

Copies of Bible Study Class Charts

Presented on 10/14/14

Review

- Last week we completed **Act 1** where we saw:
 - How the prophecies of **Daniel** were being fulfilled by the Ascension of Jesus who called himself the “son of man”
 - The return of Peter and the apostles to the upper room followed by a gathering of the women and the 120 disciples
 - A description of the death of Judas that differed from the one in **Matthew’s** gospel
 - The apostles, led by Peter, selecting Matthias by casting lots as a successor for Judas as he had followed Jesus from his baptism by John to his ascension

Review (Cont)

- We began with a brief look at the beginning of **Acts 2** where we discovered the introduction to the 1st Christian Pentecost:
 - The gathering together of the crowd discussed in Acts 1 who were in Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish feast of Pentecost
 - The importance of the three major Jewish feasts of:
 - Passover
 - Pentecost
 - Booths

Acts 2 (Cont)

- Before we continue to look at the first Pentecost of the Church, lets look back at what happened at the **first Pentecost on Mt Sinai** where Moses received the Law (**Ex 19***)
 - God told Moses to have the people spend three days consecrating themselves in order to meet Him on the mountain
 - Three days later Mt Sinai was on fire with thunder and smoke terrifying the people
 - Moses tells the people what God has commanded and they agree to abide by it
 - God gives Moses **His word** (the 10 commandments) on **2 stone tablets**

Acts 2 (Cont)

This first Pentecost will be followed by:

The disastrous turning of the people of Israel from God to the Golden calf

causing Moses to destroy the tablets, call for the death by the Levites of 3000 men, and a general punishment on the people

- God again gives the tablets to Moses who shows them to the people at the foot of the mountain
- At that time the “**word of God**” for Israel was external, that is it was written **on two stone tablets (Ex 20-40)**

Acts 2 (Cont)

- **Acts 2: 2-3** *“And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind,... tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them”*
 - Look at how this sounds like the events of the 1st Pentecost (**Ex 19**)
 - Throughout scripture wind is often seen as a sign of the Spirit, since the Greek word *pneuma* means both wind and spirit
 - The loud noise, wind, and fire evoke the theophany on Mt Sinai with Moses (**Ex 19:16-19**) and Elijah’s meeting God on the mountain (**1 Kings 19:11-13***)

Acts 2 (Cont)

- At this the New Testament Pentecost:
 - The events are happening in Jerusalem and not on Mt Sinai
 - The fire descends upon the heads of the Apostles and the 120 brethren not on the mountain
 - The word of God resides within the flesh (hearts) of the disciples not on stone tablets
 - This fulfils the prophesy of Jeremiah
 -

Acts 2 (Cont)

- **Jeremiah 31:31-33** Where God promises Jeremiah that *“the days are coming, says the Lord God when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel ...and I will write it upon their hearts”*
 - This was not like the covenant that God made of old on Mt Sinai with Israel when He was the husband of Israel and they later broke His covenant

Acts 2 (Cont)

- **Acts 2:4** *“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other **tongues**, as the spirit gave them utterance”*
 - In this context the Greek word *glossai*, meaning “tongues” is better translated as “languages” as it is the ordinary word used for “languages” in the Old and New Testament
 - Later we will see the use of “tongues” and interpreting of tongues in **1st Cor 12:10***

Acts 2 (Cont)

- **Acts 2:5** *“Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout **men from every nation under heaven**”*
 - He is not speaking of the Eskimos here
 - This is an example of **hyperbole** which can be seen all over the Bible often causing confusion and bizarre theories

Acts 2 (Cont)

- **Acts 2:6-11** *“And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in their own language...we hear them telling in our own **tongues** the mighty works of God”*
 - This means that the listeners were astounded because **they all understood** the Galilean speaking in their respective language
 - The countries listed here cover most of the countries known to exist at that time
 - This is a symbol that the Church will embrace the whole world

