

## THE GREATEST CHAPTERS OF THE BIBLE-14

### ACTS, CHAPTER 02

#### I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. James D. Bales called Acts, chapter 2 the hub of the Bible (he devoted a book to it).
- B. Acts, chapter 2 records the birthday of the church, and the beginning of the new covenant.
- C. Tonight we approach the chapter by the following outline:
  - 1. A Promised Miracle (2:1-13).
  - 2. A Powerful Sermon (2:14-36).
  - 3. A Pointed Command (2:37-41).
  - 4. A Praiseworthy People (2:42-49).

#### II. A PROMISED MIRACLE (Ac. 2:1-13).

##### A. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit (2:1-4).

[1] The word Pentecost" comes from the Greek *pentakostos* which means fifty. The feast of Pentecost, a holiday unto the Jews was 50 days after the Passover Sabbath. By looking in Lev. 23:15-25 we see the God given directions for this day. It is also known as the "feast of weeks" and the "day of first fruits." The feast of Pentecost (hence, the day of) always came on the first day of the week (Sunday).

This was to be a day of thanksgiving for the harvest (Lev. 23:10) and a day of holy convocation (Num. 28:26). Many scholars attest to the probability of this being the "biggest" holy day celebrated making a perfect setting for many to hear the gospel preached. More Jews took time to celebrate the feast of Pentecost than many other of the Jewish special days. This particular feast now becomes the "birthday of the church" and the giving of the new law (the gospel).

The apostles have gathered together into one place when the time for the Pentecost had been fulfilled. The "they" of 2:1 has as its antecedent the "apostles" of 1:26. The Holy Spirit is about to fall on the apostles, not the 120 disciples mentioned in 1:15.

[2,3] The HS came without warning or preparation; suddenly and there accompanying it was the sound of noise like a violent rushing wind. All of those in the house knew that something was happening but it was not happening to all. The "them" is still the apostles. And unto the apostles who were being baptized in the HS there was a physical manifestation of the miracle: wind and fire.

[4] The HS filled them fulfilling the promise given them and now by miraculous inspiration the apostles could speak in other languages, or tongues. The tongues are known world languages, see 2:6,8.

##### B. The Results of the Baptism (2:5-13).

[5] The men and women were in Jerusalem for the feast of the Pentecost and they had gathered from every nation of the known world.

[6-8] Many heard the sound that accompanied the baptism of the HS and in curiosity gathered when they heard the apostles speak in their own language full well knowing that these Galileans had never studied such a language. The people were amazed because they knew by nationality these man could not be "naturally gifted" to speak in these languages, therefore, further confirming the great miracle.

[9-11] These verses list the various nations represented by the Jews who were attending the feast of Pentecost in Jerusalem.

[12,13] The people hearing and seeing the apostles speak in other known world languages of which they had never studied now gives way from amazement and marveling to great perplexity asking what all of this means.

### III. A POWERFUL SERMON (Ac. 2:14-36).

#### A. Peter's Defense (2:14-21).

**[14,15]** The speaking in tongues is not due to the apostles being drunk with wine. This is true because it is only third hour or 9:00 in the morning. One must also remember that it is a Jewish feast day and the probability of a Jew being drunk on Pentecost almost nil.

**[16]** But the time of the day argument is not the most important for now Peter will say why these things are taking place and it is because the noise heard, the tongues of fire seen and the different languages spoken are all the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy about what is to come to pass. Peter says, "this is that." Joel's prophecy doesn't have a double fulfillment but has been fulfilled once for all and the pouring out of the HS on all mankind allowing miracles to take place happened on this first day of Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus. "This is that."

**[17-21]** The HS is now made available to all men via the pouring out or baptism of on this great day. The pouring on the Gentiles will not be "realized" until sometime later but has happened nevertheless.

To understand this and verses 20,21 cross reference Dan. 9:24-27; Mal. 3:1-3; 4:1-6; Mt. 3:7-11; 11:10-14; Lk. 1:17. These verses in Acts come from Joel 2:28-32. This same imagery is used in Rev. 6:12,13 to speak of the coming judgment. This destruction of Jerusalem (70AD) was also spoken of by X, in Mt. 23:31-24:34.

**[21]** The calling on the name of the Lord will be done by the people in 2:37. Men and women are called by the gospel (2Th. 2:14) and in obeying the words of X and the apostles receive salvation. Men are not to call upon Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, or Solomon for salvation, but upon X.

#### B. The First Gospel Sermon (2:22-36).

**[22-24]** Peter is now to begin preaching to the Jews. He wants to tell them of Jesus and prove that He is the Messiah. Jesus has been crucified, raised and exalted, to the right hand of God. The evidence to be used in proving the claim is that of:

1. Jesus life and miracles.
2. OT prophecy and its fulfillment.
3. The apostles' testimony.
4. The testimony of the HS.

Peter blames the crowd for the death of Jesus because they allowed and chose to put Jesus to death and by the hands of the godless men the act of crucifixion was carried out. It was God's predetermined plan that Jesus die on the cross. It is because of sin and sinfulness that Jesus died on the cross. Jesus conquered death, He was resurrected proving Himself to be the Son of God (Rom. 1:4).

