



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Dear Friends and Fellow Laborers,

What happened in the second chapter of Acts?

The events of Acts 2 are directly connected to the prophecies of the Old Testament about the coming of a New Covenant.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Hebrews 8:7-10

For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Without the Holy Spirit, a person cannot keep God's laws fully and completely. A person can obey a law to gain a reward or avoid a punishment. But to really obey with your heart and soul, a person must have the Holy Spirit. God wants us to obey Him with our whole heart and soul. Real obedience can only come by the power of the Holy Spirit within us.

The fault God found with the Old Covenant Israelites is that they could not obey Him. They could not obey because they DID NOT have the power to do so. The LAWS of GOD were written on tablets of stone only. God wants His Laws written on our hearts. So He had to send Jesus with a New Covenant.

Malachi 3:1

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

The first messenger is talking about John the Baptist. The messenger of the Covenant is Jesus. The events of Acts 2 began the creation of a body of believers in whom the Spirit of God dwells. When Jesus ascended to the Father in Heaven, He commanded His disciples to remain in Jerusalem until they were empowered by the Holy Spirit which was to come upon them.

Luke 24:49

And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Jesus was with His chosen apostles for 40 days (Acts 1:3) after seeing His Father in heaven—and the disciples remained in Jerusalem without Jesus for ten more days, until Pentecost. At Pentecost, the streets of Jerusalem filled with Jewish and proselyte pilgrims from all over the world. Thousands of Jewish and Gentile God-fearers came to worship at the holy season of Pentecost.

Pentecost is one of the **three pilgrimage seasons** when people would travel to Jerusalem to keep the feast if they could do so. The other two are **Passover** and **Feast of Tabernacles**. So the disciples gathered in Jerusalem—just like hundreds of thousands of others were gathered in Jerusalem. What were they doing? They were keeping the Feast of Pentecost as commanded by God in Leviticus 23.

Acts 2:1-4

And when the day of Pentecost was 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 all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

This was not Pentecostal speaking in tongues, which are not understandable. This was speaking in other languages that people could understand. The English word “tongues” here just means “languages.” God poured out His Holy Spirit upon them, which appeared as flames of fire over their heads. What happened NEXT?

Acts 2:5

And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

These were Jews from many nations around the world gathered at Jerusalem keeping the Feast of Pentecost. They came from Parthia, Media, Elam, Mesopotamia, Judaea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, Libya. Cyrene, Rome, Crete and Arabia, among other places.

They were converts to Judaism, for instance, from the remnant tribes of Israel living in the Parthian Empire across the Euphrates. Or they were part of the Jewish diaspora in many different parts of the world. Gentile proselytes (called “God-Fearers”) were also gathered to worship in Jerusalem on Pentecost.

Because he was inspired by the Holy Spirit, Peter preached a sermon of repentance to all the gathered Jews and Proselytes who wanted to hear his message. Peter was speaking Aramaic, or possibly Greek, but the miracle of Pentecost was that everyone HEARD him in their own native language.

Acts 2:11-12

...we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

Notice that the Bible says that they were actual languages, not some sort of Pentecostal gibberish that could not be understood. And no one was falling over backward and writhing on the ground.

Acts 2:16-18

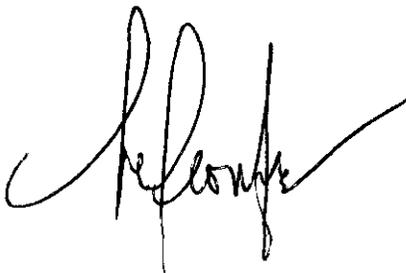
But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-29); And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

Peter preached a sermon of repentance, and over 3000 of the gathered Jews and Proselytes were baptized. This group of new believers formed the foundation of the New Covenant Church.

Who were the 12 disciples and the 3000 people who became the foundation of the New Covenant Church of God? They were Jews and Gentile Proselytes who were given the Holy Spirit. They then carried the Gospel back to their homes in many other areas of the world. The Apostles followed and built church congregations in all these places.

So we see that the Jews of the Old Covenant Church became the foundation of the New Covenant Church. All because the Holy Spirit was given by God on that first Pentecost of the New Covenant Church.

May God bless you all on His holy Pentecost.
Until next letter, serving Our Lord Jesus the King,



T. Leon Sexton

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P.S. The Feast of Tabernacles will be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, once again. It starts the evening of Sept 27th and lasts through the Last Great Day, October 5th.

The venue will be the same as last year – The Empress Hotel and Convention Center in the heart of the Chiang Mai. Many family activities are planned, including the Elephant Ride and visit to a Royal Project of the King and Queen. If you are interested in attending and wish more information, please contact us at Mail@Legacyinstitute.org. We are trying to keep the cost of rooms, food, and events at, or near, last year's costs. For more online information about the Empress Hotel, please go online to http://empresshotels.com/empress_hotel.html.