

Genesis 1

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the **Spirit** (*ruah: wind, breath*) of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

Ezekiel 37

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸And I looked, and behold, sinews were on them, and flesh grew and skin covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then He said to me, “Prophesy to the **breath** (*ruah: wind, Spirit*) , prophesy, son of man, and say to the **breath**, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Come from the four **winds**, O **breath**, and breathe on these slain, that they come to life.’”” ¹⁰So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the **breath** came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Exodus 13

²¹And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. ²²The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.

Genesis 11

⁷Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech.” ⁸So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. ⁹Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

ACTS

THE SPREADING FLAME



The book of Acts is the second part of Luke’s two-volume work (originally Luke-Acts) in which the Scripture highlights all Jesus continued to do and teach after his ascension. Here we find the historical birth of the Holy Spirit empowered church and enduring teaching about the acting of God in history through his Spirit in his people.

What does Acts mean for us in 2024? First, this is our spiritual family. Second, this is the story into which we have been plunged, just a little farther down the stream of history. Third, we inherit the same mission as outlined in the book of Acts. Finally, this is the same God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) who is active in our lives and world today. Here we learn of him and are invited to walk faithfully as we practically learn of his Lordship and are filled with his Spirit.

Acts 1

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**” ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? **This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.**”

Acts 2:1-13

¹When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹Parthians and Medes and 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, ¹¹both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” ¹²And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

God’s Empowering Presence

March 10, 2024 | Acts 2:1-13 | Pastor Roger Williams

Jesus gives his empowering presence to his people for witness to the end of the earth.

1. Jesus gives his empowering presence...

- a. real presence
- b. personal presence

2. ...to his people

- a. redemptive unity
- b. actual unity

3. ...for witness to the end of the earth

- a. witness to the mighty works of God
- b. witness leading to amazement, perplexity, or mocking