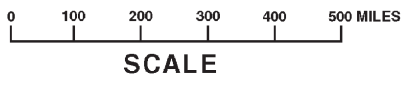






## WHAT GOD SHOWED AT PENTECOST

Manifestations of the Holy Spirit, Spiritual Gifts  
and Exhibited Jesus' Ekklesia



The followers remained in Jerusalem praying and selected another disciple by lot to take Judas' place. The disciples enabled by the Holy Spirit had the courage to stay in Jerusalem. Since the group had swelled to one hundred and twenty, they moved to the Temple Mount area. On Sunday, June 5, 29 A.D., the followers of Jesus were assembled in one place. That place was in the colonnades of the Temple Mount area where they had seen Jesus teach and perform miracles among the people. ***AB Acts 2:1-4. And when the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all assembled together in one place, when suddenly there came a sound from heaven like the rushing of a violent tempest blast, and it filled the whole house in which they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues resembling fire, which were separated and distributed and that settled on each one of them. And they were all filled-diffused throughout their souls-with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other (different, foreign) languages, as the Spirit kept giving them clear and loud expression (in each tongue in appropriate words). (FIGURE 5)***

Since it was Pentecost a great crowd of onlookers heard and saw what was happening. The crowd was beside themselves with amazement. The participants were also amazed as some were probably stumbling and falling under the power of the Holy Spirit while others were speaking in tongues. Peter had to get up in order to address and explain to the gathering crowd what was happening. ***Acts 2:12-14. And all were beside themselves with amazement and were puzzled and bewildered, saying, one to another, What can this mean? But others made a joke of it and derisively said, They are simply drunk and full of sweet (intoxicating) wine. But, Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: You Jews and all you residents of Jerusalem let this be (explained) to you so that you will know and understand; listen closely to what I have to say.*** Here was the impetuous fisherman from Galilee addressing this great crowd. I'm sure he remembered Jesus' teaching that the Holy Spirit will tell him what to say as he continued to explain the events and the prophecy of Joel. ***AB Acts 2:15-17. For these men are not drunk, as you***

*imagine, for it is (only) the third hour (about nine o'clock) of the day; But (instead), this is (the beginning of) what was spoken through the prophet Joel: and it shall come to pass in the last days, God declares, that I will pour out of My Spirit upon all mankind, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy-telling forth the divine counsels-and your young men shall see visions (that is, divinely granted appearances) and your old men shall dream (divinely suggested) dreams.*

Peter went on to deliver a great speech concerning Jesus whom the Jews had just crucified and he told the prophecy of David's which said the coming Messiah's body would not see decay or destruction (verse 27). He told them Jesus had been raised from the dead. **AB Acts 2:32-33.** *This Jesus God raised up, and of that all we (His disciples) are witnesses. Being therefore lifted high by the right hand of God, and having received from the Father, the promised (blessing which is the) Holy Spirit. He has made this outpouring which you yourselves both see and hear.* Peter told them Jesus has left us the Holy Spirit by the manifestations you both see and hear.

The people were touched and asked what they should do and, Peter by the power of the Holy Spirit said, **AB Acts 2:38-39.** *And Peter answered them, Repent-change your views, and purpose to accept the will of God in your inner selves instead of rejecting it-and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of and release from your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise (of the Holy Spirit) is to and for you and your children, and to and for all that are far away (even) to as many as the Lord our God invites and bids come to Himself.* That day some three thousand souls welcomed and accepted Peter's message. They were baptized and added to the ekklesia.

The ekklesia that Jesus had told the disciples about in Caesarea-Philippi had become a reality. Here in a public place that was protected by the Romans, the ekklesia, the public meeting, which God had prepared the world to accept, had now come, to the world. This was what Jesus meant when he said, "Greater things you will do". **AB Acts 2:42-43.** *And they steadfastly persevered, devoting themselves constantly to the instruction and fellowship of the apostles, to the breaking of bread (including the Lord's Supper) and prayers. And a*

