



Handout for week of 6/3/19 Jn. 20: 19-23 & Acts 2: 1-11

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[The Day of Pentecost](#)

Acts 2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. ⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native

language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."



2.9-11: The native lands of Pentecost pilgrims.

COMMENTARY:

2.1-41: Holy Spirit and Peter's preaching. The events take place during Shavuot ("Weeks," Lev 23.15-21), a harvest festival (m. Bik. 3; b. Shabb. 86b) and in later Jewish tradition the time when Moses received the Torah (b. Pesah. 68b). 2.1-13: Sending of the Spirit. The act parallels Jesus' reception of the Spirit, Lk 3.21-22. 1: Pentecost, Gk "fifth," the day seven full weeks (fifty days) after Pesach (Passover), the name of the festival used by Greek-speaking Jews, 2 Macc 12.32; Josephus, J. W. 6.299. 3: Tongues as of fire, the specific image (Isa 5.24; 1 En. 14.8-25; 71.5) and fire in general (Ex 3.2; 14.24; 19.18; Isa 5.24) symbolize divine presence. 4: Filled with Holy Spirit fulfills 1.5. Other languages, here, as opposed to the discussion of tongues in 1 Cor 14.6-19, the speaking is in languages that are understood by native speakers in attendance.

5: Devout Jews from every nation, Shavuot, one of the three pilgrimage festivals (along with Pesach [Passover] and Sukkot [Booths]) that attracted many Jews to Jerusalem. The reference suggests that these Jews reside there. 7: Galileans, rabbinic commentary sometimes treated Galileans as ignorant (m. Eruv. 2.4; y. Shabb. 15d; b. Eruv. 53a-b). 9-11: List of Nations. The list adds geographic detail to every nation under heaven (v. 5) and foreshadows the spread of Christianity throughout the world. The order is roughly from east to west. 10: Proselytes, converts to Judaism. 13: New wine has not yet had time to begin turning to vinegar, so its alcoholic content is at its height. Pgs 201-2. [The Jewish Annotated New Testament](#)