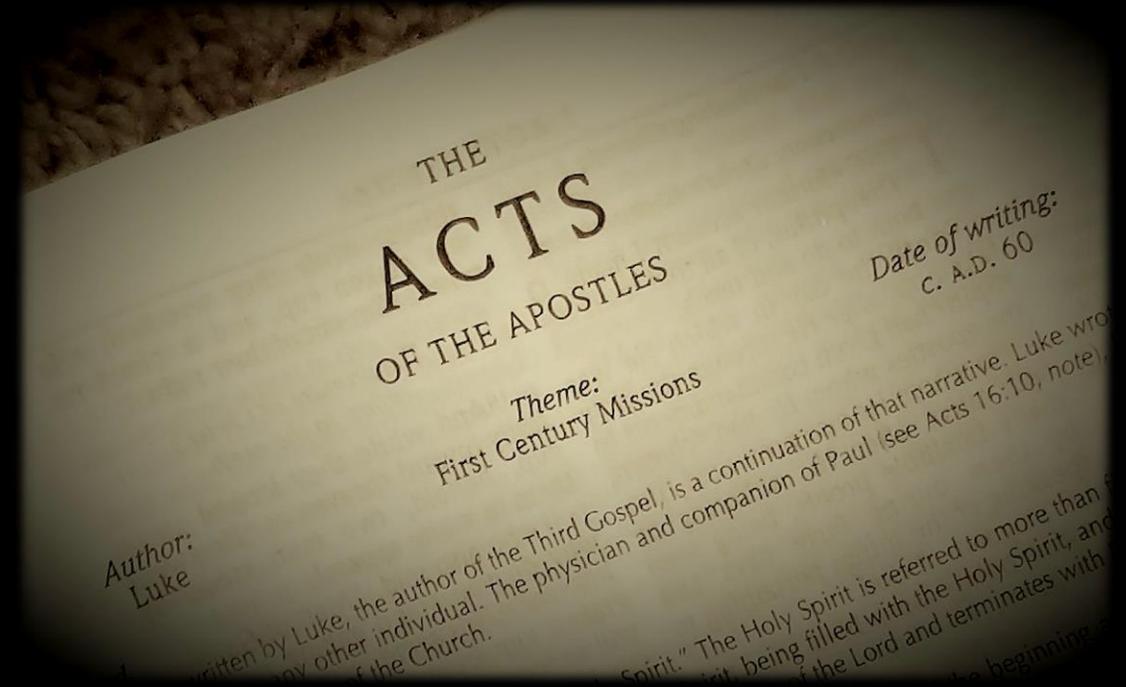


# Verse by Verse

## Acts 2



Previously in *Acts*

## Previously in Acts

- In **Acts 1**, Jesus left the disciples and ascended into heaven before their eyes.
- He left them with instructions that included a promise.

## Previously in Acts

- Prior to his departure, in Acts 1:4-5,

He ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

## Previously in Acts

- He then said, in Acts 1:8,

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

# Acts 2 Introduction

## Acts 2 Introduction

- In **Acts 2**, the promise of the Father, the Person of the Holy Spirit, will arrive.
- The result will be an immediate empowering for ministry resulting in evangelism.
- The chapter ends with a glimpse at church life among the earliest believers.

# Acts 2    Key Verse

## Acts 2    Key Verse

- Acts 2:42 (ESV)

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

# Acts 2 Outline

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1. The Coming of the Spirit 2:1-13
2. Peter's Pentecost Sermon 2:14-41
3. Early Church Life 2:42-47

