

**cloven tongues  
like  
as of  
fire**

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**Acts 1:26 – 2:13**

~ We need a tongues movement in our contemporary churches today; one in which the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is taught properly, correctly and completely from the Word of God to the entire world in the sound doctrine of the apostles in a language everyone can understand. From the college professor to the teenager who barely speaks English; I am told these safari reports are easy to read and understand. This is the only tongue I speak in, too, by the way – simple and down to earth – comprehensive, I trust. I don't believe in chanting incoherent psycho babbling in "worship." Why don't we try to edify the world with Christ instead of edifying ourselves by "speaking in tongues?" I have found that people ONLY speak in tongues when they can't honestly talk to God anymore. Tongue talk ALWAYS indicates a person is far from God and are drifting further every time they open their mouths. Now, I know most people do not like the reports I produce, because correct Bible teaching is something most of them will not tolerate or accept, and the rest don't understand. The only advice I have for them is to pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment. If you pray for those things, and the Spirit of God tells you I am wrong - then, by all means, listen to God. Not me.

We didn't adequately address the apostle's self-appointed election process in our previous report as Simon Peter conducted an apostolic lottery and Mathias was chosen. I'm sure Mathias was a good man who had seen the resurrected Christ, and I believe he was an apostle. However, the Holy Spirit was not in this decision – and God did not choose Mathias to replace Judas Iscariot. We know that because the Holy Spirit did not come upon the disciples until the Day of Pentecost. That is what we will consider in this leg of our Spiritual Safari. The one chosen to replace Judas will be chosen at a later time by the Lord Jesus Himself. Obviously, the Holy Spirit ignored this election of Mathias because Mathias is not heard from again in Scripture. I

believe the one who will be chosen later to replace Judas will be Paul the apostle. My authority for making that statement is Paul himself.

*Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead) ~*

Mathias doesn't have an epistle and, if he did, it couldn't begin as Paul did. Paul was chosen Personally by God the Father and Christ Himself. That was done through the Holy Spirit that came into the world and indwelled Saul of Tarsus, who was later named Paul, again, by the Spirit of God. I do not see that happening in Mathias' case. That said, Paul's ministry confirms he was appropriately chosen to replace Judas. Now, I recognize many good and sincere men believe Mathias took Judas' place. I recognize I am in the minority and, if you want to believe Mathias was Judas' replacement, that's okay - because most people will agree with you but, if you want to be correct, you'll have to agree with me that Matthias was not chosen by God for this office....

## **I**

***26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.***

## **II**

***1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come and being fulfilled, they were all with one accord and all together in one place.***

***2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.***

~ **The Day of Pentecost** took place fifty days after the Feasts of Firstfruits. In our report on Leviticus chapter twenty-three, we learned how that feast speaks of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Of course, Passover speaks of Jesus' death so, here we have the feast of His resurrection. The Day of Pentecost speaks of the birthday and institution of the church. This is the day the early church began to exist. The Day of Pentecost speaks of

the coming of the Holy Spirit to call a particular people out of this world. Before this day, there was simply no church. As soon as verse two took place, there was suddenly a church. What Bethlehem was to the birth of Jesus is what Pentecost in Jerusalem was to the coming of the Holy Spirit. This is where Christ began to baptize believers into His body and began identifying with the church here on earth.

*1 Corinthians 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ ~*

The moment we accept Jesus as our Savior, we receive the Holy Spirit as a born-again believer through trust in Him, and we are immediately baptized into His body eternally. This is the beginning of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our life. The Spirit of God is not visible, of course. We worship in Spirit and in Truth, emphasis on the latter. However, God makes His presence known in two ways: through the eyes and ears of mankind. Just about all of our learning and knowledge comes through those two senses. Verse two tells us they experienced both of these sensory reactions. They heard the sound from Heaven, and they saw it fill the house wherein they sat.

The “rushing mighty wind” has been downplayed to the detriment of a proper, correct and complete understanding of the Word of God; so, I want to be very definite about what Scripture intends. It was the SOUND as of wind, but it was NOT wind! That would be something like the sound of a tornado or a hurricane! I am sure the entire city of Jerusalem heard the sound, too. It had to have sounded like a thousand freight trains coming; and if you’ve ever been through an Oklahoma tornado or a Florida hurricane, you’ll know this wasn’t just the rustling of treetops. Well, that was the appeal to the ear-gate hearing sensory perception....

***3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues, partings asunder, like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.***

~ Again, it was “like as of fire” – but it was NOT fire! This is the appeal to the eye-gate sensory perception. Now, this is NOT the baptism of fire which speaks of judgment yet to come upon the earth to those who have rejected

Christ, either; but this is the baptism of the Holy Spirit we receive the moment we accept Christ as our Savior from sins. There is a theology that is always praying the fire will fall on us! My prayer is: Lord, for goodness sakes do NOT let fire fall on me! Fire burns, friends! So, this is like fire, but it is not fire. We're talking about the baptism of the Holy Spirit....

