

Acts 2:1-11

November 6, 1975

Outside of the Word of God there are no words in any man or woman's vocabulary to describe the ineffable greatness of **Acts chapter 2**. I perhaps have taught this as much as any man living today and yet every time I teach it I'm tremendously humbled. From a human point of view, feeling totally unworthy and yet from a spiritual point of view just exuberantly grateful for the privilege of opening my heart and life and the Word to you in the capacity that God has given us the understanding of this great record. There is no greater privilege in the world than to share the Word of God with somebody. How tremendously The Father's heart must be blessed whenever any of our people share God's Word rightly divided.

The record of **Acts chapter 2** is the record of the greatest thing God ever did up until this time. It is the giving of the new birth; Christ in you the hope of glory. It is making available to people, for the first time, something that God wanted to give ever since **Genesis chapter 3**.

Acts 2:1

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come" – indicates it was in the process of coming ever since the fall of man. God has always done His best but the difference between the true God and the adversary has been through the years that in order for the true God to bring to pass what the innermost desire is on His part, people have to believe. The adversary is simple a possession. If you never knew more than that, you would know more than most of the people living in the world today. In order to receive things from the true God people must get to the point that they believe. Mary gave those words that every time I think about them it sends spiritual chills through my whole body, when she said, "Be it unto me according to Thy Word." What a day of rejoicing in heaven that must have been among the angels when they heard that one. She knew that if the people got a chance at her that they'd execute her. She knew that she'd be totally disgraced and defamed and everything else and yet she made that one statement, "Be it unto me according to Thy Word." There are no words in any man's vocabulary to describe that great woman of God. In **Hebrews 12:4** it says, "Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin." That's a great one but in relationship to what Mary said it's sort of ten percent; knowing that if you really took a stand, you'd have no friends left. They'd spit at you. Your dad and mom would disinherit you. They'd call you a heretic, a fanatic, if they could get a hold of you, they'd put you behind bars. Mary went through that and yet God knew that she wouldn't budge. What a woman. That's what brought this day to pass that starts in **Acts chapter 2**. "When the day of Pentecost was fully come." It had been in the process of coming ever since the fall of man. Through the Old Testament, time and time and time again, you can see some of the greatness manifested but it never "fully came" till this day.

The best that God could do for His people, up until this time, was to adopt them. He adopted Israel as His son. On this particular day the adoption is over with and we have birth. That birth has to remain what it is. In the first birth you are who you are because of the first birth. You cannot change it. You will always, as long as you live, be that individual. When they were born again, that is a birth and they always remained that. This alone ringing in the hearts of people across our nation, rightly divided, would electrify believers today. It'd take a lot of people out of their condemnation and their frustrations.

"they" – the 12 apostles

"with one accord" – unity of purpose They were there doing the same thing, like we are here doing

the same thing. We're not all equally intelligent but we are in one accord. That's what it means. It does not mean that they stayed there and they prayed until they prayed through, or prayed in, The Holy Ghost. They were simply at one place, at one time, in one accord. The one accord was the unity of purpose.

"in one place" - the place was the temple. The hour was the first hour of prayer, corresponding to our 6 a.m.

Acts 2:2

"rushing mighty wind" – heavy breathing

"it" – the sound of this

"filled" – *pleroo* – filled to capacity

"a sound from heaven" – Heaven is any place above earth You got your head in it. This being in here, this sound from heaven or sound from above, reminds me of **Ephesians 1:20-21**, where He said about Jesus Christ that he set him far above all principalities and powers and then in **Ephesians 2:6** He said He did the same for us because we are in Christ. It would be interesting to understand some things from the Word that I don't regarding Noah. It says in **Genesis 7:20** that the mountains were covered with fifteen cubits of water over the whole trip. Why fifteen cubits? I don't know. Everything in the Word of God has a significance and a reason. I'm just not smart enough to know yet. Is that where the "far above all principalities and powers" begin? "There came a sound from heaven as of a heavy breathing."

I don't know if we'll ever find a text, but in accuracy **verse 3** occurred before **verse 2**. "And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind."

"from heaven" – as if it were from heaven. By what the 12 apostles did; a heavy breathing. Why did they go into this heavy breathing? Because there appeared unto them cloven tongues.

Acts 2:3

"cloven tongues" - I don't know what cloven tongues are. If it was split like a flame like we see in the pictures, I do not know but I know that Jesus Christ had instructed his apostles before he left that when this phenomenon would occur, that would be the time. This was their clue; the thing that triggered it for them.

"like as of fire" – it wasn't fire but it was like as of fire.

