

“Spiritual Explosion!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. This week, on the eve of Sept 11, Russia tested what was nicknamed “**Father of all Bombs**”, making it the most powerful publicly-known conventional (non-nuclear) weapon in the world.
 - 1.1.1. The weapon yields the equivalent of 44 tons of TNT using 7.8 tons of a new type of high explosive, w/a **blast radius of 990’**. (Twice as MOAB)
 - 1.1.2. In this chapter **God the Father** drops the “Father of all Bombs” in an upper room in Jerusalem.
 - 1.1.2.1. And its **blast radius** hits “**every nation under heaven**” (5).

2. SPIRITUAL EXPLOSION! (1-13)

- 2.1. **PENTECOST!** (1)
- 2.2. **Pentecost** – Is one of the **3 major feasts** of ancient Judaism.
 - 2.2.1. **Pesach** (Passover) – encompassed [Lamb, Unleaven Bread, 1st Fruits]
 - 2.2.2. **Shavuot** (Feast of weeks/Pentecost) -
 - 2.2.3. **Sukkot** (Feast of Tabernacle/Booths) – To remind Israel of wilderness wanderings, build booths/shelters outside, for a week.
 - 2.2.4. The Feasts of Weeks/Pentecost is found in **Lev.23:15-21**.
 - 2.2.5. At **start of Harvest**(Feast of 1st fruits) they’d bring a wave offering of **wheat**; **Now** (7 weeks later, or 50 days “Pente”) at the **end** of harvest, they bring a wave offering of **2 loaves of bread**.
 - 2.2.5.1. In **waving** this sacrifice (holding it out to the altar, & bringing it back again)
 - 2.2.5.2. It was dedicated to Him/God(motion forward), then it was **received back**(motion sheaves back), representing the harvest had come **from** God, **to** the worshipper. It was an expression of gratitude, of God supplying their daily bread.
- 2.3. A coincidence then, that the Holy Spirit brings the Power the disciples need to be witnesses of Jesus in *Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria, & to the uttermost parts of earth* precisely on the day designated for Jews to lift their **thanks** to Yahweh for **the Harvest?**¹
 - 2.3.1. The disciples were about to begin reaping a **harvest of souls** that has continued now for almost 2,000 years.
 - 2.3.2. Jn.4:35,36 “Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already **white for harvest!** And he who reaps receives wages, and **gathers fruit for eternal life,**”
- 2.4. **Pentecost is the Churches Birthday!**

¹ Peter Wagner; Acts of the Holy Spirit; pg.65

- 2.5. What were the disciples praying for **with one accord in one place**?
- 2.5.1. They were in a **unity** of “place, time, purpose, & prayer”.
- 2.5.2. They were praying for the H.S. to come **upon** them, & impart to them the **power** needed for carrying the gospel across all conceivable boundaries.
- 2.5.3. They were praying that God would **send them forth** as laborers into the harvest fields of the day.
- 2.6. I wonder if it’s right to pray...to simply **share** the gospel.
I wonder if our prayer focus should be more towards actually **winning souls**?
- 2.6.1. Jesus came to actually **save the lost**, not just tell them they were!
- 2.6.2. Maybe, just maybe, we should **aim higher**?
- 2.7. **VISIBLE SIGNS OF THE INVISIBLE SPIRIT!** (2-4)
- 2.8. The Title of my message is *Spiritual Explosion*.
- 2.8.1. Explosion = a sudden **noisy** release of energy.
- 2.9. **1st Sign is AUDIBLE!** (2)
- 2.10. The **sound** must have been tremendous!
- 2.10.1. Maybe you grew up in an area that had real **windstorms**, or **tornados**, or **hurricanes** & can appreciate the **volume** of strong winds.
- 2.10.2. This sound was **so loud** the people in the Temple area of Jerusalem were drawn toward it to see what strange thing might be happening[6]
- 2.11. **2nd Sign is VISUAL!** (3)
- 2.12. At the same time the disciples actually **saw** 120 **separate fires** shaped like tongues resting on one another.
- 2.12.1. **Fire** in OT was often used by God to give tangible evidence of His Power
- 2.12.2. Elijah experienced **God’s Power** w/the Baal prophets. [Fire from Heaven]
- 2.12.3. Moses experienced **God Presence** in the burning bush. [Fire in Bush]
- 2.12.4. Isaiah experienced **God Holiness** when lips were touched w/burning coal] [Fire on Lips]
- 2.12.5. Christians if we want to be used by God in world evangelism, we need to experience His Power, live in His presence, & be characterized by His Holiness! (Peter Wagner)
- 2.13. In his sermon, “*A Dangerous Pentecost*,” **Halford Luccock** tells of **Lorenzo de’Medici**, the great Florentine patron of the arts who was very proud of the spectacles he staged for the citizenry. Among his productions were several amazingly realistic religious pageants performed in church. But one Pentecost, Lorenzo went too far: he used **actual fire** to depict the descent of the tongues of flames on the apostles. The fragile stage set caught fire and, before horrified onlookers, the entire church burned to the ground.²
- 2.13.1. **Moral:** pray for Pentecostal power, but don’t try to **manufacture it!**

