

Journey Through Acts
“Still Amazing”
Acts 2:1-13

Introduction:

1. Last Sunday Night:
 - In Our ***Journey Through Acts***:
 - We Left The Disciples:
 - In The “Upper Room” In Jerusalem:
 - Where They Awaited The Coming Of The Holy Spirit:
 - According To The Lord’s Command & Promise In Luke 24:19 - “And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high!”
 - And As They Waited:
 - They Set To The Task Of Confirming:
 - Jesus’ Appointment Of A New Apostle:
 - To Take The Place Of Judas!
 - And The Name Of The New Apostle Was Matthias!
2. Well - As We Turn Our Attention:
 - To Chapter 2:
 - It Is Likely That The Disciples:
 - * Are Still Using That “Upper Room” As:
 - The Home Base For This Infant Church:
 - Of Just 120 Members!
 - But Finally - After A Wait:
 - Of Not More Than 10 Days:
 - Jesus’ Promise To Them Was About To Be Fulfilled!
 - 2:1 - “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come”
 - Which Was A Jewish “Harvest Festival” That Took Place 50 Days After Passover - “They were all with one accord in one place!” - Again - Likely In The Same Upper Room Where Jesus Had His “Last Supper” With His Disciples & Where The Disciples Had Just Confirmed Jesus’ Appointment Of Matthias! But Then:
 - 2:2 - “Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting!”
 - This “Sound From Heaven” Was Meant To Get The Attention - Not Just Of The Disciples In The Upper Room - But, As We Will See - All Of The People In Jerusalem As Well! But It Is Interesting To Note That This Was A “Sound” – “***As Of*** A Rushing Mighty Wind!” It Was ***Not*** Wind – It Was Just Like The ***Sound*** Of Wind!
 - ***IE***: Kind Of Like The Wind That You Could Hear Howling Last Night, But Did Not Feel, If You Were Safe & Warm In Your Home!
 - But This “Sound” Was Even More Distinctive, Because It Could Clearly Be Heard To Come “From Heaven!”
 - ***IE***: Perhaps It Was A Bit Like When You Hear The Sound Of A Powerful Jet Fly Overhead! You Don’t Feel Anything! You May Not Even See Anything! But You Heard It – Loud & Clear! It Got Your Attention!
 - But This Was No Jet! And The Sound “Filled The House!” - And Then - In Addition To The Impressive ***Sound***:
 - There Was Also An Impressive ***Sight***!
 - 2:3 - “And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them!”
 - This Was Something That Was Never Experienced Before Nor Since - So It Is Something That Is Hard For Us To Even Imagine!
 - But There Was Something That Looked Like Flames Of Fire That Rested Upon The Heads Of Every Person In That Room - And Yet - Like The Burning Bush In The Wilderness Back In Exodus - They Were Not Consumed!
 - At Least - They Were Not Consumed By Fire! Instead - They Were Consumed By & According To:
 - 2:4 - “They were all filled with the Holy Ghost!”
 - This Was The Long-Awaited Promise Fulfilled!

- Not Just The Promise Of Jesus:
 - In Acts 1:8 - “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you!”
- It Was Also According To The Prophecy Of John The Baptist:
 - In Luke 3:16 - “John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire!”
- The Sights & Sounds That Filled That House:
 - Were Powerful Symbols That The Promised Holy Spirit Of God:
 - Had Indeed Come Upon & Came Into Those Disciples Of Christ!
 - And He Did Not Discriminate! Both Male & Female Were Filled! Not Just The Apostles, But All The Disciples Were Filled!
 - And Then They:
 - “Began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance!”
 - The “Tongues” Mentioned Here Are Clearly Other Languages - Which They Had Not Learned Beforehand - But Which They Became Immediately Fluent In - Which We Will See In A Moment!
 - But This Gift - To All The Disciples Present In That Room - Was A Sign That The Holy Spirit Had Indeed Come!
 - But It Was Also A Gift For A Purpose! To Enable Them To Fulfill The Command To “Be Witnesses” For The Lord All Throughout The World!
 - And What Took Place Was No Less Than:
 - What Could Be Described As:
 - A “Reverse Babel!”
 - But Instead Of Multiple Languages Creating *Confusion*:
 - As It Did In Genesis!
 - These Languages Were Given To Provide *Clarity*!
 - Of The “Wonderful Works Of God!” Because:
- 2:5 - * “And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven!”
 - Over Time - The Jewish People Had Become Spread Out All Over The World - Literally!
 - Initially - This “Diaspora” Was Because Of Their Sin & Rejection Of God’s Covenant!
 - And So - They Were Forced From Their Homeland By The Assyrians, By The Babylonians, By The Medes & Persians!
 - But - Even Though They Eventually Received Permission To Go Home To The Land Of Israel - Many Chose To Stay In The Lands Of Their Birth!
 - And So - God Had Providentially Kept His Own Witness In Countries All Around The World!
 - But - For This Feast Of Pentecost:
 - Many Of Those Devout Jews:
 - Returned To Jerusalem As Pilgrims - To Celebrate & To Worship At God’s Holy Temple!
 - And They Probably Did This Many Times Over Their Lives:
 - And Then Went Back To Their Homes!
 - But - *This* Pentecost Was Different!
 - In The Morning Of The Day Of *This* Pentecost:
 - They Too Were Suddenly Startled With A Loud “Sound From Heaven!” Because:
 - 2:6 - “Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together!”
 - Other Translations Make This Verse A Bit Clearer - Such As When The NKJV States - “And When This Sound Occurred!”
 - Not Only Did The “Sound From Heaven” Fill The House Where The Disciples Were:
 - It Filled All Of Jerusalem As Well!
 - And They Didn’t Know What It Was!
 - Imagine The Confusion As They:
 - Early That Morning - * Rushed To The Temple:
 - To Find Out What Just Happened!
 - ‘Was It A Sign? Was It An Omen? The Temple Would Have Been A Natural Place For Them To Go To Find Out What Happened!
 - But It Was Also Quite Natural:
 - For The Disciples To Head To The Temple As Well!