"it sat" – whenever the Bible uses the word sat it means something is completely complete; finished. On the day after God had finished His work of creation in **Genesis 2:2**, it says, "and God rested the seventh day." The word "rested" in the text is the word "sat." God did not sit because He was tired. The word "sat" is used because He had finished what He had endeavored to do. Here on this great occasion "it sat." There is no other "sitting" in the Word until the gathering together, when we shall be seated at His own right hand.

We're already seated there spiritually but with the gathering together it becomes a concrete reality for all believers. And so shall we ever be with the Lord. All the fullness of God through Jesus Christ was made available that day and everything is completely complete.

Acts 2:2

“the house” – the temple. God had endeavored to do His best for His people through all the centuries. He had chosen Israel and adopted them. Now He is doing the best He can again for His people. It’s the day of Pentecost. He did it in the temple, where He had told them that He would meet them between the cherubims and speak to them. Once more He meets them in that temple but this time, not between the cherubims because the veil in the temple was rent in twain from top to bottom.

“where they were sitting” – they were descent and in order. When I learned this it was a relief to me. I just couldn’t picture myself laying in the aisle and rolling; standing on my head or throwing a song book or standing up and making loud noises like an ox or an ass. I didn’t come out of a family that does stupid stuff like this and yet I had almost came to the point in my quest where I’d have been willing to try it. I was so ashamed of being ashamed and yet I was so hungry for the power of God that I had gotten to the place where I almost said, “Well, I’ll do anything.” I never quite got there but I almost got there. What a day when I learned that God never expects any of His children to be laughed at; to be belittled; to be made fun of; to do stupid things that the world could point at which would be worse than what the world did. How I thank God for the simplicity of His Word and the beauty and the tenderness of receiving that which God has made available.

Acts 2: 4

“filled” – in **verse 2** the word filled is *pleroo*. Here it is *pletho*. *Pletho* is the overflowing. You can not *pletho* until you first *pleroo*.

“began to speak” – they were not possessed. They began to speak. How much different than the teaching, “just give your tongue over to the Spirit,” “let the Spirit have His way with you,” “let Him control you,” – not in the Word.

“as the spirit gave them utterance” – they spoke as the spirit gave them utterance. What they spoke was God’s business, but that they spoke was their business. You have to be born again before you can speak in tongues therefore if anybody is doing something that sounds like speaking in tongues, who is not born again of God’s spirit; it’s got to be possession.

“the Spirit” – the *pneuma* – God. God gave them the utterance, not to their minds but to that spirit which had just been created within them. God is Spirit and can only speak to spirit, but that spirit in you is all through you. You can’t see the Christ within, but you can see the *lambano*-ing. The one and only manifestation that indicates to anybody that you’re born again of God’s spirit is that you speak in tongues. Today we have groups investigating people who speak in tongues. What’s the matter with us? If there’s going to be any investigation, they ought to investigate people who don’t speak in tongues. **I Corinthians 14:5** says, “I would ye all spake with tongues...”, but there’s no Biblical authority left; nobody believes the Bible; it’s just another book not quite as good as Shakespeare. I don’t care what you think about the Word – it’s His Word. Line up with what God thinks about you. Don’t expect God to line up with you.

Get lined up with God and His Word. Someone will say, “Isn’t salvation enough?” Is it? Not if the Word is right. Salvation is wonderful but it’s not enough. On the day of Pentecost, they were not only born again they *lambano*-ed; they manifested; they spoke in tongues. Every major denomination says the church began on the day of Pentecost, then why don’t we do what the church did? If it went out when the apostles died then so did the church, then what do we belong to? All we have to do is read them the Word and say, “Thus saith the Lord.”

Acts 13:51-52

“shook off the dust of their feet” – means they had no animosity.

“filled” – *pleroo* – filled to capacity. They were filled with joy; just happy on the inside. In my terminology they just sat around and held hands.

How wonderful to learn the difference between the Giver and the gift. The gift is “the promise of the Father”, in **Acts 1:4**. It is to be baptized in *pneuma hagion* – **Acts 1:5**. The word baptized is use because it’s a one time deal. **Luke 24:49** says this was to “be endued with power from on high.” The word “endued” means “clothed.” Before this we were naked; no clothes on; dead in trespasses and sins; without God and without hope; men and women of just body and soul. That makes you spiritually naked. Now we’re endued, clothed. When you’re clothed, you’re not half naked or two thirds naked. If you’re clothed, you’re clothed. If it was anything less than eternal life it wouldn’t have said “endued with.”

The phenomenon of Pentecost was the “cloven tongues” because it’s not guaranteed in the Word that every time you’re born again you’re going to have cloven tongues like as of fire on you. The miracle is in what they spoke because on that particular occasion, what Peter spoke Peter did not understand and yet his hearers understood it perfectly.

