

Comments About Acts 2

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Last week, I began a series of brief articles to discuss chapters in the book of Acts. This week, we will talk about chapter 2.

May this project encourage you to review the valuable history found in the book of Acts.

Day of Pentecost

The Son of God had promised to His disciples about the arrival of the Holy Spirit (in Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:4-5).

Bible students learned that the Holy Spirit was given on the Day of Pentecost.

Acts 2:1-2—"When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting."

Baptism of fire

One of the manifestations of receiving the Holy Spirit on this Day of Pentecost was to speak with tongues of fire.

Acts 2:3—"Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them."

Some religious people use this scripture to support the notion that all newly baptized individuals are expected to manifest tongues of fire.

However, that idea seems to contradict what John the Baptist said about the baptism of fire.

In Matthew 3:11, John the Baptist mentioned the difference between a baptism he did and baptisms that would be done by the Son of God.

Matthew 3:11—"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Some people then conclude that all three baptisms were a good thing. But notice verse 12.

Matthew 3:12—"His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Many Bible students conclude that the Son of God had the authority to baptize with the desirable (the Holy Spirit) and to baptize with the undesirable (fire).

Manifestation of tongues

Acts 2:1-4 is not the only place in the Bible where the manifestation of tongues at baptism is mentioned. Notice Acts 10:44-46 and Acts 19:1-6.

It is my perspective that God used the manifestation of tongues at baptism on these special occasions to show His involvement at these events, because they were occurring away from the temple. God was no longer working predominantly in the temple system (Matthew 27:51).

Other themes

Notice some other themes that are mentioned in chapter 2.

- Acts 2:6—The people heard in their own languages.
- Acts 2:14-36—The apostle Peter gave a powerful message.
- Acts 2:16-21—Peter paraphrased from Joel 2:28-32.
- Acts 2:22-24—Peter emphasized the resurrection.
- Acts 2:25-28—Peter paraphrased from Psalm 16:8-11.
- Acts 2:29-33—Peter emphasized the resurrection.
- Acts 2:34-35—Peter paraphrased from Psalm 110:1.
- Acts 2:36—Peter concluded by emphasizing the resurrection.
- Acts 2:37—The people asked what they should do.
- Acts 2:38-40—Peter answered.
- Acts 2:41-47—The people praised God.