

Handout: Acts Lesson 2

Acts Part II: The Church’s Mission in Jerusalem (Acts 2:14-8:4)

- A. Peter’s Pentecost homily (2:14-41)
- B. The Communal Life of the Jerusalem Community (2:42-47)
- C. Teaching at the Temple & Persecution (3:1-6:15)
- D. Martyrdom of Stephen (7:1-8:4)

The crowd in Acts 2:13 makes an ironic accusation. Drinking the best of the new wine is one of the symbols of the Old Testament prophets for restored communion with the Lord. This symbol of covenant union has been fulfilled in the “new wine” of the Eucharist which is a sharing in the life of Christ Jesus.

<b>Drinking Wine</b>	<b>Covenant union:</b>	<b>Rebellion:</b>	<b>Judgment:</b>	<b>Restoration:</b>
examples in Scripture	Joy of drinking good wine  Is 62:8-9; Jer 40:12	Becoming drunk  Is 5:11-12; 28:1; Jer 8:13; 48:26; 51:7; Joel 1:5	Drinking the “cup of God’s wrath”  Joel 4:13; Is 51:17; 63:2-3; Jer 13:12-14; 25:15-31; 48:26; 25:27-30	Rejoicing in the best “new wine” at the Master’s table Promise: Zec 9:15-16 Filled: Lk 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-32; Rev 19:7-9

St. Peter’s Pentecost homily in Acts 2:14-41 can be divided into three parts:

1. The Prophecy of the Prophet Joel 2:28-32a LXX [3:1-5a] (Acts 2:14-25)
2. King David’s Prophecies of the Messiah (Acts 2:26-36)
  - Ps 15:8-11 LXX [16:8-11 NAB]
  - Ps 109:1 LXX [110:1 NAB]
3. The Crowd’s Response to Peter’s Homily (Acts 2:37-41)

The gift of the Spirit at Pentecost inaugurates a new age, but it is not yet the climax of that age. The climax of that age will come in Jesus’ Second Advent. See the same imagery of Acts 2:14-21 in Mt 24:29-31 when Jesus said: *Immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming upon the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a trumpet blast, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.*

Also see similar imagery of Matthew 24:29-31 in:

- Daniel 7:13 for the Son of Man “coming in glory.”
- Zechariah 12:10-14 linking “the tribes of the earth mourning” for the Messiah;
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16 Christ will return with the sound of the trumpet as in Mt 24:31 (also Zeph 1:16 and Zec 9:14b).

In Acts 2:36 Peter’s point is that it is by the proof of His Resurrection that Jesus can be declared the “Lord” of whom David spoke in Psalms 109:1 LXX (110:1 NAB) and the “Messiah” in Psalms 15:8-11 LXX (16:8-11 NAB).