Acts 2:5

“at” – in

“Jews” – Judeans by religion. The word “Jew” was not in existence then. The bloodline of the Judeans came out of one of the children of Israel only. This one child of Israel had more than one son and it came out of one of those sons that that child had. The children of Reuben were not Judeans. The children of Issachar were not Judeans. The children of Benjamin were not Judeans. These Judeans in **verse 5** were not all out of that bloodline but they were Judeans by religion.

“devout” – religious or pious men. The reason they were dwelling in Jerusalem is because it was the day of Pentecost. Why did God choose Pentecost as the time of the giving of the greatest thing God ever gave? Because Pentecost represents the new grain, new fruit. It reminds me of where the Epistle says you were the firstfruits in Achaia. Pentecost was the first ripe grain of barley; was the time for the feast. Here is the first time anybody is born again and He did at the gathering of the firstfruits of barley. There are three feasts where the religious or pious or devout men of Judean religion were to present themselves in Jerusalem at the temple. This does not mean that every Jewish man, so to speak, was there but if he was a real sincere honest believer, he would be at Jerusalem at this time. These men made three feasts in Jerusalem yearly and they did not have jets or bicycles or automobiles. Those Judeans by religion must have put forth a lot of effort to get there three times a year. That’s why the best of those committed people were there.

“men” – heads of families or households. It is also translated “husband.” These were the devout, pious or religious men who were heads of families.

Acts 2:6

“when this was noised abroad” – the text literally reads, “when this voice having come.” I can understand the translation, “when this was noised abroad.”

“the multitude came together” – the multitude was not there to begin with. The reason the multitude came later was because the “voice” was “noised abroad.” Peter and the other 11 were speaking in languages that were not known to themselves and the ones who heard them ran out and they said, “Come and listen to this. These fellows are doing things that you just can’t do. They’re doing it.” Estrangelo Aramaic was the “lingua franca” of the whole Middle East. Everyone spoke and communicated or could read Estrangelo Aramaic. There were tremendous variations in the various languages or dialects that were in other areas. (You could not put a multitude in an upper room.)

“confounded” – perplexed. They were ‘shook’.

“every man heard them speak” – literally – they heard them speaking, each one.

“speak” – *laleo* – in **I Corinthians 14:34** this word is used regarding women who had the running off of the mouth. They should have been quiet in the church it says. It means a running off of the mouth. They were confounded because that every man heard them running off of the mouth in his own language. The running off of the mouth is the *pletho*, the *lambano*-ing, the manifestation of the Christ in them the hope of glory. As the Spirit gave them utterance, not something they sat and thought through. They just effervesced it. That’s the word *laleo*. It means speaking without reference to that which is spoken.

“heard them speak in his own language” – that’s the miracle of Pentecost.

“language” – *dialektos* – transliterated into our English word “dialectic”, or “dialect.” The believers, who do not believe in speaking in tongues, never use the word “language.” They use the word “dialect” whereby they claim that it was just different shades of expression but they really understood everybody.

Acts 2:7-11

Verses 8-11 are a parenthesis. **Verse 7** could maybe be in the parenthesis but I left it out because of the “Galilaeans.” You could read from **verse 6** to **verse 12** but the reason I do not spiritually believe that **verse 7** can be in a parenthesis is because there is a further explanation of truth before an expounding comes. “Behold are not all these which speak Galilaeans?” – And they were all amazed, **verse 12**. **Verse 7** says, “they were all amazed.” **Verse 12** says, “they were all amazed.”

“amazed” – means flabbergasted. One translation translates it “dumbfounded.” They were amazed at what they were hearing because all these were Galileans.

Acts 2:11

“the wonderful works of God” – speaking in tongues is speaking the wonderful works of God. Doesn’t it seem that all Christians should want to please God by speaking the wonderful works of God? It’s just logical.

We will get to who the Parthians were and the Medes and why are they here in the book of Acts? You will find out that none of the Indians from America were there. Noah’s sons were Ham, Shem and Japheth. You will find in that category, direct descendents of Noah in the listing in **Acts chapter 2**. It sort of ties a lot of things together when the day of Pentecost was fully come. It was in the process of coming ever since the beginning of time. I can back it up at least as far as Noah just from the record of the Word as to who was there that day because the Medes were the Japhethites. The Elamites were direct descendants of Shem. There’s more here than just names. They’re not there just to fill space. They’re there to teach us something. We’ll see the immensity and the greatness of that

occasion because basically no dispersion Judeans were missed on that day of Pentecost so that all

Israel is without excuse. That's the reason. Then **Romans chapter 2** becomes interesting and a few other places.