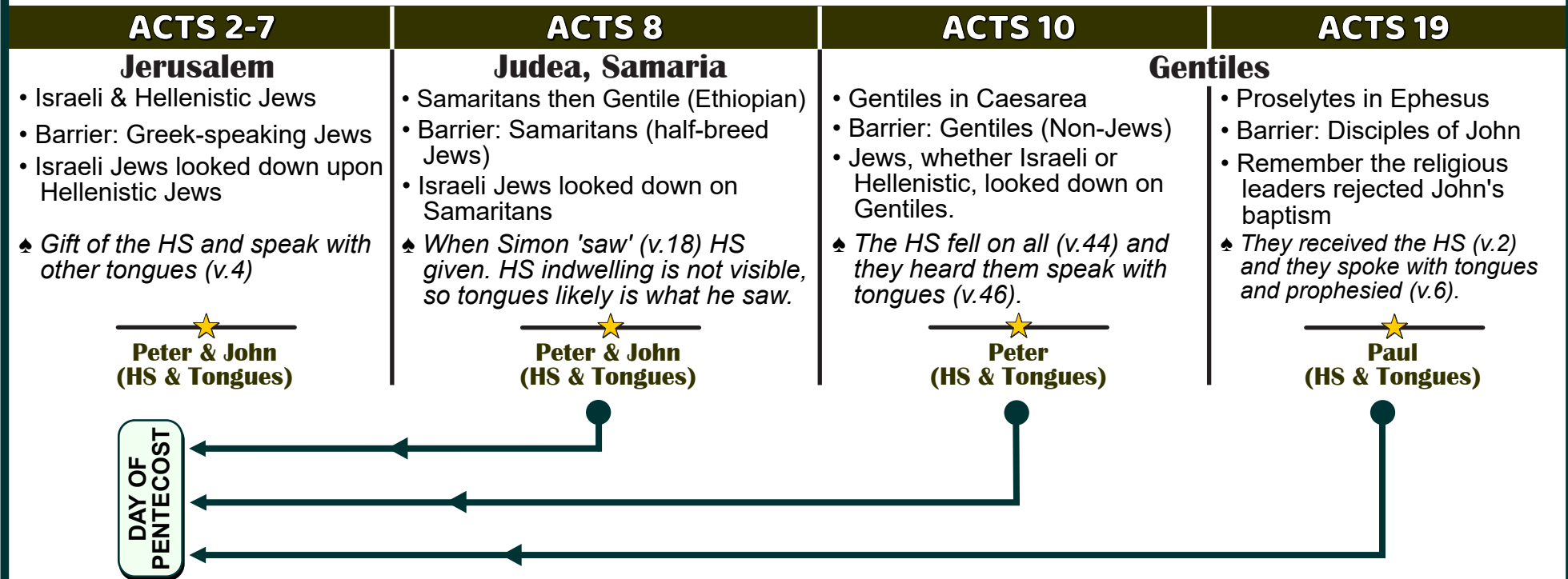


ACTS 1:8 — BREAKING BARRIERS IN ACTS

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Ac.1:8)



ACTS 2-8 NOTES

- The Jewish Christians in Jerusalem needed apostolic testimony (Peter and John) and apostolic evidence (Holy Spirit with tongues) that the Samaritans were to be included in the one church. Why? Their rivalry has lasted for hundreds of years. They were used to hating each other. Strife between the two, the Jews and the Samaritans, would have been perpetuated, unless the apostles came, and God gave supernatural evidence.
- Peter and John officially welcome these Samaritans who had previously been excluded from the people of God.
- They were saved under Philip's preaching. God withheld the gift of the HS until it could be bestowed on them by Peter and John. God's purpose was to ensure continuity between the church in Jerusalem and the new church in Samaria to guard against division. Peter and John returned to Jerusalem to report what God has done with the Samaritans.

ACTS 10-19 NOTES

- To get a sense of how much of a barrier this is (Gentiles brought into the same body) even Peter was astonished that the Gentiles should receive the Holy Spirit.
- Peter again refers to this incident, declaring that it proves that the Holy Spirit has been given to the Gentiles and that they are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ just as are the Jews.
- It is hard for us to realize the great barrier that existed between Jew and Gentile. Hellenistic Jews are at least Jews. And Samaritans are at least half Jews. But Gentiles as people of God is hard to even imagine.
- This outpouring of the Holy Spirit was seen and audible by their speaking in tongues.