

November 14 Answers

- 1) Pentecost was significant in several ways: (1) It was the fulfillment of God's **promise** to pour out the Spirit on "all flesh" in the last days; (2) It was a **sign** which God said would precede the coming judgment and wrath of the "day of the Lord"; (3) It **authenticated** the message and ministry of the apostles and gave them **power** to preach the gospel in Jesus' name; (4) It inaugurated the **church**, which is the union of all believers in Christ through the Spirit; (5) It was the beginning of the fulfillment of Jesus' promise that the Spirit would **teach** the apostles "all things" and help them remember all that He said (leading to the writing of the NT); (6) It was the first display of the spiritual **gifts** which are given to believers through the Spirit for the edification and **building** up of the church. Peter's sermon at the temple was an stirring example of how the Holy Spirit empowered the apostles to be mighty in word and deed (Acts 3:25–26). Peter rightly pointed out that the "**seed** of Abraham" (Gen 22:18) was the resurrected Servant, Jesus (cf. Isa 42:1–4), and he told the Jews that the blessing which was promised to Abraham was the blessing of "**turning** every one of you from your wicked ways" (Acts 3:26). Jesus is the promised "seed" that will "bless" the nations of the earth by **saving** them from their sins.