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Acts 2

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Acts 2.

Topics.

- The promise of the Father.
- Tongues as of fire rested on each one of them.
- We hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.
- This is what was uttered through the prophet Joel.
- Death could not hold Christ.
- David always saw the Lord before him.
- David's faith was in the resurrection of God's Holy One.
- David did not ascend into the heavens.
- The promise is for you, your children and all who are far off.
- Three thousand received Peter's word and were baptised.

The previous chapter: in the previous chapter the eleven apostles and one hundred and twenty other men and women are gathered together in an upper room for prayer. Peter tells them they have to replace Judas to make up the twelve and Matthias is chosen.

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

ACTS 2:1-4

Divided tongues rested on Each One of Them.

- **Acts 2:1-4:** When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house (All the house in the KJV) where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The Day of Pentecost: the word, Pentecost means fiftieth it was the Jewish Feast of Weeks (also called the Feast of Harvest), it was held on the 50th day after the Feast of Passover. After Jesus ascension he appeared to the disciples for forty days and then ascended to heaven (Acts 1:3) which means the disciples had been gathering together in the upper room for ten days.

The promise of the Father: at the end of the book of Luke just before Jesus ascended to heaven he told the eleven and those with them (Luke 24:33), "To wait in the city of Jerusalem until they are clothed with power from on high when he sends upon them the promise of his Father" (Luke 24:49-52). Since Christ ascension the apostles and those with them have been praying in an upper room in Jerusalem for this day to arrive. The words, "They were all together" (v1) refer to the one hundred and twenty gathered together in the upper room which included the eleven apostles, Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (the son of Alphaeus), Simon (the Zealot) and Judas (the son of James). Jesus brothers and Mary his mother, Mary Magdalene, Joanna,

Mary the mother of James and Salome and no-doubt the two men from the Emmaus village who Jesus appeared to. It is certain Matthias who was selected to replace Judas and Joseph (called Barsabbas) was amongst them (Luke 24:23) and many other men and women who regularly gathered together with the apostles to pray (see Acts 1:13-20 and the following notes).

Tongues: means a language different from their own native language or previously unknown to the speaker. It was a common expression during the earlier ages for the introduction to many older Bibles to begin by saying:

Translated out of the Original Tongues and with the former
Translations diligently compared and revised by
His Majesty's special command A.D 1611

Both the Greek and the English words tongue and language can refer either to the organ of speech in our mouths or the language that is spoken thus the reason languages is often referred to as tongues, i.e., it is the organ (the tongue) that is speaking the language. The following two verses show that the Bible uses the word tongues and languages interchangeably, showing that the word tongues simply means language, Luke writes:

- Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his *own language* (Acts 2:6 KJV)

Then in verse eight Luke states:

- And we hear every man in our *own tongue*, wherein we were born?

NOTICE: they weren't confounded because they couldn't understand what the people were saying, but because they heard them in their own language which those speaking had never learned and yet they understood what they were saying.

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Tongues as of fire rested on each one of them: the phrase, "Tongues as of fire" Does not mean literal tongues of fire descended onto them, it is simply a biblical expression used to depict the power of what is happening that the eye cannot see and what is spiritually taking place in the lives of those receiving this life changing powerful, spiritual and holy gift sent by God and the words, "Tongues as of fire rested on each one of them and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit" (v3-4) shows that this gift fell on everyone in the room and not just the apostles.

The miracle: those that had this gift were not proclaiming revelations or prophecy but telling the people all the mighty miracles and wonders they had seen Christ do with their own eyes while he was with them on earth. The miracle here is not that they were given revelations or prophecy, but that they could proclaim in a different language to their own native language all the glory and wonder they had seen while with Christ.

NOTICE: in this chapter there was no need for anyone to interpret what was being spoken as in (1 Cor. 14) the languages spoken here were clearly understood by those listening.

ACTS 2:5-13

We hear them telling in our own Tongues the Mighty works of God.

- **Acts 2:5-13:** Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.⁷ And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? (Tongue in KJV)⁹ Parthians and

Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome ¹¹both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." ¹²And all (the multitude) were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

The multitude came together: it appears all one hundred and twenty left the upper room and went outside no-doubt with enormous excitement and joy and speaking in language different to their own, remember multitudes from the surrounding area would have known many of the people that came out of the upper room so of course they were stunned when they heard them declaring the glory of God in a language they had not learned. There are over three thousand in the crowd (v41) so it is unlikely each person who had be baptised by the Holy Spirit stood up one by one declaring to the entire crowd the glory of God, it is far more likely that they came out of the house speaking in whatever language they had been gifted with and those who understood the language gathered around them to hear what they were saying, especially those who knew them.

