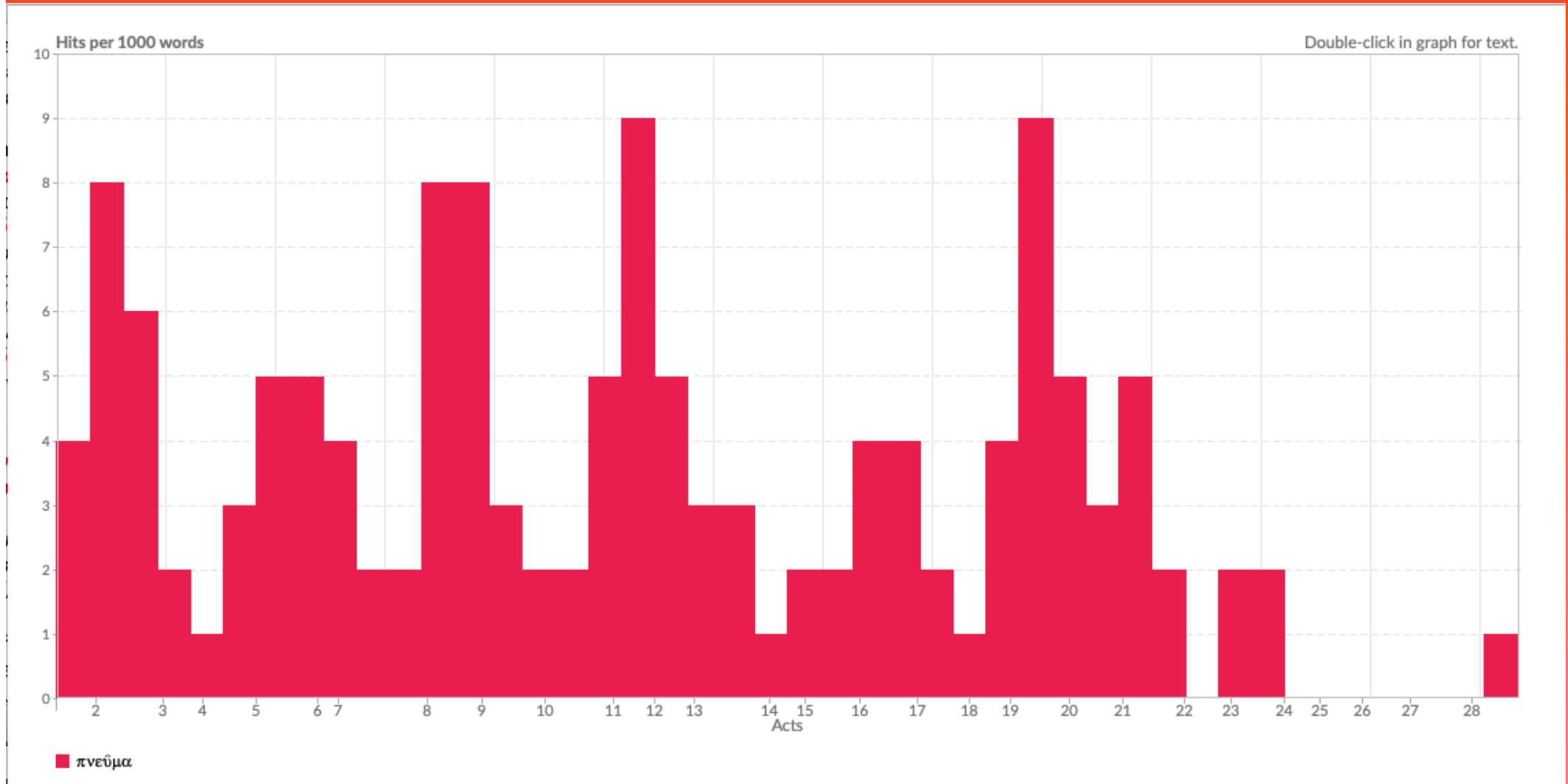


The HOLY SPIRIT *in* ACTS

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Use of πνεῦμα 'spirit' in Acts



The Spirit gives

- visions and dreams

‘In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.’ 2:17

But filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into
heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at
the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens
opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of
God!” 7:55-56

The Spirit gives

- visions and dreams 2:17; 7:55-56
- words, instructions and guidance

‘...after giving instructions **through the Holy Spirit** to the apostles whom [Jesus] had chosen’ 1:2

‘[Paul and his companions] went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, **having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia**. When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas.’ 16:6-7

The Spirit gives

- visions and dreams 2:17; 7:55-56
- words, instructions and guidance 1:2; 16:6-7
- charismatic wisdom and discernment

“Ananias,” Peter asked, “why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land?” 5:3

‘Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task...What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.’ 6:3, 5

‘the magician Elymas (for that is the translation of his name) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul away from the faith. But Saul, also known as Paul, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, looked intently at him and said, “You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? And now listen—the hand of the Lord is against you, and you will be blind for a while, unable to see the sun.” Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he went about groping for someone to lead him by the hand.’ 13:8-11

