

WHAT HAPPENED?

Acts 2:1-13

Introduction: Whenever the Lord has something to say, something awesome always happens. After waiting for about a week as instructed, the disciples experienced something that nobody on earth has ever experienced in such a manner since. The Holy Spirit descended upon them as promised. We need to be reminded that this same Holy Spirit the disciples waited for and received is the very same one who indwells each of us believers today. He has not changed nor His power diminished. He can work with us as He worked with the apostles.

I. WHAT WAS PENTECOST?

1. Pentecost was "The Feast of Passover." *Leviticus 23:4-8* - It originated in Egypt. *Exodus 12:1-13*
 - The death angel of God passed over every house where blood was on the door.
 - The lamb that was slain for the blood represented Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.
2. It was "The Feast of Firstfruits." *Leviticus 23:9-11* - On the day after Passover (Sunday).
 - Israel brought some of the firstfruits of harvest and waved them up before the Lord.
 - It recognized that the crops were from God.
 - It was on this same day that Jesus arose from the grave - thus firstfruits also.
3. It was "The Feast of Pentecost." *Leviticus 23:15-21* - Seven weeks after Passover.
 - A time of rededication to the Lord God.
 - It was on this day that the Holy Spirit was given as promised.

II. WHEN DID THE HOLY SPIRIT COME UPON THE APOSTLES? (v1)

1. The Holy Spirit came at the APPOINTED time.
 - It was on a Sunday morning when the disciples were gathered for worship in the appointed place, all in one accord.
2. The blessings of God always come when unity and obedience are practiced.

III. WHAT WERE THE SYMBOLS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S PRESENCE? (vv2-3)

1. The wind. A symbol of deity. A most fitting and proper emblem of the Holy Spirit.
 - Also the wind represents the power and presence of God. (*Ezekiel 37:9; Job 38:1*)
 - Like the wind, God is uncontrolled by anyone, sovereign and irresistible.
2. The fire. Also a symbol of deity. God appeared to men in the form of fire.
 - To Abraham as a burning lamp. To Moses in a burning bush. To Israel as a pillar of fire.
 - To Elijah as a devouring fire (also a chariot). To Isaiah as a burning coal.
 - Like fire, God gives power, energizes, invigorates, lights.

IV. THE IMMEDIATE EFFECTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S COMING (vv4-11)

1. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit.
2. They all began to speak languages they had never learned before.
3. The Holy Spirit is the same today as then and manifests Himself in various ways.
 - Today He enables God's servants to preach with power.
 - Today He enables sinners who want to hear, understand and believe in Jesus Christ.
 - Today He makes the Gospel a savior of life to those who will receive it.

V. WHAT DID THE APOSTLES THEN GO PREACH ABOUT? (vv11-14)

1. They all declared/preached "the wonderful works of God."
2. Peter preached a sermon that day whereon hundreds were saved.

CONCLUSION:

1. The Old Testament prophets spoke of the day when God's Spirit would be given.
2. Jesus told His disciples that one day the Holy Spirit would come.
3. As Jesus was ascending back into heaven, He told His disciples to go back to Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit to come to them.
4. The Holy Spirit that came to the disciples in this scripture is the very same Holy Spirit who works and moves in and around us today and is just as powerful now as then.
5. Obedience and unity among God's people will always bring a manifestation of the Holy Spirit.