

## **The Fire, the Wind, the Water**

a dramatic reading for Pentecost for three readers

- A The fire  
B the wind  
C the water
- A The liberation of God's people began with  
C the burning of a flame  
B The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire  
A Moses led his flock beyond the wilderness  
and came to Horeb, the mountain of God  
There the angel of the LORD appeared to him  
in a flame of fire out of a bush  
B Is not my word like fire, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?  
A He looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed EXODUS 3.1-3  
C The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness
- B The liberation of God's people continued with fire  
C and with wind  
A On the morning of the third day  
after the Israelites had entered the Desert of Sinai  
there was thunder and lightning  
as well as a thick cloud on the mountain  
B and a blast of a trumpet so loud  
that all the people who were in the camp trembled  
A Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God  
They took their stand at the foot of the mountain  
C The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire  
A Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke  
because the LORD had descended upon it in fire  
B the smoke went up like the smoke of a kiln  
while the whole mountain shook violently  
A As the blast of the trumpet grew louder and louder  
Moses would speak and God would answer him in thunder EXODUS 19.16-19
- C God's people remembered their liberation out of Egypt  
in the celebration of three festivals  
B Passover, or the Feast of Unleavened Bread  
A Shavuot, or Pentecost  
C and the Feast of Tabernacles  
A For God had said  
C "Three times in the year you shall hold a festival for me  
B You shall observe the feast of Passover

- which marks the first spring harvest
- C You shall observe Pentecost  
the thanksgiving festival of the harvest of wheat
- B and remember the giving of the Law
- C You shall observe the feast of Tabernacles at the end of the harvest
- B when you gather in from the field the fruit of your labour
- A These are the three times in the year  
when all your males shall appear before the Lord God"
- 
- C The fire, the wind
- B the water
- C The book of the Acts of the Apostles  
opens with these words
- A After his suffering  
Jesus presented himself alive to the apostles by many convincing proofs  
appearing to them during forty days  
and speaking about the kingdom of God  
While staying with them  
he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem  
but to wait there for the promise of the Father
- C To stay in the city  
until they have been clothed with power from on high LUKE 24.49
- B "This is what you have heard from me  
for John baptized with water  
but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now"  
ACTS 1.1-5
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- A When the day of Pentecost had come  
they were all together in one place
- C You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain  
while it blazed with fire to the heavens  
with black clouds and deep darkness
- B The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire
- A And suddenly from heaven there came a sound  
like the rush of a violent wind
- C He makes winds his messengers  
flames of fire his servants
- A and it filled the entire house where they were sitting
- B And anything else that can withstand fire  
must be put through the fire  
and then it will be clean

C But it must also be purified with the water of cleansing  
A Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them  
and a tongue rested on each of them

B Has any other people heard the voice of God  
speaking out of fire as you have  
and lived?

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

C The fire  
B the wind  
A the water

[C takes first step forward]

A And the events of Pentecost were a like a reversal  
of the events of the Tower of Babel

C Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven  
living in Jerusalem

B Now the whole earth had one language and the same words  
And as they migrated from the east  
they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there

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

B And they said to one another  
"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"

C Amazed and astonished, they asked  
"Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?  
And how is it that we hear  
each of us in our own native language?  
Germans, Swedes, Palestinians, and residents of Moscow, Geneva and Beijing  
Pretoria and Cairo, France and Indonesia, Egypt and Libya, visitors from ...

[B interrupts]

B The LORD came down to see the city and the tower  
which mortals had built  
And the LORD said  
"Let us go down and confuse their language there  
so that they will not understand one another's speech"

C "In our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power"  
B So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth  
and they left off building the city

[B and C return to original positions]

A All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another  
C "What does this mean?"  
A But others sneered and said  
C "They are filled with new wine"  
A But Peter, standing with the eleven  
raised his voice and addressed them

[A and B exchange positions]

B "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem  
let this be known to you  
and listen to what I say  
Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose  
for it is only nine o'clock in the morning  
C The fire  
A the wind, the water  
B This is what was spoken through the prophet Joel  
'In the last days it will be, God declares  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh'  
C With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation  
A Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water  
B 'And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy  
and your young men shall see visions  
and your old men shall dream dreams  
Even upon my slaves, both men and women  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit'  
C Those who drink of the water that I will give them  
will never be thirsty  
A The water that I give will become a spring of water  
gushing up to eternal life  
B 'And they shall prophesy  
and I will show signs in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below  
blood, and fire  
and smoky mist

C The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood  
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day  
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved'

B "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say  
Jesus of Nazareth  
a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders  
and signs that God did through him among you  
— this man —  
handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God  
you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law

C And I will pour out a spirit of compassion and supplication  
on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem

A So that, when they look on the one whom they have pierced  
they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child  
and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn

C On that day a fountain shall be opened  
for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem  
to cleanse them from sin and impurity

B This Jesus God raised up  
and of that all of us are witnesses  
Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God  
and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit  
he has poured out this that you both see and hear

C And I will pour out a spirit of compassion and supplication  
on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem

B Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty  
that God has made him both Lord and Messiah  
this Jesus whom you crucified"

A Now when they heard this  
they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles

C "Brothers, what should we do?"

A Peter said to them

B "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ  
so that your sins may be forgiven  
and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit  
For the promise is for you  
for your children  
and for all who are far away  
everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him"

C I will give them one heart  
and put a new spirit within them  
I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh  
and give them a heart of flesh  
A And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying  
B "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation"  
C Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees  
and every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down  
and thrown into the fire  
A The fire, the wind, the water

[A and B return to original positions]

A So those who welcomed his message were baptized  
and that day about three thousand persons were added  
They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship  
to the breaking of bread  
and the prayers  
B Awe came upon everyone  
because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles  
A All who believed were together and had all things in common  
they would sell their possessions and goods  
and distribute the proceeds to all  
as any had need  
C Each man will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm  
B like streams of water in the desert  
and the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land  
A Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple  
B they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts  
A praising God and having the goodwill of all the people  
C With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation  
B And day by day the Lord added to their number  
those who were being saved

Presentation time: 12 minutes

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