33 Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

34 For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

"The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand,

35 until I make your enemies your footstool.'"

Verse 14-35

Peter's Preaching

Here we see a transformed **Peter**, now he is empowered by the Spirit of God, the Peter who ran away for fear, from a servant girl (John 18:16-17), is now like Samson⁴ who tore the lion apart, because the Spirit of God was in him. A huge crowd had gathered as word spread through Jerusalem, it was about **third hour**, or 9 AM, rejecting the accusation being **drunk**, Peter uses the Prophets to validate the identity of Jesus, Acts is one of the first Apologetic⁵ works, along with the Gospels proving the identity and veracity of Jesus the Messiah and His Church based on Bible Prophecy.

⁴ Judges 14:6, it was not Samson who tore the lion is the Spirit of God inside of Samson.. Judges 14:6

⁶ Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and although he had nothing in his hand, he tore the lion in pieces as one tears a young goat. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.

⁵ Apologetics means a "Word of Defense", Acts defends the Gospel and explains the events taking place as fulfilling Bible Prophecy

Quoting from the book of Joel⁶ as his proof text, Peter is going to explain the transition from the current state of man to the redemption, he is presenting the Good News to a Jewish audience using material they are familiar with the Old Testament or Tanakh⁷. The Jewish Bible is the Old Testament, all the books in the Old Testament are the same books in today Jewish Bible.

In his preaching, Peter uses three specific passages from the Old Testament—often called "prooftexts"—including selections from Psalms and the Prophets to support and validate his message about Jesus. He uses **Joel**, to explain the Holy Spirit, showing he foretold such an event, leading to the Kingdom of God. In the last days, God **would pour out my Spirit on all flesh**, before **the Day of the LORD**. Peter shows that everyone will have access to God, even the lowest, **male and female servants**. The Galileans were low the socio-economic latter. Peter is showing how *Bible Prophecy* can be used as an *Apologetic*. He is corresponding current events to what the Bible is saying. The second part of this prophecy will be fulfilled at the Second Coming; **the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood**, Jesus has a similar description in Matthew 24:29-31.

He then quotes from **David** in Psalm 16:8-11, showing how the rejection and death of Jesus would be overturned by the Resurrection, victory over death. Peter continues, David knew that his soul would not be left in Hades⁸ because he would be delivered by the Messiah⁹ or Christ. Again, quoting from Psalm 110:1, Peter shows the Messiah, Jesus would ascend into Heaven and be seated at the "**Right Hand of God**".

Peter is presenting the Good New to a Jewish audience, he is giving them the opportunity to accept or reject Jesus as their Messiah. This is the same message we are called to present to those who God puts around us. God brought the people and created the opportunity to hear the Gospel. Acts is a model for the church, through it God sets a template for how the Gospel is to spread to the nations.

What to Do?



The Prophets presented two pictures of Messiah in scripture, one the Suffering Servant, the other the Conquering King

36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."
 37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"
 38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."
 40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation."
 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Verse 36-41 Pentecost

First Fruits of

Peter then transitions from the message of the Gospel to giving his audience a chance to accept Jesus as Messiah. He is clearly telling them Jesus was the

⁶ The Prophet Joel lived probably during the Second Temple period about 500 BC, he looks forward to the Day of the LORD, when there will be a transition from the kingdoms of this world, to the Kingdom of God.

⁷ The Old Testament is term used by Christians, because we have the New Covenant or Testament, the term (Ta Na Kh) Tanach is the 3 fold division of the Old Testament. Ta = Torah Na-Nebuim (Prophets) Kh-Khatubim (Writings)

⁸ Hades or Hell in some translations, the Hebrew Word is Sheol which means the grave or after life. A fully conscious awareness after death is clearly taught in both Old and New Testament, Jesus tells of Lazarus and the Rich Man (Luke 16:19-31)

⁹ Messiah is the Hebrew word, (מָשִׁיחַ *māshîyach*) Christ is the Greek translation of Messiah (Χριστός *Christos*)

suffering **Christ** who the nation rejected and killed. There are two portraits of Messiah in scripture, one is suffering servant Messiah the other is conquering King Messiah, one person two portraits. In Isaiah 53, the Messiah is killed for the sins of man, Psalm 110 and Daniel 7:9-14, the Messiah is at the right hand of God.

Cut to the heart: Peter's preaching presented the Gospel to over 3000 who had gathered, pulled by the sounds, and the cacophony of language, Peter then showed them their need of salvation, and how David even though he was the forefather of Messiah, still needed to rescue from the Sheol or Hades.

Act 2:27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption

The Greek word for **cut** is *katanussō*, to pierce thoroughly, those who listened to Peter were convicted to the point of surrender, they knew they had a very serious issue, the next question was what to do about it. So they asked Peter and the other apostles.



What shall we do? The presentation of the Gospel should bring conviction, The reason we have "Good News" is because we are in a very bad situation, with only one solution. The solution is the Blood of Jesus Christ, which has paid for sins. We need to acknowledge it and accept it.

Repent and be baptized: Peter instructs the crowd, that they need to Repent, is *metanoeō* which to think different, to change one's mind. Part of belief is to recognize your sin and being willing to change your mindset. Baptism is in obedience to Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20), if you really believe, there will be a change of mind and direction, along with obedience. Baptized is immersion, the old nature is dead and new nature arises.

In the name of Jesus Christ: Everything is accomplished through the blood of Christ, he is the one who gives us authority and the forgiveness because he died on the cross for our sins. He is our kinsman redeemer, who paid the debt we could not pay, God became man to pay our sins, its through this gift have **forgiveness of sins**. Once the transaction of our debt of sin is paid, by accepting the free gift, of salvation, along with the **gift** of the **Holy Spirit**.

For the promise: The promise is for Israel (Jeremiah 31:31) and the whole world, to the ends of the earth, **for all** (Acts 1:8).

Whom the Lord calls to himself: God chooses us, salvation is those called of God.

Romans 8:28-30

28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Those who received his word: We have the freedom to accept or reject, even though we are called, we do not know who is called and who is not called. The act of faith is the validation of the calling, the rejection is the validation of those not called.

Fellowship of the Believers

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,

47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.



They devoted themselves: The early church was unified in purpose and mind, they saw theme, understanding the teachings of Christ, the doctrine of the Kingdom of God, was part of the Great Commission. This included teaching *them to do all that I have commanded you* (Matthew 28:16-20). This would have been the **Apostles teaching** also, since this was part of the Holy Spirit's ministry.

Fellowship, breaking bread and prayers would all have been part of the command of the Great Commission: This would have included discipleship training, *to make disciples of all nations*. How do you make disciples, but training and being around your fellow disciples. The early church was unified in purpose and mind, **All things in common** and **Selling their possession** the good of the group. Some have tried to justify communism on this part of Acts. The followers of Christ were so focused on the Kingdom of God, they were will to put their earthly possessions to the side.

Attending the temple: for now the early Christians were still at the Temple, but as time moved forward, they would understand, how Christ death and resurrection fulfilled what was foreshadowed in the Temple. Hebrews 8 and 9 detail this change.