

Tongues In and Out of Context

1 Corinthians 14:21-22

²¹ “In the law it is written, with men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. ²² Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.”

THE INTRODUCTION OF LANGUAGES:

1. From the fall of man until after the flood, we find that the whole world at this point spoke the same language. [Genesis 11:1](#)
2. The unified people wanted to build a tower to take their places in the heavens. [Genesis 11:4](#)
3. This was the impetus behind the creation of language, and the scattering of the people. [Genesis 11:7](#)
4. The creation of languages led to new nations, as speakers banded together.
5. This led to a new type of ministry; that of the missionary activity.

WARNING THE JEWS OF JUDGMENT:

1. Moses lays out the cycle of obedience/prospering and rejection/punishment. [Leviticus 26:14-46](#)
2. The Jews were given many warnings of a nation whose language they do not understand. [Deuteronomy 28:49](#); [Jeremiah 5:15](#)
3. Isaiah prophesizes that the Word of God will be presented to the Jews through foreign tongues. [Isaiah 28:11](#)
4. With his warning, Isaiah offers hope. [Isaiah 28:12](#)

PENTECOST:

1. Pentecost is the third of the pilgrimage feasts and occurs 50 days after Passover.
2. The apostles had been commanded to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit by Jesus before the ascension. [Acts 1:4-5](#)
3. The Holy Spirit descended, indwelt and filled the apostles. [Acts 2:2-3](#)

Tongues In and Out of Context (Continued)

TROUBLED TIMES IN CORINTH:

1. Citizens of Corinth were primarily followers of the Greek Pantheon, and temples to various Greek gods could be found throughout the city as well as other pagan deities.
2. The cities position with ports in two harbors led to being a melting pot for emotionally charged satanic religious cults.
3. This was how Paul found the city in 49 AD.
4. These temples of various types of worship included false tongues spoken either through a ventriloquist demon or emotional exaltation. These were not human languages.
5. Through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, Paul establishes a church of believers. He stayed in the city preaching and teaching for 18 months during his 2nd journey.

PAUL'S LETTER TO CORINTH:

1. The church in Corinth had not grown spiritually since Paul left them. [1 Corinthians 3:1](#)
2. The Corinthians had turned spirituality into a competition. [1 Corinthians 1:11-12](#)
3. Despite the flaws of the church, they were given spiritual gifts. [1 Corinthians 1:7](#)
4. The gift of tongues became coveted; those gifted with it used it to display their “greater” connection with God.
5. The gift of tongues was elevated over other spiritual gifts in the eyes of the Corinth believers.
[1 Corinthians 12:15-16](#)
6. Paul explains that in the Body of Christ, each believer is part of the body that represents Christ and each has a role to play. [1 Corinthians 12:25-27](#)
7. Paul provides the believers at Corinth a list of the order in which the gifts should be valued. [1 Corinthians 12:28](#)
8. He explained that their desire should be for the greater gifts; the gifts that build up the Body of Christ. Instead of longing to look superior amongst the congregation, work on building sound doctrine and focusing on the divine viewpoint. [1 Corinthians 12:31](#)
9. *“.....and yet show I unto you a more excellent way.”*
10. In the midst of the Love Chapter, Paul explains how the temporary spiritual gifts are not long for this world.