

# ACTS

## Chapter 2

### Note from Kathy

The Holy Spirit in us should be something others can see revealed in our decisions, actions and words. Let's make this chapter a very personal look into our own daily activities. My prayer is that we would not merely read the stories of these amazing men of old, but that we would be inspired to share in such a way that lives are changed for eternity.



### Observation

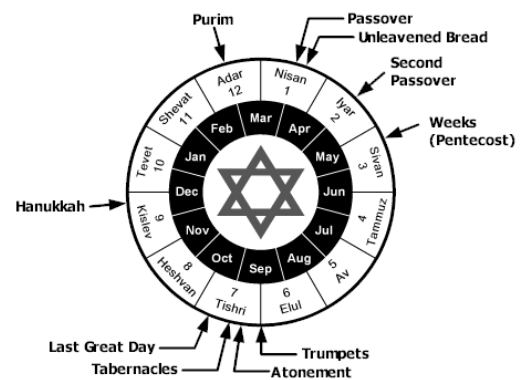
#### Feast of Weeks

The Jewish holiday calendar in the Old Testament included solemn feasts that all Jewish men were required to attend each year in Jerusalem. The Feast of Weeks was the second of these events. It is first mentioned in Exodus 34:22-23 which states, "You shall observe the Feast of Weeks, the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year's end. Three times in the year shall all your males appear before the LORD God, the God of Israel." The Hebrew term for this special time was *shavout* meaning "weeks." The Feast of Weeks took place seven full weeks or the fiftieth day following the Feast of First Fruits. It was also known as Pentecost, a word

1. What holiday mentioned in Acts 2:1 is also known as the Feast of Weeks?

2. This holiday was celebrated 50 days after Passover. According to John 19:31, the Jewish leaders were in a rush to have the bodies taken down from their crosses so they could celebrate a special Sabbath. Acts 1:3 tells us Jesus was with his disciples between his resurrection and his ascension for 40 days. Approximately how many days has it been since his ascension?

3. What amazing event was described in Acts 2:2-4



meaning fifty. Pentecost was also a day that would later become important to Christians as the birth of the church in Acts 2.

The Feast of Weeks commemorated the first fruits of the wheat harvest, a celebration of God's provision. As one of the harvest feasts, God's people were instructed to present grain offerings to the Lord (Leviticus 23:16). In addition, they were to offer several one-year old lambs without blemish, one young bull, and two rams, in addition to other offerings. Interestingly, the field harvesters were to leave the corners untouched in order for the poor and immigrants to gather food for themselves: "And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God" (Leviticus 23:22).

#### Acts 2:22-24

*"Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. <sup>23</sup>This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him."*

#### Acts 2:36

*"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."*

4. This was not an event for apostles only. Who were the witnesses mentioned in Acts 2:5-8?
5. Each of the witnesses heard the disciples speak that day and they understood them. Why was this an amazing event?
6. List the nations mentioned in Acts 1:9-11 that were represented.
7. Did everyone in the crowd see the wonder and the glory of this event? What were the different responses in the crowd that day?
8. What time of day did Peter address the crowd?
9. What did Peter use to try to help them understand?
10. What were the facts Peter pointed out in Acts 2:22-24
11. Again in Acts 2:25-31, to what does Peter refer to prove his point?
12. Peter boldly proclaims that Jesus has a position of high authority in verse 36. Look up the below words using biblestudytools.com and define them below.
  - a. Lord -
  - b. Messiah (Christ) -
13. What was the response of the crowd to Peter's preaching that day?
14. Conviction of sin led them to ask the apostles, "What shall we do?"

▢ Acts 2:37-41

*“When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’<sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.’<sup>40</sup> With many other words he warned them: and he pleaded with them, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’<sup>41</sup> Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousands were added to their number that day.”*

▢ Acts 2:14

*“Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: ‘Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you: listen carefully to what I say.’”*

Read Acts 2:37. What were the people instructed to do?

- a.
- b.

15. This was an amazing day for this new church. How many members were added to the church that day?

16. What did these new believers do?

What was the attitude of their heart?

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## Application

1. The followers of Jesus had been waiting in Jerusalem as Jesus had instructed them. Do you suppose they wondered what it would be like when the Holy Spirit came? If they did, do you believe it happened as they imagined?

God seldom carries out his plans as we imagine he will. Have you ever found yourself waiting on an answer to a prayer and then you were surprised by the way the Lord answered?

2. The believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in languages that they did not know. What do you believe was the purpose of this amazing event?

3. The text mentions the different responses to the miracle of speaking in tongues. Some were amazed and some perplexed. Some had questions and others made fun of what they did not understand. Often the unexplainable is the object of jokes and ridicule. What did this amazing event prove about the power one receives when the Holy Spirit comes to live in a person's heart?

Is there anything too hard for God—anything he cannot do?

According to Acts 2:14, what did Peter do?

What should we do when an opportunity such as this appears?

4. Many of those listening to Peter that day were convicted of their sin and their need for a Savior. They asked Peter, “Brothers, what shall

➤ **1 Peter 3:15-16**

*“...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,<sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience...”*

➤ **Isaiah 55:10-11**

*“As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”*

➤ **Acts 2:42-47**

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”*

we do?” Are you prepared to answer this question?

Are you familiar enough with the scriptures to be able to lead someone to Christ?

Read 1 Peter 3:15-16. What are we commanded to do?

5. What promises are we given in Isaiah 55:10-11?
  
6. That day 3,000 people came to faith in Christ. Let's just stop for a minute and enjoy the magnitude of that blessing. Too often believers in church are distracted as a pastor extends the invitation. Sadly, I can remember times when my mind was wandering and not praying for the people around me at such an important time. This should never be the case. As a believer, we have received forgiveness of sins and a home in heaven. It is very uncaring not to take a few minutes to pray that others will respond to the invitation. The next time you hear someone sharing the good news, what will you be doing?
  
7. Acts 2:42-47 shared a beautiful example of Christians living out their faith in their daily lives. In your own words, write what these new believers began faithfully doing?

Does this list describe you?

What change do you believe the Lord is prompting you to make while studying this chapter?

8. In what way are you living out the mission of the church?