Sixteen different languages: it is estimated that there would have been approximately 16 different languages and dialects there were Jewish pilgrims from the Babylonian dispersion (v9-11) who would have understood Aramaic and Greek the two languages (tongues) spoken in Palestine, but even amongst these two languages there were many different dialects, added to these were foreign proselytes among crowds and Jews and Gentiles from Africa, Egypt Rome and many other places. Today (2011) it is estimated Jews are coming out of 120 nations with one-hundred and eighty-three different languages and dialects.

Filled with new wine: the words, others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine." (v12) means that they thought they had been drinking far too much alcoholic wine and were intoxicated. Those who said this could apply to either of the following two groups of people:

1. To those who did not believe in the God of Israel or His Son so what the one hundred and twenty were saying would appear foolishness to them.
2. To those who belonged to the prideful and hypocritical religious rulers of Jesus generation who did not accept Christ or any of his miracles, but rather saw him as a threat to their legalistic religious empire of power and control over the nation of Israel thus the reason for mocking those who were proclaiming his mighty works.

Was the miracle of tongues in the speaking or the hearing? Some religious teachers argue that the miracle that occurred was not in the speaking but in the hearing of the listeners, but this theory is flawed since it was only the people in the upper room that the power of the Holy Spirit fell upon. Added to this those listening say, "We hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God," showing that the miracle is in the speaking not the listening and Jesus told those in the upper room to wait for the Promise of the Father not the crowds.

ACTS 2:14-21

Peter addresses the Crowd.

- **Acts 2:14-21:** But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. (9am) ¹⁶But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old

men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke ²⁰the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. ²¹And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Peter stands with the eleven and directs his message primarily to the Jews by saying, "Men of Judea and all in Jerusalem" this is because this gift was a sign for the unbelieving Jew to show them that God was now pouring His Spirit out on all flesh meaning Jews and Gentiles (v14-21).

The gift of tongues is not about eternal salvation: it needs to be mentioned; that there are a variety of gifts of the Holy Spirit which all come from the same Spirit which of course is the Spirit of God (1 Cor. 12:4-11) and that there were Jews and Gentiles in the upper room who after receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit were able to speak in languages they had not learned. This gift is not about salvation to eternal life (Acts 2:38), but a sign to the unbelieving Jew that from here on there is no division between Jews and Gentiles and that God was now going to save both Jews and Gentiles alike and in the same fashion i.e., though faith in Christ which is what Peter's following message to the crowd is proclaiming. See the title, "The Commonwealth of Israel" (at the end of this chapter).

Was the gift of the Holy Spirit limited to the twelve apostles? Because of Luke's statement, "Peter stood up with the eleven" (v11) some believe only the apostles received this supernatural gift of speaking a language other than their own native language, but Luke is simply showing that the eleven are in support of Peter. Using this statement to support the theory God only poured out the Holy Spirit's gift of speaking in a foreign language only on the apostles is seriously flawed since Luke tells us "Tongues of fire rested on each one of them (in the room) and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues" (v3-4). Added to this verse seventeen says, "God will pour out His Spirit on all flesh" referring to Jews and Gentiles, men and woman.

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This is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: Joel words, "God will pour out His Spirit on all flesh" primarily means that God will save Jews and Gentiles to eternal life in the same way, i.e., though faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, but obviously embraces the gifts of prophecy, visions and dreams which is clearly seen as we travel through the history of the early church as recorded in the book of Acts which shows certain people were gifted with spiritual gifts for the purpose of building up of the body of Christ.

NOTICE: these gifts are not limited to the men only but also promised to the women, nor are they restricted to men in religious authority or those who are highly educated in the Scriptures, this gift is about showing all mankind that regardless of their birth-right or status in life God will bless them with His eternal Spirit if they are seeking Him (v17-18).

THE FIRST PART OF JOEL'S PROPHECY (JOEL 2:28-32)

Remember at this time the Jews believed they were the holy race with God and viewed the Gentiles as an unclean race without God thus God is using this upper room miracle to shatter the attitude of the Jews toward the Gentiles. Peter is saying the gift of the Holy Spirit that came upon everyone in the upper room was what Joel prophesied would happen when he prophesied "God would pour out His Spirit on all flesh" (Joel 2:28-29) meaning on Jews and Gentiles, men and woman and even their sons and daughters which means that all those gathered in the upper room with the eleven apostles would have received the ability to speak a language other than their own native tongue.

