

Context

- 1] Jesus had been crucified and risen at Passover
- 2] For 40 days the risen Christ then taught His followers
- 3] Before leaving, He told them to wait for the Holy Spirit
- 4] The next great festival was coming. It was Pentecost (50 days later) which celebrated the start of Harvest – the grain ingathering.

The coming of the Spirit (1-4)***(1a) When the day of Pentecost arrived***

*Nb a holiday, no work, a celebration of the first fruits of the harvest
Cf the fields are white unto harvest (John 4:35)*

(1b) They were all together in one place

Nb they – the apostles 11+1 (1:26; 2:14)

One place - the Lord had drawn them together

?an expectation of waiting = faith (Gal 3:2)

On that specific day - anticipation?

God's timing is always right

Wait for God's promise as He has told you

(2) And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

From heaven = from above

cf gazing into heaven after Jesus taken up (1:10)

Sound like a might rushing wind

Nb – 'sound' no ruffled hair etc

Filled the entire house –

Nb not outside?

Where they were sitting -

God initiates His Work

(3) And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

cf fire is a symbol of divine presence (Ex 3:2ff; 13:21; Luke 3:16)

Nb 1 shard of fire split divided up on the 12

GRACE God gives His Holy Spirit

(4) And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance

Filled with the spirit

cf The promise (1:5); The expectation following Jesus' life? (Lk 4:1)

The Spirit comes because Jesus has gone to the Father (i.e. accomplished His work)

They began to speak in other tongues –

Nb languages, same word used as ‘tongues’ of fire

As the Spirit gave them utterance

Cf TIA opposite – no speech!

****The Holy Spirit enables us to do His bidding i.e. speak.***

Speak as the Holy Spirit enables you*

The witnesses (5-11)

(5) Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.

cf devout and righteous (i.e. with faith) (Lk 2:25)

****As devout men – seek God whatever the cost****

(6) And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.

(7a) And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?

Cf Amazed ... astonished (by Jesus) (Lk 4:32,36)

Nb Galileans – un cultured (Jn 1:46; 7:52)

****GRACE God speaks to all in their own language****

****Be amazed that God enables you, in your own language, to hear the ‘mighty works of God’****

(9) Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome,

Cf North, South, East and West

(11) both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—

I.e. different religious and peoples backgrounds

(11b) we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

In own tongues - in our own languages

Nb Opposite of Babel where languages confounded communication(Gen11:1-9)

The mighty work of God

Cf Jesus’ Mighty works ignored by Chorazin etc (Lk 10:13);

The crowds – praising God for His mighty works (Lk 19:37)

Their reaction (12)

(12) And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

Cf Perplexed (Lk 24:4; Acts 5:24)

Be ready to ask the question of God – What does this mean?

(13) But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

Nb No 'new wine' at Pentecost Gk means 'sweet wine' i.e. strong wine

Beware of mocking the work of God/ what you don't understand

Conclusion

1] Note – “If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Heavenly Father give the Holy spirit to those who ask Him”. (Luke 11:13)

2] Do you need the power of the HS to share Jesus? Then let us ask Our Father for His help.

***MP** The Apostles were filled with the Spirit which enabled them to declare the mighty works of God to the World*

***KV** 'And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance' (4)*