

Survey of Acts - 02 (Acts 2-4)

Day of Pentecost and the Beginning of the church

Student Copy

1. INTRODUCTION

In Acts 1:4 Jesus told the Apostles that they were to wait in Jerusalem for the promise and to receive power. Acts 1:8 specifically states that they, “*will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.*”

When the Day of Pentecost came, the twelve were given a visible and audible manifestation of the power coming upon them by the Holy Spirit. This was apparently a very noticeable event, not something small. Jews, from many nations, who were living in Jerusalem came to see what was going on, and heard the Apostle’s speaking in foreign tongues. Acts 2:7 states, “*They (the Jews) were amazed and astonished.*” At that time, Peter stood up with the rest of the Apostles and delivered the first Gospel sermon.

Peter’s command in Acts 2:38 to, “*Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit,*” resulted in 3000 souls being saved. It also marked the beginning of the church. Acts 2:41, 47 indicate that those who were being saved were added by the Lord. The King James Version uses the phrase, “*added to the church,*” while the NASB and others state, “*added to their number.*” We will see later in Acts that this group formed the early church. The important point is that those saved were **added to it by God**.

Acts 2:42-47 gives us insight into this early church.

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

The first Gospel sermon was accompanied by the first manifestation of miraculous Spiritual gifts, also referred to as signs, wonders, and miracles. The Apostles spoke in foreign tongues, languages they didn’t know. These words were clearly understood by the people who spoke those languages, those who had come from far countries. Acts 3, presents the second miraculous sign when Peter heals a lame beggar. These signs, and others, were promised in Mark 16:17-20, and affirmed in Acts 5:12. Hebrews 2:1-4 and other passages, teach us that they were designed to demonstrate the power of God, and confirm that the Apostle’s word.

Peter’s second Gospel sermon, recorded in Acts 3:11-26 resulted in more conversions, but it also brought about the first persecution. Peter and John were arrested and put in prison overnight. After being examined and threatened, they were released. During their examination, Peter and John made a powerful statement of resolve. In Acts 4:19-20, “*But Peter and John answered and said to them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.’*” This statement summarizes the attitude, courage, and conviction that will become evident throughout the book of Acts. It also reflects an attitude that we would do well to emulate.

Acts 4 closes with a look at the love and care for one another demonstrated by the early church.

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2. THE DAY OF PENTECOST

1) What does the word PENTECOST mean?

1) _____

2) (1) What IS the Day of Pentecost? (Leviticus 23:15-24). (2) Does the term Pentecost appear in the Old Testament? (3) When was it celebrated?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

3) Give three other names for the Day of Pentecost
(Exodus 23:16; 34:22; Leviticus 23:17; Numbers 28:26; Deuteronomy 16:10)

1) _____

2) _____

3) - _____ -

3. FULFILLEMENT OF THE PROMISE

1) Acts 2:1-4 is clearly the fulfilment of the promise made in Acts 1:8. What were the four things that happened in this passage

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

2) In Acts 2:14-36, Peter quotes from, or refers to; Joel, The Psalms, and 2 Samuel. Provide the Old Testament references.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

3) Peter names the exact time of day that this happened. What was that time?

1) _____

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4. THE FIRST SERMON

1) List four things about Jesus from Peter's sermon

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

2) What did Peter tell the people to do?

- 1) _____

3) The word baptize is a transliteration from the Greek word βαπτίζω (baptizó). Answer the following:

- 1) What does TRANSLITERATION mean? _____

- 2) What does the Greek word βαπτίζω (baptizó) mean? _____

4) Acts 2:37 states, "*they were pierced to the heart.*" Explain why Peter had to tell them to repent in vs 38.

- 1)

5. THE EARLY CHURCH

1) What three things was the early church devoted to?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

2) What did the disciples do day by day in 2:46-47?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

3) Most commentators believe that the breaking of bread in Acts 2:42 means the Lord's Supper while breaking bread in 2:46 is a common meal. Discuss some reasons why this might be the case.

- 1)

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6. ANOTHER SIGN AND THE SECOND GOSPEL SERMON

1) How do we know the person Peter healed in Acts 3:1-10 was really lame (See also Acts 4:16)

1) _____

2) List three key points from Peter's sermon in Acts 3:11-26

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

3) What happened to Peter and John while they were speaking?

1) _____

7. THE FIRST PERSECUTION

1) In spite of the arrest, what was the result of Peter's sermon?

1) _____

2) What did Peter and John answer when threatened and told not to speak of Jesus anymore?

1) _____

3) How did God answer the prayer of the disciples after Peter and John were released?

1) _____

8. THE ATTITUDE OF THE EARLY CHURCH

1) What one attitude permeated the congregation of believers?

1) _____

2) What was the result of this attitude?

1) _____

3) Who are we introduced to in Acts 4:46, and what did he do?

1) _____

2) _____