

21. Jesus won the strategic victory of the Invisible War. The Church Age believer is tasked with the opportunity to win tactical victories during the intensified stage of the Angelic Conflict.
22. When the Operational Divine Power System, is utilized to advance to spiritual maturity, the believer has had invisible historical impact for his Client Nation.
23. This impact was made possible by functioning under the power of the Holy Spirit to learn, retain, and apply Bible doctrine to life and circumstances.
24. This process results in the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit.
25. As goes the believer, so goes history. Positive historical impact by a maximum number of mature believers results in historical uptrends while negative impact causes historical downtrends.
26. When a believer utilizes the Grace Apparatus for Perception to grow in grace, he acquires an inventory of divine thought.
27. When he applies biblical truth to life and circumstances, he is appropriating the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit against the propaganda of the devil's world.
28. Were it not for the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit against sin, human good, and evil, the human race would self-destruct.
29. The restraining ministry could not be removed by Lucifer unless the Holy Spirit is removed which does occur at the Rapture.
30. Human efforts of restraint are vulnerable to the vacillations of cultural morals and customs. Restraint by common, criminal, and civil law are somewhat stronger. But the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit, through the souls of mature believers, is the strongest of all.

**(End CR14-62. See CR14-63 for continuation of study at p. 621.)**

## Review of Acts 2:14–21

1. When we left this passage we had observed the baptism of the Holy Spirit which was imputed to the 120 people assembled in a location referred to as the “upper room.”  

Large upper rooms with outside and inside staircases above the noise and bustle of the city are mentioned as an architectural feature of Palestinian houses in the Old Testament Hebrew עֲלֵי הַיָּדָיִם [‘*aliyah*] “upper room.” In the narrative of Acts another room is mentioned (ὑπερώϊον [*hyperōon*], “under the roof,” “upstairs”). It is the term which the LXX [Septuagint] uses to render Hebrew עֲלֵי הַיָּדָיִם in the Old Testament.<sup>1</sup>
2. “Upper room” is a general term for an upper story of a house used for gatherings. The location of the upper room mentioned in Acts 1:13 and the owner of the home are unknown.
3. The First Advent of the Holy Spirit is recorded in Acts 2:2, His arrival signified by the loud noise of a rushing wind. This was followed by the distribution of the gift of languages to all in attendance and the indwelling and filling ministries of the Holy Spirit.
4. Going out into the streets, they began to evangelize Jewish brethren visiting from fifteen nations who heard the Good News in their own native language.
5. Many people who observed this phenomenon concluded that the evangelists were drunk. If this rumor were to spread among the residents of Jerusalem, it would seriously damage the true intent of their efforts.
6. Peter quickly sized up the problem and took a stand to speak:

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<sup>1</sup> William White, Jr., “Upper Room,” in *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopaedia of the Bible*, gen. ed. Merrill C. Tenney (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1976), 5:846.

**Acts 2:14 -** But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised [ ἐπαίρω (*epaírō*): to cry out with a loud voice ] his voice and declared to them: “Men of Judea [ current residents ] and all you who live [ κατοικέω (*katoikéō*): inhabit temporarily ] in Jerusalem, let this be known [ present active imperative of εἰμί (*eimí*): a command to shut up and listen ] to you and give heed [ aorist middle imperative of ἐνωτίζομαι (*enōtízomai*): a command to concentrate on what I am about to say ] to my words.”

1. If the rumor of drunkenness were to gather momentum in Jerusalem, then the evangelists' message would be misinterpreted and the gospel would have been rejected from the beginning.
2. In verse 15, Peter uses common sense to put a stop to the rumor that these people are drunk, referring to the 120 people who just exited the Upper Room and were exercising the spiritual gift of speaking in foreign languages.
3. He then appeals to Scripture to explain what did occur by citing a passage from Joel 2:28–32. Peter quotes Joel's passage in Acts 2:17–21.
4. Now it must be understood that the gift of languages will not be used in the dispensation of the Millennium, therefore the gift being used in Acts 2 is not the issue.
5. The issue is that those who are responding to the evangelists' message are being indwelt and filled by the Holy Spirit.
6. The gift of “tongues” was designed to warn the Jews of Jerusalem and those from other countries that the nation was again moving through the five cycles of discipline.
7. Almost forty years transpired before the dispensation ended with the sacking of Jerusalem and destruction of the temple on August 10, A.D. 70. This temporary gift was permanently retired on that day.

8. But part of what will occur in the Millennium is to be retrospectively applied by the people to the present hour which is the birthday of a new dispensation.
9. Remember, none of the Jews visiting Jerusalem is saved otherwise they would not be targets for evangelism.
10. However, these Jews would be relatively familiar with the Tanakh and especially its prophecies related to the fulfillment of the Abrahamic, Palestinian, and Davidic covenants.
11. They would therefore be collectively familiar with Joel's prophecy otherwise Peter would have not used it to confuse them further.
12. PRINCIPLE: No Old Testament prophecy is fulfilled in the Church Age because the dispensation was unknown to writers of the Tanakh.
13. Therefore, the task of determining what time it is in the Joel passage requires some attention to its context and assistance from the visual, "Dispensations: Acts 2:17-21 cf. Joel 2:28-32 and Daniel 12:11-12."
14. For a complete review of this section of our study, consult the audio streams of lessons CR14-73 through CR14-75 while consulting the Class Notes and Visuals provided.

<http://www.joegriffin.org/Pages/ClassInfo.aspx?&seriesid=CR14&classnumber=73>

<http://www.joegriffin.org/Pages/ClassInfo.aspx?&seriesid=CR14&classnumber=74>

<http://www.joegriffin.org/Pages/ClassInfo.aspx?&seriesid=CR14&classnumber=75>

15. Here is the expanded translation of Acts 2:14-18:

**Acts 2:14 -** But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words."