

Sermon Handout

The Power of the Holy Ghost

Acts 2:1-4

I. The Pentecost Event Predicted

- a. By John the Baptist Lk 3:15-16; Mt 3:11 (*cf.* Eze 36:24-28)
- b. By Jesus Jn 16:7; Lk 24:49; Acts 1:8 (*cf.* Prov 1:23 w/ Acts 2:38)
- c. Specific instructions from Jesus Acts 1:4-5 (the fulfillment is coming soon)
- d. Pentecost itself predicts the event: 50 days after Passover, the Feast of Weeks
Lev 23:15-16; Numb 28:26; Ex 34:22; Jas 1:18 (*firstfruits cf.* I Cor 15:20)
Connected with the Sinai event Ex 19:1

II. Location and Recipients v. 1

- a. The “house” vv. 1-2 *cf.* 1:13 (but *see* 7:47 and LXX usage)
- b. The scene shifts to the streets v. 5*ff* (perhaps the Temple *cf.* Lk 24:53; Acts 2:46)
- c. The Twelve (now complete – 1:26) are certainly recipients
- d. Perhaps the 120 – v. 2 echoes 1:14-15 “all with one accord”

III. Both a Visual and Audial Manifestation vv. 2-4 *cf.* v. 33

- a. Wind associated with the Spirit *see* Gen 1:2; Ps 33:6
Eze 37:9-14 underlying Mt 27:52-53
The life-giving Spirit of Eze 47:1 underlying Jn 7:38-39
Jesus’ reference to wind as the Spirit in Jn 3:8
- b. “Tongues” of Fire v. 3
“cloven” not “forked,” but “distributed” as context indicates
Personal, not “group,” empowerment (*cf.* “all” in v. 4)
- c. A Miracle of Language – empowered by the Holy Ghost v. 4
This is a supernatural phenomenon vv. 7-12
A simultaneous miracle of speech and hearing

IV. What are we to make of this?

- a. St. Luke’s economy of words directs our focus
Speculation on what he leaves out is a distraction
- b. Pentecost fulfills the “promise of the Father” 1:4
 - i. Not merely prophecies of John & Jesus, but of the OT
 - ii. The Feasts of Israel point to the New Covenant throughout
- c. The work of the Spirit is focused on results, is not *ad hoc* – vv. 37-41