



Impact – Acts 2

CONTEXT

- Read Genesis 11:1-9
 - What do we learn about humans and their languages from this passage?
 - This question is a mechanism to help people follow the story i.e. started with one language, they use that to defy God and make a name for themselves, God confuses their languages and scatters them

OBSERVATION

- Read Acts 2 – complete the following logic flow diagram



This exercise is simply intended to help people understand the overall flow of what is a straightforward passage made more complex (for us!) by lots of Old Testament references

MEANING

- Why do you think our author, Luke, point out the great variety of nationalities and languages present in Jerusalem?
 - To indicate how the coming of the Spirit means that people from 'the ends of earth' will be enabled to hear of the Messiah and turn to him in repentance and faith.
 - As a reversal of the judgment of Babel and the confusion and scattering of people experienced in that event
 - This event foreshadows the way that the gospel will also cross cultural barriers of Jew, Samaritan and Gentile through Acts

- What Old Testament passages does Peter refer to in his speech?
 - What promises does he draw attention to?
 - Joel 2 – coming of last days / sending of the Spirit on ALL
 - Not letting his Holy one (Messiah) see decay (i.e. resurrection)
 - Placing Messiah at right hand
 - How are these fulfilled in Christ?
 - In his resurrection (v27) and ascension to reign (v34-35) and sending of Spirit on those who trust his saving death (v21)
- Why does Jesus' resurrection and ascension usher in the age of the Spirit?
 - Because they prove him to be God's Messiah (king) who then pours out the Spirit
- God sent his Spirit on people in the Old Testament – how are things different in Acts 2?
 - In the OT the Spirit was given occasionally to few, but here it is given to all who call on the name of the Lord – young and old, sons and daughters
- What is the response of the crowd?
 - Why do they respond this way?
Because they realise that God's Messiah had truly been among them and yet they killed him. They are convicted of their opposition to God and his chosen king
- Should we expect a similar response to a gospel announcement like this in Perth in 2022? Why / Why not?
 - Yes, because we too live in the age where God is pouring out his Spirit on all different kinds of people and because 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved!'
 - But also no, because we live in a culture without many of the foundational worldview assumptions of first century Jews about God and his Messiah – we will need to communicate much more about the Lordship of Jesus to make sense of what Jesus has done and what that means for us!

APPLICATION

- We now live in the age of the Spirit – how does this impact on your relationship with God?
A moment for personal reflection hopefully to praise God for the intimate relationship he has given to us through the forgiveness of his Son and the indwelling of his Spirit (v38)
- Have a go at writing down how you would answer someone who asked you: 'How did you become a Christian?'
 - Could you answer in 2mins? Could you answer in less than 25 words? Have a go.
 - This application is highly practical – your group members might love it or might find it intimidating, just go with whatever will be helpful for them. You might like to simply share stories of God's grace with one another!

PRAYER:

- Thank God that he has brought in the age of the Spirit now by his Son and that we can know him intimately.
- Pray that God would use North Coast Church to announce the Lordship of Jesus and that he would draw others to repentance and baptism in Jesus' name.