

The New Testament Church
The Purpose of Pentecost – The Feast of Pentecost - Acts 1:1-11
Pastor Paul Jehle – May 21, 2023

I The Feasts of Israel and their Fulfillment

- A. The Feast of Passover – Exodus 12 - Born again – new life in Christ – sovereign regeneration
 - 1. It marks the “first day of the new year” – father selects a lamb, family bonds with it 4 days
 - 2. Barley in the head (but not ripe) – feast of unleavened bread (Jesus our Passover Lamb)
- B. Pentecost (Ex. 17-20; Lev. 23:15-21; Num. 28:26-31; Dt. 16:9-12) empowered to keep covenant
 - 1. Pentecost means “50th” – Moses ascends at 40 days, brings Law at 50th day by power!
 - 2. Jesus imparted the Holy Spirit to disciples after resurrection, then on 50th day – empowerment!
- C. The Feast of Tabernacles – God tabernacling with His people – first Christ, then the Church
 - 1. To announce (feast of trumpets) last month of the year – 7th month (September-October)
 - 2. Day of Atonement – goat (sacrifice and scapegoat) – *restoration of all things* – Christ’s return!

II The Feast of Pentecost – the “evidence” of God at work – a holy covenant (ekklesia)

- A. Preparation for Pentecost – directly linked to Passover – foreshadowing entering into covenant
 - 1. Water from a Rock for 2+ million – with “evidence” – baptized into Moses (1st Cor. 10:2)
 - 2. The power of sacrificial worship – Amalekites – raising Moses’ hands – battle is the Lord’s
 - 3. Self-rule by teaching the Word (law) - Jethro, Moses’ father in law – put Israel in order
- B. A holy covenant to be both priests (vertical) and kings (horizontal) – Israel said “yes” (Ex. 19:8)
 - 1. Moses ascends the mountain on the 40th day – gets instructions from God (Ex. 19:10-11)
 - a. Consecration – wash clothes – be prepared to meet God (from afar) – Jesus’ death
 - b. Set boundaries around the mountain – and called to the base by a trumpet
 - 2. Foreshadowing the instructions for keeping the Feast of Pentecost – Exodus 19:16-19
 - a. Bring two loaves of bread – two tables of the Law-Word – the thunder – voice of God
 - 1. The first alphabet (alpha-beta in Greek; aleph-bet in Hebrew) – individual sounds
 - 2. Israelites took Dt. 11:24 and Josh. 1:3 seriously – every place you walk (sole of foot)!
 - 3. Other nations borrowed from Israel and literacy and science exponentially increased
 - b. Sacrifice made by fire (cleansing) – commitment to change – transformed into His character
 - 1. Sin and peace offerings – humility is being conscious of your need for Christ
 - 2. Offerings are made by fire – 1st Cor. 14:21-22 (Is. 28:11-12) – judgment on sin
 - 3. This is why prayer language tongues “fans the flame” for our own cleansing, and
 - 4. Public tongues (with interpretation) are a sign that a substitute for sin has already come!
 - c. Waved before the Lord – to the Glory of God – holy to the Lord – made new – water/cloud
 - 1. May the Lord have us do all things “for His glory” and not our own – Psalm 115:1
 - 2. Be Holy as He is Holy – Matthew 5:48 and 1st Peter 1:16 – His holiness...
- C. The Feast of Pentecost – parallels with the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New Testament
 - 1. Mt. Sinai (the Law) and Mt. Zion (the Spirit) – Passover led directly to Pentecost (covenant)
 - 2. Moses ascended Sinai at 40 days after Passover; Jesus ascended 40 days after Passover
 - 3. The Law “written by the finger of God”; then “on our hearts” – Jeremiah 31:31-34
 - 4. Voice of God “thundered” on Sinai, and it spoke with tongues of fire at Pentecost
 - 5. Three thousand died at Sinai; three thousand converted at Pentecost – Acts 2:41
 - 6. Sinai thundered with judgment; but now that Christ has come, we are welcome – Heb. 12:18ff
 - 7. God still shakes the earth but now our goal is the establishment of His Kingdom – Heb. 12:25ff
- D. Missions; the Purpose of Pentecost – Acts 1:8 – Israel’s mission at Sinai; Church’s at Pentecost
 - 1. Receive power (empower by the Spirit) to be witnesses (in the Greek; martyrs)
 - 2. Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the end of the earth – inside-out – the Kingdom grows!
 - 3. Christianity has continued to grow; and the Kingdom is advancing world-wide!
 - 4. Of the 17,400 people groups, 7,400 are unreached (less than 2% believers); or 43%!