

Presentation 2: Acts 1.1-2.47

Prologue and Pentecost



Panorama of Jerusalem, looking towards S-E corner of the Old City, early 20th century

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- The Lukan author provides a prologue (1.1-5), as in the Gospel, that looks back to the Lukan Gospel and forward to what will unfold.
 - Jesus ascends to God establishing his ongoing relationship from his heavenly status with the Jerusalem household of disciples (1.6-11).
 - The household gathers to reappoint another member to replace Judas and reconstitute the ‘Twelve’ (1.12-26).
 - The wonderful story of Pentecost unfolds, as the Spirit descends on the household of Jesus followers, empowers them with speech to communicate universally to the Mediterranean world. Peter becomes Luke’s speaker and ‘theologian’ explaining the meaning of the events that have unfolded and the plan of God revealed through the prophets and Jesus (2.1-36).
 - Peter’s speech is effective. Many become members of the Jesus movement, are baptized and act with generosity (2.37-46).
 - Luke offers the first of several key summaries that idealize the characteristics of the Jesus movement (2.42): fidelity to the apostles’ teaching (*Didache*), communion with each other (*koinonia*), sharing in the ‘breaking of bread’ (the Eucharist) and *the* prayers—Jewish prayer forms and prayers newly emerged from the household’s relationship to God through Jesus.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION & CONVERSATION

- Luke offers an idyllic summary of the life of the Jerusalem Jesus household in 2.42. How would you summarise your experience of the Church at the moment?
- What would you like it to be?
- Have you experienced moments where you felt the presence of the Holy Spirit?

IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT PRESENTATION

- The next session will focus on Acts 3-5. In preparation for this session, spend time with this section of the *Acts of the Apostles*

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