

*When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.*

*5Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 9Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." 12All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."*

*14But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. 15Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. 16No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 17'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. 18Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. 19And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. 20The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. 21Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'*

*Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.*

Devout Jews - these were praying people, loving God and believing in God people. At the end of this day not one of them would tell the story of how I was living in sin, drinking and beating my wife, ignoring my children and Jesus saved me and now, see how holy I am! Luke tells us they were devout Jews.

They were from all over the world, but they were living in Jerusalem - Jerusalem, the Holy City, the place where the Messiah would rule, and all nations would come, and worship. These people were betting their whole lives on God's promise of a Messiah.

Had they been in it for the money, they might have moved to Corinth, a great city for buying and selling. Had they been in it for political gain, they would have journeyed to Rome, where Caesar ruled. But they had journeyed to Jerusalem, moved there, lived there, waiting for God to act.

They heard the sound like a violent wind, and people talking, 120 people talking. As they came closer they heard them speaking in their native languages - many languages spoken all at once, and they all understood.

Everyone was talking about the mighty acts of God. But so far it was like preaching to the choir. These were devout Jews, they already believed in the mighty acts of God.

Then Peter explained what was happening:

*This is what was spoken through the prophet Joel. "In the last days it will be," God declares, "that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughter shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams."*

This is a sign of the beginning of the last days.

Peter told them of Jesus, about his ministry and crucifixion that these devout Jews had all witnessed. Then Peter told them of what they had not seen, Jesus' resurrection and God exalting Jesus to rule at God's right hand. Jesus was that very day pouring out the Holy Spirit as those devout Jews saw and heard.

*"Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."*

They came to Jerusalem to be counted faithful to the Messiah. Peter charged them with his murder. And they believed and were baptized.

Now they were still devout Jews. But now under the rule of Jesus the Messiah, they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

They came to Jerusalem thinking that for God to have God's way everything had to change from the top down. After that day they knew that God would have God's way though nothing in the structures of this world had changed at all.

Can the Messiah rule in a godless world? All along Israel said, "No. How can we be a godly people under a godless ruler?"

But that day even as Caesar ruled in Rome and Pilate acted on Caesar's orders in Jerusalem, 3000 people bet their lives that the Messiah was ruling at God's right hand. The Spirit of God had been poured out on all flesh. The crucified one is Lord.

The waiting was over. They would go back into their towns to announce the rule of Jesus, Messiah. They would live under the rule of Jesus, Messiah.

We are gathered here for that one purpose, to live under the rule of Jesus, Messiah or as that word Messiah is in Greek, Christ. We are not gathered here to build a name for ourselves by being a mighty church, nor are we gathered to become noted for how good we are.

We are gathered to devote ourselves to the apostles' teaching, and fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers.

I think of all who have gone before us in this: they have lived in poverty and pain, under godless rulers and rulers who thought they ruled in the power of God. In eras of famine, in times of abundance, Christians have lived under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

But no one has ever lived in these days before. No one has ever learned what it is to follow Jesus in a time of the internet, and rap and an explosion of information and a breaking apart of cultural customs. Together we are charting new waters.

Jesus leads, we follow.