

6. Click on the links and discover layers of meaning in the text.
This is all happening during the Jewish Festival of Weeks (also known as Pentecost), that took place fifty days after Passover. It's important to know that that festival came to be associated with Moses receiving the law on Mt. Sinai. In Act 2 it's easy to forget that they are on Mt. Zion close to the temple. The temple is on a mountain. Read Exodus 19:18-19; 20:18-19 and compare the phenomenon that accompany both events.

Note how God appears to Abraham as smoke and fire as you read Genesis 15:17.

Note how God appeared to Moses when he called him as you read Exodus 3:2.

Note how God manifested himself to the Israelites in the wilderness as you read Exodus 13:21.

Note how God coming into the tabernacle and later the temple is depicted as you read Exodus 40:34-35 and 1 Chronicles 7:1-2.

What insights on this passage come from "clicking on the links"?

7. What are the opportunities and challenges of BLESSing the people from the nations that have come to us? Is there one step you can take soon?

Your Story in God's Global Mission

"When God Brings the Nations to Us"
Acts 2:1-13

Waiting

Acts 1:4 and 2:1

Waiting is an integral part of the story God is _____.

God's "_____" may be the most difficult answer to hear.

When it comes to the Holy Spirit, there's no more waiting for the believer. There's no "maybe" or "no." There's only God's "_____." Every believer receives the Holy Spirit at their new birth (Romans 8:9).

The Holy Spirit _____ the mission (Acts 2; 11:12; 13:1-3).

The Holy Spirit emboldens (Acts 4:31) and _____ the missionaries [that's us] (Acts 1:8).

Thinking More Deeply About Biblical Interpretation

- Click on the _____.
" [The Bible is] the first hyperlinked book." (Jordan Peterson)
Links often reveal _____ of meaning.
The Bible is meant to be read _____.
- Literal isn't always _____.

"Biblical literalism is the method of interpreting Scripture that holds that, except in places where the text is obviously allegorical, poetic, or figurative, it should be taken literally."

Acts 2:5-11

“from every nation under heaven”

- Remember that when God communicates with us, he’s always _____ to our level.

The Bible is both divine and _____ in origin. Biblical inspiration is not through dictation. This human and divine nature creates tensions that we often can’t resolve. And when we overcorrect by focusing on the divine, while neglecting the human origins of the Bible, we create unnecessary crises of faith, and we disrespect what the Bible actually presents itself to be. Let the Bible tell you and show you what it means when it says “all scripture is inspired by God.”

When God Brings the Nations to Us

- B_____.
- Be _____.
- Offer to help _____ the city and the culture.
- Partner with an international student _____.
- Invite to an American holiday tradition or a _____.
- B.L.E.S.S. an immigrant or _____.
Begin with prayer.
Listen with care.
Eat together.
Serve.
Share your story.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week’s sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What do you think would happen if the Holy Spirit left the church?
3. Read Acts 2:1-13. What would have felt like to be in that room on that day?
4. How does the Holy Spirit propel the mission and empower the mission in Acts and today?
5. What are the downsides of neglecting the human origins and elements of the inspired Scripture? Offer examples.