The Holy Spirit: in some circles of religion it is thought that the Holy Spirit is a person because the Spirit is personified as such, but this is simply the language of personification i.e., wisdom is personified as a woman with children, and Jerusalem is personified as a mother with rebellious children yet no-one believes wisdom or Jerusalem are actual women, the Holy Spirit is personified in the same way, we know this because Joel says God will pour out His Spirit (the Holy Spirit) on all flesh and persons are not poured out, God does not give a portion of a person, but he does give a measure of His mind and of His power. God will pour out his Spirit means:

- I will open my heart to you.
- I will make my mind known to you.
- I will pour out my thoughts on you.
- I will make my power available to you.

God's Spirit being poured out carries the idea of God's power, holy intelligence personality, vitalizing inspiring energy, wisdom and knowledge of divine truth being imparted to the believer's heart and mind. In the language of the Jews term, "the Holy Spirit" denotes a divine inspiration.

THE SECOND PART: OF JOEL'S PROPHECY (JOEL 2:28-32)

God will show wonders in the heavens and signs on the earth: Peter cites the following statement of Joel's prophecy which is enormously dramatic and horrifically powerful:

- I will show wonders in the heavens and signs on the earth blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke the sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day" (v19-21).

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The first part of Joel's prophecy began in the upper room with God pouring out the Holy Spirit on all flesh, but now the prophecy transcends to the end of this age as we know it and brings us to the "Great and awesome day of the Lord" (Joel 2:30-32) referring to his return as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth.

Two common thoughts: there are two common thoughts amongst religious scholars as to what Joel's prophetic words, "God will show wonders in the heavens and the earth, there will be blood, fire and columns of smoke and the sun will turn to darkness and the moon to blood" actually mean.

1. That they refer to literal events that will happen prior to the Lord's return, embracing the idea of massive hail storms, tornado's and snow and ice blizzards. Certainly, we have seen the sun being darkened and the moon reddened by the smoke and ashes spewed out from erupting volcanos and airports thousands of miles away shut down because of it thus it is reasoned that these things will continue to increase on a much larger scale until they reach there climax and the Lord returns.
2. Others believe that the language Joel uses is symbolic not literal and refers to the global fall of governments, religious authorities, the collapse the world's monetary system and global trading throwing the entire world in chaos.

Putting the two scenarios' together: there is no need to reject one and accept the other since both the first and second scenarios harmonise with each other and with the Bibles prophecies concerning the condition of the world climate and its weather and its governments, banking system and trade certainly all these things working together are prophesied by

all prophets to bring about the final collapse of this worlds entire system of banking, trade, profit and money which is the god of this world. Added to this when the events of the first scenarios begin to take place on a grand scale global governments and world trade would automatically collapse as a result of the disasters, destruction, deaths and diseases that would follow.

Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved:

Joel's words, "It shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Joel 2:32) means that from the time of Christ's death and resurrection whoever calls upon the name of Christ whether they are Jew or Gentile will be saved. Since Christ's resurrection, a person who is a descendant of Abraham and born a Hebrew or Jew has no advantage in regards to eternal salvation over a Gentile, all must come to God through repentance and faith in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

Overview of Joel's prophecy: Joel's prophecy began with the death and resurrection of Christ which brought eternal salvation to all (Jews and Gentiles) who call upon the name of the Lord. The sign miracle of tongues was to testify to the Jews that God was now pouring His Spirit out on the Gentiles as well as the Jews. Then the prophecy travels through time and gives us a snap of signs that will take place prior to the end of this age and the return of the Lord.

ACTS 2:22-33

David a Prophet always saw the Lord at his Right Hand.

- **Acts 2:22-33:** "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know ²³this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵For David says concerning him 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken ²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. ²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. ²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence. ²⁹"Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ (the Holy One) that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

Peters words, "Christ has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing" (v33) Refers to all those from the upper room who have been gifted with the ability to speak in other languages and are now proclaiming with enormous excitement and joy the glory of God and of Christ.

Jesus miracles authenticated he was sent by God: notice it was God working through Christ that did the miracles and that the stunning miracles Jesus performed were to authenticate and testify that he was the prophet to come like Moses, the promised Seed of Abraham and of David, Israel's Messiah the Christ the Son of God and Saviour of the world (v22). No man on earth could do the things Christ did without the full power of God flowing through him, thus his sign miracles evidenced that he was approved of God, sent by God, had God's favour and was God's beloved Son and the one Moses and all the prophet spoke of (John 20:30-31). We know Jesus miracles were to authenticate that he was sent by God the

Father because when John the Baptist was in prison, he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the one who is to come. Jesus answered them with the following words:

- Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me. (Matthew 11:2-6) (Luke 7:18-23).

