Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come,
they were all together in one place.

2 And suddenly from heaven
there came a sound
like the rush of a violent wind,
and it filled the entire house
where they were sitting.

3 Divided tongues, as of fire,
appeared among them,
and a tongue rested on each of them.

4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak in other languages,
as the Spirit gave them ability.

5 Now there were devout Jews
from every people under heaven
living in Jerusalem.

6 And at this sound
the crowd gathered
and was bewildered,
because each one heard them
speaking in the native language of each.

7 Amazed and astonished,
they asked,

"Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?
8 And how is it that we hear,
each of us, in our own native language?

9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites,
and residents of Mesopotamia,
Judea and Cappadocia,
Pontus and Asia,
10 Phrygia and Pamphylia,
Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene,
and visitors from Rome,
both Jews and proselytes,
11 Cretans and Arabs—
in our own languages we hear them
speaking about God's deeds of power."

12 All were amazed and perplexed,
saying to one another,
"What does this mean?"

13 But others sneered and said,
"They are filled with new wine."

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven,
raised his voice and addressed them,

"Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem,
let this be known to you,
and listen to what I say.

15 Indeed, these are not drunk,
as you suppose,
for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.

[16] No, this is what was spoken
through the prophet Joel:

[17] 'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,

and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

[18] Even upon my slaves,
both men and women,
in those days
I will pour out my Spirit,
and they shall prophesy.

[19] And I will show portents
in the heaven above
and signs
on the earth below,
blood, and fire,
and smoky mist.

[20] The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming
of the Lord's great and glorious day.

[21] Then everyone
who calls on the name of the Lord
shall be saved.'

or Genesis 11:1-9

Now the whole earth
had one language
and the same words.

[2] And as they migrated from the east,
they came upon a plain
in the land of Shinar
and settled there.

[3] And they said to one another,

"Come, let us make bricks
and fire them thoroughly."

And they had brick for stone
and bitumen for mortar.

[4] Then they said,
"Come,
let us build ourselves a city
and a tower with its top in the heavens,
and let us make a name for ourselves;
otherwise we shall be scattered abroad
upon the face of the whole earth."

[5] The LORD came down
to see the city
and the tower,
which mortals had built.

6 And the Lord said,

"Look, they are one people,
and they have all one language,

and this is only the beginning
of what they will do;

nothing that they propose to do
will now be impossible for them.

7 Come,
let us go down
and confuse their language
there,
so that they will not understand
one another's speech."

8 So the Lord scattered them abroad
from there
over the face of all the earth,
and they left off building the city.

9 Therefore it was called Babel,
because there
the Lord confused the language
of all the earth,
and from there
the Lord scattered them abroad
over the face of all the earth.

Romans 8:14-17

12 *So then, brothers and sisters,*
we are obligated, not to the flesh,
to live according to the flesh—

13 *for if you live according to the flesh, you will die,*
but if by the Spirit you put to death
the deeds of the body, you will live.

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God
are children of God.

15 For you did not receive
a spirit of slavery
to fall back into fear,

but you received
a spirit of adoption.

When we cry,
"Abba! Father!"

16 it is that very Spirit
bearing witness with our spirit
that we are children of God,

17 and if children,
then heirs:
heirs of God
and joint heirs with Christ,
if we in fact suffer with him
so that we may also be glorified with him.

John 14:8-17

[8] Philip said to him,
"Lord, show us the Father,
and we will be satisfied."

[9] Jesus said to him,
"Have I been with you all this time, Philip,
and you still do not know me?

Whoever has seen me
has seen the Father.
How can you say,
'Show us the Father'?

[10] Do you not believe
that I am in the Father
and the Father is in me?

The words that I say to you
I do not speak on my own,
but the Father
who dwells in me
does his works.

[11] Believe me
that I am in the Father
and the Father is in me,

but if you do not,
then believe
because of the works themselves.

[12] Very truly, I tell you,
the one who believes in me
will also do the works that I do
and, in fact,
will do greater works than these,
because I am going to the Father.

[13] I will do
whatever you ask
in my name,

so that
the Father
may be glorified
in the Son.

[14] If in my name you ask me for anything,
I will do it.

[15] "If you love me,
you will keep my commandments.

[16] And I will ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate,
to be with you forever.

[17] This is the Spirit of truth,
whom the world cannot receive
because it neither sees him nor knows him.

You know him
because he abides with you,
and he will be in you.

Reading Acts This Week

Most of us are booked for the UCC 100th anniversary –
but for our weekday study conversations,
the familiar Pentecost story we're missing –

For the archives,
here are some of my notes this century,
in case you're in rut with this chestnut,
repeated annually, here are my ruts
(omitting current pastorate):

2001:
http://www.billbrucewords.com/2001/06/babbling.html

2002:
http://www.billbrucewords.com/2002/05/blown-away.html

2005:
http://www.billbrucewords.com/2005/05/isms.html

2007:
http://www.billbrucewords.com/2007/05/babble-gen11-acts2.html

2008:
http://www.billbrucewords.com/2008/05/bubble-headed.html

2016:
http://www.billbrucewords.com/2016/05/babbling.html

Reading Genesis This Week

The most familiar dodge from Acts 2 is Genesis 11 –
For weekday study conversations,
The links under Acts offer my habit,
Of connecting the two texts

Here's my 2022 audio and notes study of Torah,
Using Everett Fox' translation:
http://www.hereticslikeus.com/2022/01/babel-genesis-11.html

Reading Romans This Week

The verses following this lection, verses 19ff, get traffic
But my archives show I've avoided v 14-17
Likely for the Acts or Genesis options

In 2019:
http://www.billbrucewords.com/2019/06/expectation-management.html

In Lent this year,
I posted text and audio of 3 translations of Romans
Here's c.8:
http://www.hereticslikeus.com/2025/03/re-reading-romans-in-lent-2025-romans-8.html
Here are the notes and further links:
http://www.hereticslikeus.com/2025/03/week-2-friday-re-reading-romans-8.html

Reading the Gospel This Week

Philip's question also gets sidelined at Pentecost –
Or we prefer to preach vv1-7 'I am the way truth life'

In 2017, using v1-14:
http://www.billbrucewords.com/2017/05/i-am-johns-jesus-on-mothers-day-john-14.html

then in 2017, using the Paraclete ending in v16-17:
http://www.billbrucewords.com/2017/05/who-needs-parakeet.html

in 2023, a glancing oblique approach:
http://www.billbrucewords.com/2023/05/stones.html

Anyhow…