The Spirit gives

- visions and dreams 2:17; 7:55-56
- words, instructions and guidance 1:2; 16:6-7
- charismatic wisdom and discernment 5:3; 6:3, 5; 13:9
- charismatic praise

‘All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability...in our own languages we hear them speaking God’s mighty deeds.’ 2:4, 11

‘The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God.’ 10:45-46

The Spirit gives

- visions and dreams 2:17; 7:55-56
- words, instructions and guidance 1:2; 16:6-7
- charismatic wisdom and discernment 5:3; 6:3, 5; 13:9
- charismatic praise 2:4; 10:46
- charismatic preaching, testimony and teaching

‘Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them...’ 4:8

‘When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.’ 4:31

‘they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which [Stephen] spoke’ 6:10

The Spirit gives

- visions and dreams 2:17; 7:55-56
- words, instructions and guidance 1:2; 16:6-7
- charismatic wisdom and discernment 5:3; 6:3, 5; 13:9
- charismatic praise 2:4; 10:46
- charismatic preaching, testimony and teaching 4:8, 31; 6:10

Three models

- sacramental—Catholic, Anglican Catholic, some credobaptists
 - critique: Geoffrey Lampe & George Beasley-Murray
- pentecostal—Robert Menzies
 - critique: Max Turner
- mainstream evangelical—James Dunn
 - critique: Max Turner

First-century Judaism

- the Spirit as ‘the Spirit of prophecy’
 - organ of communication between God and humans
 - charismatic revelation and guidance
 - charismatic wisdom

Bezalel was 'filled with the Spirit **for all wisdom**'

Exod 31:3

'I need hardly say that conjectures of this kind [Moses' teaching on the Sabbath] are closely akin to prophecies. **For the mind could not have made so straight an aim if there was not also the divine Spirit guiding it to the truth itself.**

Philo, *Life of Moses* 2.265

First-century Judaism

- the Spirit as ‘the Spirit of prophecy’
 - organ of communication between God and humans
 - charismatic revelation and guidance
 - charismatic wisdom
 - invasively inspired prophetic speech
 - invasively inspired charismatic praise

Debate in Acts

- the Spirit empowers witness
 - is the Spirit 'necessary for salvation'?
 - does the Spirit produce ethical transformation and renewal?
 - does the Spirit accomplish deeds of power?
 - classical pentecostals deny that these are so *in Acts*

First-century Judaism

- the Spirit as ‘the Spirit of prophecy’
- did the Spirit produce deeds of power and/or ethical renewal?
 - No: Menzies and most pentecostals

‘Luke adopts the typically Jewish idea that the Spirit is the Spirit of prophecy...this prevents him from attributing to the Spirit either miracles of healing or strongly ethical effects like the common life of the primitive community’
Eduard Schweizer, *TWNT* 6:407 [beware *TDNT* translation!]
 - Yes: Turner

The Spirit and the Messiah

- expectation that the Messiah will be empowered for his task by the Spirit

‘[1] And a *king* shall come forth from the sons of Jesse, and *the Messiah* shall *be exalted* from *the sons of his sons*. [2] And upon him shall rest *the spirit of prophecy*, a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and might, a spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord’ Tglsa 11:1-2

Pentecost Acts 2:1-42

- preparation 1:5, 8
- the event
 - festival of first fruits
 - feast of giving of the law in later Judaism

Pentecost Acts 2:1-42

- preparation 1:5, 8
- the event
- the symbols of the Spirit vv 2-3
 - wind Ezek 37:9-14; cf. John 3:8
 - fire Exod 3:2-6

Pentecost Acts 2:1-42

- preparation 1:5, 8
- the event
- the symbols of the Spirit vv 2-3
- the other languages v 4
 - local dialects of visitors v 5
 - produced amazement and puzzlement vv 6, 7, 12

Pentecost Acts 2:1-42

- what is happening?
 - fulfilment of Jesus' promise 1:5
 - baptise in/by Holy Spirit
 - beginning of a new era—biblical images
 - Spirit for all, not some vv 17-21 [Joel 2:28-32]; cf. Judg 14:19
 - giving of the law Jer 31:31-34; Ezek 36:26-37
 - tower of Babel Gen 11; cf. 1:8; 2:5, 39 [Gen 12:3]

Pentecost Acts 2:1-42

- what is happening?
 - fulfilment of Jesus' promise 1:5
 - beginning of a new era—biblical images
 - the new era begins because of Jesus' death and resurrection vv 22-36
 - the new era's blessings are now available vv 37-41
 - the new era's blessings include the restoration of Israel 2:42-47; 4:32-35

‘There was not a needy [ἐνδεής] person among them’
Acts 4:34

‘There will, however, be no one in need [LXX ἐνδεής]
among you, because the LORD is sure to bless you in
the land that the LORD your God is giving you as a
possession to occupy’ Deut 15:4

Is the pattern of 2:38-39 reproduced?

- the Samaritans 8:4-25
- Cornelius' household 10:34-48
- the Ephesian twelve 19:1-7