It is stated in the Old Testament that the Christ will open the eyes of the blind, heal the ears of the deaf, cause the crippled to walk and the mute to speak with joy (Isa 29:1-24) (Isa 35:1-10) (Isa 42:1-10) all the miracles that Jesus did and Jesus when speaking to the Jews said: -

- The works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me and the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard. (John 5:36-37).

Peter's Message: Peter is primarily addressing his message to the Jews we know this because he begins by saying, "You crucified and killed Jesus," but notice even this horror was in the purposed eternal plan and foreknowledge of God (v23) for the salvation of all mankind.

Resting in God's love: some Christians mistakenly determine how much God loves them by their circumstances i.e., if their life is charmed and going well God's love is upon them, but if life is troublesome or they are in suffering circumstances God has withdrawn His love even though they are still confident they are saved to eternal life, but if we judge God's love by this reasoning then when we look at Christ's horrific suffering and his death on the cross we are forced to conclude that God had very little love for his Son but we know this is a ridiculous statement. When we doubt God's love all we have to do is look at what it cost God to save us and why His Son allowed his enemies to cruelly nail him to a cross.

- Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends (John 15:13).

This is what it cost God to reconcile us to Him and what it cost Christ for us to be called his friend. It is not circumstances (good or bad) that determine how much God loves us, but what it cost the Father to save us and the horrific price Jesus had to pay to redeem us.

Death could not hold Christ: notice, "It was not possible for death to hold Jesus" (Acts 2:24) this is because death is a result of the law of sin and death which states, "The wages of sin is death" (Rom 6:23) but Christ was without sin (Heb. 4:15) therefore death had no legal right to hold him in the grave. The Good News of the Gospel for all who trust in Christ is that they have been granted the free gift of God which is:

- Eternal life in the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 6:23), because, the law of the Spirit of life has set them free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death (Rom 8:2).

Thus, the law of sin and death has no power over those who believe in Christ and faithfully follow him. (This is the Good News of the Gospel in a nutshell).

David always saw the Lord before him: even though David was a mighty King and warrior the strength in his life that stopped him falling apart was his faith and his hope, he not only always saw by faith the Lord before him, but saw him at his right hand meaning by faith he trusted in God's promise that in the Christ to come he would be saved to eternal life and that God would not forget him in the grave but raise him to eternal glory so that he would see the eternal royal King the Holy One God had promised would come from his descendants. David knowing, he would die and decay in the grave in contrast to the Holy One was confident that when he was raised to eternal life just being in the presence of Christ would overwhelm him with happiness, gladness and joy (Acts 2:25-32).

David's faith was in the resurrection of God's Holy One: David understood God's eternal plan of salvation was to establish an everlasting Kingdom with a Holy One as King reigning over it. Though David could not have known the name of the future King being a prophet he foresaw that this King called the Holy One would be killed, but before his body could decay in the grave God would raise him to eternal glory. David trusted in Gods promise that He would raise up from one of his descendants a King to reign in Gods eternal Kingdom forever and had no doubt that God would not forget his body in the grave but resurrect him to eternal life and eternal glory. He held these promises ever before him meaning he kept them as the central and dominant thought of his mind and the passion of his heart and it was this hope that kept him joyful (Acts 2:25-32).

Finding happiness and joy in Christ: David's joy came from trusting in God's promise that God would raise him from the dead to eternal life and everlasting glory and that he would stand in the presence of the Christ, Gods promised Holy One and King of the eternal Kingdom. Christians today should find their joy in the same promise that David trusted in by being like David and keeping this glorious eternal promise and hope as the foremost thought of the mind. The apostle Paul says:

- We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye the last trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable and we shall be changed because this perishable body must put on the imperishable and this mortal body must put on immortality therefore be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain. (1 Cor. 15:51-58).

And in his letter to the Thessalonians tells those in Christ not to grieve as others do who have no hope but encourage one another with the following words:

- The Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord (1 Thess. 4:13-18).

The crowds are hearing the gift that Christ received from the Father: at this time Jesus has been resurrected and is seated at the right hand side of his heavenly Father. Peter tells the crowds:

- They are now seeing and hearing the promise of the Holy Spirit that Christ has received from the Father (v33).