***4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.***

~ This passage does NOT say they were baptized with the Holy Spirit; it says they were FILLED with the Holy Spirit. They were baptized by the Holy Spirit as Jesus commanded – but, as far as we are concerned, the only command we are given is to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We are never commanded to be baptized with the Holy Spirit; because that baptism automatically takes place the moment we accept Christ into our hearts. All of the other ministries of the Holy Spirit for people of this age have occurred. Being born again, being indwelt and being sealed by the Holy Spirit are specific ministries we have no part in. Further, we are told not to grieve the Holy Spirit; but we're never told to do anything to become sealed or remain saved – we're only told we ARE sealed and saved. So, now we have a new body called the church in existence for the first time in the World of God.

Now, the “other tongues” never means “unknown tongues” – it means the polyglot languages of the Roman Empire that were spoken by worshippers who were present at the time in which we are studying. These people were gathered together because all males were required to come to Jerusalem for three feasts, as we have read about many times before on safari. Many of these believers couldn't even speak Hebrew. Many Jews in the United States cannot speak Hebrew. In Israel today, Hebrew is spoken. It was once a dead language - but it has been resurrected, so to speak. So, their speaking with “other tongues” – not unknown – was done as the Holy Spirit gave them the capacity to communicate – and NOT with God – but to communicate with other believers!

The experience we are examining in this section of Scripture could never be repeated today. The Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost – a very

definite point in past history – to perform a very definite function. That function was to baptize believers into one body. At that time, all of these other ministries were also performed in the lives of those who were gathered together for the feast days according to the Mosaic Law. We could duplicate Pentecost again no more than we could duplicate the birth of the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. If the wise men went looking for Jesus this year they wouldn't find Him – because it already happened. The wise men may have had a wonderful experience and might desire to do it all over again – but, my friends, that's absurd. The Holy Spirit is in this world today and you don't have to go find Him or beg Him to come – He's already here. The Spirit of God takes the things of Christ and reveals them unto us. When we accept all of that in belief then we have something God can work in us, with and through us. These apostles ONLY spoke in "other" tongues as the Spirit gave them ability. They didn't speak naturally the hundreds of polyglot languages that were being practiced throughout the hundreds of various locations of the Roman Empire....

***5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.***

***6 Now when this sound had taken place, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man was hearing them speak in his own dialect.***

~ Living in Florida I have heard the sound barrier broken many times by the space shuttle landing and, friends, if you weren't expecting it, it would scare the daylights out of you – no matter how many times you had heard it before. I'm sure these apostles were near the temple at this time. Well, not only were these men speaking in "other" – not unknown – but other tongues, there were many different dialects being HEARD in their own language. See, if we read the account correctly, the truly amazing thing is that each man HEARD his own language and dialect. So, if YOU want to speak in tongues in your church, then you better make sure someone knows and hears correctly what you are saying – and I have to tell you: that never happens with the super-duper saints today who think they "speak in tongues."

Northern and southern Italy have very different dialects of the same language. I have to laugh when I ask someone what tongue they are speaking in because they ALWAYS say it's an "unknown tongue" – then I ask them what dialect of that unknown tongue they are speaking in, and they never have a clue what's going on. Further, the "tongues" crowd usually say the meanest things when you do understand them. What we have is the apostles speaking in their native tongue, but others hearing their words and receiving them in the "other" tongue – in my estimation, that is a much more miraculous happening by far - as opposed to speaking in some tongue that is not only unknown to everyone else – it's unknown to YOU! The miracle just happens to be in the hearing, friends. That may be something you want to turn over in your minds once or twice. Learning how to accurately discern the voice of God would be a miracle for most so called "Christians" today – that's for sure....

***7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?***

***8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?***

***9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,***

***10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,***

***11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.***

***12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?***

***13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.***

~ We have men from three continents gathered together as we close this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. They're hearing these Galilean's speak to them in their own language.

There is nothing “unknown” about any of this. Naturally, they were perplexed because they didn’t fully understand how - but they understood what they heard. They heard the wonderful things of Christ. Period. The doubters said they were drunk. A drunk man is always very talkative. Well, Paul said be filled with the Holy Spirit and not wine wherein is excess. I wish most people speaking about God would get filled with the Holy Spirit so they might communicate the Gospel soberly to others. THAT is the type of tongues movement we need today, not this Pentecostal religious psychobabble nonsense. We need something another man can understand. That is what is all-important. In our next report, we’re going to see Simon Peter answer the accusation of being drunk. Peter's text just doesn't happen to be found in the book of Joel, either - as so many people erroneously believe it is. I hope you can continue with us ~

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