

The Acts of the Apostles

Part II

Ascension to Pentecost

**The early church and the coming of the
Holy Spirit**

Ascension Men's Bible Study

Luke Book II

□ The Ascension –Acts 1: 6-12 pg 1527-28

- Luke repeats this account from his gospel making a connection to Luke's first book
- Introduces the importance of the Holy Spirit with Jesus' announcement in
 - Acts 1:8
 - Commissions evangelists in Acts 1:8
- Jesus' ascension is stated in Acts 1:9 and then witnessed by two angels in Acts 1:11-12.
- Tradition states that the site of the Ascension was on the crest of Mt. Olivet – a Sabbath day's journey south of Jerusalem. (2000 cubits – $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile)

A Special Place

■ Upper Room

- Jesus' command to remain in Jerusalem Acts 1: 4 pg 1527
- Announced the “baptism of the Holy Spirit” in Acts 1:5
- Who were there?
 - The eleven apostles
 - Women
 - Other disciples
 - Mary the mother of Jesus – this will be the final appearance of Mary in the New Testament
 - His brethren – Cousins who have now become disciples.

A Special Place

Catholic's name the upper room “cenacle”

- **The Cenacle**

- Latin – means site of a dinner

- **Events that took place in the Cenacle**

- The Last Supper
 - The usual place where the Apostles stayed in Jerusalem
 - The first Christian Church
 - The “Washing of the Feet”
 - Resurrection appearances of Jesus
 - Gathering of the disciples after the ascension of Jesus
 - The election of Matthias as apostle
 - The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples on the day of Pentecost

Why Twelve?

- Acts 1:15 pg 1528
 - Peter refers to Psalms 109:8 pg 809
 - His office let another take
 - Established the pattern of replacing an apostle with another that is carried on until this day in the succession of bishops
 - Selection of Matthias
 - Criteria for the replacement was that the candidates had to have witnessed the full scope of Jesus' ministry- Acts 1:22 pg 1528
 - Cast lots – process of selection using marked sticks or stone used since the time of Leviticus to determine God's will –
Leviticus 16:7-10 pg 155
 - Returning the number to twelve
 - Restored the number representing the 12 tribes of Israel

A Special Feast

■ Pentecost

■ What was the feast of Pentecost?

- One of 3 pilgrim feast required of Jewish men to travel to Jerusalem Deuteronomy 16:16 pg 244
- Harvest festival celebrated 50 days after the Passover when the first loaves of bread made from Spring wheat harvest were dedicated as a first fruits offering Lev 23:15-17 pg 164

■ Why was this event chosen for the early church

- Pentecost was also a celebration of the giving of the Torah (law)
- For Christians it became the celebration of the new law of the Spirit – Romans 8:1-4 (pg 1588)which surpasses the law of Moses.

Jesus' Promise fulfilled

The events of Pentecost

- Rushing wind and Tongues of fire Acts 2: 1-3 pg 1528
 - Recalls the giving of the law at Mt. Sinai – Exodus 19:16-19 pg 106
- Filled with the Holy Spirit Acts 2:4
 - Gift given after baptism of in the name of Jesus Christ Acts 2: 38
 - Through the laying on of hands – Acts 8: 14-17 pg 1541
- Other languages
 - God confused their languages: Genesis 11:1-9 pg 26
 - God gifts with languages to evangelize the world: Acts 2:5-11
- Founding gift of the New Covenant and the Christian Community. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 pg 1616

Response

The events of Pentecost

- First response of the public
 - Where were these people from? Acts 2:7-12
 - Why were they there



Peter's sermon and the response

Fulfillment of scripture Luke 24:46-47 pg 1485

- Response of the public
 - Belief and Baptism: Acts 2: 37-41
 - Communal life: Acts 2:43-47

Two Baptisms or One?

Events of Pentecost

- Water Baptism
- Spirit Baptism
- Catholic Baptism
 - Child
 - Adult
 - Confirmation
- Converts
 - What must they do
 - How did they believe

Rite of Baptism

■ 'What takes place during the Catholic Rite of Baptism?

- ☐ Communal setting
- ☐ Parents are present
- ☐ Joy expressed for the gift of the child
- ☐ Obedience to God is expressed
- ☐ Gospel is witnessed to
- ☐ Evil (Satan) is cast out
- ☐ Repentance and forgiveness take place
- ☐ The water is blessed
- ☐ Announcement proclaimed as "Child of God"
- ☐ Promises made to raise child to know and obey God – leads to confirmation
- ☐ The child is anointed with Chrism oil representing the Holy Spirit entering its life. At confirmation the child receives the gift of the Holy Spirit.

■ 'What took place during the Baptism of Christ?

- ☐ Held in public setting
- ☐ God in the form of the trinity was present
- ☐ God expressed his joy in his Son
- ☐ Jesus is fulfilling the Covenant promise
- ☐ Scriptures are fulfilled
- ☐ Baptism for Repentance
- ☐ Jesus identifies with sinners
- ☐ Jordan River – blessed place of deliverance
- ☐ God announces "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased"
- ☐ Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted – preparing for his ministry
- ☐ The Holy Spirit descended upon him as a Dove

General Outline for our study

- January: Introduction
- February: Ascension to Pentecost
- **March:** **Gospel in Jerusalem – Early Church**
- April: Gospel in Jerusalem – Establishment of the church and her mission, Apostleship of Peter and Paul
- May: Gospel in Judea and Samaria – Ministry of Phillip and Peter
- June: Gospel in Judea and Samaria – Conversion of Saul, Gentile conversions, persecution of the church
- July/Aug: Gospel to Ends of the Earth – Paul's first missionary journey, Counsel of Jerusalem
- Sep: Paul's second and third missionary journeys
- Oct: Paul's arrest and imprisonment
- Nov: Paul's journey to and ministry in Rome.