

Acts 2:1-13

The dawning of the Holy Spirit's power in and through the church



Power from the Holy Spirit produces bold communication (2:1-4)



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

- *Pentecost - fiftieth*
 - Pentecost is fifty days from Passover
 - It is 50 days since the crucifixion of Jesus
 - It is 10 days since His ascension
- This group of 120 spent the past 10 days puzzled, possibly fearful, prayerful, and anticipating the promise of the Holy Spirit

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

- As they are praying and waiting the sound of wind fills the room

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

- They see small flames of fire appear and then these flames stop and burn above each of them
- Scripture at times pictures the presence of God with fire
- “*each one of them*” - God is doing something corporately, but also individually
- Peter will say in his message to the Jews, this is what the prophet Joel predicted
 - Joel 2:28-29
- The gift of the Spirit of God comes to all the people of God in the New Covenant

Power from the Holy Spirit produces bold communication (2:1-4)



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

- What the fire typified became a reality within each of them
- No longer puzzled and fearful, they come down from the upper room and begin to communicate with the people gathered for Pentecost openly and boldly
 - Acts records that bold communication is evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit
 - After healing the lame man, Peter addresses the hostile Jewish religious leaders who want him to stop sharing about Jesus
 - Acts 4:8
 - Following being ordered to remain silent, the church prays together for boldness
 - Acts 4:31
 - When Paul's gospel ministry is opposed by Elymas the magician, the Spirit of God empowers Paul
 - Acts 13:9-10
 - Acts also records empowering for gospel service is evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit
 - Acts 6:3-5
 - Acts 9:17-19
- Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a one-time occurrence for life and salvation
- Being filled with the Holy Spirit is an ongoing repeated occurrence to empower communication and to equip God's people for various types of service

Gospel glory begins with the Jews and spreads to the world (2:9-11)



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

- “*dwelling in Jerusalem*” - temporary occupants who will return to their nations of residence following the Feast of Pentecost
- “*devout men*” - men devoted to the religious practices of Judaism
- “*every nation under heaven*” - a large number of nations are represented
- The streets of Jerusalem are filled with regular visitors who gather for a grand worship celebration in Judaism, the Feast of Pentecost

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

- People walking the streets are drawn toward the Spirit-filled followers of Jesus speaking out in the language of their homeland
- “*bewildered*” - they are confounded by what they are hearing

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

- Folks are shocked
- Galileans may be fluent in Aramaic and Greek, but they are not fluent in all languages of the people now gathered in Jerusalem

