

Summary: Acts 1:1-6:7.

God's Evangelism Program for the Israelites in Jerusalem

<p>Cast</p> <p>Please read from left to right to see the cast. Then read down to understand their role in prophecy and action.</p>	<p>God, the Father of Jesus, 1:4.</p> <p>The Father set the times and dates by His own authority, 1:7.</p> <p>Jesus' death on the cross was by God's set purpose, 2:23; 4:28</p>	<p>Jesus Christ,</p> <p>Lord and Christ, 2:36.</p> <p>Prince and Savior, 5:31.</p>	<p>Holy Spirit</p> <p>Spoke to people.</p> <p>Assisted Jesus In His kingdom.</p> <p>Jesus' death on the cross was by God's set purpose, 2:23; 4:28</p>	<p>Apostles: Baptized with the Holy Spirit, 1:5; 2:4.</p> <p>They received power to receive and understand Jesus' instructions and to speak in other languages.</p> <p>God-fearing Jews from several nations had come to Jerusalem to keep the Pentecost. They heard the apostles speak to them in their own languages, 2:5-11.</p> <p>The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders, 5:12.</p>
<p>Action</p>	<p>The prophets from Samuel on foretold of these last days. 3:24</p> <p>God promised the Holy Spirit by the prophet Joel.</p> <p>See Acts 2:17-21.</p>	<p>David had prophesied about the resurrection and coronation of God's Holy One, 2:30.</p> <p>Moses said Jesus would be a prophet like him, 3:22.</p> <p>God had made covenants with Abraham. They are being fulfilled through Jesus. 3:25, 26.</p>	<p>He Spoke through the mouth of David, 1:16</p> <p>David spoke concerning Judas, 1:20;</p> <p>See Acts 2:17-21.</p>	<p>Apostolic power: See Luke 12:12; 24:45.</p> <p>John 16:12-15; 20:22.</p> <p>David spoke concerning the Gentiles' rage, and the peoples' plot, 3:25. This rage was manifested when Jesus preached the kingdom and later when the apostles preached to the Jews in Jerusalem, 4:23-31.</p>
	<p>The Holy Spirit assisted Jesus after He started His ministry. He assisted the apostles later (Luke 4:1; 24:45). He also worked with other disciples, who were chosen by God, 4:31; 6:3.</p> <p>Finally, the Holy Spirit came to fellowship and assist all repentant baptized obedient believers, 2:38, 39; 5:32.</p> <p>The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob glorified Jesus by healing a lame man to assist Peter and John to preach Jesus in Jerusalem, 3:13.</p>	<p>Jesus of Nazareth was resurrected from the dead and taken up.</p> <p>He was exalted to the right hand of God, 1:9; 2:24, 33</p> <p>Jesus must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, 3:21.</p> <p>God fulfilled what He had promised, 3:18.</p>	<p>Judas Iscariot replaced by Matthias for the apostolic ministry, 1:23-26.</p>	<p>The Lord added three thousand to "those who were being saved." 2:47. The number grew to about 5,000, then continued to grow rapidly, 4:4; 5:14; 6:1. A large number of priests became obedient to the faith, 6:7.</p> <p>The high priest, teachers of the law, Sadducees, Pharisees and the Sanhedrin (4:5,6; 5:17, 27, 34) refuted and beat the apostles for teaching Jesus is the Christ and the resurrection of the dead, 4:2, 8-12, 33; 5:40. They killed Stephen.</p> <p>Most members of the church stayed in Jerusalem in a common fellowship, worship and learning program until they were scattered by persecution, 2:42-47; 8:1. Their lifestyle was supported, financially, by the disciples' own funds. Some sold their lands and houses and laid the money at the apostles' feet, 4:34-37.</p> <p>Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit and they died, 5:1-11. Fear seized the church.</p>

Questions for Discussion

1. In this summary of God's evangelism program for the Israelites in Jerusalem, we want to keep in mind the function of each Person of Deity.
 - a. Who set the time for this program to happen?
 - b. Who established the purpose for Jesus' death on the cross?
 - c. Through whom did God begin to speak in these last days of time?
 - d. The prophet Joel prophesied about the last days. What special blessing came with his prophecy?
2. Jesus Christ.
 - a. The Israelites were waiting for the Messiah (Greek, Christ) to come. In what sense is He called Lord?
 - b. What are the two roles Christians' Lord is now fulfilling?
 - c. How does Jesus fulfill the role Moses assigned to Him?
 - d. List two covenants God made with individuals in the Old Testament that is continually being fulfilled.
3. How did the Holy Spirit show His power in the following situations:
 - a. In the field of communication; that is, where the speaker and the audience do not understand the same language?
 - b. In the area of developing audiences for the preachers?
 - c. The message preached?
 - d. In the fellowship of God with His children?
4. Apostles.
 - a. Give your understanding of what happened to the apostles when they were baptized with the Holy Spirit.
 - b. How might the apostles' baptism of the Holy Spirit have been different from the way the Holy Spirit worked with people Luke named in Acts 6:5?
 - c. How did the power of an apostle differ from the power of an elder?
 - d. How was the "rage of the Gentiles" witnessed in the first six chapters of Acts?
 - e. To what level of physical abuse did the rage of the Jewish leaders manifest itself?
 - f. What was the numerical number of the church before Luke stopped counting?
 - g. Luke felt it significant to mention a number of entitled Jewish men who were added to the saved. Who were they?
 - h. Along with the activity of evangelism and baptisms of repentant sinners, in what other activities were the believers engaged?
 - i. Explain how the Jews from outside Jerusalem who became obedient to the form of doctrine delivered by the apostles were able to stay with their new brothers and sisters in Christ.