What Happened in Acts 2?


I. Introduction

A. I remember growing up in church and hearing about the "Pentecostal Church."

1. I didn't have a clue what that meant, but I heard adults say, "We are Pentecostal."

2. I later found out that there was even a denomination known as the "United Pentecostal Church."

3. As I grew older I began to recognize that the name of this denomination was taken from Acts 2; they claimed to experience the same miracle that was experienced in Acts 2.
4. Thus they called themselves Pentecostal; you can hear it in the name Pentecost.

2. I had no clue then what I am about to preach to you today. My understanding of being Pentecostal was basically that you believed in the gift of unknown tongues, a prayer language that the devil could not understand. I have a very different view on all of this today.

II. Acts 2:1-13

A. Verse 1

1. The day of Pentecost had arrived. If you are not familiar with the previous revelation in Scripture, you will not properly understanding was this first statement means.

2. We must recognize that this occurrence on this FEAST or APPOINTMENT was no coincidence.
3. We sometimes here about people tarrying for the gift of tongues. Acts 2 is sometimes used to teach that a person must pray for it, seek it, and tarry long at it, if they have hopes of obtaining the gift.

4. This is just not true. The time of this occurrence was already laid out in Yahweh's Time Table.

5. We must understand that the timing was already laid out in the Torah.

   a. Lev. 23:5 tells us that on the 14th of Aviv the Passover lamb was to be killed.

   b. The Sabbath took place after that (15th) and then the sheaf of the first fruits of the barley harvest took place after the Sabbath, on the first day of the week (16th). (Lev. 23:6-14).
c. It is no coincidence that Yeshua died on the 14th, before the weekly Sabbath (15th) and then on the next day after the Sabbath was raised by his Father on the 16th, the first day of the week. (This sequence takes place every year without fail.)

d. See, this was all planned out by the Father. This happened because Yahweh MADE it happen. Acts 4:28 says that Yahweh did what His hand and His plan predestined to take place. Yeshua would have never been killed on the 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, or 19th because that was not on Yahweh's time table. Nor would He have risen any other day than the day of waving the sheaf.

6. The next appointment on Yahweh's time table is Pentecost. Called Feast of Weeks (Shavuot) in the Hebrew Scriptures, and Pentecost in the Greek NT. Two names centering in on
different aspects of the count. (I'm not going to get into all the disagreements about the count).

7. It was on this next appointment - Pentecost - that Yahweh predestined for the Spirit to be poured out upon certain people who were in Jerusalem for the Feast.

8. This brings up yet another point. The THEY who were all together in one place did not believe that the appointments of Yahweh had been abolished. They were in Jerusalem for the Feast because of their obedience to the Torah of Yahweh. The Book of Acts here (Luke) mentions the Feast without the slightest hint of it being abolished.

9. Their obedience to Torah coupled with Yahweh's plan and timing is why such a miracle as we read here took place on this special day.
10. They didn't receive this GIFT because they tarried, or prayed for it, or began to stutter to try to speak in tongues. They received the GIFT because Yahweh ordained for it to take place upon this certain appointment.

11. For a denomination to call themselves Pentecostal because they speak in what they call "unknown tongues" misses the point altogether. There really isn't such a thing as Pentecostal, there is only the day of Pentecost, which we should keep.

B. Verse 2

1. Here we see these people were staying in a house, and it was in Jerusalem (we'll see this from verse 5 in a moment).

2. All of a sudden there came a sound throughout the house. It sounded like a violent and rushing wind. You've heard
something like this before, howling wind just before or during a storm. This wind/sound filled the whole house.

C. Verses 3-4

1. Tongues rested on each one of them.

2. The text says that they were like flames of fire that were divided.

3. Most commentators believe that the divided flames of fire symbolize the various languages that came next.

4. Whether you take verse 3 literal or figurative, the fact is this: whatever took place was a miracle of Yahweh, and those there (they - 12 apostles - Acts 1:26) were all filled with the Holy Spirit and they began to speak in different languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak.
a. This was not a language or languages that were unknown to anyone living on the earth.

b. True enough, they were languages unknown to the speakers, this is why the Spirit had to give them ability to speak. They did not have the ability, so the Spirit of Yahweh gave them the ability.

c. Notice that no one was forcing them to speak in these languages; no one was saying, "Just let your tongue go loose and stammer a little bit." No one was tapping their chin or jaw and saying something like, "Let it speak!" NO - the Spirit was giving these men the ability to speak languages that they had never learned. This is the gift of tongues or the gift of languages.

5. There is a reason why these men received this miraculous gift this day. It
wasn't for personal edification, and it wasn't so they could use it as a "private prayer language." They received the gift for the edification, the building up, of others around them that needed to hear the message of truth in a language they could understand. And they received the gift as a sign to unbelieving Israel. (1 Cor. 14:20-22; Isaiah 28:1-11).

D. Verses 5-6

1. The text tells us that Judahites were living in Jerusalem; this had to be where the apostles were when they received the gift.

2. It also says that these Judahites were devout men from every nation under heaven. I believe this is mentioned to solidify the point of there being numerous men in Jerusalem that spoke a wide variety of languages.
3. The sound of the apostles speaking in various languages must have been very loud because we read here that the multitude there in Jerusalem for the Feast heard the sound occur. They probably heard the rushing wind as well.

