

The First Gospel Sermon

Last week we looked at some of the events leading up to this chapter. If we can just keep before our minds that there is but one in authority, and that is God the Father (John 14:31-but that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do...). He has delegated all authority to His only begotten Son God, having of old time spoken unto the fathers in the prophets by divers portions and in divers manners, 2 hath at the end of these days spoken unto us in [his] Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the worlds; (Heb.1:1); (Mat.28:18-And Jesus came to them and spake unto them, saying, All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth.), look at what has just been stated; "Heaven and Earth". Now, doesn't that cover all of mankind? Absolutely ! Jesus has given His apostles authority to proclaim His Father's Words (John 20:21-Jesus therefore said to them again, Peace [be] unto you: as the Father hath sent me, even so send I you.). Jesus ensured that they would all speak the same things by sending them the Holy Spirit (John 14:25 These things have I spoken unto you, while [yet] abiding with you. 26 But the Comforter, [even] the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said unto you.), that is to the twelve apostles.

Now, look at what transpired on Pentecost, (Acts 2:2) And suddenly there came from heaven a sound as of the rushing of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them tongues parting asunder, like as of fire; and it sat upon each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Here we see the promise made to the twelve apostles being fulfilled. The Holy Spirit filled the apostles and enabled them to speak with other tongues (different languages). This was the baptism of the Holy Spirit for which the twelve had been waiting in Jerusalem for. Now they could begin carrying out the "Great Commission", proclaiming the New Testament to the world.

Peter stands up with the eleven to speak (it is important to notice that the 120 did not stand up and speak, it was only the twelve). Peter pointed out that they were not drunk, for 9 A.M. was too early to get drunk. This was not absolute proof, but Peter did not need to give absolute proof to refute such an absurd charge; it was obvious to all reasonable thinking individuals that they were not

drunk.

Acts 2:14-21 "But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and spake forth unto them, [saying], Ye men of Judea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and give ear unto my words. 15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose; seeing it is [but] the third hour of the day. 16 but this is that which hath been spoken through the prophet Joel: 17 And it shall be in the last days, saith God, I will pour forth of 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: 18 Yea and on My servants and on My handmaidens in those days Will I pour forth of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy. 19 And I will show wonders in the heaven above, And signs on the earth beneath; Blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke: 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the day of the Lord come, That great and notable [day]. 21 And it shall be, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Peter now affirms that what was happening to the apostles was the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy regarding the coming of the Holy Spirit. Of course, the apostles' reception of the Holy spirit was only the beginning of the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy. Individuals of all classes and situations would receive specific miraculous abilities from the Holy Spirit.--old, young, male, female, and even lowly slaves. Further along in Acts this is revealed (Ax.8:14-19; 19:6).

Peter declares unto them the facts of the gospel. He told them that Jesus, whom they had crucified, was raised from the dead (Ax.2:22-36). Peter did not dwell on the death or burial of Christ, mainly because they believed that Christ had been crucified and buried. We can see that they did not believe that Christ had been raised from the dead. Therefore, Peter preached to them about the resurrection of Christ. Peter gives three infallible proofs of the resurrection of Christ. (1) He shows that David, their prophet, said that he would be raised (Ax.2:25-31; Psa. 16:8-10). (2) He affirmed that the apostles were all witnesses of His resurrection or that they had seen Him alive after He had been crucified (Ax.2:32). (3) Peter gives, as proof of the resurrection of Christ, the fulfillment of the promise of Christ to the apostles that they would receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit enabling them to speak in the various languages heard by this group of devout Jews currently standing before him (Jn.14:16-21; 15:26-27; 16:7-15; Ax.1:5). When Christ ascended back to heaven (Acts 1: 9-11-And when he had said these things, as they were looking, he was taken up; and a cloud

received him out of their sight. 10 And while they were looking stedfastly into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 11 who also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye looking into heaven? this Jesus, who was received up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye beheld him going into heaven.), ten days later He sent the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, and this was a sure proof that Christ had been raised from the dead.

As "Nathan said to David, Thou art the man" Peter has confronted these very Jews in like manner (Ax.2:36-37)"whom you have crucified ". What would Nathan or Peter tell us today?