# 1. The Coming of the Spirit 2:1-13

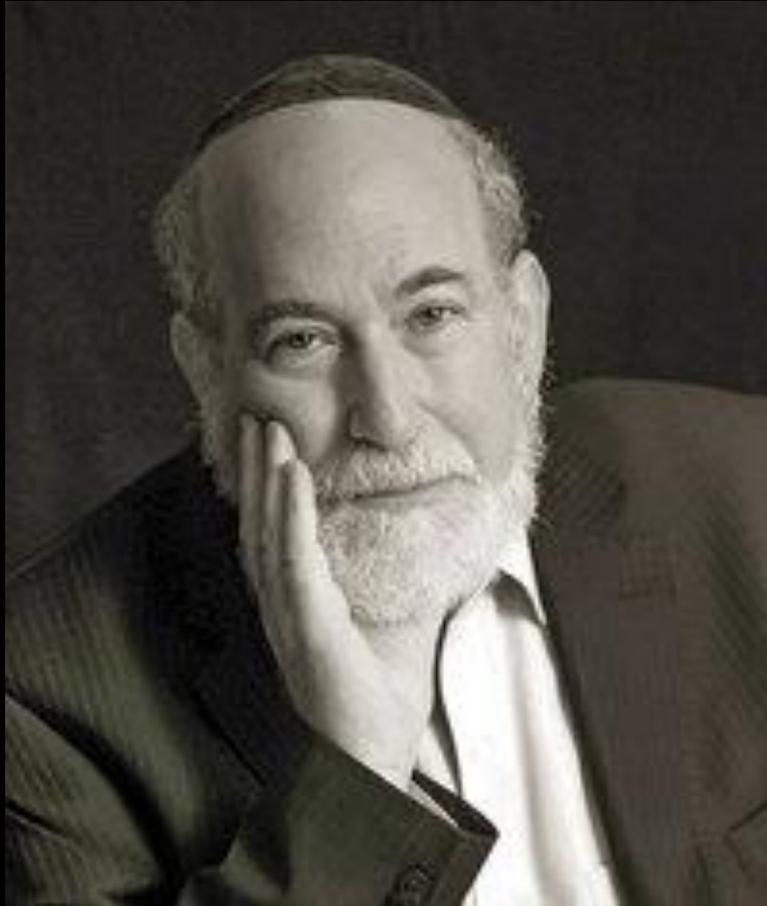
# 1. The Coming of the Spirit 2:1-13

- 2:1 The Day of Pentecost is the Greek name for the holiday of Shavuot or the Feast of Booths.
- It comes precisely fifty days after Passover.
- It celebrates the Israelites wandering in the wilderness and their entry into the promised land.

# 1. The Coming of the Spirit 2:1-13

- 2:1 It is also a celebration of first fruits or harvest and lines up with the time of spring harvest in Israel.
- Finally, according to Jewish tradition, God gave Moses the **Ten Commandments** on the first night of Shavuot.
- This has given rise to an interesting practice.

