

ACTS 2:1—13 The Day of Pentecost

- The events at Pentecost were all a part of prophesy. Prophesy relates to Israel.
- A literal translation of verse one reads:
 - When the day of Pentecost was being fulfilled, they were all together in one place.
 - The coming of the Holy Spirit was in fulfillment of the prophesy contained in Pentecost.
 - The feast of Pentecost was the type. The fulfillment by the giving of the Holy Spirit was the antitype.
 - The Bible is filled with type—antitypes
 - Aaron—Jesus as High Priest
 - Lamb—Jesus as our sacrificial lamb
 - Earthly temple—heavenly temple
 - Living water—Holy Spirit
- The coming of the Holy Spirit was clearly observable and experiential:
 1. A loud noise like a violent wind (tornado?) came out of heaven and filled the whole house.
 - It was this sound that got the attention of those outside the building they were in.
 2. Tongues as fire that distributed and rested on each one of them.
 - Being attracted by the sound, as they got closer they could see the appearance of fire over their heads.
 3. Speaking in tongues by the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - All Jews from all nations speaking many different languages could understand what was being spoken by those filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - These Jews had gathered from all over to be in Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost.
- All of these were signs so Israel would believe.
- So far we see only Jews and Proselytes (Gentiles that are practicing Jews) reaping the benefit of the Holy Spirit.
- At this point, there is nothing to indicate a new dispensation has begun nor that there was the formation of a new church, the Body of Christ.
- All events so far are a part of prophesy and relate to Israel and God’s plan for her.
 - National Israel was to accept Christ as her Messiah when the Kingdom was offered by Peter. (Acts 2, 3)
 - The Tribulation was then to be ushered in to purify Israel from all unbelievers (Zechariah 13:8; Romans 11:26)
 - Christ would come back to earth and set up His Millennial Kingdom. (Zechariah 4:4—11)
 - Gentiles would be blessed through Israel’s rise. (Isaiah 49:6; 60:3; Zech 8:13; Acts 13:47)
- Israel has not been cut off from the offer, even though they killed their Messiah.
 - They did it all in ignorance (Luke 23:34; Acts 3:17)
 - They rejected the Father in the O.T. by following other gods.
 - They rejected the Son by killing Him.
 - They reject the Holy Spirit by rejecting His call to believe through signs, wonders and enlightenment.
- We will see the process of rejection as we continue on in Acts 2 & 3.

ACTS 2:14—36 Peter’s sermon

- Peter spoke only to the Jews. Men of Judah (verse 14) and men of Israel (verse 22)
 - Israel and Judah split in 922 B.C. (see 1 Kings 12)
 - Israel refers to the 10 northern tribes. Judah refers to the 2 southern tribes (Judah and Benjamin).

- Rehoboam, upon taking the throne, instituted harsh labor upon the Israelites. The northern 10 tribes rebelled, killed Adoram (from the “department of forced labor”) then made Jeroboam their king.
- This division still exists in Peter’s day.
- The two wave loaves (as part of the feast of Pentecost) is seen by some to represent the Jews and Gentiles coming together as one in the Body of Christ. A more likely interpretation is that they represent Israel and Judah finally coming together in the Millennial Kingdom.
 - If this is so, this was not only prophetic that they would unite, but also that they would split. (**Ezekiel 27:16—22**)
 - According to Paul, the Body of Christ is already one loaf. (**1 Corinthians 10:16—17**)
- The events surrounding the Feast of Pentecost are prophetic.
 - Since they are of prophesy, they are not concerning the Body of Christ, which is all Mystery.
 - The prophetic events are laid out like this:
 - Jesus Christ glorified → Holy Spirit given → Tribulation → Millennial Kingdom
 - John 7:37—39; Joel 2:28—3:21**
 - Peter knew these to be the last days because it was all prophesized. (2:16)
 - Last days refer to the last days of Israel, not the last days of the Body of Christ.
 - We in the Body of Christ cannot know when we are in the last days because there are no prophetic signposts. Israel could, on the other hand, know specifically from Scripture when certain events were suppose to happen and thus could know they were in the last days of prophesy. (see Daniel 9:24—27)
- Peter starts telling them about the man Jesus.
 - He came from God and proved Himself by miracles, signs and wonders. (Verse 22)
 - 1 Corinthians 1:22** For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom;
 - John 2:18** The Jews then said to Him, "What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?"
 - John 4:48** So Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe."
 - God always used signs to confirm His word to Israel (see Ex. 4:8, 17, 30; Num. 14:11)
 - Hebrews 2:4** God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.
 - He was nailed to the cross by the Jews through the hands of the Romans. (verse 23)
 - He was raised from the dead by God. (verse 24)
 - This was prophesized by David in Psalms 16:8—11 (verses 25—28)
 - He is in the line of David and will sit on the throne as King. (verses 30—35)
- All of these things point to Jesus being their Messiah. (verse 36)
 - No one could deny Peter’s statements since there were so many eye-witnesses.
 - God made Him both Lord (God) and Christ (Messiah).
 - Many Jews did not and still do not realize that their Messiah will be God. They assume he will be a only a man that is sent by God.
- The Christ (Messiah) was raised up as proven by the giving of the Holy Spirit.
 - If Christ was not raised and glorified, the Holy Spirit could not have been given.
- Notice that Peter is not preaching the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ but was shaming Israel to bring her to repentance.
 - His sermon points to the cross as being a shame. (**Hebrews 12:2; 13:13**)
 - On the other hand, Paul equates the cross as his glory. **Galatians 6:14; 1 Corinthians 1:18, 23—24**
 - Christ’s resurrection was critically important to Israel (as it is to us) but it is not part of their gospel message.
 - If their Messiah did not rise from the dead, they would have no Messiah.
 - We believe in the Person and His work, They believe in the Person only.

Originally taught at Bethesda Sunday School October 5, 2008