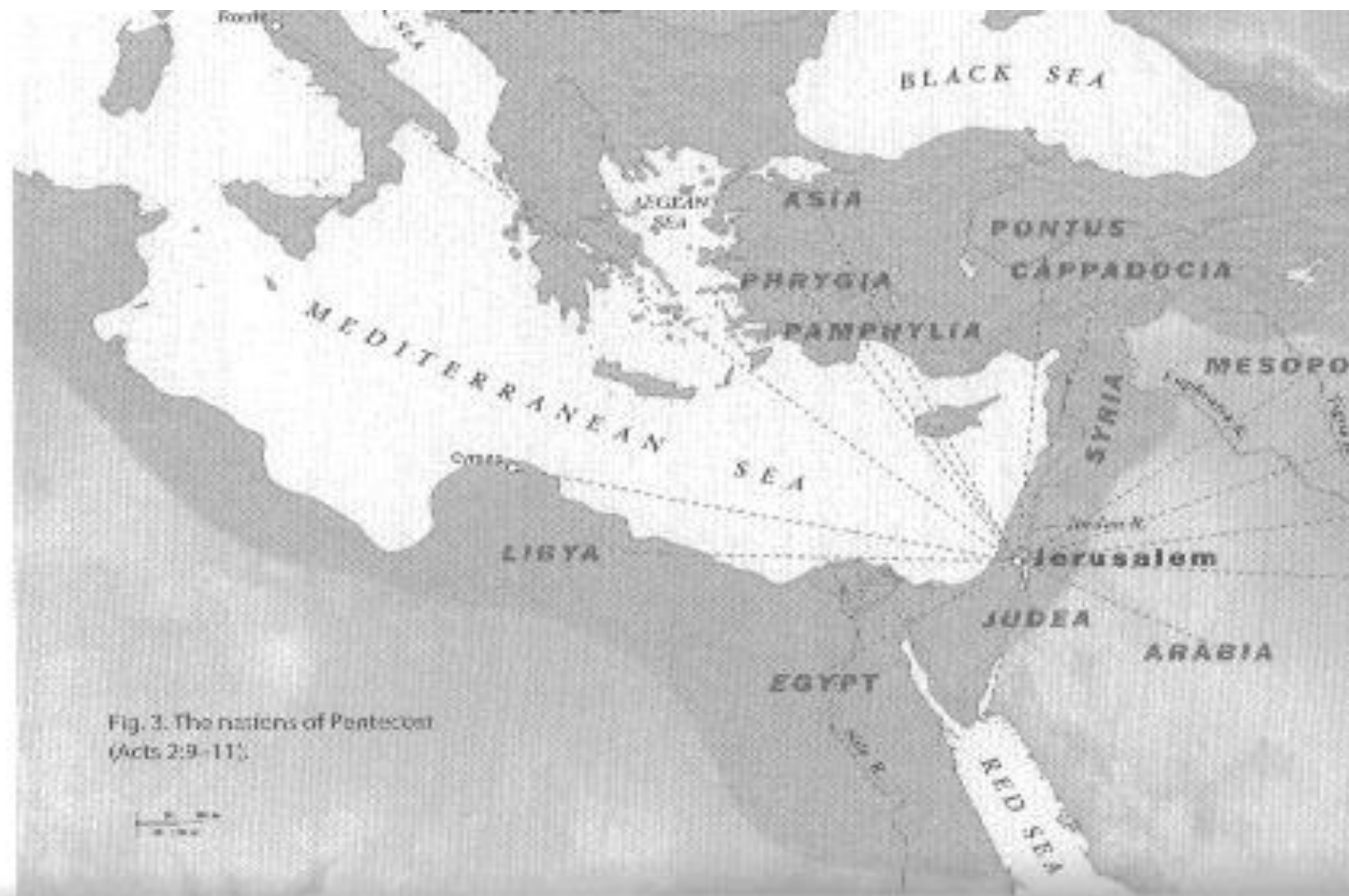


Fig. 3. The nations of Pentecost (Acts 2:9-11).