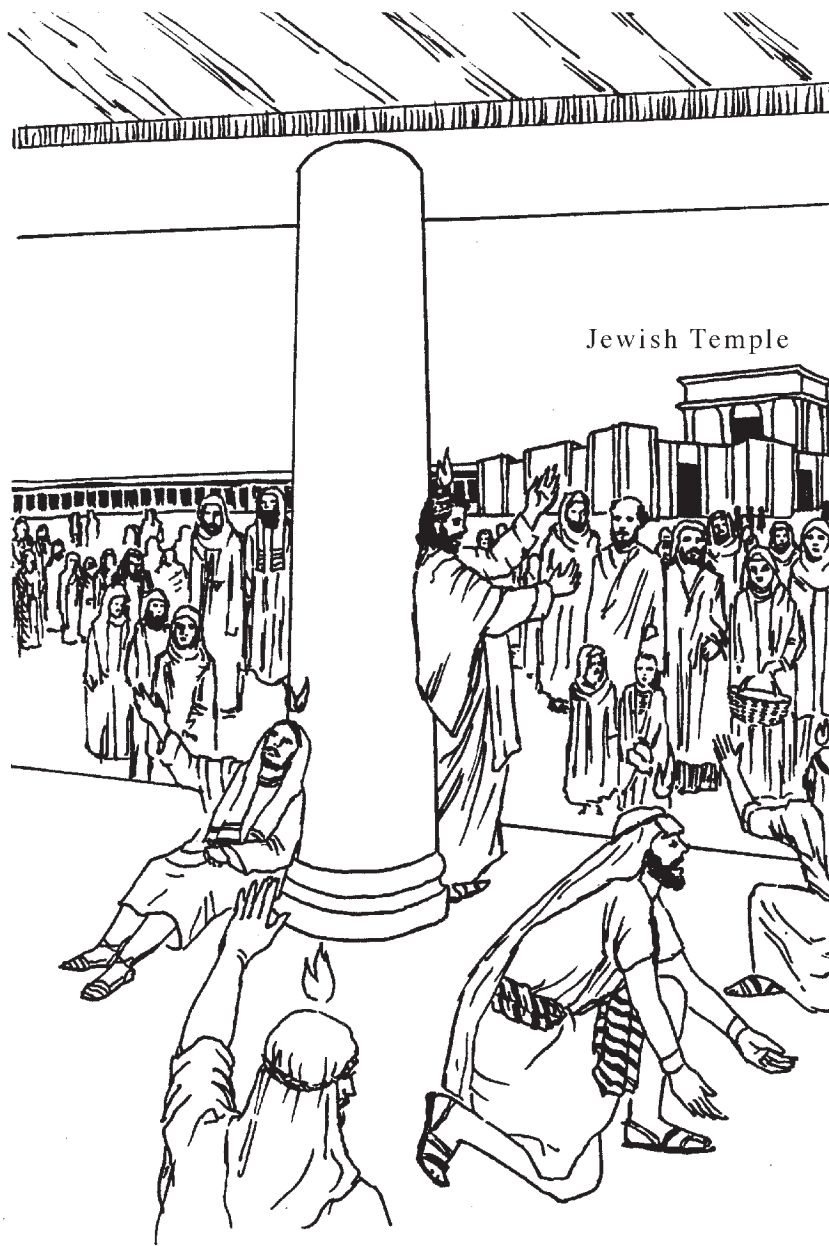
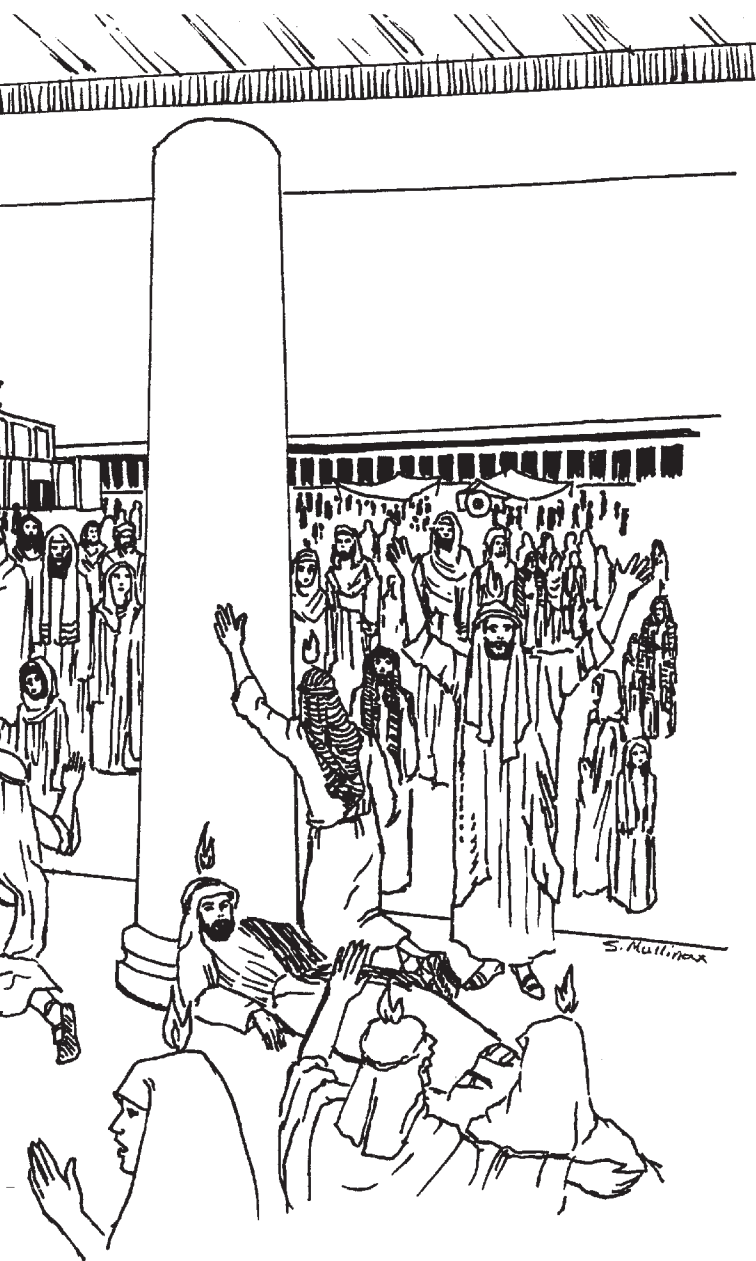


