

## Acts 2 – The Kingdom Fulfillment Comes

### I. The Coming of The Spirit (1-13)

#### A. The Fulfillment of The Spirit's Coming (1-4)

##### 1. The Manifestations of God (1-3)

###### a. A Sound From Heaven (1-2)

- i. We are not told specifically what makes the sound
- ii. It sound's like a mighty rushing wind – Luke compares the sound to a rushing wind – it doesn't say there was actually a rushing wind.
- iii. "Wind" here is not the Spirit itself – the word pneuma is not used here.
- iv. It is the sound that fills the house, not wind

###### b. An Appearance of Tongues Like Fire (3)

- i. These visual manifestations look like fire
  - Perhaps a flickering light not necessarily made of actual fire (although possible)
  - Luke describes them "as like" fire
- ii. They are described as "tongues" resting over each believer in anticipation of the gift of speech each would soon experience.
- iii. It is impossible to know the exact appearance of this manifestation

###### c. This is a visual manifestation of the Presence of God

- i. Wind and fire often accompany and symbolize the presence of God in the Old Testament
  - Ex. 3:2, 13:21-22, 14:20, 24; 1 Ki. 19:11-12; Ps. 104:4
- ii. Just as in the Old Testament, the Coming of God's Presence (The Holy Spirit) is seen as a storm of fire and the sound wind
- iii. The episode brings to mind God's presence descending onto Mount Sinai to inaugurate the Old Covenant – Here He comes inaugurating the New Covenant

##### 2. The Effects of the Spirit (4)

###### a. They were filled with the Spirit

- i. The presence of the Spirit didn't just hover in the room – it filled the believers
- ii. Later in Peter's sermon He will explain that the Spirit is the fulfillment of Jesus' ministry – not a separate occurrence from it.
- iii. This is the "Spirit of Prophecy" the Jews expected would be poured out when the Messiah came

###### b. They spoke in other tongues

- i. These are actual unlearned human languages
  - ii. The words are given by the Holy Spirit
    - The miracle was not in the hearers who heard in their own language
    - The miracle was that the Spirit gave them utterance
- 3. This Demonstration Fulfilled the Prophecies of the Old Testament Concerning God's Restoration of His People
- B. The Fulfillment of Israel's Regathering (5-10)
  - 1. Jews Present from Every Nation (5)
    - a. The scene changes to the street where the crowd gathers around the disciples
    - b. Jews gathered in Jerusalem during Pentecost – they were devout Jews who lived in various Roman provinces and cities around the empire. Some estimate that up to 1 million pilgrims visited Jerusalem at Pentecost
  - 2. Jews Heard in their Own Language (6)
    - a. The crowd understood both the languages being spoken and the content of what was being said (v.11)
    - b. Therefore, we should not automatically assume that all the believers spoke at the same time, as if it was one big chaotic display.
    - c. But the crowd's confusion was not yet dispelled. ("Confounded") Peter will stand and explain the event to them in this chapter and his preaching will clarify what is happening and how this is a fulfillment of Christ's ministry
  - 3. Jews Were Amazed Galileans were speaking (7-8)
    - a. Galilee was a backwater region
    - b. They were amazed that these languages were being spoken by these men at this time. They couldn't help but marvel and be amazed at this.
  - 4. Jews Gathered from Nations of Dispersion (9-10)
    - a. Each nation in this list had a sizeable Jewish population, although there are some other nations with large Jewish populations not mentioned
    - b. The point of the list of nations seems to be the regathering of Israel from the dispersion. This was a long awaited fulfillment of promise. Isaiah 11:11-12 says, *11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. 12 And he shall set up an*

*ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.*

- c. The promise of bringing them back under a new covenant is fulfilled (Remember, at this time everyone involved was Jewish)

#### C. Israel's Response to the Spirit's Coming (11-13)

##### 1. They Heard the Mighty Works of God (11)

- a. The content of their speaking in "tongues" was the mighty works of God
- b. Perhaps they were recounting God's history of saving Israel much like Stephen does in Acts 7
- c. They definitely spoke of the fulfillment of God's purposes through Jesus' death and resurrection (Peter will explain this in his sermon)

