

Sermon Text: Acts 2:1-47 Pentecost: The Harvest of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is creating a new humanity united under the Lord Jesus Christ.

1) Humanity is divided in rebellion against the Lord (Gen. 11; Psalm 2).

- a) Genesis 11:1-11—Tower of Babel; Confusion of language to divide humanity in their evil purpose
- b) Genesis 10—table of nations; 70 nations; represented by 70 sons of Israel that went down into Egypt (Deut. 32:8); represented by 70 disciples sent to preach (Luke 10:1-20)
- c) Psalm 2—The nations rage and plot against the Lord to throw off His government; they are urged to make peace with the Son of God
- d) Israel was called to be the religious center of the world, leading the nations to worship the only true God, but they became the center of the nation's plot against Jesus when Jerusalem rejected Jesus as their king and handed Him over to the Romans to be crucified.
- e) **Application:** Humanity is fractured because it is in rebellion against its Creator. All human efforts to unite humanity in peace fail because those who do not fear God cannot be trusted to respect one another and the agreements they make with each other (e.g. military leagues, economic justice unions, human rights accords). God will frustrate rebellious humanity's attempts at union, because such unity will only foster greater evils.

2) People from every nation under heaven were gathered in Jerusalem for Pentecost.

- a) 2:1—Day of Pentecost
 - i) second of three annual feasts (Passover, Pentecost, Booths)
 - ii) 50 days after Passover
 - iii) Also called Feast of Ingathering/Harvest (Exod. 23:16), Day of the Firstfruits (Num. 28:26), and Feast of Weeks (Deut. 16:10)
 - iv) Time of thanksgiving for God's covenant faithfulness to provide for His people
 - v) 10 days after Christ's Ascension; 2:33 "Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing."
- b) 2:5—Devout men from every nation under heaven
 - i) Jews were scattered throughout the nations (Diaspora), but they were required to travel to Jerusalem for the three annual feasts.
 - ii) "Devout men" would include faithful Jews, proselytes (Gentile converts), and possibly God-fearing Gentiles
- c) 2:9-10—fifteen different nations mentioned; echoes "Table of Nations" tradition, which was updated throughout Jewish history to represent contemporary political boundaries

3) The Holy Spirit creates a new humanity by the preaching of the gospel.

- a) The Manifestation of the Spirit
 - i) Wind (2:2)
 - ii) Tongues of Fire (2:3)
 - iii) Gospel Utterance in Foreign Language (2:4)
 - iv) Conversions (2:37-41)

- b) The Gathering of Humanity (2:6)
- c) The Preaching of the Gospel
 - i) The Promise of the Spirit of Prophecy (2:14-21)
 - ii) The Promise of the Risen Son of David (2:22-36)
 - iii) The Preaching of Repentance and Baptism (2:38)
 - (1) Repentance—Human Responsibility
 - (2) Baptism—Divine Sovereignty
 - iv) The Gift of the Spirit (2:38-39)
 - v) The Pleading unto Salvation (2:40)
- d) The Firstfruits of a New Humanity (2:41)

4) The Holy Spirit creates a New Humanity under the Lord Jesus Christ (2:42-46).

- a) Life in the Spirit under the Lordship of Jesus
 - i) Devoted to the Apostle’s Teaching
 - ii) Fellowship
 - iii) Communion/Lord’s Supper
 - iv) Prayer
 - v) Apostolic Miracles
 - vi) Togetherness/Generosity
 - vii) Worship
 - viii) Growth
- b) This is the healing of Babel, not by giving the world one language, but by giving the one Church every language of the world.

5) The Holy Spirit today.

- a) The Gift to Every Believer
- b) The Power for Witness
- c) The Application of the Benefits of Christ’s Redemption
 - i) Union with Christ (2:38, 41)
 - ii) Forgiveness of Sin and Peace with God (2:36-38)
 - iii) Redeeming Relationships

Doxology: When You send forth Your Spirit they are created, and You renew the face of the ground. May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in His works, who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke! Psalm 104:30-32