Figure 5 PENTECOST - TEMPLE MOUNT AREA

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AB Acts 2:12-16 And all were beside themselves with amazement and were puzzled and bewildered, saying one to another, What can this mean? But others made a joke of it and derisively said, They are simply drunk and full of sweet (intoxicating) wine. But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: You Jews and all you residents of Jerusalem, let this be (explained) to you so that you will know and understand; listen closely to what I have to say. For these men are not drunk, as you imagine, for it is (only) the third hour (about nine o'clock) of the day; But (instead) this is (the beginning of) what was spoken through the prophet Joel.

***sense of awe (reverential fear) came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were performed through the apostles-the special messengers.*** This group came together and was one as Jesus said and many signs and wonders were performed through the apostles and others. They had a place to come together in the stoas of the Temple Mount and in their homes. ***AB Acts 2:46-47. And day after day they regularly assembled in the temple with united purpose, and in their homes they broke bread (including the Lord's Supper). They partook of their food with gladness and simplicity and generous hearts. Constantly praising God and being in favor and goodwill with all the people, and the Lord kept adding (to their number) daily those who were being saved (from spiritual death).*** Here the disciples could tell the world about their Savior and show them the power of God. This was Jesus' ekklesia and He was adding to it daily.

For a year the disciples met in the stoas of the Temple Mount area. It didn't take long for them to realize what a powerful witness the ekklesia-church was where signs and wonders were happening right out in the public where they could be seen and observed by the people in the Temple Mount area. It was as if Jesus had never left and was right there performing miracles and teaching the people. Here was the germination of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to the ekklesia--Body of Christ that Apostle Paul in his writings presented to the world.

Of course the Romans protected the ekklesia meetings of the followers of Jesus because they were meeting in public in the stoas and colonnades. That's why they were built in the first place so there would be a place for the public meetings. What the Romans didn't like was a secret or clandestine meeting where there could be plots against the Empire.

This grace period didn't last long with the Jews. After about a year, Peter and John were on their way to the Temple Mount and as they entered through the Beautiful Gate on the southeast side of the city they noticed a cripple. This man was prayed for and healed after being crippled all his life and he was walking, leaping, and praising God. He followed Peter and John up to the Temple Mount area to the stoa

called Solomon's Porch. Here a crowd gathered so Peter told them about Jesus and their number grew to about five thousand.

The high-ranking Jews had about had it with this group so they arrested Peter and John. They were brought before Annas, the High Priest the same group who had tried Jesus and turned Him over to the Romans. The high-ranking Jews asked them by what authority did you do this healing? **AB Acts 4:8. Then Peter, (because he was) filled with (and controlled by) the Holy Spirit, said to them, Rulers of the people and members of the council.** Peter delivered a bold and unfettered story about Jesus. These learned men realized that Peter, a dumb fisherman, was getting help from somewhere. They knew he had been with Jesus. This powerful group wasn't quite so sure of themselves as they had been with Jesus, so they only asked Peter and John not to teach or converse about the name of Jesus. Peter and John said we can only tell you what we've seen and heard.

When Peter and John returned to their company and told them what the chief priest and elders had said to them, a spectacular miracle happened. A Word of Knowledge came from the assembled group in unison together in one mind and voice. **NIV Acts 4:24-30. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father, David: "Why do the nations rage and the people plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One. Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."** Imagine being a bystander and hearing this group whether one hundred or several saying these words, in unison completely at the behest of the Holy Spirit. **AB Acts 4:31. And when they had prayed, the place in which they were assembled was shak-**

***en; and they were all filled with the Holy spirit and they continued to speak the Word of God with freedom and boldness and courage.*** I'm sure this instance was almost equal to the day of Pentecost because Luke was always the master of the understatement. After this Word of Knowledge in unison, I'm sure the participants were stumbling and falling down under the power of the Holy Spirit. The place where they were assembled was shaken.

Now the believers met together and tried for a time to pool their resources for I'm sure they were becoming ostracized by the Jews. One of their number, a man named Ananias, kept back and wrongfully appropriated some of the proceeds. Peter through the Gift of Discerning Spirits recognized his deceitfulness. Both Ananias and his wife fell down and died. That showed God's protective feeling for His young ekklesia-church much like He had at the beginning for the Tabernacle. ***AB Acts 5:11-12, 16. And the whole church as appalled-great awe and strange terror and dread seized them-and all others who heard of these things. Now by the hands of the apostles (special messengers) numerous and startling signs and wonders were being performed among the people. And by common consent they all met together (at the temple) in the porch or covered walk called Solomon's. . . And the people gathered also from the towns and hamlets around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those troubled with foul spirits, and they were all cured.*** Jesus' ekklesia-church was meeting in the public and exhibiting the signs and wonders for all to see. The various Gifts of the Holy Spirit that Paul later wrote about were happening among the disciples. Jesus had paved the way for this ministry by his teaching and healing in the Temple Mount area. Ordinary people like Stephen were participating in these spiritual happenings.

These healings must have irritated the High Priest and his supporters in the Sanhedrin because they seized the apostles again and threw them in the public jail. ***AB Acts 5:19-21a. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and leading them out said, Go, take your stand in the temple courts and declare to the people the whole doctrine concerning this Life (the eternal life which Christ revealed). And when they heard this, they accordingly went into the temple about daybreak and began to teach.*** The words came from

the Lord for them to take their stand in the public places, that is, Solomon's porch and proclaim the Gospel. Here was proof of God's plan for the ekklesia that Jesus proclaimed, the ekklesia or public meeting would be run by the unlearned, the ordinary people (Luke 10:21) with the leadership provided by the Holy Spirit.

At this point, let's discuss the difference between Jesus' ekklesia and the Jewish Sanhedrin. Jesus' ekklesia was a meeting in the public stoas of the Temple Mount area which was the Agora of Jerusalem. All Greco-Roman cities had these Agoras with the surrounding stoas. The Agora was the city center and the stoas were built for meetings such as the ekklesia. When Jesus said, "On this big rock (revelation from God) I will build my ekklesia", everyone knew all about the ekklesia. Jesus visited Jerusalem two times ministering in the stoas before He exposed the disciples to this kind of ministry. Now they were ministering on their own as an ekklesia in Jesus' name with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Sanhedrin on the other hand was a meeting designated by the Greeks, for the Jews to decide their problems. The Romans continued this meeting for the Jews, however, it didn't meet the requirements of the ekklesia because it was headed by the Jewish High Priest. He usually selected his friends as members and it was more of an aristocratic institution. Mostly it was made up of priest and Sadducees; however, during Jesus' time some Pharisees had become members. They decided religious issues and were experts on the Law. They also wore long robes and were the "learned ones" that Jesus referred to in Luke 10:21.

When the Sanhedrin called for the prisoners they were informed they weren't in jail but once again were standing in the Temple Mount area teaching the people. The Apostles were brought back before the Sanhedrin, and the High Priest rebuked them for teaching in His name, saying "You have flooded Jerusalem with your doctrine". Then Peter and the apostles with the power of the Holy Spirit laid it on them, the same group who were responsible for Jesus' crucifixion.

***NIV Acts 5:29-32. Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men! The God of our fathers raised Jesus from***

***the dead---whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.*** The Jews were infuriated, however, Gamaliel, the main Pharisee, was a little bit concerned about God's will and told them let's wait and see what happens. So they flogged them and sent them on their way. ***AB Acts 5:42. Yet (in spite of the threats) they never ceased for a single day both in the temple area and at home to teach and to proclaim the good news (Gospel) of Jesus (as) the Christ, the Messiah.*** The Sanhedrin was watching closely as the number of disciples increased steadily in Jerusalem. I'm sure they wondered about the Apostles who had miraculously escaped time after time and whether God was really on the side of the Jews.

