

Introduction:

The Old Testament events were looking forward to this occasion. One might describe Acts 2 as a "spiritual explosion." So many things unfold in this chapter. It's the design of this study to walk through Acts 2 and witness the spiritual explosion as revealed by the Revelator, the Holy Spirit.

Discussion:

- I. Acts 2:1 "When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place."
 - A. "the Day of Pentecost" came 50 days after the Passover Sabbath, seven weeks plus 1 day (Lev. 23:15-16).
 - 1. This was one of three feast the male Jews were required to visit Jerusalem (Ex. 23:14; 34:23-24).

A reading of 2 Chronicles 8:12-13 reveals, "Then Solomon offered burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar of the LORD which he had built before the vestibule, 13 according to the daily rate, offering according to the commandment of Moses, for the Sabbaths, the New Moons, <u>and the three appointed yearly feasts—the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles</u>."

- a. Passover or feast of unleavened bread (mid to late April).
- b. Pentecost or feast of weeks (early June)
- c. Tabernacles or feast of ingathering (October).
- 2. "Pentecost" came on the first day of the week.
 - a. Jesus arose on the first day of the week (Lk. 24:1).
 - b. The church began on the first day of the week (Acts 2:1, 47).
 - c. Early Christians assembled on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7).
- B. "...they were all with one accord in one place" (Acts 2:1b).
 - 1. "They" being the Apostles.
 - a. Acts 1 ends with "And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles" (Acts 1:26).
 - b. Acts 2:1 opens in reference to the Apostles "They" refers to the Apostles.
 - 2. Why were they, the Apostles, in Jerusalem "with one accord in one place"?
 - a. Just before He ascended into heaven, Jesus instructed the Apostles saying, "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high" (Lk. 24:49).

- b. Luke records in Acts 1:4-5, "And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."
- c. The Apostles didn't have to wait too long.
 - i. Jesus was with His disciples for 40 days following His resurrection and up until His ascension (Acts 1:3).
 - ii. Acts 2 occurs on the Day of Pentecost meaning the Apostles had to wait approximately 10 days in Jerusalem.
- **II.** Acts 2:2 "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting."
 - A. It's happening, the Promise of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles.
 - B. They could hear a "mighty wind" but there was no wind, just the sound of.
 - 1. This had to be most unusual.
 - 2. They (we) surely were acquainted with strong winds, you can hear it, see it, and feel it, but only hear it on this occasion.
 - C. The "house" likely refers to the Temple (note Acts 7:47).
 - 1. The Apostles were likely in the courtyard of the Temple complex and the events that are now unfolding are public in nature.
 - 2. Attention will quickly come upon the Apostles as part of God's Divine arrangement for the beginning of the proclamation of the Gospel.
- III. Acts 2:3 "Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them."
 - A. The imagery is fascinating, "divided tongues, as of fire" just above or on top of their heads.
 - B. This was not literal fire, but "as of fire" the appearance of fire.

IV. Acts 2:4 "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

- A. The Apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. Holy Spirit baptism was promised to the Apostles and was received by the Apostles on this occasion.
 - a. Jesus spoke to the Apostles, "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you" (Jn. 14:16-17).
 - b. Jesus continued, "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you" (Jn. 14:26).





- i. The Holy Spirit would teach the Apostles those things that Jesus did not directly or personally teach them.
- ii. The Holy Spirit would also remind the Apostles those things that Jesus taught them while He was with them.
- c. Jesus promised, "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come" (Jn. 16:13).
- d. Jesus said, "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high" (Lk. 24:49).
- B. The Apostles spoke in different tongues or languages.
 - 1. This was miraculous in that the Apostles were able to speak another language they had never studied.
 - 2. The miracle was on the Apostles and not on those who were hearing "Spirit gave them" the Apostles.



- 3. "Tongues" were actual languages and not some ecstatic gibberish uttered by alleged "tongue speakers" today.
- C. The Holy Spirit was received on a "special occasion" by the Gentiles in the form of Cornelis' household.
 - 1. Why?
 - 2. To prove to the Jews that "...Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life" (Acts 11:18).
- V. Acts 2:5 "And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven."
 - A. Some of these devote Jews lived permanently in Jerusalem while thousands of others were there for the feasts.
 - B. "devote Jews' may be speaking of those who have traveled to Jerusalem to observe the feasts.
 - C. Jews present from every nation will be further emphasized in Acts 2:9-11.

