

Acts 2:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues
the wonderful works of God.

Analysis

The phrase 'wonderful works of God' (Greek 'megaleia tou theou') encompasses both creation's majesty and redemption's power, climaxing in Christ's resurrection. That 'Cretes and Arabians' - representing western (Mediterranean) and eastern (desert) extremes - heard these truths demonstrates the cosmic scope of Pentecost's significance. The Spirit's arrival inaugurated the age when God's glory would fill the earth as waters cover the sea.

Historical Context

Crete, birthplace of Zeus in pagan mythology, would later house Christian communities requiring pastoral correction (Titus 1:5). Arabia, homeland of Ishmael and the Queen of Sheba, represented Israel's complex relationship with Gentile nations. Both regions' inclusion shows no people group stands outside God's redemptive reach.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What 'wonderful works of God' has the Spirit revealed to you that demand proclamation?
2. How does the inclusion of distant, diverse peoples challenge any exclusivity in your understanding of the gospel?

Interlinear Text

Κρήτες	καὶ	Ἀραβες	ἀκούομεν	λαλούντων	αὐτῶν	ταῖς
Cretes	and	Arabians	we do hear	speak	them	G3588
G2912	G2532	G690	G191	G2980	G846	
ἡμετέραις	γλώσσαις	τὰ	μεγαλεῖα	τοῦ	θεοῦ	
in our	tongues	G3588	the wonderful works	G3588	of God	
G2251	G1100		G3167		G2316	

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 15:11 (References God): Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

1 Corinthians 12:10 (Parallel theme): To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

Hebrews 2:4 (References God): God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

Psalms 26:7 (Parallel theme): That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works.

Job 9:10 (Parallel theme): Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number.

Jeremiah 25:24 (Parallel theme): And all the kings of Arabia, and all the kings of the mingled people that dwell in the desert,

Titus 1:12 (Parallel theme): One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are alway liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.

Isaiah 25:1 (References God): O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.

Isaiah 13:20 (Parallel theme): It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there.

Isaiah 28:29 (Parallel theme): This also cometh forth from the LORD of hosts, which is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working.

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