

**The Acts of the Apostles**

The Journey – 2020  
Jim Hoffman

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The Acts of the Apostles

**THE FEAST OF WEEKS, SHAVUOT  
PENTECOST**



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The Acts of the Apostles

• **Question:** "What is the day of Pentecost?"

• **Answer:** Pentecost is significant in both the Old and New Testaments. "Pentecost" is actually the Greek name for a festival known in the Old Testament as the Feast of Weeks (Leviticus 23:15; Deuteronomy 16:9). The Greek word means "fifty" and refers to the fifty days that have elapsed since the wave offering of Passover. The Feast of Weeks celebrated the end of the grain harvest. Most interesting, however, is its use in Joel and Acts. Looking back to Joel's prophecy (Joel 2:28-32) and forward to the promise of the Holy Spirit in Christ's last words on earth before His ascension into heaven (Acts 1:8), Pentecost signals the beginning of the church age.

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The Acts of the Apostles

- Pentecost might be juxtaposed to the Last Supper.
- In the one the disciples witnessed the end of Messiah’s ministry and in the other they would be part of the birth of the church.
- When we speak of the church in its truest form we are speaking of either a local assembly of believers, or perhaps all the living believers in the world.

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The Acts of the Apostles

- When you see the word “church” in our English bibles you are seeing a translation the Greek word, “ekklesia” which means, “called out ones”.
- Called out of the world for the purpose of evangelizing the world.
- Giving, going, serving, helping, witnessing, leading, teaching and other activities all help to fulfill the mission of the church.

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The Acts of the Apostles

- There are so many things the church could be doing to support the overall mission that literally no believer is without something interesting and meaningful to do.
- There are no small or insignificant roles in the body of Christ, which is another name for the church.
- God, in his divine providence, equipped us at both our natural and spiritual births for our role.

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- Prov 18:16 "A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before the great." ESV
- An application of the above is – because we are all uniquely important to the local body, using your gifts will ensure a spot for you in a ministry.
- At the Bema Seat the judgment criterion will be – what did you do with what you were given?

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The Acts of the Apostles

- Pointing towards Pentecost, John and Jesus said .....
- Luke 3:15 John answered their questions by saying, "I baptize you with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandals. ***He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.***" NLT
- Luke 24:49 "And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. ***But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.***" NLT

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- Acts 2:1 On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. 2 Suddenly, there was a **sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm**, and it filled the house where they were sitting. 3 Then, what looked like **flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them**. 4 And **everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit** and began **speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability**. NLT

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The Acts of the Apostles

•The facts from the text –

- There was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm. (never repeated)
- There were flames or tongues of fire that appeared and settled on all 120 believers. (never repeated)
- All 120 believers were filled (controlled) with the Holy Spirit. (this was repeated in chapters 8, 10, and 19)
- All 120 began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

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The Acts of the Apostles

• Acts 2:5 At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. 6 When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. 7 They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, 8 and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! 9 Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, 10 Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" NLT

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The Acts of the Apostles

- Because of Pentecost, there were Jews and Jewish converts from all over the known world in Jerusalem.
- The "rushing wind", described in verse #2 made such a commotion that many of those in town for Pentecost came running to see what was happening.
- You can imagine their shock and confusion when they heard these Greek speaking Hebrews speaking in the native languages of the visitors in the city.

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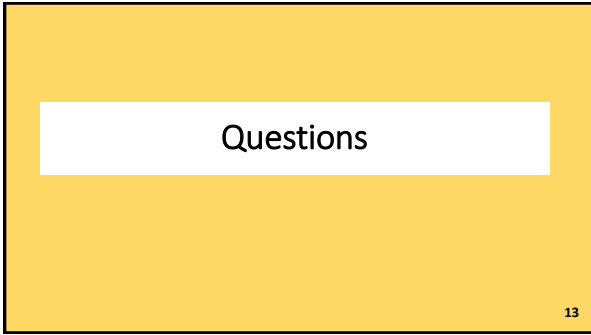
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