4. However, we are told that the Judahites did not just hear a bunch of noise or racket. They each heard them speak in their own language.

   a. Do not make the mistake here of placing the miracle upon the ears of the listeners. It was not a gift of hearing, it was a gift of languages.

   b. The disciples were given a special gift were they could speak not just in one language at a time, but in various languages at one time. They could speak in such a way as to not confuse any of the men dwelling in Jerusalem that spoke different languages.
c. We think about this and ask ourselves, how? Our answer is only found in the miraculous power of Yahweh, through His Spirit. Yahweh is capable of what we see taking place here. With man it is impossible, but with Yahweh it is possible.

5. Notice also that the languages or tongues spoken by the apostles were known languages. They may have not been known to the speaker, but they were known to someone who heard the speaking. This is the only gift of tongues in Scripture. There is no such thing as a completely unknown tongue that you use to speak in prayer to Yahweh.

E. Verses 7-8

1. The hearers were amazed at what they were hearing because all the men speaking were Galileans. This may go back to Acts 1:9-11 where the two men
in white clothes called the apostles "Men of Galilee."

a. The Galileans must have had a noticeable speech or accent for we read in Mark 14:70 - "But again he [Peter] denied it. After a little while those standing there said the Peter again, 'You certainly are one of them, since you're also a Galilean!' [some mss. add - And your speech shows it.]

b. Evidently there was something of amazement in the men being Galileans. Scholars believe that it was because people from the region of Galilee usually spoke only one language, and they were more of a common people, uneducated when compared to the "high society" groups in the area.

2. Galileans were the inhabitants of the rural area of northern Israel around the
Sea of Galilee. They were considered to be unsophisticated and uneducated by the southern Judean Israelites. This is probably why these men listening were so astonished.

F. Verses 9-11 | Various Nations

1. This again proves that the tongues being spoken were known languages. Notice verse 11 again, "We hear them speaking in our own languages."

2. Mention Map with various locations on it.

G. Verses 12-13

1. We see that they were astonished but at the same time it was perplexing. "What could be taking place here? What is the purpose of all of this."
2. Other people sneered at what was happening, saying, "These men are full of new wine!"

3. This is actually the only time this Greek word for "new wine" occurs in the entire NT - gleukos. But it is used in Job 32:19 in the Septuagint, "And my belly is as a skin of sweet wine, bound up and ready to burst..."

a. This was actually the words of Elihu, the youngest of all of Job's friends. He waited to speak to Job last, letting the Elder men speak first.

b. So when He finally gets a chance to speak (in Job 32) he says (vss. 18-19) - "For I am full of words and my spirit compels me to speak. My heart (belly, literally) is like unvented wine; it is about to burst like new wineskins."
4. Evidently this fresh, new wine was very intoxicating, and thus those that mocked what was going on said that the men speaking were drunk on this intoxicating wine.

H. Verses 14-15

1. Peter stands up with the other 11 apostles to speak about what was taking place. Did he continue to speak in various languages? I don't know, the text doesn't tell us, but it is quite possible.

2. He calls for everyone that surrounded them to pay attention to what he has to say.

3. He combats those who were mocking, by explaining to them that the apostles, the men of Galilee, could not be drunk seeing it was only 9 a.m. (literally the 3rd hour of the daylight period).
a. Isaiah 5:11 - "Woe to those who rise early in the morning in pursuit of beer, who linger into the evening, inflamed by wine."

b. 1 Thess. 5:7 even says, "For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night."

c. The point is that even drunkards are still asleep from what they did last night. We're up at 9 a.m. because we are not drunkards, and therefore we cannot be drunk with wine.

d. It was also a custom of that day for the Judahites to not eat or drink until after the morning sacrifice. This usually lasted until the 4th hour of the day, 10 a.m. Many Judahites didn't even eat until after 10 a.m. in that day and time.
I. Verses 16-21

1. Peter says that on the contrary, instead of being drunk with wine, what was taking place is what the prophet Joel spoke about.

2. Peter then quotes from Joel 2:28-32.

3. A couple of things need to be pointed out here.

   a. Joel's prophecy speaks of the spirit being poured out upon people causing them to prophecy. What took place in Acts 2 was thus a form of prophecy. It was spoken in languages the apostles had not learned, but it was understandable to all those listening in their own language. Nothing in Joel insinuates a private prayer language or completely unknown tongue.
b. Everything that Joel prophesied about did not take place that day. We should look at Joel's prophecy being partially fulfilled in Acts 2, but not completely fulfilled. The prophecy speaks of visions and dreams, wonders in both heaven and earth, and things that happen to the sun and the moon.

c. The day of the Lord, or the day of Yahweh is being spoken about here. I believe when you compare all the evidence of passages about the day of Lord, it is speaking of the end times, the eschatological day of the Lord. It will be a day of judgment.

d. Acts 2:21 is a direct quote from Joel 2:32 and it says that we must be calling upon the name of Yahweh for salvation. This doesn't just mean speaking it, but calling up it means your life is constantly calling upon Yahweh by the way you live. Your
actions give evidence of Yahweh's workings in your life, and so when you call upon His name He listens to your pleas.

III. Conclusion - As I finish this teaching let us remember these key points.

#1: **It is important to keep Yahweh's appointments.** These are His special days were He visits with people in a unique way.

#2: **The gift of tongues was a gift of languages.** There were thousands of people in Jerusalem for the Feast and there were many languages represented from various surrounding locations.

#3: **While the outpouring of the Spirit** is a wonderful thing for some, it is a sign of judgment upon those who are unbelieving, those whose life is not in line with calling upon the name of Yahweh.