

PENTECOST

May 20, 2018



THE LESSON Acts 2:1-21

When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. They were surprised and amazed, saying, "Look, aren't all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!" They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, "What does this

mean?" Others jeered at them, saying, "They're full of new wine!"

Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, "Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! These people aren't drunk, as you suspect; after all, it's only nine o'clock in the morning! Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

Your young will see visions.

Your elders will dream dreams.

Even upon my servants, men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy.

I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.

The sun will be changed into darkness, and the moon will be changed into blood,

before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes.

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

THE RESPONSE Psalm 104:24-34, 35

LORD, you have done so many things! You made them all so wisely! The earth is full of your creations!

And then there's the sea, wide and deep, with its countless creatures—living things both small and large.

There go the ships on it, and Leviathan, which you made, plays in it!

All your creations wait for you to give them their food on time.

When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled completely full!

But when you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to dust.

When you let loose your breath, they are created, and you make the surface of the ground brand-new again.

Let the LORD's glory last forever! Let the LORD rejoice in all he has made!

He has only to look at the earth, and it shakes. God just touches the mountains, and they erupt in smoke.

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I'm still alive.

Let my praise be pleasing to him; I'm rejoicing in the LORD!

Let sinners be wiped clean from the earth; let the wicked be no more. But let my whole being bless the LORD! Praise the LORD!

THE EPISTLE Romans 8:22-27

We know that the whole creation is groaning together and suffering labor pains up until now. And it's not only the creation. We ourselves who have the Spirit as the first crop of the harvest also groan inside as we wait to be adopted and for our bodies to be set free. We were saved in hope. If we see what we hope for, that isn't hope.

THE GOSPEL John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

When the Companion comes, whom I will send from the Father—the Spirit of Truth who proceeds from the Father—he will testify about me. You will testify too, because you have been with me from the beginning.

You will remember that I told you about them.

I didn't say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I go away to the one who sent me. None of you ask me, "Where are you going?" Yet because I have said these things to you, you are filled with sorrow. I assure you that it is better for you that I go away. If I don't go away, the Companion won't come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will

show the world it was wrong about sin,

righteousness, and judgment. He will show the world it was wrong about sin because they don't believe in me. He will show the world it was wrong about righteousness because I'm going to the Father and you won't see me anymore. He will show the world it was wrong about judgment because this world's ruler stands condemned.

I have much more to say to you, but you can't handle it now. However, when the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you in all truth. He won't speak on his own, but will say whatever he hears and will proclaim to you what is to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and proclaim it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine. That's why I said that the Spirit takes what is mine and will proclaim it to you.

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