

GREAT CHAPTERS OF THE BIBLE
ACTS CHAPTER TWO
“PENTECOST—THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH”

I. INTRODUCTION.

- a. Some “Greats” of Act 1.
- b. Luke 24:47—Jesus looked forward to that day as the beginning of preaching “in his name”.
- c. Acts 11:15—In Peter’s speech at Cornelius’ house, he looked back to the events of that day as “the beginning”.

II. PENTECOST—THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH.
(ACTS 2)

a. THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. (1-4)

- “Pentecost” means “fiftieth” and describes the feast day of the “Feast of the Weeks”—a Jewish “holy” day. (Lev. 23:15ff) The day fell on the first day of the week, fifty days after the Jewish Passover.
- The “they” of verse one probably refers to the 12 apostles. (See Acts 1:26).
- Jesus promised the coming of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 24:49: Acts 1:5)
- The purpose of the coming of the Holy Spirit was to fill the apostles with power and to inspire their knowledge and memory. (John 14:26 and 16:13)

b. THE REACTION OF THE MULTITUDE TO THE MIRACLE. (5-13)

- Situation—the apostles spoke in the languages of all the people. (6)
- Reaction—the multitude was amazed. (7-8)
- Those present—people from the entire Mediterranean Sea area. (9-12)
- They wondered—what does this mean? (12)

c. **PETER'S EXPLANATION. (14-21)**

- It was too early in the day for them to be drunk as some supposed. (14-15)
- His explanation was that this was what the prophet Joel prophesied in Joel 2:28-32. (16-21)

d. **JESUS IS PROCLAIMED TO BE BOTH LORD AND CHRIST. (22-31)**

- Peter calls attention to the miracles of Jesus. (22)
- He calls to his audience's attention their responsibility for the death of Jesus. (23)
- Peter proclaims that God had raised the "crucified one" from the dead. (24-31)
 1. Foretold in the Old Testament.
 - a. Psalm 16:8-11 is quoted in verses 25-28.
 - b. Prophecy did not refer to David--but that David, a prophet, had known that God would set one upon his (David's) throne at a later time. See II Samuel 7:12. (29-31)

e. **THE TESTIMONY OF THE APOSTLES. (32-36)**

- They witnessed the resurrection. (32)
- David also prophesied the exaltation of the Messiah to the right hand of God. See Psalm 110:1. (33-35)
- The central theme of Peter's sermon: "God has made that same Jesus whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ". (36)

f. **THE CALL TO REPENTANCE AND BAPTISM. (37-41)**

- The peoples' question. (37)
- Answer given by Peter. (38-39)
 1. Jesus had laid down these terms in his "Great Commission". (Luke 24:47; Matt. 28:18-20 and Mark 16:16)
- Luke recorded only part of Peter's sermon. (40)
- The people's response. (41)

g. **THE WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP OF THE EARLY CHURCH. (42-47)**

- Picture of worship activities of the young church. (42)
- There was a sense of awe and reverence in the young church. (43)
- There was a voluntary sharing of their possessions. (44-45)
- There was daily worship in the temple and from house to house. (46)
- Net result of their steadfastness: (47)
 1. God was praised.
 2. They had favor with all the people.
 3. There was a constant increase in the number that was added to the church by the Lord.