

LESSON 2

THE CHURCH IS ESTABLISHED

THE POWER COMES (2:1–13)

Acts 2 tells of the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ. It depicts what happened on, and immediately following, that feast day: The church was established, the gospel was preached in its fullness for the first time, and a new class of humanity came into existence—those who became known as “Christians” (11:26). That day was the pinnacle of God’s eternal plans and purposes (Eph. 3:10, 11).

1. Why did the Day of Pentecost have so many other names?
2. To what does the phrase “other terms” refer in 2:4?
3. What purposes did this manifestation of apostolic power serve?
4. Locate the areas listed in 2:9–12 on a map.

THE FIRST GOSPEL SERMON (2:14–36)

Peter was the first to preach the gospel *in its fullness*. In 1 Corinthians 15:1–4, Paul taught that the heart of the gospel message is the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. This great truth could not be preached in its fullness until *after* Jesus’ resurrection. Peter did this for the first time in verses 14–36. This “first gospel sermon” is a masterpiece; it is a message of unthinkable guilt countered by unbelievable mercy.

5. What two facts do people ignore who take pleasure in pointing out the differences between Peter’s words in 2:16–21 and the way the Septuagint reads?
6. To what did the phrase “in the last days” refer when Peter used it in 2:17?
7. To what event do Joel’s words quoted in Acts 2:19–21 refer?

8. What is the difference between “miracles, wonders and signs” (Acts 2:22)?
9. What was the biggest hurdle preventing any Jew from accepting Jesus as the Messiah at the time of Peter’s sermon?
10. How did Peter verify the Resurrection in his sermon on the Day of Pentecost?
11. What was the nature of the place to which the psalmist and Peter referred in Acts 2:27?
12. How is David identified as a prophet in 1, 2 Samuel?
13. How did Peter prove that the Jesus the Jews knew and the Christ they had been looking for were one and the same?
14. Why is Jesus’ throne called both the throne of David and the throne of God in Scripture?

THE FIRST CONVERTS (2:37–41)

As we have seen, on the exciting Day of Pentecost, the apostles were baptized with the Holy Spirit and Peter first preached the gospel in its fullness. We now turn our attention to the conversion of the Jews on that momentous occasion when three thousand were saved. A key to their conversion was Peter’s masterful sermon.

15. What does the word “repent” mean?
16. What does it mean to be baptized “in the name of Jesus Christ”?
17. How can we answer the argument that the word “for” in 2:38 means “because” or “on account of”?
18. To what does “the gift of the Holy Spirit” refer in 2:38?

**A SUMMARY CONCERNING
THE EARLY CHURCH (2:42–47)**

Believing and being baptized is just the beginning of our relationship with Christ. We then need to *walk* with Him. The final verses of the chapter (vv. 42–47) tell how the first “infants in Christ” (1 Cor. 3:1) learned to walk.

19. What does it mean to be devoted to fellowship?

20. What *was* Luke saying in 2:44, 45, and what was he *not* saying?