**[25-28]** These passages including 2:25 come from Psa. 16:8-11 and all have application to X, not David. Peter said in 2:25, "For David says of Him," meaning X. 2:27 speaks of Hades, the unseen place of the dead which contains Paradise (Lk. 23:43), the great gulf of separation (Lk. 16:26) and Tartarus (1Pet. 2:4). Jesus body did not undergo decay while it slept in Joseph's tomb both a miracle and a fulfillment of prophecy. Jesus soul or spirit returned to God in the place of Paradise, not heaven (Jn. 20:17).

**[29-31]** As further proof, Peter then exclaims that one can easily see that David's tomb remains, with David's remains still in it showing the prophecy dealt with Jesus. The passage spoken of (the oath God had sworn) is found in 2Sam. 7:11-14. At the time of the resurrection Jesus soul came back from Hades and reunited with His non-decomposed body.

**[32]** How can the people know, how can it be known that Jesus was raised up?

1. Because David said so, and the prophecy is fulfilled.
2. We can know, as they came to know that it is because the apostles are witnesses of this fact. They can and did give eye-witness testimony to the fact that Jesus was raised in bodily form. Twelve eye-witnesses.

**[33]** X is exalted to the right hand of God (Phil. 2:9-11; Heb. 1:3f), and now the apostles have received the HS promised them if Jesus should leave and go to the Father. It is this series of events: The resurrection, ascension, and coming of the HS that you now both see (cloven tongues of fire) and hear (other world languages).

**[34,35]** This quote from the 110th Psalm which shows that Jesus now sits on His throne, ruling over His people and will continue to put all enemies under His subjection. The last enemy to be defeated will be death itself (1Cor. 15:25,26). Jesus rules and sits on His throne in His kingdom now, not later, on earth for 1,000 years as the millennialist would have us believe. If His kingdom is yet to come then none of the enemies of the Godhead have been subdued to be put as a footstool for His feet.

**[36]** Now Peter concludes his four item proof of Jesus to be the promised Messiah and says that one can know with all assurance that Jesus of Nazareth was and still is the Son of God and more importantly to the Jew the promised Messiah of the OT. God has made Jesus Lord (Master) and Christ (king and Messiah).

#### IV. **A POINTED COMMAND (Ac. 2:37-41).**

##### A. Two Command and Two Blessings (2:37-38).

**[37]** These people who have heard the message of Peter are truly sorry for what they have done and ask the apostles what they can do now? They have crucified the One they have waited for so long. Is there any way to get this sin off their souls and rectify the situation?

**[38]** The answer to their question and problem is found here. Peter tells them to do two equally important things; repent and be baptized. This baptism is in the name of Jesus. That is, on the authority of and because of. We obey Jesus and because of Him and what He has done we repent our past sins and are immersed for the forgiveness of sins to receive the gift (the indwelling) of the HS.

##### B. Salvation! (2:39-41).

**[39]** The promise is that which is spoken of in 2:21. The promise that whomever will call upon the name of the Lord by being baptized after repentance will be saved. Those who are afar off are the Gentiles (Eph. 2:11-18). Peter will "fulfill" this claim when he orders the baptisms of Cornelius and his household in 10:47,48.

**[40,41]** Peter continued his pleading and exhortations for all who would receive the message to be saved. By receiving the word men believed so strongly in Peter's message they acted upon it. The actions taken were in accordance with 2:38 with only baptism mentioned here. About 3,000 were added to the number of the saved that day. This means those baptized were added to the twelve apostles and the 120 other believers.

#### V. **A PRAISEWORTHY PEOPLE (Ac. 2:42-49).**

##### A. Four point formula for growth (2:42).

**[42]** Four items of continual devotion. Maturity, strength and increased spirituality comes from listening, learning and obeying the apostles teachings. They shared one with another, their lives, their possessions, their time and their meals thus devoting themselves to the fellowship. The breaking of the bread in this context probably has reference to the LS. And prayer was a very important part of their daily life together.

B. What a Fellowship! (2:43-47).

[43] The apostles continued w/their miracles, but only the apostles worked such. The baptism of 2:38 and the indwelling Spirit mentioned there did not give people the power to do miraculous things.

[44,45] The early Xians were together but many had not planned to stay in Jerusalem past the feast of the Pentecost. Therefore, to help w/necessities many brethren sold some of their possessions shared them with those of their brethren who had need.

[46] These Xians met in the temple to hear instruction and be built up. The breaking of the bread in this context probably means eating meals together and not referring to the LS. This was a time of rejoicing and of great gladness.

[47] Even those not members of the church were delighted at the great change brought about in the lives of those baptized. What a lesson for the church today! Jesus Christ adds people to the church. By believing and obeying one can be added to the number of people saved by the blood of Jesus.

VI. **PENTECOST BEGAN THE FOLLOWING.**

- A. The new covenant (Heb. 8:8; 9:15-17).
- B. Preaching in the name of Jesus (Lk. 24:46ff).
- C. Baptism in the name of Jesus Christ (2:38).
- D. The giving of the HS to all believers (2:38,39).
- E. Christ reigning on David's throne (2:30ff).
- F. The building of the Lord's church through the apostles (Mt. 16:18,19).
- G. The work and worship of the NT Church (2:42-47).

VII. **NEXT WEEK.**

Next week, Romans, Chapter 08.

- A. Freedom from Judgment—No Condemnation (8:1-4).
- B. Freedom from Defeat—No Obligation (8:5-17).
- C. Freedom from Discouragement—No Frustration (8:18-30).
- D. Freedom from Fear—No Separation (8:31-39).