

Shavuot

The Jewish Feast that *Changed* the World

A. The *Promise* of Power for Ministry

“He (Jesus) said the them (His disciples)...
but **you** will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
and **you** shall be *My witnesses* both in **Jerusalem**, and in **all Judea**
and **Samaria**, and *even* to the **remotest part** of the **earth**.”
(Acts 1:7a, 8)

B. The “*Pouring Forth*” of God’s Holy Spirit

1. A *Perplexing Sign*

When the day of Pentecost (Shavuot) had come,
They (**Messiah’s disciples**) were **all together** in one place.
And **suddenly** there came from **heaven** a **noise** like a violent **rushing wind**,
and it **filled** the **whole house** where they were sitting.

And there appeared to them **tongues** as of **fire** distributing
themselves, and they **rested** on **each one** of them.
And they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit and began to speak
with **other tongues**, as the Spirit was **giving them utterance**.

Now there were **Jews** living in **Jerusalem**,
devout men from **every nation** under **heaven**.

And when this **sound** occurred, the **crowd** came together,
and they were **bewildered** because they were **each one**
hearing them speak in his own language.

They were **amazed** and **astonished**, saying,
“Why, are not **all these** who are **speaking Galileans**?
And how is it that we each **hear them** in our **own language**
to which we were **born**?..— we hear them
in our **own tongues** speaking of the **mighty deeds of God**.”

And they **all** continued in **amazement** and **great perplexity**,
saying to one another, “*What* does this mean?”

But others were **mocking** and **saying**,
“**They** are full of **sweet wine**.”

(Acts 2:1-13)

2. A *Prophetic Proclamation*

But **Peter**, taking his stand with **the eleven**,
raised his voice and **declared** to them:

“Men of Judah...give heed to my words...

...this is what was **spoken of** through the **prophet Joel**:

‘AND IT SHALL BE IN THE **LAST DAYS**,’ God says,
‘THAT I WILL **POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT** ON ALL MANKIND;

AND YOUR **SONS** AND YOUR **DAUGHTERS** SHALL **PROPHECY**,
AND YOUR **YOUNG MEN** SHALL **SEE VISIONS**,
AND YOUR **OLD MEN** SHALL **DREAM DREAMS**;

EVEN ON MY **BONDSLAVES**, BOTH **MEN** AND **WOMEN**,
I WILL IN THOSE DAYS **POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT**
And they shall **prophecy**...

...let **all the house of Israel** know for certain
that **God** has made **Him** both **Lord and Messiah**—
this **Jesus** whom **you crucified**.”
(Acts 2:14-18, 36)

3. A **Powerful Result**—a great **Spiritual “Harvest”**

Now when they (**the people**) heard *this*,
they were **pierced to the heart**,
and said to **Peter** and the rest of the **apostles**,
“**Brethren, what shall we do?**”

Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you **be baptized**
in the **name of Jesus the Messiah** for the **forgiveness** of your **sins**;
and you will receive the **gift of the Holy Spirit**.”

For the **promise** is for **you** and **your children**
and for **all** who are **far off**,
as **many** as the **Lord our God will call to Himself**...”

So then, **those** who had **received his word** were **baptized**;
and **that day** there were added **three thousand souls**...

And the Lord was **adding** to their number **day by day**
those who were **being saved**.
(Acts 2:37-39, 41, 47b)