- But For A Different Reason!
 - They Were Full Of The Holy Spirit & Full Of Joy & Full Of Thanksgiving On That Day:
 - And So - They Headed To The Temple - To Offer Their Praise & Worship To The Lord!
 - And It Was There - Most Likely At The Temple:
 - Where The Devout Jews & The Disciples Of Jesus Met!
 - And The Jews Became Even More Confused! Because Then They:
 - 2:6b - “Were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language!”
 - First - The Loud & Unexplainable Sound From Heaven!
 - Then - The Lucid & Understandable Words From Men!
 - They Were Both Related Somehow:
 - But They Just Didn’t Know How!
 - They Were “Confounded!”
 - But Even More:
 - 2:7 - “And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?”
 - Galilaeans Were Not Known To Be All That Smart!
 - And The Way They Spoke Those Newly-Acquired Languages Betrayed Them!
 - Even As Peter’s Galilaeon Accent Betrayed Him As A Follower Of Christ Just A Month Or So Earlier!
 - And The Jews Started Comparing What They Heard:
 - With Each Other - And Started Asking Each Other Questions!
 - 2:8-11 - Are Likely Not Just One Man’s Question - But An Amalgamation Of All Of Their Questions Combined!
 - 2:8-11 - “And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? / Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, / Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, / Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God!”
 - * From All The Points Of The Compass:
 - These Men Had Come To Jerusalem!
 - But In Jerusalem:
 - They Heard Words That Took Them All The Way Back Home!
 - Because They Heard The Disciples:
 - 2:11 - “Speak In Our Tongues The Wonderful Works Of God!”
 - The Disciples Were Probably Singing & Shouting Their Praises To The Lord In These Languages - Not Even Knowing Who Were Hearing Them!
 - But There Was Still Something Missing! There Was No Explanation Of What Was Taking Place! And So - It Is Repeated In:
 - 2:12-13 - “And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? / Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine!”
3. Two Times - In 2:7 & 2:12 - We Are Told That:
- The Jews In Jerusalem:
 - Were “All Amazed” Because Of What Took Place:
 - On That Day Of Pentecost!
 - And We Need To Remember:
 - That What God Continues To Do - In His People - Through His Holy Spirit:
 - Is Still As Amazing Today As It Was Then!
 - Just Want To Look Briefly At Three Ways!
1. **The Power:**
- Of His Witnesses:
 - Is Still Amazing!
 - Because We Are Still - In The Words Of:
 - 2:4 - “All Filled With The Holy Ghost / Spirit!”
 - It May Not Be Accompanied With:
 - The Same Sound:
 - As A “Rushing Mighty Wind!”

- Or With:
- The Same Sight:
 - As “Cloven Tongues Like As Of Fire!”
- But Every Christian:
 - At The Moment Of Salvation:
 - Is Baptized With The Holy Spirit As Well!
 - Romans 8:9 - “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his!”
 - And Along With The Holy Spirit:
 - You Are Given Spiritual Gifts:
 - To Be Used In The Service Of The Lord & His Church!
- And The Power Of The Holy Spirit:
 - Is Still Amazing!
 - It Is Still A Sight & A Sound To Behold In The Lives Of God’s People!

2. **The Purpose:**

- For His Witnesses:
 - Is Still Amazing!
 - Because We Are Still - In The Words Of:
 - 2:11 - To Tell Others About “The Wonderful Works Of God!”
- The Mouths Of Those Spirit-Filled Disciples:
 - Were Likely Full Of The Truths:
 - About The Messiah!
 - John Gill - Words - “Of Redemption, Pardon, Atonement, Justification, And Salvation, By The Messiah, By His Obedience, Sufferings, And Death, And Also, By The Resurrection From The Dead!”
- And The Purpose God Has For Us:
 - Is The Same:
 - And Is Still Amazing!
 - As We Think About & Tell Others About The “Wonderful Works Of God!”

3. **The Plan:**

- For His Witnesses:
 - Is Still Amazing!
 - God’s Plan Is For Individuals To Reach Individuals For Christ!
- God Uses Individual Christians!
 - With Their Own Unique, Individual:
 - Backgrounds & Personalities & Gifts & Abilities:
 - And Even Idiosyncrasies!
 - See This When:
 - The Jews Recognized In 2:7 - “Are Not All These Which Speak Galilaeans?”
 - God’s Plan Is Amazing - Because:
 - God’s Plan Can Use You!
 - Also:
- God Reaches Individual Sinners!
 - No Matter Who They Were:
 - No Matter Where They Live:
 - No Matter How They Speak!
 - Even - No Matter What They’ve Done!
 - 2:8 - “And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?”
- The Plan Of God To Reach Sinners:
 - Is Still Amazing!

Conclusion:

1. But - Unfortunately - As Amazing As:
 - God’s Power & Purpose & Plan Is:
 - For Us - As His People:
 - Sometimes - That’s As Far As It Goes:

- For Others As Well!
- 2. Sometimes:
 - Unbelievers Are Amazed:
 - But Remain Confounded!
 - As They Were In 2:6 - Confused & Bewildered:
 - At What They See & Hear!
- 3. Other Times:
 - Unbelievers Are Amazed:
 - And Will Mock!
 - As They Did In 2:13!
- 4. But - No Matter What Kind Of Response:
 - You Will Experience:
 - As A Child Of God:
 - And As A Witness For Christ:
 - Remember Today That:
 - What Has Happened To You:
 - Is Still Amazing!

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