VI. Acts 2:6 "And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language."

- A. Early we read about the noise of a "mighty rushing wind."
- B. Now the Apostles speaking in different languages.
- C. It would not take much to see how the Jews present were confused, bewildered, and or confounded.
- D. This was a Pentecost unlike any other.
- E. They were "confused" (vs. 6); "amazed and marveled" (vs. 7), and "amazed and perplexed" (vs. 12) at what they seen and heard.

Acts 2:6

"confused" (NKJV) "bewildered" (NASB) "confounded" (KJV)

- VII. Acts 2:7 "Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?"
 - A. Further confounding observations came from the fact the Apostles were Galileans.
 - 1. The Galileans spoke with a distinctive accent.
 - 2. Remember when Peter was confronted in the courtyard by one of the women, "And the servant girl saw him again, and began to say to those who stood by, "This is one of them." 70 But he denied it again. And a little later those who stood by said to Peter again, "Surely you are one of them; for you are a Galilean, and your speech shows it." (Mk. 14:69-70).
 - 3. Galileans were often views as "uneducated and untrained" (Acts 4:13).
 - B. These "uneducated" Galileans " are speaking fluently in different languages.
- VIII. Acts 2:8 "And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?"
 - A. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit fell on the Apostles, and it was the Apostles who spoke in different languages.
 - B. The Jews had been scattered all over the world (note Acts 2:5, 9-11).
 - 1. As a result of being scattered they spoke different languages.
 - 2. They spoke the native language of where they lived and that's the language, they heard the Apostles speaking in.
- IX. Acts 2:9 "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia"
- X. Acts 2:10 "Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes"
- **XI.** Acts 2:11 "Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."
 - A. The Apostles spoke of the wonderful works of God.
 - B. What did this include?
 - 1. Likely Old Testament history from the Patriarchs to the prophets.
 - 2. Likely included some mention of Messianic prophecy.
 - 3. Stephens address in Acts 7 may be a good reference point.
 - C. This is the moment Jesus had been training the Apostles for.
- **XII.** Acts 2:12 "So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"
 - A. Those in Jerusalem were "perplexed" or where unsure of what to think about these happenings.
 - B. These events were in some manner preparatory for what was to come, the preaching of the Gospel at the mouth of the Apostles.

At minimum. there were 15 different regions or nations present in Jerusalem.

- XIII. Acts 2:13 "Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."
 - A. There has been, there was, and there will always be those who mock or oppose.
 - B. Could drunk men speak in different languages coherently?
 - C. The lesser minded often defer to ridicule for self-justification.

XIV. Acts 2:14 "But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words."

- A. Peter begins by refuting the previous accusation or mocking.
- B. He calls upon the people to listen carefully to what he is about to say.
- XV. Acts 2:15 "For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day."
 - A. The third hour of the day would have been around 9:00am.
 - B. Based upon the stricter eating habits or restrictions of the Jews, this would have made this highly unlikely if not entirely impossible.

XVI. Acts 2:16 "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:"

- A. Peter is going to explain that what they have just witnessed was an outpouring of the Spirit upon the Apostles and not the pouring of fermented wine.
- B. Peter is going to substantiate his argument by referring to Joel's prophecy (Joel 2:28-32).
- C. Joel prophesied around 830 B.C. to the southern kingdom of Juda.
 - a. United Kingdom divided around 930 B.C.
 - b. Northern kingdom of Israel overrun around 721 B.C. by the Assyrians.
 - c. Judah Alone lasted till around 586 B.C. when the Babylonians besieged Jerusalem and took the Jews captive to Babylon.
- XVII. Acts 2:17 "'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams."
- XVIII. Acts 2:18 "And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy."
- XIX. Acts 2:19 "I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath Blood and fire and vapor of smoke."
- **XX.** Acts 2:20 "The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD."
- **XXI.** Acts 2:21 "And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved."

The events of Acts chapter 2, specifically the Apostles receiving the Holy Spirit, are the fulfillment of Joels prophecy.



