

When God Came Down

Acts 2:1-13

February 03, 2019

a. Setting (2:1)

When? The day of **Pentecost** (Leviticus 23:15-22)

One of three annual pilgrimage festivals to Jerusalem (Deut. 16:16)

- Passover and Unleavened Bread, mid-March // mid-April
- **Pentecost** (aka Festival of Weeks or Firstfruits), **50** days
- Tabernacles (aka Booths), mid-September // mid-October

Who? all = the apostles + **others** (Acts 1:14-15)

Where? in one place . . . house (vs.2) in Jerusalem

b. Event (2:2-4)

*Suddenly, there came from heaven a sound **like** a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting*

from heaven (Isaiah 32:15; Luke 24:49 from on high)

a sound like a mighty rushing wind (see also John 3:6-8)

And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them

theophany, def. "an appearance of God's presence"	}	burning bush and voice (Exodus 3:1-4) sound of loud trumpet and fire (Exod. 19:18-19) great & powerful wind and fire (1 Kgs. 19:11-13)
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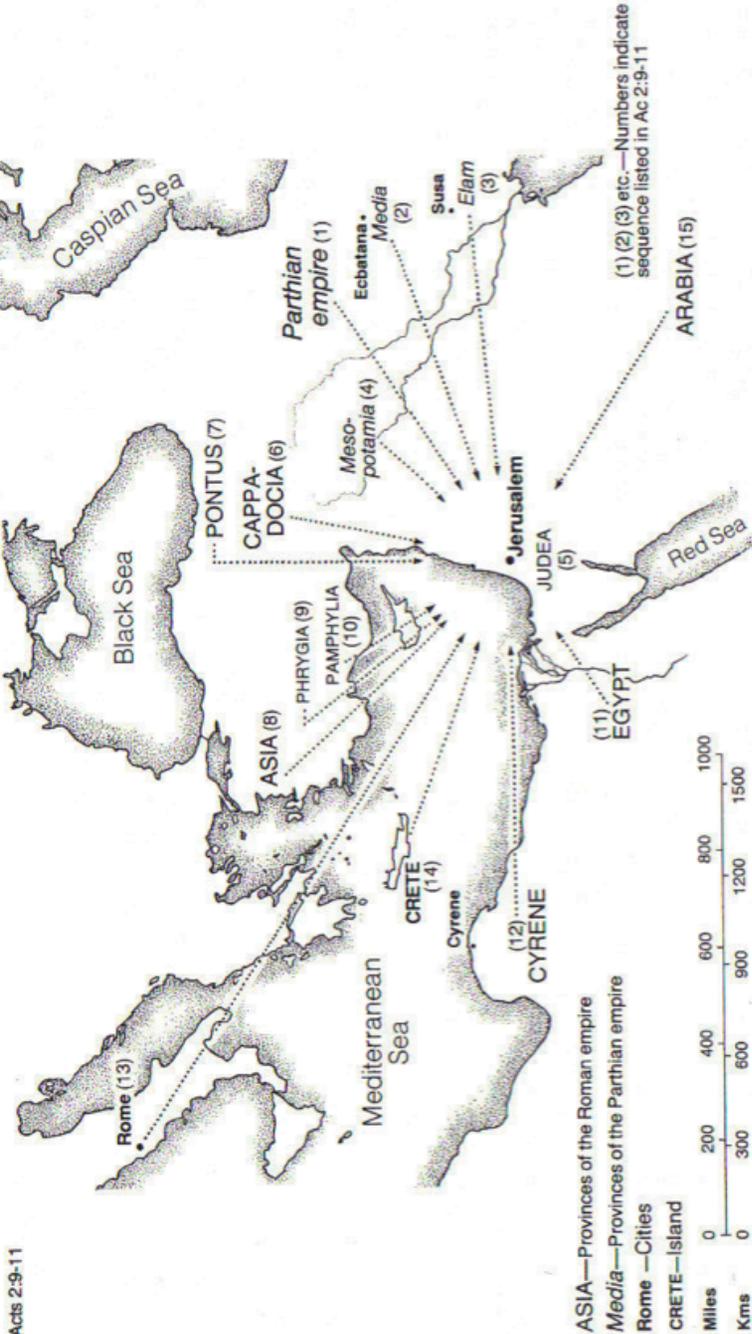
The images of fire and sound/wind show us that **God** came down among His people to indwell and empower them.

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance

filled with the Spirit (see also Luke 1:15, 41, 67)

*began to speak in other tongues (or, **languages**)*

Countries of People Mentioned at Pentecost



Acts 2:9-11

c. Reaction (2:5-13)

Who? devout **Jews** in Jerusalem for Pentecost

What? Each one *was hearing the mighty works of God* (11)

in his own dialect (6), **mother** tongue (8)

bewildered, **amazed**, astonished, perplexed

From where? preview of the gospel going **global**

How?

1) How can these **Galileans** (4:13) speak like this?

2) How can we be hearing this in our **own** tongues?

When God Came Down (Acts 2:1-13)

1. God keeps His promises, without telling how or when (1:4-5)

2. The **ordinary** and extraordinary overlap (7)

3. There is **no** formula to follow. It is one-of-a-kind event.

4. Symbols drawn from many sources, without forcing the details

Babel (Gen. 11); Mt. Sinai (Exod. 19); **birth** (Luke 2)

5. Many **languages**, but only one message (11)

6. Even apostolic witness is subject to **ridicule** (13)

Life Group Homework

1. What do you think it would have been like to be in the house present with the apostles when the Holy Spirit came down?

2. What do you think it would have been like to be in the crowd outside the house hearing the commotion and languages?

3. READ Genesis 11:1-9. The people were building a tower-temple to reach up to God and “make a name” for themselves.

In Acts 2, God comes down and begins to build a people-temple to make name for Himself.

What other similarities or differences do you notice?

4. READ Luke 3:16-17. John the Baptist spoke about the Holy Spirit coming with purifying fires of judgment. In Acts 2, does the Spirit bring judgment or salvation or both (2:19-21; 40-41)?

5. Hearing the “mighty works of God” in their own language left the audience begging for an explanation, and opened the way for Peter’s sermon telling the gospel.

Take some time and write down something God has done for you or someone else. Who will you tell what God has done?