Acts 2 (Cont)

- **Acts 2:12-13** *“And they were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘what does this mean?’ But others mocking said, ‘They are filled with new wine’”*
 - There is irony in this mockery
 - In the Old Testament new wine was sweet and symbolized joy and abundant blessings that God would give in the Messianic age
 - Here at Pentecost the new wine is the Holy Spirit a gift of God’s love poured into human hearts
 - Although everyone heard this in their own language, look at the different reactions from those who were astounded and bewildered to those who questioned, scoffed and accused the disciples of being drunk

Acts 2 (Cont)

- **Acts 2:14-15** *“But Peter, standing with the eleven lifted up his voice and addressed them, ‘Men of Judah ... since it is only the third hour of the day’*
 - This was 9 A.M. just after breakfast and they would not have been drinking wine
 - We just observed in **Act 2:10** that Luke is speaking of both Jews and proselytes
 - This crowd of “Jews” were there at that time because they had come to Jerusalem to celebrate **the Passover Feast**

Acts 2 (Cont)

- **Acts 2:16-21** *“But this was what was spoken by the prophet Joel: And in the last days it shall be, God declares,...and it shall be that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved”*
 - At first this seems happy and exciting, but you must read the rest of this passage from **Joel 2:28-32***
 - There is a debate among scholars whether Joel was a pre-exilic or post-exilic prophet
 - Most conclude today that he was speaking of events that would arrive after the Exile *(thus he was a post-exilic writer)*

Joel 840 BC Pre Ex or 400 BC Post-exilic

- Joel
 - Was the son of *Pethuel*
 - Exact dates of prophesy are unknown
 - Earlier scholars place him in 8th century B.C.
 - Others see his **ministry after the exile and the dedication of the second Temple (400 B.C.)**
 - Was educated for he included poetry and prose in his works
 - Preached to the people of Judah

Joel

- Has great love for the temple and its spirituality
- Concerned with the spirituality of the priests and the effectiveness of sacrificial offerings and feasts
- Focuses on the way God will overthrow the present state of the world when he comes to bring judgment and salvation on the **Day of Yahweh**

Joel

- Book is divided into two sections:
 - An oracle responding to a terrible plague of locusts ravaging the land of Israel as a way of interpreting how God will overthrow the existing world and bring judgment and salvation
 - A discussion of the “**Day of Yahweh**” when God will pour forth his spirit on all the people

Joel

- Chief themes of his prophetic discourse:
 - Somber warning of the judgment of Yahweh intended to rouse the people from the existing moral lethargy
 - A joyful, glowing expressed tidings of God's work of salvation designed to keep the faith alive in the coming Kingdom of God

Acts 2 (Cont)

- So what are these **last days**?
 - If Joel is post-exilic they are about the **second destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.**
 - So what Peter is saying to the Jews in Jerusalem is that the fulfilment of **Joel** is about to happen and they will be in big trouble unless they call upon the name of the Lord and be saved

Acts 2 (Cont)

- During the first destruction of Jerusalem only those who were left behind were the good people who were monotheist and true worshipers of the one true God
- The rest were killed or taken into Babylon
 - This was prophesied in **Ez 8 – 9*** and **Jr 40***
- Peter is telling them that if they want to be saved when this second destruction of Jerusalem comes they had better call on the name of the Lord

Expanded Summary of the Kerygma

- The promises of God made in the OT have now been fulfilled with the coming of Jesus the Messiah
- Jesus was anointed by God at his baptism as Messiah
- Jesus began his ministry in Galilee after his baptism
- He conducted a beneficent ministry, doing good and performing mighty works by the power of God
- The Messiah was crucified according to the purpose of God

Expanded Summary of the Kerygma (Cont)

- He was raised from the dead and appeared to his disciples
- Jesus was exalted by God and given the name “Lord”
- He gave the Holy Spirit to form the new community of God
- He will come again for judgment and the restoration of all things
- All who hear the message should repent and be baptized

Acts 2 (Cont)

- **Acts 2:22** *“Men of Israel, here these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourself know”*
 - Notice the stark contrast in what Peter is presenting here:
 - God did one thing and you (his listeners) did something else
 - You are on the wrong side of the fence and are therefore in big trouble
 - This Jesus, whom God revealed to you, you delivered up
 - You crucified and killed him but God raised him up and loosed the pains of death
 - You killed him but God raised him