The Last Days

- The "last days" refers to a dispensation or period of time, the reign of the Messiah.
- God "has in these last days spoken to us by His Son..." (Heb. 1:1-2).
- Paul lived in the last days (2 Tim. 3:1).
- Joel was referring to the "last days" or the period of the Gospel dispensation or the age of the church.
- We live in the "last days" or under the rule of Jesus the Christ.

Calling On The Name Of The Lord

- Joel prophesied about a period of time or dispensation when all men, whoever, Jew and Gentile could be saved.
- Calling on the name of the Lord is more than a verbal exercise.
- Ananias said to Saul, "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.' (Acts 22:16).
- Read Matthew 7:21 and James 1:22 and note how humanity must be doers of God's word.

The Imagery Of Joel's Prophecy

- The imagery referred to by Peter is not literal but symbolic.
- The language or imagery is designed to describe a momentous occasion or event(s).
- The events of Acts 2 were certainly momentous.
- This Pentecost in Acts 2 was unlike any Pentecost previously!
- XXII. Acts 2:22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—"
 - A. "Jesus of Nazareth"
 - 1. Jesus was born in Bethlehem (Matt. 2:1), but grew up and lived in Nazareth (Lk. 2:4, 39, 51).
 - 2. Nathaniel asked, *"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"* (Jn. 1:46).
 - B. God attested, provided clear evidence, concerning Jesus.
 - 1. These miracles, wonders, and signs were not done in secret.
 - 2. Peter told them "...you yourselves also know..."
 - 3. There had to be a lot of talk these previous 50 days regarding the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

XXIII. Acts 2:23 "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;"

- A. It was the Jews who cried out *"Crucify Him, crucify Him!"* (Lk. 23:21).
- B. "Lawless hands" the Romans nailed Jesus to the cross.
 - 1. The Jews, under Roman authority in the first century, could sentence to death but could not carry out capital punishment.
 - 2. The unbelieving Jews needed the Romans help (Jn. 18:31).
- General Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection were all in "...the foreknowledge of God" or part of God's Divine arrangement to save man from sin (note Gen. 12:3; Gal. 3:19, 16).

XXIV. Acts 2:24 "whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it."

The Gospel In A Nutshell...

The Death Burial Resurrection of Jesus the Christ

(see1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

Jesus Died On A Roman Cross

"In Jewish minds, the Messiah would come in glory and power. He would not come in poverty, live as a servant, and die as a criminal. It is not surprising, then, that Paul spoke of the cross as "a stumbling block" to the Jews (1 Cor. 1:23).

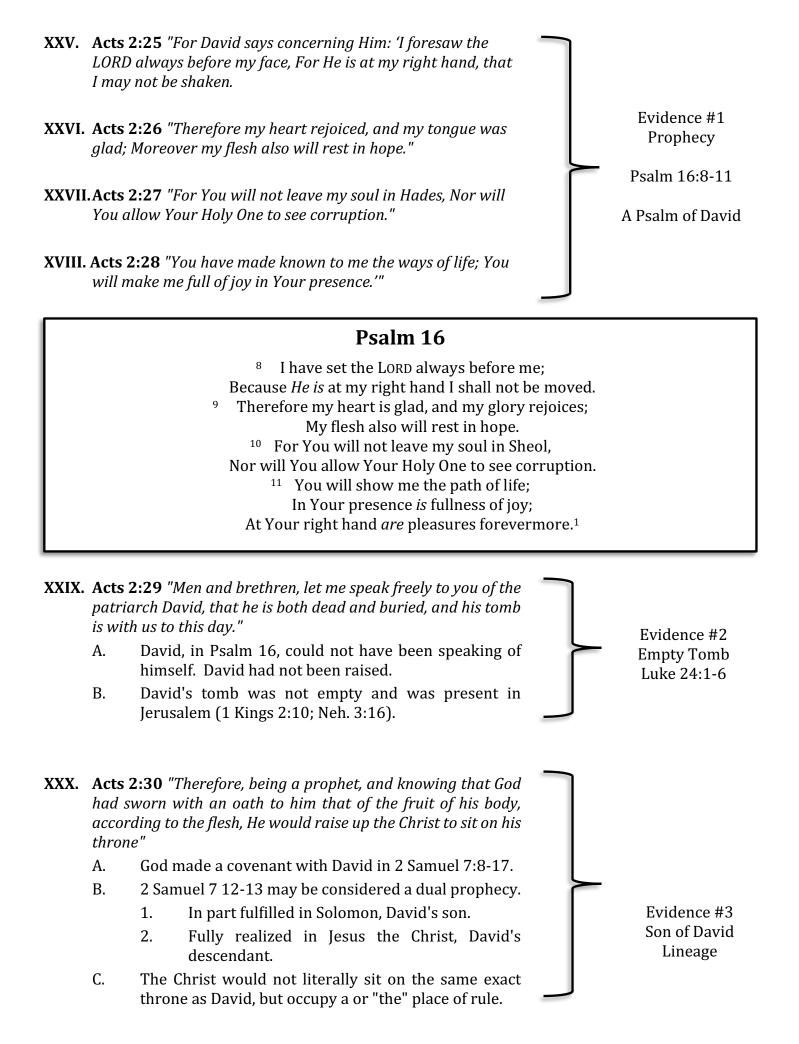
~Truth For Today Commentary, David L. Roper, Acts 1-14, pg. 70