² Charismatic Chaos, J. MacArthur, Jr., Zondervan, 1992, p. 175

- 2.14. *G. Campbell Morgan* said, “There was born the Christian Church, not by sprinkling of water, **not by** votes & resolutions, **not by** creeds formulated & signed, but by the baptism of the **wind & fire** of God.”
- 2.15. **3rd Sign is ORAL!** (4)
- 2.16. They spoke in at least 15 different languages, they had never learned.
- 2.17. The miraculous event accomplished through the Holy Spirit amounts to a **reversal of Babel** (Genesis 11:1–9).
- 2.17.1. **Back then**, God confounded the speech of people **misusing their unity** for **sinful purposes**.
- 2.17.2. **Here**, God enabled people whose different languages separated them, to understand each other praising God, which is the **proper use of unity**.³
- 2.18. Difference between the tongues used here & that of 1 Cor. 12,14.
- 2.18.1. It could be distinguished by calling this **the miracle of language & the other** as **a gift of tongues**.
- 2.19. Pentecost marked the 1st of 5 bestowals of the Holy Spirit.
- 2.19.1. Here, **Jerusalem**(2:4); in **Samaria**(8:17); **Saul**(9:17); **Cornelius & house**(10:44); **Ephesian believers**(19:6).
- 2.19.2. **One baptism, many fillings!**
- 2.20. As one noticed the Holy Spirit didn’t distribute “**pens**” but **tongues** at Pentecost; for the gospel was to be proclaimed by **human lips**.
- 2.20.1. If we are **filled** with the Holy Spirit we shall witness by **Lip & Life** to those not in Christ; & the H.S. will be...
- 2.20.1.1. **In us** as presence of God in our life;
- 2.20.1.2. **On us** as power of God in our work; &
- 2.20.1.3. **Through us** as manifestation of God in our testimony!
- 2.20.2. They **began to speak**...doing what God intended!
- 2.21. **SHOCK & AWE OF UNBELIEVERS!** (5-13)
- 2.22. **From every nation** – i.e. the nations of the 1st century Jewish dispersion.
- 2.22.1. These were **Jews** who lived w/their families in **Jewish communities** outside of the Holy Land. (known as **Hellenistic Jews**)
- 2.22.1.1. Distinguished from the Jews living in The Land.
- 2.23. **Parthians**(Iran) & **Mesopotamia**(Iraq).
- 2.24. **List of 15 probably not a complete list.**
- 2.25. **Proselytes** – Gentiles by birth, decided to convert to Judaism.
- 2.26. **Arabs** – Jews from Arabia (not Arabs as we think of today).
- 2.27. **This is one of the best attested events. So many people witnessed this!**

³Stern, D. H. (1992). *Jewish New Testament commentary : A companion volume to the Jewish New Testament*. Includes index. (1st ed.) (Ac 2:4). Clarksville, Md.: Jewish New Testament Publications.

