

Learning Guide

Acts 2:1-13

Coming of the Holy Spirit

1 When the **Day of Pentecost** had fully come, **they** were all **with one accord** in **one place**. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it **filled the whole house where they were sitting**. 3 Then there appeared to them **divided tongues**, as of fire, and **one sat upon each of them**. 4 And **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to **speak with other tongues**, as the **Spirit gave them utterance**. (Acts 2:1-4)

Day of Pentecost

Pentecost = "*pentekostos* (πεντηκοστή, 4005), an adjective denoting "fiftieth," is used as a noun, with "day" understood, i. e., the "fiftieth" day after the Passover, counting from the second day of the Feast, Acts 2:1; 20:16; 1 Cor. 16:8. For the divine instructions to Israel see Exod. 23:16; 34:22; Lev. 23:15-21; Num. 28:26-31; Deut. 16:9-11". (W. E. Vine's)

Pentecost or The Feast of Weeks

"And you shall **count** for yourselves **from the day after the Sabbath**, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: **seven Sabbaths shall be completed**. 16 **Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath**; then you shall offer **a new grain offering** to the Lord" (Leviticus 23:15-16, emphasis added).

9 "You shall **count seven weeks** for yourself; **begin to count the seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the grain**. 10 Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the Lord your God blesses you" (Deuteronomy 16:9-10).

Description

—"all your **males** shall appear before the Lord God" (Exodus 23:14-17).

—Just one day long.

—Always on "first day of week"—"count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath" (Leviticus 23:16).

—Came on the "first day of the week" (Sunday), the same day of the week as (1) Jesus' resurrection (Luke 24:1,6-7, 13, 21), (2) Christians met to worship (Acts 20:7), and (3) on which Christians commanded to give (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

—This Pentecost was just ten days after Jesus' ascension: How calculated? Note: fifty days minus the days Jesus "presented Himself alive after His suffering... being seen by them during forty days..." (Acts 1:3).

—Day on which the Church of Christ was established.

Baptism of Holy Spirit

Promised

- "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit ..." (Matthew 3:11; Luke 3:16).
- "this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit..." (John 1:33; 14:15-17).
- "wait for the Promise ..." (Acts 1:4).
- "you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now" (Acts 1: 4-5).
- To the apostles (See context of each promise.)

Fulfilled

- "they" (v 1) = apostles (See Acts 1:2-4, 6, 13).
- "And **they** prayed and said, 'You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show **which of these two** You have chosen 25 to **take part in this ministry** and **apostleship** from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.' 26 And **they** cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was **numbered with the eleven apostles**" (Acts 1:24-26).
- "**they were all filled with the Holy Spirit**" (2:4).
- "as the Spirit gave **them** utterance" (Acts 2:4)
- "**Peter**, standing up **with the eleven**, raised his voice and said to them..." (Acts 2:14).

Table 8
Festivals of Israel

Cycle or Historic Period	Name of Observance	Reference in the Scripture or Apocrypha
Septenary (or cycles of Sabbaths)	Weekly Sabbath	Ex. 20:8-11; 31:12-17; Lev. 23:12
	Seventh New Moon, or Feast of Trumpets	Num. 28:11-15; 29:1-6
	Sabbatic Year, i.e., every seventh year	Ex. 23:10-11; Lev. 25:2-7
	Year of Jubilee	Lev. 25:8-16; 27:16-25
	New Moon	Num. 10:10; 28:11-15
Yearly	Feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread	Ex. 12:1-28; 23:15; Lev. 23:4-8; Num. 28:16-25; Deut. 16:16; 18:1-8
	Pentecost, or Feast of Weeks	Ex. 34:22; Lev. 23:15-16; Num. 28:26; Deut. 16:10, 16
	Day of Atonement	Ex. 30:10-30; Lev. 16:1-34; Num. 29:7-11
	Feast of Booths (Tabernacles)	Lev. 23:34-42; Num. 29:12-38; Deut. 10:13-16; Neh. 8:13-18; John 7:2, 37
Postexilic	Feast of Purim	Esther 9:24-32
	Feast of Dedication	1 Macc. 4:52-59; 2 Macc. 10:5-8; John 10:22

Source of Table: Unger, Merrill Frederick, R. K. Harrison, Howard Frederic Vos, and Cyril J. Barber, eds. *The New Unger's Bible Dictionary*. Rev. and updated ed. Chicago: Moody Press, 1988. P 407. <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/enhancements/fy0609/88009189-d.html>.

The Crowd's Response

5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the **multitude came together**, and were **confused**, because **everyone heard them speak in his own language**. 7 Then they were all **amazed** and **marveled**, saying to one another, "Look, **are not all these who speak Galileans?**" 8 And how is it that we hear, each **in our own language** in which we were born? 9 **Parthians** and **Medes** and **Elamites**, those dwelling in **Mesopotamia**, **Judea** and **Cappadocia**, **Pontus** and **Asia**, 10 **Phrygia** and **Pamphylia**, **Egypt** and the parts of **Libya** adjoining **Cyrene**, visitors from **Rome**, both Jews and proselytes, 11 **Cretans** and **Arabs**—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the **wonderful** works of God." 12 So they were all **amazed** and **perplexed**, saying to one another, "**Whatever could this mean?**" 13 Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine. (Acts 2:5-13)

Multitude.

