

# **“THE DAY OF PENTECOST”**

## **INTRODUCTION**

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come” (Acts 2:1). There are 4 Bible terms designating this great day in Biblical history. (1) *Feast of Weeks*—because it was determined by counting weeks (Exo. 34:22); Deut. 16:10). (2) *Feast of Harvest*—because it came at the close of wheat and barley harvest (Exo. 23:16). (3) *Feast of Fruitfruits*—because the first-fruits was offered to God (Exo. 34:22). (4) *Pentecost*—meaning “fifty” with “day” being implied (uniquely a New Testament word, never used in the Old Testament). Cf Acts 2:1; 20:16; 1 Cor. 16:8).

The feast of was not a New Testament celebration, nor was it binding upon Christians, but this was the day upon which the church was established and continues to be a regular feast of the Jews. There are several parallels, however, that we can draw from a study of Pentecost and the Christian ‘faith.’”

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. 1<sup>st</sup>, Pentecost was a SIGN OF COMPLETED HARVEST.**

A. On this day, the first-fruits of the crop was offered to God at the harvest season.

B. The harvest of Christ’s word as the Lamb of God was reaped on this day of Pentecost.

1. All animal sacrifices under the law typified the Lamb of God Who was to come.
2. On the first Pentecost after His resurrection, it is announced to the world that atonement has finally been made for sin.

### **II. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Pentecost MARKED THE GIVING OF GOD’S LAW.**

A. The old law, given on Mt. Sinai, is said by Jewish writers to have been given on the day of Pentecost, though it is not specifically stated in the scripture.

B. The new law, given on Mt. Zion, was publicly declared on the day of Pentecost.

1. After Christ’s death, the prophet like Moses took Moses’ place. Deut. 18:15-18; Acts 3:22
2. After Christ’s death, the new covenant took the place of the old covenant. Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:5-13; 9:15-17
  - a. The gospel of the new covenant reveals God’s way of making man righteous, which could not be done by the law. Rom. 1:16-17; 10:3; Gal. 2:21
  - b. The gospel makes man God’s children by the spiritual birth, while the law made Jews the children of God by means of the physical birth.
  - c. The blood of the new covenant is that of the Lamb of God, versus animal blood of the old covenant. Matt. 26:28; Heb. 10:1-4; 1 Pet. 1:18-19
  - d. The new covenant is the covenant of “faith” by which we become children of God. Gal. 3:23-27
    - 1) Faith avails because it is in the Savior. John 8:24
    - 2) Repentance avails because it is a change of mind toward sin, self and the Savior.
    - 3) Confession avails because it commits to the Savior instead of Moses.
    - 4) Baptism avails because it is related to Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection. Rom. 6:3-5, 17-18

C. About 3,000 were slain with the sword at Mt. Sinai (Exo. 32:28), but on Mt. Zion, some 3,000 were saved by obeying the message of Christ.

### **III. 3<sup>Rd</sup>, Pentecost was the day of FIRST-FRUITS OFFERED TO GOD.**

- A. The first-fruits of the crop-harvest were offered by the Israelites. Lev. 23:17
- B. On the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, the gospel was preached as a fact for the first time, and there was a great harvest of souls.
  - 1. Consider the effect it had on the people. Acts 2:37-38, 41, 47
  - 2. The saved were the first-fruits of the gospel. Rom. 8:23; 11:16; 1 Cor. 15:23; Jas. 1:18
  - 3. Note the contrast between Mt. Sinai and Mt. Zion.
    - a. At Mt. Sinai, 3000 were slain, while at Mt. Zion, 3,000 were saved.
    - b. The 3,000 died as fleshly Israel, while the 3,000 were made alive as spiritual Israel—the church. Rom. 2:28-29; Acts 2:47

### **IV. 4<sup>th</sup>, Pentecost was a DAY OF JOY AND CELEBRATION.**

- A. On the day of Pentecost, the Israelites rejoiced as they feasted together before the Lord. Deut. 16:10-12
  - 1. They rejoiced in their deliverance from Egyptian bondage.
  - 2. This spirit of rejoicing was to characterize them throughout the year.
- B. On the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, the saved were able to rejoice. Acts 2:41, 46-47
  - 1. They rejoiced because they were released from spiritual bondage of sin. Rom. 6:17-18
  - 2. This spirit of rejoicing is to characterize God's people throughout their lives as Christians. Rom. 14:17; Gal. 5:22; Phil. 1:25; 4:4; 1 Thess. 1:6; Jas. 1:2, 12

#### **CONCLUSION**

- I. Is Pentecost more important than Christ?
  - A. Pentecost mere has it's typical significance fulfilled in Christ, and is lost in Him.
  - B. It is not Pentecost, but Christ OF the Pentecost that is important today.
- II. Have you accepted the Christ Who was first preached on the day of Pentecost?

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