This refers to all those from the upper room who have been gifted with the ability to speak in other languages and are now proclaiming with enormous excitement and joy the glory of God and of Christ. The promise of the Holy Spirit is that God would count both Jews and Gentiles who have faith in Christ, righteous apart from religious works and grant them eternal life. The entire focus of Peter's message especially when speaking about David has been the promise that God would raise Christ (the Holy One) from the grave to eternal glory and the hope David had in this promise that he also would be raised from the grave thus the promise Peter has in mind refers to the resurrection and the gift of eternal life, this is the promise that Christ has received. Peter is saying that the promise that the crowd is seeing and hearing is the fulfilment of Joel's prophecy that God would pouring out the Holy Spirit on all flesh (Joel 2:28) meaning Jews and Gentiles alike. God has given the one hundred and twenty in the upper room the ability to speak in a language other than their own to witness and testify that salvation and Gods favour are no longer limited to the Jews, but as Joel spoke:

- It shall come to pass that whoever who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved (Joel 2:32).

This is the beginning of the early church that God is building in Christ by pouring out the Holy Spirit on all flesh meaning that he is saving both Jews and Gentiles in the same way which of course is through repentance and faith in Christ.

David did not ascend into the Heavens.

- **Acts 2:34-40:** For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, "The Lord (Jehovah) said to my Lord Sit at my right hand ³⁵until I make your enemies your footstool." ³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." ³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." ⁴⁰And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation."

Peter focus' on David because all Jews honoured David and held him in high esteem and were looking for the appearing of David's Lord the Holy One to promised to come, so Peter with enormous wisdom and no-inspired by the Holy Spirit cites the following words of David:

- The LORD Jehovah said to my Lord (the Holy One to come): "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool" (Psalm 110:1)

Knowing that all Jews were fully aware of these prophetic words of David, Peter then stuns the crowd by telling them the man they crucified was the Holy 'ONE' to come that David called his Lord, of course the Jewish faithful amongst the crowd were devastated when they heard these words.

The promise is for you, your children and all who are far off: the words, "The promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off (v39), refer to the promise of eternal life and the words, For your children" means the next generation and "For all who are far off" embraces all future generations until Christ returns. The promise in focus is not speaking in another language, that was simply a sign to testify to the unbelieving Jews that the promise is not limited to them only, but embraces both Jews and Gentiles (all flesh). The promise refers to God's promise that He will raise those in Christ from the grave to eternal glory. Everyone regardless of their birthright can receive this promise through repentance and being baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, whoever from the heart does these two things receive forgiveness of sins and the promise of the Holy Spirit which is righteousness (apart from religious works) that led to eternal life in everlasting glory (v38-39).

ACTS 2:41-47

Three Thousand received Peters word and were Baptised.

- **Acts 2:41-47:** So those who received his word were baptised, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. ⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

The three thousand that were saved, daily attended the Temple, studied the apostles' teachings, ate meals in their homes and prayed together and those who had more than they needed sold it and shared it with those who lacked. Notice those that were baptised had favour with all people

(v47) contrasted to the prideful hypocritical religious leaders (the Chief Priests, Pharisees and Scribes) who were only respected amongst their own elitist group. Luke says, "The Lord added day by day new converts to these newly baptised groups" (47) no-doubt one of the reasons for this was because they treated those outside the faith with decency and respect and thereby gained their favour and where sharing the abundance of what they had with those who were in need.

NOTICE: that it is only the apostles that were able to perform miracles and wonders, not the three-thousand they simply watched in awe and that the newly baptised converts were breaking bread together in their homes not the temple. This is because the phrase, "Breaking Bread" carries the idea of sharing a meal in Christ's name, it is about those in Christ gathering for fellowship and enjoying and sharing a meal together wherever they maybe.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL.

Jews and Gentiles become one new nation in Christ: it is important to understand that the promised seed of Abraham and David is Christ, all the promises to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ therefore they are not limited to Israel only but extend and embrace all those who belong to Christ because God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jew and Gentiles. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew). The Apostle Paul said:

- **Ephesians 2:11-22:** Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹²remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the COMMONWEALTH of ISRAEL and STRANGERS to the COVENANTS of PROMISE, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both ONE and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself ONE NEW MAN (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in ONE BODY through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). ¹⁷And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). ¹⁸For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in ONE SPIRIT to the Father. ¹⁹So then you (Gentiles) are NO LONGER strangers and aliens, but you are FELLOW CITIZENS with the SAINTS (the Jews) and members of the HOUSEHOLD of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone ²¹in whom the WHOLE STRUCTURE being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a DWELLING PLACE for GOD by the Spirit.

Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles). In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in status before God since in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world.

The practical application of what this means to you, if you belong to Christ, all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel also apply to YOU. The book of Revelation states:

- When Christ returns in glory every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the tribes of the earth (Rev. 1:7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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