

*Genesis 11:1-9*

Throughout the earth, people spoke the same language and used the same words. Now, as they moved eastward, they found a valley in the land of Shinar and settled there. They all said to one another, "Let us make bricks and bake them in the fire." They used bricks as building stones, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, "Let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top can reach to heaven. Let us make a name for ourselves, to keep us from being scattered over the face of the whole earth." YAHWEH came down to see the city and the tower these mortals had built. "They are a single people with a single language," YAHWEH said. "And this is but the beginning of their undertakings! Now there will be nothing too hard for them to do. Come, let us go down and baffle their language so that they can no longer understand one another." So YAHWEH scattered them over the face of the earth, and they had to stop building the City. It was named Babel, because YAHWEH made humans babble different languages through out the world. It was from there that YAHWEH scattered them over the whole earth.

*Book of the Acts of the Apostles 1:12-2:21*

The apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a mere Sabbath's walk away. Entering the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying—Peter, John, James, and Andrew; Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew; James ben-Alphaeus; Simon, a member of the Zealot sect; and Judah ben-Jacob. Also in their company were some of the women who followed Jesus, his mother Mary, and some of Jesus' sisters and brothers. With one mind they devoted themselves to constant prayer. When the day of Pentecost arrived, they all met in one room. Suddenly they heard what sounded like a violent, rushing wind from heaven; the noise filled the entire house in which they were sitting. Something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each one. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as she enabled them. Now there were devout people living in Jerusalem from every nations under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled. But they were bewildered to hear their native languages being spoken. They were amazed and astonished: "Surely all of these people speaking are Galileans! How does it happen that each of us hears these words in our native tongue? We are Parthians, Medes and Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya around Cyrene, as well as visitors from Rome—all Jews, or converts to Judaism—Cretans and Arabs, too; we hear them preaching, even in our own language, about the marvels of God." All were amazed and disturbed. They asked each other, "What does this mean?" But others said mockingly, "They've drunk too much new wine." Then Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd: "Women and men of Judea, and all you who live in Jerusalem! Listen to what I have to say! These people are not drunk as you think—its only nine o'clock in the morning! No, it's what Joel the prophet spoke of: 'In the days to come— I will pour out my Spirit on all humankind. Your daughters and sons will prophesy, your young people will see visions, and your elders will dream dreams. Even on the most insignificant of my people, both women and men, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. And I will display wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below: blood, fire and billowing smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon will become blood before the coming of the great and sublime day of our God. And all who call upon the name of our God will be saved.'

*Mark 2:1-12*

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring the man to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralyzed man lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "My child, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son-of-Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"— He said to the paralyzed man—"I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." And the man stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"