

## The Acts of the Holy Spirit

### Acts 2:1-36

Look at Ezekiel 1:26-28 before we get back to the text of Acts. What device does the prophetic book use to signal the mystery of what's happening? How do the opening verses of Acts 2 use the same device? When the tongues-like-fire rest upon those gathered, what ability does the Holy Spirit confer?

When the Spirit comes as tongues-like-fire, there are Jews from all sorts of nations gathered. What human barrier is the Spirit breaking through here, and what human barrier waits for later in the book? When they hear the Galileans speaking so that everyone heard in his own language, what was the content of what they were saying? What dismissive theory do some present offer?

Peter heads off the talk of "new wine" when he notes the time of day. But then he offers a far bolder explanation of what's happening in Jerusalem. As with before, he quotes from two books of the Bible. Starting with Joel, what connections does Peter make between the text of the Bible and the movement of the Spirit? In what sense can we still think of Peter, in the first century AD, as inhabiting "the last days"?

In the quotation from Joel, what happens to the vocations of prophet and seer and dreamer? What sort of salvation does God offer to the people of the world? When Peter turns from reciting the text of Joel to speaking about the city of Jerusalem, what's the connection between the Day of the Lord, the city, and Jesus? How has God responded to Jerusalem's killing Jesus?

Peter ends his address to Jerusalem with a quote of Psalm 110 and a final statement of the Messianic status of Jesus. In his address to the crowds, what is God's stance towards the city that killed the Son of God? How does this relationship between God's enemies and God's response to enmity translate into other Christian teachings?