

How to Read the Bible for All its Worth

Lesson 6a: Acts 1-2 – The Ascension of Christ and Pentecost

Introduction

Within the first two chapters of Acts, we see the ascension of Christ, the replacement of Judas Iscariot, and the eventful happenings of the Day of Pentecost. This was a time of great transition and new beginnings for the early church. They went from simply following Christ around to having to seek Him through prayer and following the Holy Spirit. We are living in the church age today and it is for us to understand the origin of this age.

Acts 1:1-11 – Introduction and Ascension of Jesus

What was Christ's purpose in appearing to the disciples after His resurrection?

Did the Apostles understand what Jesus was teaching them concerning the Kingdom?

What does vs. 11 teach us about the return of Christ? See also Luke 21:27

Acts 1:12-26 – Replacing Judas Iscariot

Peter quotes two Old Testament passages in his speech. Read these passages and determine whether how they fit with Judas Iscariot.

Psalm 69:20-28 –

Psalm 109:1-13 –

The Qualifications of an Apostle to the Jews (see Acts 1:2, 1:21-25)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

The Purposes of an Apostle

1. To become a spiritual foundation for the Church
 - a. Revelation 21:9-14 –
 - b. Ephesians 2:19-22 –
 - c. Acts 2:42-43 –
2. To serve as witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus to the Jews
 - a. Acts 1:22 –
 - b. Galatians 5:15-19 –
 - c. 2 Corinthians 12:12 –

Advanced Questions for Discussion:

- 1.) Does Scripture imply that Judas Iscariot was saved or lost? (See John 17:11-12) If he was lost, how did he fulfill the ministry of an apostle? –
- 2.) Does the Apostle Paul qualify for the office filled by Matthias? –

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Acts 2:1-13 – Day of Pentecost Part 1: Baptism of the Spirit

The Day of Pentecost

Pentecost – fiftieth – it is the 50th day since the Passover (when Christ died)

- It was the anniversary of the giving of the Law (10 Commandments) on Mt. Sinai
- Also known as the “Feast of Weeks” in the OT because it was 7 weeks after Passover

Why would there have been a sound like the wind? –

What were they doing when this event occurred? –

Why Cloven Tongues? –

Why Fire? –

2 Timothy 1:6 – “Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.”

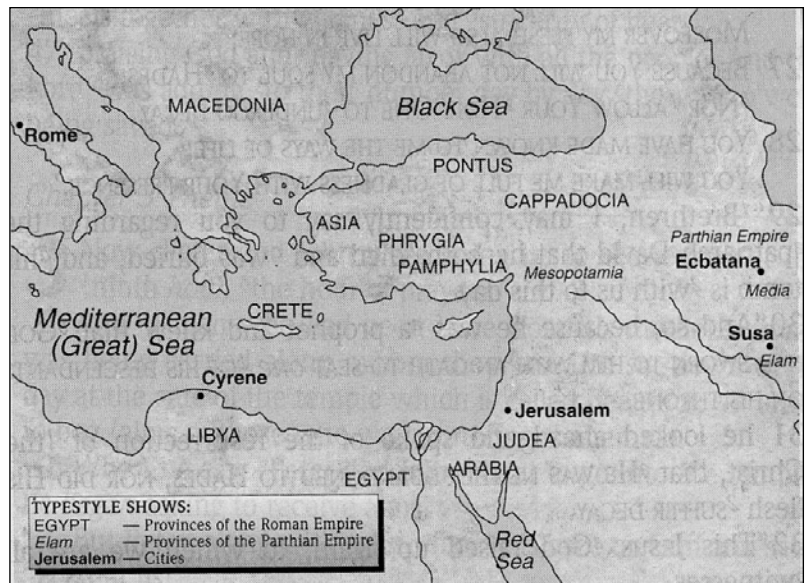
- “stir up” in this passage literally means, “fan the flame”

What type of people were present in Jerusalem at Pentecost? –

Why was this a wonderfully strategic move on the part of the Lord? –

What were the people speaking in tongues saying? –

What did some accuse them of and why? –



A Map of the Areas surrounding Jerusalem

The Basics of Spiritual Gifts:

Scriptures teach that there are two types of spiritual gifts given

1. Miraculous Gifts –

Examples:

2. Edifying Gifts –

Examples:

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Acts 2:14-36 – Day of Pentecost Part 2: Peter's Sermon

Acts 2:37-47 – Day of Pentecost Part 3: Salvation of 3000 and the Aftermath

Assignments:

Read Acts 1:1 – 2:47 and answer the following questions:

1. Why does Luke start Acts with Jesus' ascension?
2. What did everyone do after Jesus' ascension?
3. How did they choose a successor to Judas Iscariot?
4. What is, "speaking in tongues" and why did God allow it to happen here?
5. What were some of the main points in Peter's sermon?
6. What did the people that were saved on Pentecost do?
7. What type of people (race or ethnic origin) were the people who were saved on Pentecost?