

Acts 2

Last time: a bit of housecleaning and preparation

Today: Pentecost

Jewish tradition: "Fiftieth" or Feast of Weeks or Shavot, 50 days after Passover

Exodus 34:22-23

Background: it is the establishment of the Covenant with Israel

¹⁰ Then the LORD said: "I am making a covenant with you. Before all your people I will do wonders never before done in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome is the work that I, the LORD, will do for you.

¹¹ Obey what I command you today. I will drive out before you the Amorites, Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ¹² Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land where you are going, or they will be a snare among you. ¹³ Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and cut down their Asherah poles).^[a] ¹⁴ Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God. (cf with Pentecost)

Pentecost itself

²² "Celebrate the Festival of Weeks with the first fruits of the wheat harvest, and the Festival of Ingathering at the turn of the year^[b] ²³ Three times a year all your men are to appear before the Sovereign LORD, the God of Israel. ²⁴ I will drive out nations before you and enlarge your territory, and no one will covet your land when you go up three times each year to appear before the LORD your God.

Note: food tied to a covenant

Ch.2

*strong driving wind re. Elijah, Moses, God comes in storms

*tongues of flame: powerful image, spreads quickly, it cannot be controlled:

"puros" = English pure

*"tongues" glossis, languages/ used in NT two ways, human vs angelic tongues (1 Corinthians 13)

*our own languages, ie not Koine Greek but native tongues

In Exodus it is a division of nations, here a unification

*the Jerusalem telephone book: a multicultural city, a lot of trade

*the voice of cynicism is always there

*event is the last of the great saving acts: Nativity, Death, Resurrection

Ascension of Jesus now complete so the Church can turn outwards.

Significance: recall Genesis 11: The curse of Babel is now undone

11 Now the whole earth^[a] used the same language and ^[b]the same words. ² It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and ^[c]settled there. ³ They said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn *them* thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. ⁴ They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *will reach* into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."⁵ The LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. ⁶ The LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have ^[d]the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be ^[e]impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let Us go down and confuse their ^[f]language, so that they will not understand one another's ^[g]speech." ⁸ So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. ⁹ Therefore its name was called ^[h]Babel, because there the LORD confused the ^[i]language of the whole earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth. (Genesis 11)

Babel: probably Babylon

Shinar (Genesis 10:10) Southern Mesopotamia- a place of temptation

vv. 14-41 Peter's speech one of several he gives in the first half of book

@citation and exp of Prophecy

Cites the Book of Joel "Yahweh is God" (835or 450 BC) both times of devastation and he speaks with words of encouragement but a reminder of the day of the Lord

@discussion of Jesus work as the Christ; suffering death and resurrection

@always tied to the resurrection (anastasein) lit. the sitting up"

@v, 36 "lord and messiah" Kyrie y Christos

@ "whom you crucified" not "the Jews/Romans/Priests"

Compare: Pompey's 65 ft tall bronze nude statue, "Dominus et Pantokrator"

*this is evangelism, telling what God has done, not simply "converting" people

*note the people's reaction: what must we do?

What has God done in your life? Speaks more powerfully than doctrine: eg. Jesus set me free from drugs, Christ helped me in my marriage also, consider what Catholic Christianity has done

+repent and be baptized:

vv 37 Metanoia, to turn around, be baptized (cannot do it yourself)

vv. 42-47: The first Christian community (is this idealized?)

teaching of apostles, (significant that even this early it seems to be codified) communal life, breaking bread, prayers

see also 1 Corinthians 15

not socialism but a radical generosity

Breaking of bread: communion service?

meals in homes: chaburah, points to the Passover

#the Lord adds to the number, not men adding