##### 2. Some were Amazed and Wondered (12)

- a. Many wanted to understand the marvel they saw
- b. They wanted to know what God was doing in all this

##### 3. Some Mocked and Rejected the Word (13)

- a. Others flat out rejected the message and the messengers
- b. They claimed the disciples were simply drunk and foolish

##### 4. We see two responses to God's word here

- a. Remember, all the people understood what was being said – The disciples were not men staggering around talking nonsense
- b. They understood the message and chose to reject it.
- c. Peter will refute their claims in his call to repent

#### II. The First Christian Sermon (14-41)

##### A. The Spirit of Prophecy Has Come (14-21)

##### 1. Peter Call's the Crowd to Listen (14-15)

- a. He addresses them directly
- b. He doesn't beat around the bush but calls them to hear what he is about to proclaim

##### 2. God Has Fulfilled Joel's Prophecy (16-21)

- a. God has poured out His Spirit on all flesh (16-18)
  - i. Peter says, "This is that..." – He connects the events of Jesus' Resurrection and Pentecost with Joel's prophecy
    - In Joel's prophecy, Joel challenges Israel to repent after an invasion of locusts. He warns of worse events coming on "the day of the Lord."
    - The manifestations of sight and sound at Pentecost are the fulfillment of Joel's words

- ii. "In the last days..." Pentecost inaugurated the "last days."
  - In the Prophets, the "last days" will be when Israel returns to the Lord and to the heir of David's throne (Hos. 3:4)
  - The New Testament consistently points to the era of the New Covenant as the "last days."
  - *"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath **in these last days** spoken unto us by his Son.." Heb. 1:1-2*
  - *"Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in **these last times** for you" – 1 Pt. 1:20*
  - *"Little children, it is the **last time**..." 1 Jn 2:18*
- iii. "I will Pour out my Spirit on all flesh"
  - In the OT, the Spirit came upon certain people for certain tasks (see Num. 11:25-29 above)
  - In the New Era, all who trust in Christ receive God's Spirit
  - Later (Acts 11:15-18) he will show that "all flesh" includes Gentiles
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- iv. "Sons and daughters will prophecy...see visions...dream dreams"
  - Prophecy isn't just telling the future, it is hearing from God and speaking His words – As believers we are all "prophets" in this sense. We have his word on our hearts and in our hands.
  - Prophecy often accompanied the Spirit's coming upon a people. Numbers 11:25 - *And the Lord came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.*
  - Later in Numbers 11:29, when Moses is told of another who is prophesying in the camp, He says, *"would God that all the*

*Lord 's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit upon them!"*

NOTE: Does this text mean we should all be interpreting our dreams and seeing visions? I don't think so. God told Israel in Numbers 12:6 how he would speak to their prophets. *"And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream."* Of course, He said He would not speak to Moses in this way (Num. 12:7), but Joel takes this statement and intends to communicate that every person will be a prophet of God when He pours out His Spirit on all flesh.

b. God has shown Great wonders to Validate His Message (19-20)

- i. One view sees these events happening at the crucifixion, resurrection, and Pentecost
  - Blood, fire and vapor of smoke = Jesus' blood at crucifixion, and Pentecost
  - The sun was darkened at the crucifixion as well as an earthquake
  - The full moon may have well risen red the night of Christ's death – some have pointed to a lunar eclipse on April 3, 33AD – but this is just speculation
- ii. Another view is called the "Already / Not yet"
  - This view asserts that Peter quotes Joel's entire prophecy but it is only partially fulfilled
  - The Prophecy has begun and will culminate in the event that happen on "the day of the Lord"
  - In this view, the kingdom is already here, but is not yet consummated in its fulfillment

c. God Has brought the Era of Salvation (21)

- i. Peter comes to His point in saying that everyone who calls upon the Lord's name will be saved
- ii. In Joel's Prophecy, "The Lord" is Yahweh who offers salvation. Peter shows that "the Lord" whose name brings salvation is in fact, Jesus Himself.
- iii. Because the Spirit has come, all people have salvation available to them