

# The Acts of the Apostles

The Journey – 2020

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# The Acts of the Apostles

- His voice is heard above the scream of the wind in the cordage and the conflict of the billows, "Peace, be still!" Can you not hear it? And there is instantly a great calm. "He giveth quietness." Quietness amid the loss of inward consolations. He sometimes withdraws these, because we make too much of them. We are tempted to look at our joy, our ecstasies, our transports, or our visions, with too great complacency. Then love for love's sake, withdraws them. But, by His grace, He leads us to distinguish between them and Himself. He draws nigh, and whispers the assurance of His presence. Thus an infinite calm comes to keep our heart and mind. "He giveth quietness." (Cowman)

# 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

# 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.

# The Acts of the Apostles

- Many had been to Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost in previous years, but this never happened before.
- In fact, the out-of-towners were probably more than aware of the language barriers in the past years.
- But on this Pentecost, something was different – they could hear a mighty rushing wind, they could see flames of fire resting on the speakers, and they could hear of the wonderful works of God in their own language.

# The Acts of the Apostles

- A direct quote from the visitors, “And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!”
- Be careful at this point that you do not get so focused on how the message was being delivered that you miss the significance of the message.
- In a sense the other baptism that happened that day was the world being baptized with the gospel.

# The Acts of the Apostles

- As I've mentioned before – the 120 will begin to preach a new message that would threaten the existing systems of religion; all of them!
- It should not surprise us that God would initiate such a dramatic demonstration of His presence and blessing on the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- The eternities of every person who ever lived or will live, all rest on the message – Jesus saves!