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

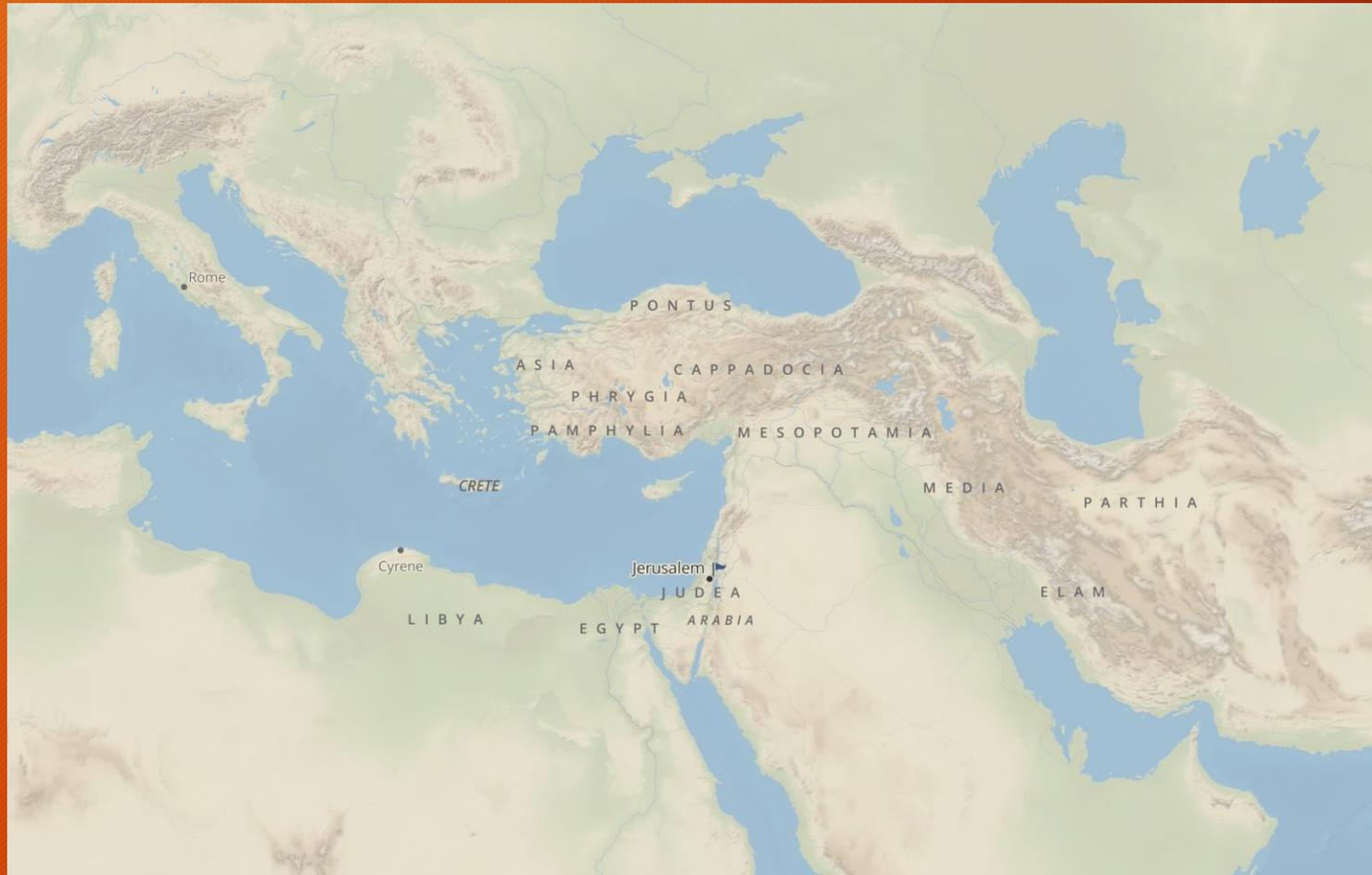
- God’s gift of tongues to His people is making a definite communicative impact
- God is doing what is necessary to get people’s attention

Gospel glory begins with the Jews and spreads to the world (2:9-11)



- *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.”*
- These are traveling worshippers from foreign lands all around Jerusalem

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we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.

- “*the mighty works of God*” - the greatest of God’s mighty works is the provision of His Son as Lord and Savior
 - 1 Corinthians 12:3
 - 1 John 4:2
- Making much of the gospel work of Jesus is declaring the mighty works of God
 - When you share what God’s gospel grace in Jesus has done to transform you, this is declaring the mighty works of God
 - We should all be praying for the filling of the Holy Spirit so that we can joyfully and boldly make much of Jesus has done for us

People will respond differently to the presence and power of the Spirit (2:12-13)



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.”

- When the mighty work of God through Jesus is shared, some take personal inventory
- Others will mock and discount God’s activity
- God causes some to repent while others can only ridicule

Questions to Consider



- Are you asking and actively waiting for the power of the Holy Spirit?
- In what ways are you seeing the Spirit of God granting you boldness to share the great things the Lord has done and is doing for you?
- Will you ask the Lord that in the power of the Holy Spirit He will bring you down from your room and into contact with people with whom you can share?
- Will you entrust the responses of people to God and be faithful regardless the responses?
- Are you prepared that some will respond and some will ridicule?

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