Resurrection Proof

Acts 2:25-33

Luke wrote "to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God" (Acts 1:3). Peter in Acts 2 presents some of these "infallible proofs" of the resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

- #1: Prophecy (Acts 2:25-28).
- #2: Empty Tomb (Acts 2:29).
- #3: Son of David, lineage (Acts 2:30).
- #4: Eyewitnesses (Acts 2:31-32)
- #5: Outpouring Of The Spirit (Acts 2:33).



XXXI.	resurr	rection	of the	foreseeing this, spoke concerning the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, corruption."	
XXXII. Acts 2:32 "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses."					
	А.	The A Jesus.	postles	were eyewitnesses of the resurrected	
	B.	Follov	w the resurrection timeline: Resurrection Sunday:		
		1.			
			a.	Mary Magdalene (Jn. 20:11-18).	
			b.	The other Mary, Salome, Joanna, and at least one other woman (Matt. 28:1; Mk. 16:1; Lk. 24;10).	
			C.	Simon Peter (Lk. 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:5).	
			d.	Clopas and companion on road to Emmauss (Lk. 24:13-35).	
			e.	The Apostles minus Thomas (Lk. 24:36- 43; Jn. 20:19-25).	
		2. Eight days later:		days later:	
			a.	The Apostles, including Thomas (Jn. 20:26-29).	
			b.	We don't know why Thomas was not present the first time Jesus appeared to the Apostles, but Thomas was on this occasion.	
		3.	The n	ext few weeks:	
			a.	Seven disciples as the sea of Tiberias (Jn. 21:1-23).	
			b.	The disciples and a large gathering at a mountain in Galilee (Matt. 28:16-17; 1 Cor. 15:6).	
			с.	James (1 Cor. 15:7).	
		4.	40th day:		
			a.	Disciples (Lk. 24:49-53; Acts 1:3-11).	
			b.	John penned, "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life" (1 Jn. 1:1). This is true of Jesus before His crucifixion and the resurrected Jesus.	

Evidence #4 Eyewitnesses **XXXIII. Acts 2:33** "Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear."

- A. "...this which you now see and hear"
 - 1. Hear the mighty rushing wind.
 - 2. See the flickering of flames.
 - 3. Hearing Galileans speak in different languages.
- B. The events of Acts 2:1-4 were miraculous and evidence the resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

XXXIV. Acts 2:34 "For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand,"

- A. If Jesus arose from the dead, where is He now?
- B. Jesus ascended "Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9).
- C. Peter showed this had to happen according to the prophecy of David (Psalm 110:1).

XXXV. Acts 2:35 "Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."'

- A. A continuation of Psalm 110:1
- B. The last enemy will be death (1 Cor. 15:25-26).

XXXVI. Acts 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

- A. This is the inescapable conclusion, Jesus is Lord and Christ, and they crucified Him.
- B. Jesus is Lord He occupies the position of authority.
- C. Jesus is the Christ the Anointed one through whom all rule comes.