The crowd was a "**Multitude**" (v 6) of at least 3,000 people (see Acts 2:41).

Languages

Babel (before 2100 BC) "Now the whole earth had one language and one speech... 6 And the Lord said, 'Indeed the people are one and they all have one language ... 7 Come, let Us go down and there **confuse their language**, that they **may not understand one another's speech.**' 8 So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth ..." (Genesis 11:1, 6, 7-8), a major miracle to confuse and disperse people.

Day of Pentecost AD 30 – A major miracle such that the people could say, "we hear them speaking in our own tongues the **wonderful** works of God" (v 11).

Reaction of the Multitude:

- "were confused" (v 6)
- "they were all amazed" (v 7)
- "and marveled" (v7)
- "wonderful works" (v 11)
- "they were all amazed" (v 12)
- "and perplexed" (v 12)
- "Whatever could this mean?" (v 12)

Significance of this Day

- The first gospel sermon preached (Acts 2:14-41).
- The Church of Christ established (Acts 2:41, 47)
- Many prophecies regarding the church fulfilled. (Isaiah 2:2; Daniel 2:44; Matthew 16:18).
- Beginning of something very BIG!

"Whatever could this mean?" (v 12)

- Peter and the eleven explain ... in the next verses!
- "This was the Lord's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes."
—Psalms 118:23

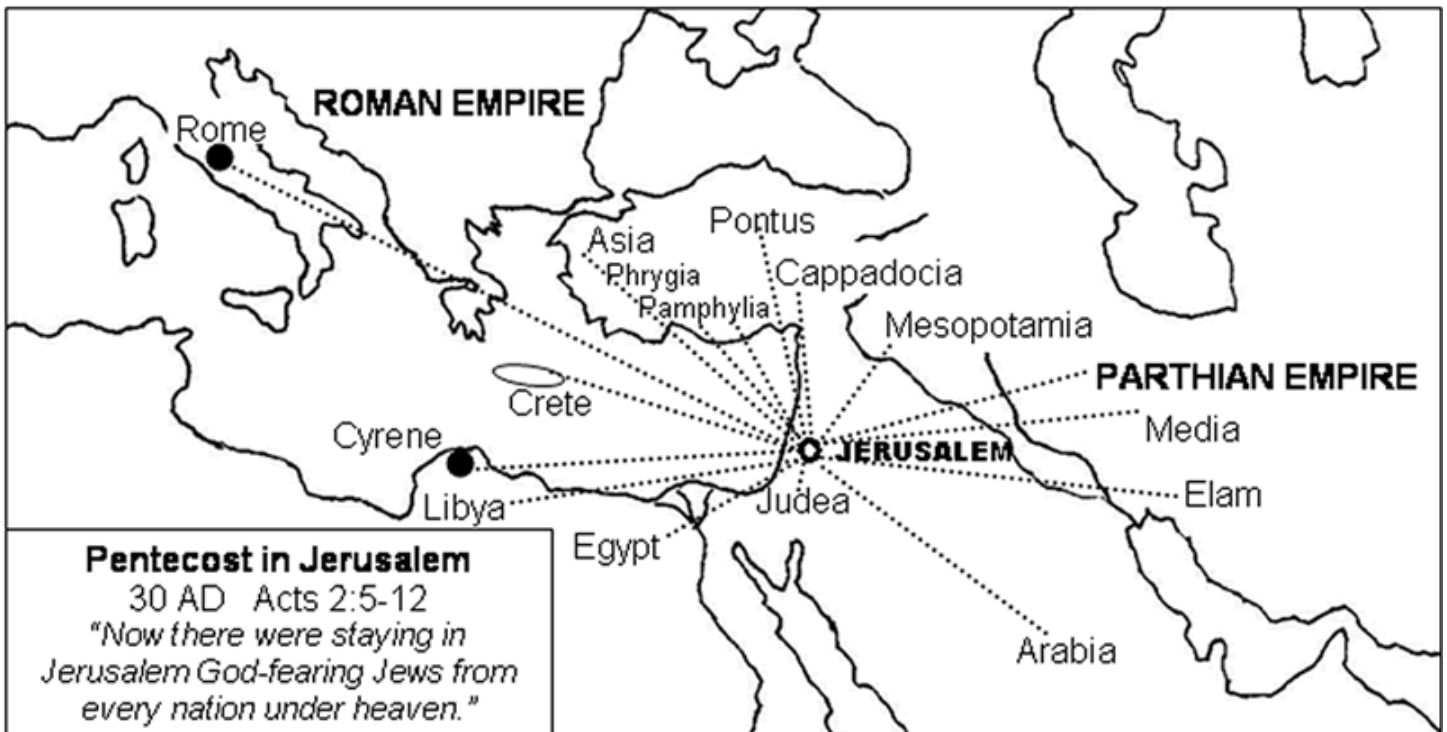


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