

THE YEAR IN OUR LORD, 2009-2010

THE GLORY RETURNS: A PENTECOST MESSAGE (ACTS 2:1-11)

- I. **“You Will Be My Witnesses”**
- II. **The Lord Jesus Christ sends the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-11)**
 - A. The setting: “When the day of Pentecost arrived” (2:1)
 - 1. Pentecost/the Feast of Weeks is a harvest festival (Lev 23:15-22).
 - 2. It comes fifty (*pente*) days after Passover.
 - B. The Holy Spirit arrives (2:2-3).
 - C. Excursus: What is the significance of the wind and fire?
 - 1. Wind is a symbol of God’s power-presence.
 - a. God divided the Red Sea with the wind (Ex 14:21).
 - b. God rides the “wings of the wind” (1 Sam 22:11).
 - c. God uses the wind to resurrect dead Israel (Ezk 37:3-6).
 - 2. Fire is also symbol of God’s power-presence.
 - a. God appears to Moses in a burning bush (Ex 3:2-5).
 - b. God guides Israel with a pillar of fire (Ex 13:21-22).
 - c. God descends on Mount Sinai in fire (Ex 19:18).
 - 3. Summary: Acts 2 describes a *theophany*, a visible and majestic revelation of God.
 - D. The effects of the Holy Spirit’s arrival (2:4)
 - 1. The disciples are filled with the Holy Spirit (cf. 1 Cor 3:16; 6:19; Eph 2:19-21)
 - 2. The disciples begin to speak the gospel in other languages.
 - E. People from every nation under heaven hear the gospel of Jesus Christ (2:5-11).
 - 1. Parthians, Medes, and Elamites (Iran)
 - 2. Mesopotamians (Iraq)
 - 3. Judeans (Palestinian Jews)
 - 4. Cappadocians, Pontusians, Asians, Phrygians and Pamphylans (Turkey)
 - 5. Egyptians (North Africa)
 - 6. Libyans (North Africa)
 - 7. Romans, who were either Jews or converts to Judaism (v 11)
 - 8. Cretans
 - 9. Arabians

III. **Many More Implications of the Arrival of the Holy Spirit**

The arrival of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost is...

- A. The fulfillment of the promise of God the Father (Lk 24:49).
- B. The authorization of Jesus’ disciples for witness (Acts 1:8).
- C. The “temple-ization” of the church (1 Cor 3:16-17; cf. Eph 2:21-22).
- D. The return of the glory of God to his house (Ezek 10; 43:1-5).
- E. The guarantee of our final redemption (Eph 4:30).

IV. **God’s Temple-People**

Because the Lord Jesus Christ has ascended into heaven and has given us the promise of his Father, the Holy Spirit, we must now recognize that we each have the Holy Spirit; grow into greater submission to him, and present him to others as God’s designated goal in life.

- A. We now recognize that we each have the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. We have the Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done—not because of our own obedience to God (Gal 3:2).
 - 2. We have the most important blessing that God has to offer.
 - 3. Therefore, we grant our fellow Christian the respect befitting a bearer of the Holy Spirit.
- B. We now grow into great submission to the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. While we have the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit still does not have all of us.
 - 2. Therefore, we need to be continually “filled with the Holy Spirit” (Eph 5:18).
 - 3. To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be filled with the word of Christ (Col 3:16).
—The Spirit-filled Christian is the Word-ruled Christian.
- C. We present the Holy Spirit to the world as God’s designated goal for all mankind through Christ (Acts 2:38).
—What is the supreme state of blessedness for the human being? It is to be in the Holy Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ.