

Jesus promised those of His generation that the Kingdom of God would come in their lifetime. He said, "There are some of those who are standing here who shall not taste death until they see the kingdom of God -- after it has come -- **with power.**" (Mark 9:1) The beginning of the Lord's Kingdom was to be a "**powerful**" event. Just before Jesus ascended to Heaven, He told His apostles to stay in Jerusalem until they were clothed with **power** from on high which they would receive when the Holy Spirit had come upon them (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8).

If we are looking for a demonstration of **power** to accompany the beginning of the Kingdom, we need look no further than the second chapter of Acts. Be sure to read this chapter and see if you do not agree. The apostles are waiting in Jerusalem, just as Jesus commanded them. Suddenly, the Holy Spirit came upon them, just as Jesus had promised. That which followed can be described in no other way than "**powerful.**" The house where they were sitting was filled with a sound like a violent, rushing wind. So great was the sound that people from around the city came together to see what it was. The apostles appeared before them with tongues of fire resting upon each one of them. Then, they began to speak in such a way that people from at least fifteen different countries heard them speak in their own language. The **message** spoken by the apostles was **powerful** too. They laid the blame for Jesus' death upon the audience who stood before them, saying that God had raised Jesus back to life in accordance with scriptural prophecies. So convincing was their message that a **powerful** response was generated in the audience. Three thousand people immediately joined the movement which began that day -- a movement which has continued for two thousand years -- a movement which may be found **today** upon every inhabited continent of the globe.

Prior to Acts chapter two, the Kingdom is always described to be in the future. Following Acts chapter two, the Kingdom is said to be in existence. And **in** Acts chapter two, we find the account of a **powerful** demonstration, the likes of which Jesus said would accompany the beginning of His Kingdom. He had said they would not taste death until they had seen the kingdom come **with power** (Mark 9:1). It is no wonder that the apostle Peter called this day "the beginning" in Acts 11:15. When he saw the Holy Spirit fall upon the household of Cornelius in Acts 10, he said it was just like the Holy Spirit fell upon us "**at the beginning.**"

What we read in Acts chapter 2 is an account of the beginning of the Kingdom of God. All the elements of Kingdom Prophecy were present on that day. It was the right Messiah - Jesus was born of the right tribe, from the right family, having fulfilled hundreds of minute details of prophecy about Himself. It was the right time - in the days of the Roman Empire, after His ascension to the Father; yet, in the lifetime of those who had heard Him speak. It was the right place - the city of Jerusalem. And it was the kind of **powerful** demonstration Jesus had promised would accompany His Kingdom. We should have no doubt that the Kingdom of Christ began in Acts chapter 2, on the day of Pentecost which followed the resurrection of Jesus.

We need to learn more about this Kingdom. After all, it is a "Spiritual" Kingdom and we can be a part of it. The next "Bible Talk," # 305, will explore Four Essential Elements of a Kingdom which the scriptures show are present in the Kingdom of Christ.

1. In Mark 9:1, Jesus said that the Kingdom of God would come with _____.
what

2. Where did Jesus tell His apostles to wait for the “power from on high”? (Luke 24:49)

3. Jesus said that His apostles would receive power when _____
had come upon them? (Acts 1:8) what

4. Upon what special day did the events of Acts 2 take place? (Acts 2:1)

5. What powerful events took place on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2?

6. Why did Peter refer to the events of Acts 2 as “the beginning”? (Acts 11:15)

7. Do you believe that Acts 2 is an account of the beginning of the Kingdom?

Why?