

The New Testament Church
The Purpose of Pentecost #2 – The Ethiopian Eunuch – Acts 8:26-40
Pastor Paul Jehle – June 4, 2023

I The Feast of Passover and Pentecost

- 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)
 3. Evidence of the Passover and Exodus of Israelites:
 - a. Camped for a week by the Sea, surrounded by mountains – no way out
 - b. When the Egyptians came – protected by a Pillar of Fire – evidence is there
 - c. The Crossing – “land bridge” through the sea
 - d. Pillars (put there by Solomon) marking the spot of the crossing
- B. Pentecost (Ex. 17-20; Lev. 23:15-21; Num. 28:26-31; Dt. 16:9-12) empowered to keep covenant
 1. Passover leads directly to Pentecost – both Spring feasts...
 2. Pentecost means “50th” – Moses gets Law at 50th day by power!
 - a. Led by cloud, emphasizing a baptism in water (conversion) and the Spirit (holiness)
 - b. Led by fire, cleansing and judgment (all sacrifices by fire) on mountain and in the Spirit
 - c. Receive Word, the Law (two loaves of bread) and writing law in hearts! (responsibility)
 3. Pentecost is a *covenant of change* – to become more like Him – from glory to glory!
 - a. Israel was to be a kingdom of priests (vertical) and a holy nation (horizontal)
 - b. The Church is to be a bride (vertical - beatitudes) and a city (horizontal – salt and light)
 4. Reverence - there is a great need today to distinguish between recreation and sacred worship
 5. What is the purpose of praying in tongues? (fire, wind, languages)
 - a. The purpose of praying in tongues – to bring judgment on sin in our inner man (fire)
 - b. It is to maintain a sense of holiness and the glory of God (ultimate mission)
 - c. It is to pray according to the priorities of the Scriptures – God’s will – not just needs

II The Ethiopian Eunuch – Acts 8:26-40

- A. The purpose of Pentecost – to bring the gospel to the ends of the earth!
 1. From the mountain in Exodus 19 (languages) to Acts 2 (languages) – get the Word out
 2. A call to Mt. Zion – heavenly Jerusalem, angels, church of first born – Jesus as Mediator
 3. What Pentecost in the life a believer will do – to bring the power of the Spirit!
 - a. Humility - It produces an oven for our sin nature – He will increase, we will decrease
 - b. Sensitivity - It will help us hear the voice of the Spirit – in the Word and Spirit
 - c. Reverence - reduce ego, live elevate Christ and advance His Kingdom – Soli Deo Gloria
- B. Who was Philip – a deacon and evangelist (not the apostle/disciple) in the early church – Acts 6:3
 1. Preaching in Samaria with miracles (with humility) – exposing strongholds – Acts 8
 2. A specific message from an angel (or messenger) – to go to the desert – 8:26
 3. God leads Philip to one He is drawing - Ethiopian Eunuch returning from Jerusalem – 8:27
- C. The Ethiopian Eunuch – treasurer to Queen of Ethiopia – Candice not her name (title) – v. 28-38
 1. Eunuch (no children to be loyal to Queen) – Jew returning from worship in Jerusalem?
 2. Racial barriers in Greece, Rome and the Jews were overcome by the Spirit!
 3. This event was probably the beginning of the first Christian nation! (Psalm 68:13)
 4. Incredibly, the Eunuch was reading the Prophet Isaiah, from chapter 53:7-8 (about Christ)!
 5. Philip was told to go near, and was invited up into the chariot – do you understand?
 6. He then explains, from Scripture, that Jesus is Christ – the Savior – and he confesses Christ
 7. He then asks to be baptized, the first cloud after conversion – obedience to the Lord
 8. God catches Philip away – to keep the Eunuch focused on Christ, not Philip – Soli Deo Gloria
- D. Lessons learned – expect to hear God (fire), know the Word, and give all the glory to Him!