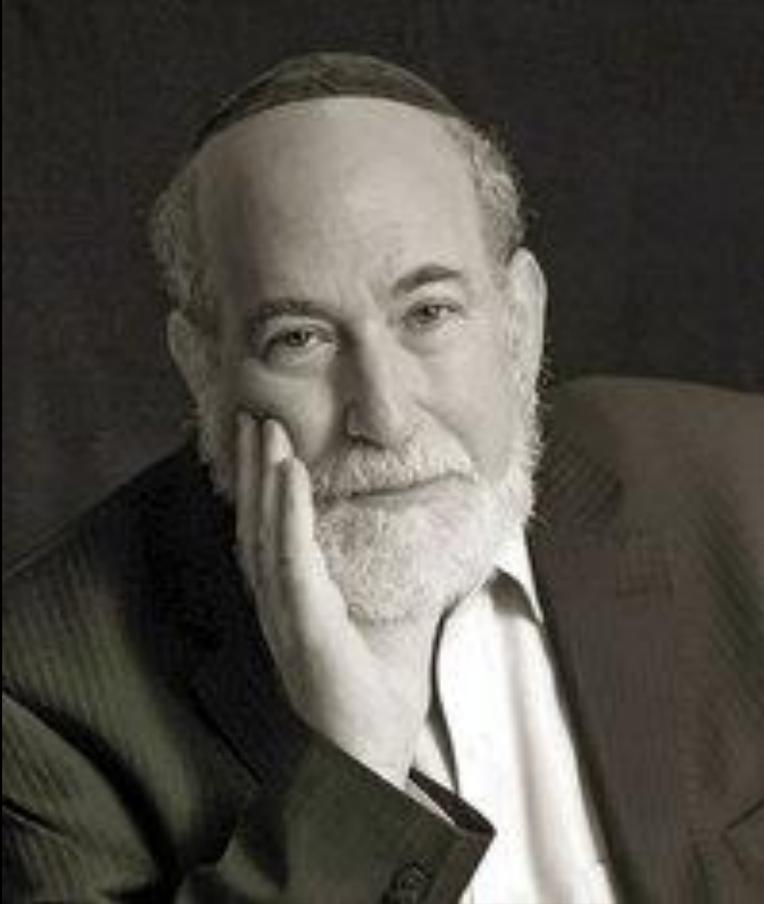
# 1. The Coming of the Spirit 2:1-13



*Many religious Jews convene the whole night in the synagogue, or in a home, to study Torah or other biblical books ... At daybreak, the participants break from study and recite shakharit, the morning prayer service ...*

– Rabbi Joseph Telushkin

# 1. The Coming of the Spirit 2:1-13



*In Jerusalem, tens of thousands of Jews who have studied Torah the whole night walk down to the Kotel (Western Wall) at the break of dawn to recite the morning service.<sup>1</sup>*

# 1. The Coming of the Spirit 2:1-13

- This practice would explain why the believers were already gathered first thing in the morning.
- They had probably been together all night.
- And then, when they went out into the street, thousands of others were out there too.
- Everyone was probably headed to the temple to pray.

# 1. The Coming of the Spirit 2:1-13

Shavuot,  
Western Wall,  
*Jerusalem Post*



# 1. The Coming of the Spirit 2:1-13

- Four parts of the Spirit's coming on Pentecost

1. Sound like a rushing wind.
2. Divided tongues of fire on each of them.
3. Filling with the Holy Spirit.
4. Speaking with other tongues or languages.

# 1. The Coming of the Spirit 2:1-13

- Four parts of the Spirit's coming on Pentecost
  1. Sound like a rushing wind.
  2. Divided tongues of fire on each of them.
  3. Filling with the Holy Spirit.
  4. Speaking with other tongues or languages.
- The final two are the only ones that are repeated.

# 1. The Coming of the Spirit 2:1-13

- **Application:** Our Need for the Holy Spirit's Power

1. Without the Holy Spirit's work in our lives we are useless as Christians.
2. We are “baptized in the Holy Spirit” at our conversion.
3. We may (and should) be “filled with the Holy Spirit” repeatedly after that time.
4. We may or may not ever speak in new tongues.

# 1. The Coming of the Spirit 2:1-13

- Ephesians 5:17-19 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart.

## 2. Peter's Pentecost Sermon 2:14-41

## 2. Peter's Pentecost Sermon 2:14-41

- Breaking down Peter's sermon:

1. This is fulfilled prophecy. 2:14-21
2. Jesus is both Lord and Christ. 2:22-36
3. (Jesus has now sent the Spirit. 2:33)
4. We now need to respond. 2:37-41

## 2. Peter's Pentecost Sermon 2:14-41

1. This is fulfilled prophecy. 2:14-21

## 2. Peter's Pentecost Sermon 2:14-41

### 1. This is fulfilled prophecy. 2:14-21

- Peter is speaking to a devout Jewish audience – likely a group that has just finished an all-night Bible study.
- He references **Joel 2**, **Psalms 16** and **Psalms 110**.
- We, as Christians, need to always keep in mind that the New Testament is not entirely new.
- Our NT is the fulfillment of, based upon, and tied to the word of the Old Testament.

2. Peter's Pentecost Sermon 2:14-41

2. Jesus is both Lord and Christ. 2:22-36

## 2. Peter's Pentecost Sermon 2:14-41

### 2. Jesus is both Lord and Christ. 2:22-36

- Devout Jews, of course, would have been waiting for the Messiah.
- Peter wants them to understand that **the long-awaited Messiah is Jesus**.
- We will see this message throughout **Acts**, especially when the speakers address a Jewish audience.

2. Peter's Pentecost Sermon 2:14-41

3. (Jesus has now sent the Spirit. 2:33)

## 2. Peter's Pentecost Sermon 2:14-41

### 3. (Jesus has now sent the Spirit. 2:33)

- The coming of the Spirit is not unrelated to the coming of Jesus Christ.
- This church age and the mission of the church are directly tied to Christ.
- We might almost describe this as Phase 2 of Christ's ministry – as Luke alluded to in Acts 1:1-2.

