

## **THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH**

### **Acts 2:1-13**

Present popular appeal to imitate Pentecost today.

Great demonstration of power

Evidence of God's presence

Thousands come to Christ—*Why don't we see that in OUR church?!!*

**Review Q.1. What is the purpose and message of Acts?**

**Review Q.2. What are the main events described in Acts 1? What does each add to the story Luke wants to tell us?**

*Christ's final instructions to the disciples*

*Promise of the Spirit's coming*

*Christ's ascension*

*Dedication to prayer*

*Selection of a substitute*

## **TESTIMONY IN JERUSALEM 2-8:3**

Testimony of the church to Jesus began in Jerusalem.

### **Foundation of the Church 2-4:31**

#### **Its birth 2:1-47**

Spirit came on the day of Pentecost as Jesus had promised.

50 days after Passover 10 days after His ascension

Feasts of Israel looked back to great events of the past but they also looked ahead prophetically to great future events.

Pentecost was inseparably united with the Passover.

It always came fifty days later.

It emphasized the result of that which was foreseen in the feast of First Fruits.

It envisioned a new beginning.

Coming of the Spirit brought a new beginning also.

He makes possible a new life.

**Luke indicates that the meaning of the day of Pentecost was fulfilled with the coming of the Spirit 50 days after the fulfillment of Passover.**

### **Coming of the Spirit 2:1-4**

When the Spirit came, He demonstrated His presence

(1) by physical signs which attract public attention

Something unique here! 2:6

*“They heard the sound”*

The noise attracted a crowd. 2:2 => 2:6

(2) by foreign languages.

### **Question of observers 2:5-13**

**Q.1. Make a list of all the evidence you can find about the attitude and condition of the observers.**

*[Preliminary quick overview of who these people are]*

The external evidence of the Spirit's presence was observed by devout Jews who had come to Jerusalem for the feast.

**Q.2. What does the word “devout” in 2:5 tell you about them?**

*Original word only used a few times in the New Testament.*

*Look up each reference and notice the description of the person mentioned:*

*Luke 2:25; Acts 2:5; 8:2; 10:1-2, 7; 22:12.*

*Contrast word used in 13:50—“devout”=religious, fanatical  
In a few words **what might you say about these people?***

***What does that tell you about the observers in Acts 2?***

*These are “God-fearing” Jews—Like Abraham, Moses, and Simeon!*

*These are “saints” according to Old Testament standards.  
These people are described as “rightly religious.”*

*What are the implications of the fact that Scripture (God) calls these people “rightly religious” as opposed to just religious?*

*What kind of people are “rightly religious” in God’s sight?*

*What would “rightly religious” people look like at that time?*

*Compare Simeon, Anna, Cornelius, others?*

***Q.3. What’s main question they want to know the answer to?***

***They want to know what the signs mean.***

***What does that tell you about them?***

***Q.4. How did the observers respond to Peter’s message, according to 2:37?***

***Q.5. What explanation for their response might be found in Christ’s words in John 6:45; 7:17; 10:25-27?***

*These are more than just curious onlookers.*

*They have come to Jerusalem in accordance with God’s instructions to His people.*

*What do you think a true Jewish believer who had never heard about Christ, living in those days would have looked like? For example, how would you have recognized an Abraham?*

These “rightly religious” people were faithful saints according to their understanding of O.T. teaching. They were looking for Messiah. Now they hear that He has come.

**Q.6. *How does the description of these observers differ from that of Israel’s religious leaders as observed in Luke?***

**Q.7. *What lessons can we learn from them?***

***List the characteristics seen in them that you think you ought to imitate?***

They want to live in a way that pleases God.

They want to DO the will of God.

They want to KNOW the truth.

### **Explanation by Peter 2:14-36**

In answer to their question, Peter explains the meaning of the signs.

**Q.8. *According to his final summary in 2:36, what was Peter’s message?***

*“God has demonstrated that Jesus of Nazareth, the same one you crucified is both Lord and Christ”*