

Acts 2:2-3 TONGUES OF FIRE

*“And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them **tongues as of fire distributing themselves**, and they rested on each one of them.”*

Let's first look at where this took place. Many claim these 3,000 people were somehow jammed into an upper room of a house (Acts 1:13). This is just plain silly. There was no house anywhere that could contain 3,000 people, never mind an upper room of a



house. These people were in the Temple. They were gathered together for the Feast of Shavuot (Pentecost). They had walked a sabbath days journey (about 3/4 mile..3000 cubits) from Mount Olivet, to the Temple in Jerusalem. The Temple area was the only place where that many people could gather as such. Remember Yah's Temple was/is to be known as a "house of prayer". The upper room the people were gathered in was a roof chamber at the junction of two walls at the northeast corner of the Temple. It was thought to be a watchtower where Nehemiah finished his work of restoring the walls of Jerusalem. We read about the real upper room in Neh. 3:31-32. After him Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths, carried out repairs as far as the house of the temple servants and of the merchants, in front of the Inspection Gate and as far as the upper room of the corner. Between the upper room of the corner and the Sheep Gate the goldsmiths and the merchants carried out repairs."

Many have wondered what the tongues of fire were, so let's have a look. If we read in **Lev. 9:24** *Then fire came out from before Yahveh and consumed the burnt offering and the portions of fat on the altar; and when all the people saw [it], they shouted and fell on their faces.*" The same fire that consumed the sacrifices for the Levites in the Temple, came down upon the people. The Temple was soon to be destroyed and Yah was accepting their individual living sacrifices offered up to Him, as prayers of incense. The incense represents the prayers of the saints (Rev. 5:8), hence, just as the incense was to burn continually in the Temple, we as Believers are instructed to pray without ceasing. Each Believer is a living stone of the true temple of Yah, not made with hands (Acts 17:24). As Yah sent fire from Heaven to consume the sacrifice on the altar in the Temple, He also sent fire from Heaven on His new altar; the Believers in Yeshua. These people

were being touched and identified with fire as the living stones of Yah's new Temple (Rom. 12:1).

We see a similar thing that took place at Mt. Sinai where Moses and the Hebrew people all gathered together to hear Yahveh speak. **Exod. 19:18-19** *“And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet Yahveh, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai [was] all in smoke because **Yahveh descended upon it in fire**; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently. When the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and Yahveh answered him with thunder.”* We see that the Mt. Sinai experience had a thematic connection with the later experience of the 3,000 at the Feast of Pentecost in later days.

We also see the same fire separating the Egyptians from the Israelites in Exod. 14:24. This is the all consuming fire of the Almighty, referred to many times in our bible.
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Bible Commentary Jerry Hennig (Dec 7/16)