

26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

*THE DAY OF PENTECOST
AND BIRTH OF THE CHURCH*

2 AND when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilæans?

8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judæa, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

*PETER'S SERMON
AND THE CROWD'S RESPONSE*

14 ¶ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto

1:26 Matthias was chosen to replace Judas Iscariot as the twelfth disciple.

2:1 The annual Jewish festival of Pentecost (variously called the Feast of Weeks or *Shavuot*, the Feast of Harvest, or Feast of Firstfruits), which took place fifty days after Passover, brought many people to Jerusalem from the surrounding countryside and even from distant nations. This day called for the celebration of the harvest (and giving of Torah) in Israel.

2:2-4 Several phenomenal signs occurred along with this initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit: a sound of a mighty wind, the appearance of divided flames of fire, and speaking in languages other than those the believers had learned. All these amounted to miraculous signs, but only speaking with tongues was a recurring experience throughout the New Testament church (Acts 10:45-46; 19:6; compare 8:17-19, where those present “saw” them receive the Holy Spirit). In vv. 2-3 the wind and tongues like fire occurred before they received the Spirit, while the sign of tongues took place immediately

subsequent to their baptism in the Spirit (v. 4).

2:6 The phenomenon of speaking in tongues captured the attention of the crowds visiting Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost. Not only were the believers given the ability to speak other languages, but others recognized their speech and testified they were declaring the wonderful works of God in various languages (Acts 2:11).

2:12-13 While some onlookers were amazed, doubted, questioned, and mocked, others believed. The miraculous work of the Holy Spirit results in similar responses today.

2:14 Peter became the disciples’ recognized spokesperson. His authority was directly given by Jesus (Matt. 16:17-19). In response to Peter’s confession of the Christ, Jesus declared, “Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Peter was given the “keys of the kingdom” and used this authority as the spokesperson on the Day of Pentecost, opening the door to the Samaritans (Acts 8), and extending the message of promise to Gentiles (Acts 10).