C. The **Powerful Worldwide Impact**

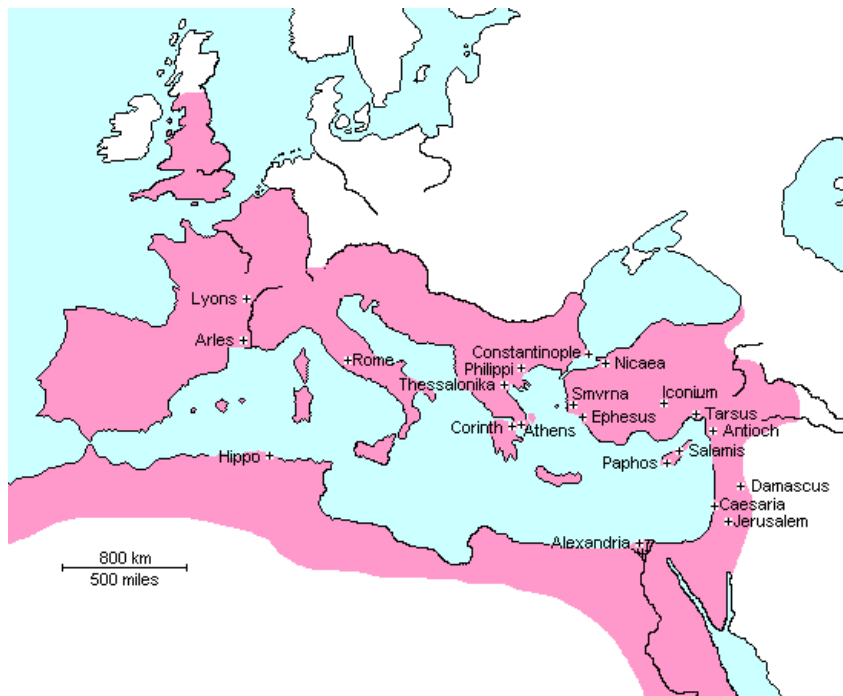
And with **great power** the **apostles** were **giving testimony**
to the **resurrection of the Lord Jesus**,
and **abundant grace** was upon them **all**...(Acts 4:33)

But the **word of God** kept on **spreading**;
and the **number** of the **disciples** continued to **increase greatly**
in **Jerusalem**, and a **great many** of the **priests**
were becoming **obedient to the faith**. (Acts 6:7)

But the **word of the Lord** continued to **grow**
and to be **multiplied**... (Acts 12:24)

So the **word of the Lord** was **growing mightily** and **prevailing**...
(Acts 19:20)

When they (**the mob**) did not find them (**Paul and Silas**),
they *began* dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities,
shouting, "**These men who have upset the world have come here also**;
(Acts 17:6)



The Spread of Christianity in the Roman Empire
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Personal Challenge

Preparing for a Future Harvest

→ By **faithfully *Sowing*** the “seed” of the **Word of God**

When a large crowd was coming together,...

He (Jesus) spoke by way of a **parable**:

“The **sower** went out to sow his **seed**; and as he **sowed**,
some fell *beside* the road,...

Other **seed** fell on **rocky soil**,...
Other **seed** fell among **thorns**;...
Other **seed** fell into the **good soil**, and **grew up**,
and produced a **great crop** a **hundred times** as **great**...

Now the parable is this: the **seed** is the **word of God**..."
(Luke 8:5-8, 11)

...for **you** have been **born again** not of **seed** which is **perishable** but
imperishable, *that is*, through the **living** and **enduring word of God**.
(I Peter 1:23)

→ By **faithfully "Watering"** the **field of God**

What then is **Apollos**? And what is **Paul**?
Servants through whom **you** believed,
even as the **Lord** gave **opportunity** to **each one**.

I **planted**, **Apollos watered**, but **God** was **causing** the **growth**....
For **we** are **God's fellow workers**; **you** are **God's field**, **God's building**.
(I Corinthians 3:5-6, 9)

→ By **faithfully Praying** that **God** will "send out" **workers** into
His harvest field

Seeing the **people**, **He (Messiah)** felt **compassion** for them,
because they were **distressed** and **dispersed** like **sheep** without a **shepherd**.

Then **He** said to **His disciples**,
"The **harvest is plentiful**, but the **workers are few**.
Therefore **beseech** the **Lord of the harvest**
to send out **workers** into **His harvest**." (Matthew 9:36-38)

→ By **patiently Persevering** until the "latter rains" produce the "final"
harvest (a **final harvest** before the **return of the Lord**)

Let us **not lose heart** in **doing good**, for in **due time**
we will reap if we do **not grow weary**. (Galatians 6:9)

Therefore **be patient**, **brethren**, until the **coming of the Lord**.
The **farmer waits** for the **precious produce** of the **soil**, being **patient**
about it, until it gets the **early and late rains**.
You too be patient; **strengthen your hearts**,
for the **coming of the Lord** is **near**. (James 5:7-8)

Communion