Acts 2 (Cont)

- **Acts 2:24-31** *But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it...For he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ”*
 - What Peter is doing at this point is reciting one of the Psalms of David’s (**Ps 16:8-11***)
 - David sang this and many other Psalms which focused on his life and how God protected and saved him in battle
 - But the early Christians see the Psalms of David not only being about him but are a prophesy of something in the future
 - They see Jesus as the new David who is fulfilling the promise of **2 Sam 7**
 - If you take the Psalm literally it cannot be about David because he is dead, therefore someone else must fulfill this Psalm and that is the resurrected Jesus

Acts 2 (Cont)

- **Acts 2:32-35** *“This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit...The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand till I make thy enemy a stool for thy feet”*
 - Peter is quoting **Ps 110:1***
 - He will quote from this psalm many times in the future

Acts 2 (Cont)

- **Acts 2:36** *“Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ”*
 - Luke is stating that what the Jews had done was a very bad move
 - He reminded them that God did this and you did that!
 - They were therefore not in line with God’s plan
 - Their only hope for salvation was to **call on the name of the Lord and be saved** or they would bring about the wrath of God upon Jerusalem where they would die

Acts 2 (Cont)

- **Acts 2:37** *“Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brethren what shall we do?’”*
 - This is a sign that the Holy Spirit convinced their consciences of sin and opened their hearts to believe Peter’s message
 - Again, we see the special role of Peter as leader of the group

Acts 2 (Cont)

- **Acts 2: 38** *“And Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall received the gift of the Holy Spirit’”*
 - Notice the central role of Baptism
 - Which brings about a two fold process:
 - First the forgiveness of sins
 - Followed by the receipt of the Holy Spirit
 - How many of us celebrate the date of our and/or our children’s baptism?

Acts 2 (Cont)

- **Acts 2:39-40** *“For the promise is to you and your children and to all that are far off, every one whom the Lord God calls to him. And he testified with many other words and exhorted them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this crooked generation’”*
 - Look back to **Acts 2:21** where it says that all who call on the Lord shall be saved
 - He is talking about something that is very real to them (not an altar call) for Jerusalem is about to be destroyed
 - The prophet had said that this was going to happen
 - Peter is preaching to his brethren, fellow countrymen calling them to repent and be baptized and save themselves from the crooked generation

Acts 2 (Cont)

- **Acts 2:41** *“So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls”*
 - Why 3000?
 - This makes us think about what happened at the 1st Pentecost where the **3000 Israelites** who participated in the **worship of the golden calf** were put to death by the tribe of Levi
 - The people of Israel saw this as second only to the **fall of Adam and Eve**
 - Here we have **3000 souls going from death to life!**
 - This reflects Luke’s presentation of this being the **new Pentecost**
 - This is the new covenant of life as discussed in **2 Cor 2:16**

Acts 2 (Cont)

- **Acts 2:42** *“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the **breaking of bread** and prayers”*
 - These are all Christian activities so the only ones listening to the Apostles’ teaching are Christians
 - The rest of the people thought that those who followed the dead Messiah were crazy
 - The Christians became a community living together and were dedicated to four very Christian activities:
 - The breaking of the bread – the celebration of the Eucharist
 - Teaching
 - Fellowship
 - Prayer

Acts 2 (Cont)

- **Acts 43-47** *“And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles... And all who believed were together and had all things in common;...And the Lord added to their number day be day those who were being saved”*
 - The Christians in Jerusalem decided to live in common because they all listened to and believed the teaching of the Apostles concerning the fulfilment of the prophesy of Joel
 - They understood that the clock was ticking and God’s wrath was about to descend on Jerusalem

Acts 2 (Cont)

- Jerusalem was destroyed within one generation (40 years) of Jesus' passion
 - Jesus was crucified around 30 A.D. the city was destroyed in 70 A.D
- Those who believed cashed out their properties and agreed to live in common
 - This was a very logical, Christian, and good decision
 - Unfortunately this meant that this community had to rely on the support for the rest of the Churches from Paul's missions
 - This text is often misused by cults to get people to live in common

Transition

- The story continues in Acts 3