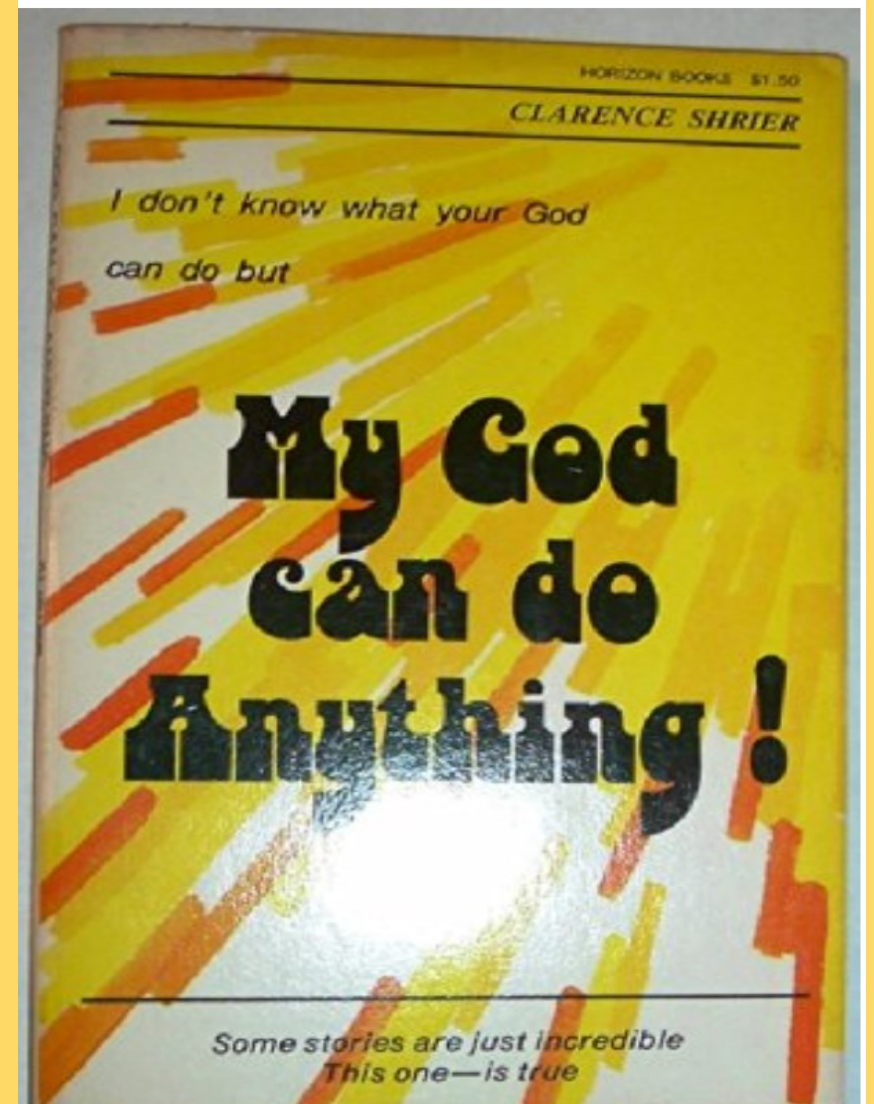
# The Acts of the Apostles

- As the book of The Acts of the Apostles unfolds we do not read of tongues being used to communicate the gospel, but on this day they really mattered!
- On this day, God was breaking new ground – the world was receiving the gospel of Jesus Christ in an unforgettable way.
- Not all believed, but all would go back to their hometowns with a story to tell that would grab the attention of their neighbors. (wind, fire, and languages)



# The Acts of the Apostles

- Paul's missionary journeys were through the Roman world where Greek was the common language of the day.
- Today, there are a few common languages in the world, and at times tongues are used to preach the gospel.



# The Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 2:12 They stood there amazed and perplexed. “What can this mean?” they asked each other. 13 **But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, “They’re just drunk, that’s all!”** 14 Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, “Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. 15 These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o’clock in the morning is much too early for that.....

# The Acts of the Apostles

- 16 No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel: 17 **'In the last days,'** God says, **'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.** Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. 18 **In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants**—men and women alike—and they will prophesy. 19 **And I will cause wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below**— blood and fire and clouds of smoke. 20 The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and glorious day of the Lord arrives. 21 But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' NLT

# The Acts of the Apostles

- Some of the initial reactions to the coming of the Holy Spirit were ridicule, “they’re drunk!”.
- This is what the natural man does when he does not know how to handle something new – he makes fun of it!
- Peter says, “not so, it’s just 9 o’clock in the morning” – what you are seeing should not surprise you because Joel prophesied about this day.

# The Acts of the Apostles

- Joel prophesied, “in the last days” – yes, the “last days” actually began with the 1<sup>st</sup> coming of Jesus.
- Heb 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in **these last days** spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; NKJV
- If the last days began 2,000 years ago then where are we in history?

# The Acts of the Apostles

- Peter tells the crowd that they are witnessing prophecy being fulfilled – God is pouring out His Spirit on all people.
- If he had said, “I will pour out my Spirit on my people” we might think of being sealed with the Spirit.
- But Joel’s prophecy was, “**I will pour out my Spirit upon all people**” – we should tie this to John 16.

# The Acts of the Apostles

- John 16:7 “But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, **he will convict the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment.**”

NLT

- So in a general sense the Holy Spirit was “poured out” by God on Pentecost to draw all people to himself.

# The Acts of the Apostles

- But there is also a specific application of Joel's prophecy to his people; believers.
- John 14:15 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. 17 He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. **But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.** NLT
- While God the Son and God the Spirit have different roles, they are often inseparable in their essence.



# The Acts of the Apostles

- What about the rest of Joel's prophecy – the signs, the blood, the smoke, the visions, the dreams?
- These were not played out on Pentecost, but they were still valid promises, and would be fulfilled over the “last days”.
- Paul had visions and dreams in his day, some in the Muslim world are receiving dreams, and we also see such phenomena during the Great Tribulation.

# The Acts of the Apostles

- What happened on Pentecost was new – a part of the new covenant; that God would come and dwell in his people.
- Just as Jesus walked with his disciples for 3 years the Holy Spirit will live in us all the days of our lives.
- Heb 13:5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, **“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”** 6 So we may boldly say: “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” NKJV

# The Acts of the Apostles

- Try if you can to take in what this means – God lives in you!  
You are his temple!
- Acts 17:24 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, **does not dwell in temples made with hands.** 25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. NKJV
- He does not dwell in man-made structures – but in us!

# The Acts of the Apostles

- Wherever we go, he goes with us – so not only is he present by virtue of his omnipresence, but he literally lives IN us.
- **He wants to fill us, make us like Jesus, and use us for his glory.**
- Rom 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. NKJV

# The Acts of the Apostles

- And on the first feast of Pentecost after the resurrection, God made a loud and bold statement – all things are new!
- No longer will the message be “stay back, you could get hurt”, but “come unto me”.
- Col 1:27 For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: **Christ lives in you**. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory. NLT

# The Acts of the Apostles

- **Summary so far:**

- On Pentecost the Holy Spirit came to stay.
- On Pentecost every believer was filled with the Spirit and spoke in languages they had never learned.
- On Pentecost the world saw a demonstration of God working through his people.
- On Pentecost, the church was born!

# Questions