XXXVII. Acts 2:37 "Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

- A. This verse starts to reveal the reaction of the hearers.
- B. They "were cut to the heart..."
 - 1. From the Greek to "pain the mind sharply, agitate in Vehemently" (Thayer).
 - 2. The Messiah had come, He was accompanied by signs, wonders, and miracles, and yet they rejected and crucified Him.
- C. The question "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" was addressed to the Apostles, further emphasizing that it was the Apostles who received Holy Spirit baptism.
 - 1. The question is one that should be asked by every person and every generation.
 - 2. What could they do to remove the guilt of sin?

Evidence #5 The Outpouring Of The Holy Spirit Upon The Apostles **XXXVIII. Acts 2:38** "Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

- A. Peter's response began with "Repent..."
 - Repentance involves a change of heart that leads to a reformed life (see 1 Cor. 6:11).
 - 2. Repentance, a turning away from sin is necessary (Acts 17:30; Lk. 13:3).
- B. Peter continued "...be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..."
 - 1. Baptism is a burial (Rom. 6:3-4; Acts 8:36) or immersion in water.
 - 2. The purpose of baptism is "for the remission of sins."
 - a. A person is not baptized because he or she is already saved.
 - b. A person is baptized in order to obtain the forgiveness of sins.
- C. The "gift of the Holy Spirit" is salvation.

XXXIX. Acts 2:39 "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

- A. The promise of the "gift" (salvation) is available to all men of every generation.
- B. God's calls us today through the Gospel.
- **XL.** Acts 2:40 "And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."
 - A. Peter continued to share God's will with those present.
 - B. The exhorted to "be saved from this perverse generation" or to separate themselves from their generation.
 - 1. There is a spiritual emphasis in them being saved from this perverse generation.
 - 2. They would have to believe in Jesus and obey His authoritative voice.
- **XLI.** Acts 2:41 "Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them."
 - A. Some 3000 souls received or accepted the Apostles teaching and were baptized for the remission of their sins.
 - B. The heard the word of God, repented, and were baptized.
- **XLII.** Acts 2:42 "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."
 - A. This passage helps us to appreciate the need to be faithful in service and worship after becoming a Christian.
 - B. "continued steadfastly" to engage in, live, walk, a way of life now.
 - C. "apostles' doctrine" teaching
 - D. "fellowship" sharing a common purpose, hope, relationship
 - E. "the breaking of bread" Lord's Supper remembering Jesus' death (1 Cor. 11:26).
 - F. "prayers" communicating to God.

- XLIII. Acts 2:43 "Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles."
 - A. "fear" (NKJV) or "awe" (ESV), that is regard or respect was demonstrated at what they witnessed.
 - B. The apostles worked signs, wonders, and miracles to confirm the word they were teaching and not for personal gain or entertainment purposes.

XLIV. Acts 2:44 "Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,"

- A. As Christians they now share many things concerning faith in Jesus the Christ.
- B. Christians have many things in common through Jesus Christ.
- **XLV.** Acts 2:45 "and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need."
 - A. These first century converts helped each other.
 - B. Many sold goods and possessions to help others.
 - C. This Day of Pentecost was different than any other.
 - D. The Jews that had come to Jerusalem had no way of knowing that on this Pentecost the Gospel would be preached and the Lord's kingdom would have its beginning.
- **XLVI.** Acts 2:46 "So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,"
 - A. These early disciples continued to meet in the Temple court, ate common meals together, and had humble hearts.
 - B. Their lives have been forever changed by the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ and their obedience to the Gospel.

XLVII. Acts 2:47 "praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."

- A. Those that were saved were the ones who heard the word of God, believed, and obeyed, and were baptized for the remission of sins.
- B. The Lord added the obedient baptized believer to the church.
 - 1. The church here is used in a universal sense.
 - 2. This is the number of the saved over all the earth.

Summary:

While Jesus was alive, He promised the Apostles a helper, the Holy Spirit. This Helper would guide them into all truth. Acts 2 opens with this promise being fulfilled. The Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 2:102) prophesied that the church would have its beginning in Jerusalem, and the Law of the Lord would go forth from Jerusalem. Acts 2 is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy.

Jesus died, was buried, and arose! The evidence is overwhelming that Jesus arose from dead, and that He is the Son of God, and the Christ. Peter preached Jesus in Jerusalem, and thousands of individuals heard and were baptized.

Jesus reigns over HIs spiritual kingdom to this day. When Jesus comes again, He will deliver up the kingdom to God the Father (1 Cor. 15:24).