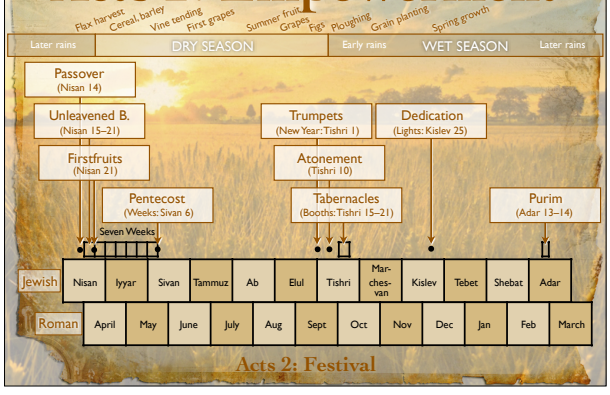
Acts Outline

I. The Spirit Empowers	II. The Spirit Empowers
Messianic Israel (1—12)	**World Mission (13—28)**
A. Messianic Renewal (1—5)	**A. Mission Journeys (13—21)**
1. Messianic Beginnings (1)	1. 1MJ: Asia Minor, JC (13—15)
2. Messianic Empowerment (2)	2. 2MJ: Maced., Achaia (16—18)
3. Messianic Witness (3–5)	3. 3MJ: Ephesus, Cor. (19—21)
B. Messianic Hellenists (6—12)	**B. Mission Destiny (21—28)**
1. Hellenist Leaders Emerge (6—7)	1. Denied: Jerusalem (21—23)
2. Hellenist Mission Advances (8—11)	2. Delayed: Caesarea (24—26)
3. Hellenist Center Shifts (11—12)	3. Achieved: Rome (27—28)

Acts 2: Empowerment

- Festival
- Tongues
- Sermon
- Community

Acts 2: Empowerment



Acts 2: Empowerment

- Pentecost: Agricultural
  - Barley harvest (spring rains, Ap/May)
  - Double festival connection
    - Passover: waving barley sheaf (anticipation)
    - Pentecost: harvesting crop 50 days later
- Pentecost: Religious
  - Pilgrim festival: Exodus—land blessing
  - Inclusive communal meal conclusion to which poor, Levite, stranger invited

Acts 2: Empowerment

- Pentecost: Narrative Nuance
  - Festival fulfillment
    - Only festival not fulfilled in Jesus' life
    - Harvest promise fulfilled (3,000 respond)
  - Covenant fulfillment
    - Land blessing unfulfilled in Israel's life
    - Transcends Pharisee synagogue efforts
  - Meal fulfillment
    - Pentecost meal for outcasts (sharing life)
    - Church fulfills kingdom promise

Acts 2: Empowerment

- Descent of Spirit (2:1-4)
  - "when Pentecost arrived"
    - Festival fulfillment
    - Messianic Israel inaugurated
  - "strong rushing wind"
    - Symbolic of Spirit of God
    - Ephiphanic event (with fiery tongues)
  - "tongues of fire"
    - Epiphanic event (Sinai: burning bush)
    - Prophecy fulfillment: John the Baptist

Acts 2: Empowerment

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  - "when Pentecost arrived"
    - Festival fulfillment
    - Messianic Israel inaugurated
  - "strong rushing wind"
    - "he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire"—Luke 3:16–17
    - s)
  - "t
    - Epiphanic event (Si i: burning bush)
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Acts 2: Empowerment

- Descent of Spirit (2:1-4)
  - "as the Spirit gave them utterance"
    - Spirit controls, not the individual
    - Community manifestation, not personal
    - Spirit empowers messianic Israel
  - Narrative parallels (see next slide)
    - Jesus' baptism in Luke
      - Empowerment for mission
      - Inauguration of public ministry
    - Israel's tongues in Acts

Acts 2: Empowerment

- Crowds' Amazement (2:5-13)
  - Countries represented
    - East of Euphrates
      - Parthia, Media, Elam, Mesopotamia
      - Assyrian, Babylonian deportations
      - Aramaic speaking
    - Judea
      - Meaning unclear (scribal emendations)
      - Jerusalemites? Samaria and Galilee?

Acts 2: Festival

Acts 2: Empowerment

- Crowds' Amazement (2:5-13)
  - Countries represented
    - Asia Minor
      - Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia
      - Large Jewish populations
      - Focal point of later Pauline activity
    - North Africa
      - Egypt and Libya
      - Large Jewish populations
      - Philo of Alexandria, Simon of Cyrene

Mark 15:21

Acts 2: Festival

Acts 2: Empowerment

- Crowds' Amazement (2:5-13)
  - Countries represented
    - Italy (Rome)
      - Early beginnings of church in Rome
      - Crucial for Acts narrative (cf. 1:8)
      - Focal point of later Pauline activity
    - Cretans and Arabs
      - Crete: Paul's letter to Titus
      - Arabs (Nabateans? Cf. King Aretas IV)

Acts 2: Festival

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"uttermost parts of the earth"

Acts 2: Festival

Acts 2: Empowerment

Crowds' Amazement (2:5-13)