- 2.28. (8) This verse is an important verse in evangelism as it is the 1st time the disciples took the gospel across a *discernable cultural barrier*. (cross-cultural, or E-2 evangelism)
- 2.28.1. The gap between the **Hebrews & the Hellenists** was more formidable than some might think.
- 2.28.2. **Example:** the *Elamites* never had returned to the Holy Land, but settled down in the area north of the Persian Gulf.
- 2.28.3. They had very **little in common** with each other.
- 2.28.4. **Not only were virtually all believers up to this point Hebrew Jews, they were also Galilean Hebrews as opposed to Judean Hebrews.**
- 2.28.5. Some commentators refer to them as the **Hillbillies** of the day, **culturally backward.**
- 2.28.5.1. **But the Galileans were the aggressive evangelists, the instruments chosen by God to take the good news...to Hellenist from all over the world.**⁴
- 2.29. **We hear in our own language in which we were born** – God shows respect for the **culture & language** of each of the groups mentioned here.
- 2.29.1. **Why is this important because, it isn't only for Israel, it's not a "white man's religion", it transcends race, creed, color, or culture.**
- 2.29.2. To evangelize effectively, the gospel must be preached in their **heart language, & the Bible** must be translated into their vernacular.
- 2.29.3. **Oh the importance of distinguishing what is a non-negotiable part of the Christian faith from cultural baggage** the missionary might be carrying along with them as foreigners.
- 2.30. (12,13) Some **amazed & perplexed...others mocking** –
- 2.30.1. Some **accept** it, some **reject** it; some **receptive**, some **resistant**.
- 2.30.2. **But remember not all crops ripen at the same time!**
- 2.30.2.1. Even the same crop does not all ripen at once.
- 2.30.2.2. **Example:** In the U.S. **wheat** in the **southern** states *ripens* before the **wheat** in the **northern** states.
- 2.31. (13) **They are full of new wine** –
- 2.31.1. Well, in a sense...yes they are!!!
- 2.31.2. Lk.5:37,38 **"no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved."** [In that sense...they were full of new wine!]
- 2.32. **Christ for believers** – a Savior **accepted**;
Christ in believers – a Friend **experienced**;
Christ through believers – a Master **manifested**.⁵

⁴ Peter Wagner; Acts of the Holy Spirit; pg.72

⁵ Griffith Thomas; Acts; pg.54

- 2.33. **End:** We're told "*Nature abhors a vacuum*" (ex: If you **pumped out** all the air out of a bottle & **sealed** it, it would create a **vacuum** inside. If you put a **hole** in the bottle, air rushes in to "**fill**" it, because of the air pressure around the bottle).
- 2.33.1. Thus the state of **being full, or fullness**, is 1 of the necessities of life.
- 2.33.2. **But full of what?** There are **right** types of fullness, & **wrong** types.
- 2.33.2.1. **Right Types:** Once we are full of the Holy Spirit, this leads to fullness of **Wonder**(3:10); **Doctrine**(5:28); **Wisdom**(6:3); **Faith**(6:5,8); **Power**(6:8); **God words** (9:36); **Joy**(13:52); & **Gladness**(14:17).
- 2.33.2.2. **Wrong types:** **Lying**(5:3); **Indignation**(5:17); **Deceit & Fraud**(13:10); **Envy**(13:45); **Confusion**(14:29); **Wrath** (19:28).
- 2.34. "*Spiritual Nature abhors a vacuum*" also.
- 2.34.1. You're full of something...the question is...**of what?**
- 2.34.1.1. Full of **yourself?** Full of **this world?**
- 2.34.1.2. **Or,** Full of the **Holy Spirit?**