2. Peter's Pentecost Sermon 2:14-41

4. We now need to respond. 2:37-41

## 2. Peter's Pentecost Sermon 2:14-41

### 4. We now need to respond. 2:37-41

- Three normal components of conversion:
- **A. Repentance** – turning away from sin and to Christ.
- **B. Baptism** – as an outward expression of faith in Christ. Faith alone saves, but baptism is still normal.
- **C. Receiving the Holy Spirit** – not as an optional extra experience, but as part of conversion to Christ.

## 2. Peter's Pentecost Sermon 2:14-41

- The elements Peter used in the first Christian sermon make good building blocks for our teaching today.
  1. **Bible prophecy** – or at least the connection of the Old and New Testaments.
  2. **Jesus is Lord and Christ** – which more or less is what makes a sermon Christian.
  3. **Our response** – because we need to respond to whatever the Word of God says.

### 3. Early Church Life 2:42-47

## 3. Early Church Life 2:42-47

- 2:42 Our key verse reminds us of one more list, **the basic elements of church life.**
  1. The Apostles' teaching
  2. The Fellowship
  3. The Breaking of Bread
  4. The Prayers

### 3. Early Church Life 2:42-47

- 2:42 Our key verse reminds us of one more list, the basic elements of church life.

1. The Apostles' teaching – which we have a good sample of in our New Testament.

### 3. Early Church Life 2:42-47

- 2:42 Our key verse reminds us of one more list, the basic elements of church life.

2. The Fellowship – the word alone means something like sharing, but it is deeper.

- We might think of it as something like communion combined with community.

## 3. Early Church Life 2:42-47

- 2:42 Our key verse reminds us of one more list, the basic elements of church life.

3. The Breaking of Bread – On the one hand, this talks about the simple sharing of meals as in v. 46.

- There is also evidence that the Lord's Supper was a normal component of such meals on the Lord's Day.

### 3. Early Church Life 2:42-47

- 2:42 Our key verse reminds us of one more list, **the basic elements of church life.**

4. **The Prayers** – At this stage this probably refers to the regular prayers at the temple or in the synagogue.

- We also know, however, that praying together has always been a normal part of church life.

### 3. Early Church Life 2:42-47

- 2:47 And this is the result of the above.
- It can be the result of the everyday life and typical ministry of a Spirit-filled church today.

# Acts 2    What We Just Read

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1. The Coming of the Spirit    2:1-13
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3. Early Church Life    2:42-47

# Acts 2    Key Verse

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- Acts 2:42 (ESV)

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

# Acts 2 Key Points

## Acts 2 Key Points

1. Our ongoing need for the Holy Spirit.
2. The importance of scriptural, Christ-centered preaching and teaching.
3. An active church life as vital to the life of believers.
4. The importance of all three of these to evangelism, discipleship and the mission of the church.

# Acts 2    A Prayer

## Acts 2    A Prayer

- Dear God and Heavenly Father,
- We thank you that Jesus has not left us alone to attempt to live for you in our own strength.
- Thank you for the sending of your Holy Spirit.
- Fill us with his presence and power.
- We understand that he is truly God, who is with us at the present time and to the end of the age.

## Acts 2    A Prayer

- Knowing he indwells us reminds us that all three Persons of the Triune God are accessible to us at all times.
- As we pray for ourselves and our church life, we ask again for your Spirit to fill us. Let us exercise his gifts, display his fruit and be led by him in all that we do.
- Empower us for both evangelism and discipleship as a body of believers.

## Acts 2 A Prayer

- Help us to grow in our faith and be a part of the growth of others, even those who do not yet know you personally.
- Answer our prayers, even in miraculous ways.
- We pray that as we live out our faith you would add to our numbers day by day those who are being saved.
- In Christ,
- Amen

## Acts 2    References

1. Telushkin, Rabbi Joseph. 1991. *Jewish Literacy*, New York, William Morrow and Co., 593.