- **Countries represented**
  - Italy (Rome)
  - [illegible] in Rome
  - Crete: Paul's letter to Titus
  - Arabs (Nabateans? Cf. King Aretas IV)

1. Daughter: first wife of Herod Antipas
2. King of Damascus (cf. Acts 9:25; 2 Cor. 11:32)

Acts 2: Empowerment

Crowds' Amazement (2:5-13)

- **Diverse reaction**
  - Question ("what does this mean?")
  - Ridicule ("filled with new wine")
  - Predicates why Peter must speak
    - Bring order to the present general disorder
    - Answer the question and deflect the ridicule
    - Focus personally the "mighty deeds of God"
    - Call for personal decision about Jesus

Acts 2: Empowerment

- Festival
- **Tongues**
- Sermon
- Community

Acts 2: Empowerment

Speaking in Tongues

Pentecost	Corinth
Acts 2:1–4	1 Cor. 12—14
1. Unique	1. Repeatable
2. Corporate, fiery	2. Individual prayer
3. Known human languages	3. Unknown, non-sensical sounds
4. Content: known facts of gospel	4. Content: esoteric ecstatic prophecy
5. Contextually significant	5. Contextually insignificant

Acts 2: Empowerment

- Festival
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Acts 2: Empowerment

(C. H. Dodd)

Apostolic Preaching Form

- **Announcing age of fulfillment** (2:16–21)
  - Resurrection inaugurates last days
  - Outpouring of God's Spirit as evidence
- **Telling story of Jesus** (2:22–24)
- **Citing OT texts** (2:25–36)
  - Showing Jesus as fulfillment
  - Usually quoting LXX form
- **Calling to repentance** (2:37–40)

(Example: Peter and Cornelius, next slide)

Acts 2: Empowerment

(C. H. Dodd)

Apostolic Preaching Form

Psalm could not be about David; he saw corruption in grave. Only Jesus did not see corruption in the grave.

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Acts 2: Empowerment

Peter's Sermons

The Church's Movement from Jews to Gentiles

Sermon	Audience	Significance
1. Acts 2	Jerusalem's pilgrims	Church empowered
2. Acts 3	Jerusalem's people	Forgiveness offered
3. Acts 4	Jerusalem's leaders	Forgiveness offered
4. Acts 5	Jerusalem's leaders	Forgiveness rejected
5. Acts 10	Cornelius's house	Gentile plan unfolds
6. Acts 11	Circumcision party	Gentile plan resisted
7. Acts 15	Church leaders	Gentile plan settled

Acts 2: Empowerment

- Peter's Sermon (2:14–40)
  - "spoken by Joel" (2:16: "this is that")
    - Prophetic last days have dawned
    - "visions": Jesus on Damascus Road
    - "dreams": Macedonian call at Troas
    - "all flesh": tongues—Samaritans, Cornelius
    - "wonders and signs"
      - Jesus: healings, exorcisms, resurrection
      - Israel: Pentecost's outpoured Spirit
      - Peter, Paul: lame walk, sick healed

Acts 2: Sermon

Acts 2: Empowerment

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Outpoured Spirit is Luke's main sense Last Days have arrived

Acts 2: Sermon

Acts 2: Empowerment

- Peter's Sermon (2:14–40)
  - "repent and be baptized" (2:38)
    - new Jewish element #1: "in Jesus name"
    - new Jewish element #2: gives gift of Spirit
  - "to those who are far off" (2:39)
    - Peter means Diaspora Jews
    - Contrast the need for the Joppa vision
  - "everyone God calls"
    - Peter for the moment is thinking of Jews
    - Trajectory of Simeon's prophecy (Luke 2:31)

Acts 2: Sermon

Acts 2: Empowerment

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"light of revelation for the Gentiles"

Acts 2: Sermon

Acts 2: Empowerment

- Festival
- Tongues
- Sermon
- **Community**

Acts 2: Empowerment

Community (2:41–47)

- **Significant response**
  - About 3,000 added (Jerusalem + pilgrims)
  - Diaspora pilgrims returning home
- **Community life**
  - Apostles' teaching: leadership later will change
  - Fellowship, all common: new social identity
  - Bread: Pentecost shared meal becomes perpetual
  - Prayers: *inclusio* with Upper Room activity
  - Signs and wonders: new age, new vision

Acts 2: Empowerment

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Jewish: compare Qumran

Acts 2: Empowerment

Community (2:41–47)

- **Temple center**
  - Still extremely Jewish focus
    - No missionary impulse
    - Speaking to Jews only (cf. 11:19)
  - Radical implications not yet obvious
    - Jesus has judged institutions of Israel
    - Stephen's Speech is yet to come

Acts 2: Empowerment
Community
"and they spoke the word to no one except Jews"
Temple center
Still extremely Jewish focus
No missionary impulse
Speaking to Jews only (cf. 11:19)
Radical implications not yet obvious
Jesus has judged institutions of Israel
Stephen's Speech is yet to come
Acts 2: Sermon

Acts 2: Empowerment
Community (2:41–47)
Cleansing of Temple (Luke 19:44–46)
Radical implications not yet obvious
Jesus has judged institutions of Israel
Stephen's Speech is yet to come
Acts 2: Sermon