

Wind of Change

By Mary Kane

Take a moment to ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit and please read Acts 2:1-4.

On what special day did these events take place?

It was the Day of Pentecost. Pentecost is one of the seven Jewish feasts listed in the Book of Leviticus. It is the "second of the three great Jewish feasts, celebrated at Jerusalem yearly, the seventh week after the Passover, in grateful recognition of the completed harvest." The word *Pentecost* literally means "the fiftieth day." Hence, Pentecost took place fifty days after Passover. The Day of Pentecost (N.T.) is also known as The Feast of Weeks/Harvest (O.T.). The Feast of Weeks also coincides with the Feast of First Fruits. As with all Jewish feasts instituted by God in the Old Testament, they will ultimately be fulfilled by Christ.



While reading this passage of scripture for the purpose of writing this study, I noticed something I had never observed before in previous readings. Please fill in the next two words of the verse 1:

**"When the Day of Pentecost had _____
_____..."**

The words *fully come* caught my attention. I thought to myself "How does a day *fully* come? How is that different from a day that has just plain-old *come*? Of course I had to look up the phrase *fully come* to see what I could discover! As usual, God never disappoints!

Fully come in the original Greek is *sumpleroo* which means "to fill completely, to complete entirely, filled up, of hollow vessels, of the soul, fully permeated with, to bring to pass to ratify to accomplish, to fulfill, i.e. to cause God's will (as made known in the law) to be obeyed as it should be, and God's promises (given through the prophets) to receive fulfillment" (*BLB*). This first fiftieth day after the Passover was

not an ordinary day on the Jewish calendar. This specific day was set aside to fulfill a life-changing event on God's kingdom calendar. The day of Pentecost had *ful-ly* come so soul of man could be *ful-ly* permeated with the Holy Spirit! Those who were saved on the Day of Pentecost were the *firstfruits* of the Great Commission harvest of souls.

In America, from time to time, men have set aside certain days to honor or celebrate important activities or events. On July 4th, we celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence; on December 7th, we remember the attack on Pearl Harbor. These important days were set aside by *men* to commemorate these significant days of our *past*. The Jewish feasts however, were important days set aside by God to commemorate significant events of the *future*. The first 4 Jewish feasts have been fulfilled, Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits and the Feast of Weeks by Jesus Christ. Interestingly, the order in which the Feasts are celebrated during the Jewish calendar year are the order in which they have been fulfilled throughout history. The next feast to be fulfilled is Rosh Hashana; the Feast of Trumpets, which is the Rapture of the Church.

Where were the disciples and what were they doing when the Day of Pentecost had fully come (verse 1)?

The original Greek word for *one accord* means "with one mind, with one passion." (For deeper study on the phrase *one accord* please see the Bible study *In One Accord* posted on this site).

What happened when the disciples were gathered together (verse 2)?

Please write what you think of when you hear the word *suddenly*.

The Greek word for *suddenly* used in this text is very interesting! It is derived from the root word *phaino* which means "to bring forth into the

light, cause to shine, to be brought forth into the light, to become clear or manifest.”

At this moment what was God “bringing forth into light” or what was God revealing?

God was revealing how He would build His church through mankind—by the power of His Holy Spirit.



The NKJV reads “And suddenly there came a sound from *heaven...*” Something stirred in my heart as I read these words “a sound from heaven” while writing this study. How did Luke, the probable writer of the Book of Acts, know that the *sound* was from heaven? Was it unlike anything the disciples had ever heard before? Did the sound start high above them and slowly descend upon them? Or did they just know in their hearts that God was moving in their midst?

How about you...what do you think made this noise sound as if it came from heaven?

Have you ever had a moment when you knew that God was very presently moving in your church, your retreat, your heart, your quiet time or your conversation with another in need?

Let’s return to our text.

How is the Holy Spirit described in verse 2?

The NKJV portrays the arrival of the Holy Spirit as a “rushing mighty wind.” Let’s take a look at each word used to depict the Holy Spirit to see what we can learn about Him.

Rushing: In Greek- *phero*: to carry, to carry a burden, to bring in by announcing.

Mighty: In Greek-*biaios*: violent, forcible, strength.

Wind: In Greek-*phoe*: breathe, breath of life, wind.

Please take a moment to look over these definitions and meditate on them.

Now, please go back to verse two and reconstruct the verse using the original definitions (as usual my rendition will follow):

“And suddenly there came a sound from heaven...

“And suddenly, there came a sound from heaven as of a strong and mighty wind that announced that God was about to breathe life into His church! His power and might filled the whole house where the disciples were sitting!

Rejoice in the fact that we serve the Living God! He can bring dead things to life, He can breathe new life into old circumstances and He can birth something that never existed before! He is All Powerful and All Mighty!

What appeared to them as they were praying in one accord (verse 3)?

Why should we not think it unusual that God choose to manifest Himself as a fiery presence?

God appeared to Moses in a burning bush, He also led the Israelites through the dessert, at night, by a pillar of fire, the Lord descended upon Mount Sinai in a manifestation of fire, our works are tested by fire and according to Hebrews 12:9, our God is a consuming fire!

What did the tongues of fire do (verse 3)?

One tongue of fire *sat* upon each of them. Sat sounds like such an ordinary boring word. Again you will be blessed by a little extra digging into the original language! The original Greek word for *sat* in this verse is *kathizo*. *Kathizo* means "to make to sit down, to have fixed one's abode, appoint and to *confer a kingdom on one*" (emphasis mine).

What kingdom was being conferred upon mankind?

Alleluia! Thy kingdom come!

What happened as a result of the coming of the Holy Spirit (verse 4)?

Without causing any denominational arguments concerning different beliefs, I'd like to simply point out that when we are truly filled with the Spirit we should "speak" differently than we used to, we should act differently than we used to and we should think differently than we used to. His presence and work with in us should continually be empowering us to become more Christ-like as time goes by; we should be able to look back over the years and notice how we have changed. Take a quick inventory of your life.

How has the Holy Spirit changed you in the last 5 years?

Please name something that He currently working to change in you now.

Describe what you'd like to be like in 5 years from now.

What can you do now to cooperate with God's plan for you to be transformed?

God is more than able to transform you into the image of His Son; it is His will that you conformed to Christ!

In closing, please ask God to fill you afresh with His Holy Spirit and supply the strength you need to be changed by the His "rushing mighty wind."