

Pentecost Feb 16, 2020

Last week, we began in the 1st chapter of Acts, as Jesus gave the last instructions to His disciples and ascended into the clouds and out of sight.

Today, we are going to begin with the 2nd chapter of Acts and the Day of Pentecost.

Let me give you the timeline with both our Gregorian calendar and the Jewish calendar. They are not alike. Jesus birth was at about 3 BC. In the Gregorian calendar; in the Jewish calendar it was about 3758.

We know that He was about 33 years old when He was crucified.

The Crucifixion would be about 30 A.D. in our Gregorian calendar.

Today, the Jewish calendar year is 5776 and our year is 2020.

I want to continue to emphasize to you that God is a very loving and patient God.

I want you to think about it.

God has waited from Adam (the beginning of the Jewish calendar) three thousand and fifty eight years to send Christ as a perfect sacrifice, and now it is two thousand and twenty eight Jewish calendar years since Christ was born, and the rapture has not taken place yet. God is a loving and patient God.

So . . . we are now ready to follow the disciples, apostles and ministers who spread the gospel from Jerusalem outward. But 1st, they must receive the comforter that Jesus promised them that God the Father would send.

Ready?

Let us begin with the first verse:

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

- 1. Who are they? Remember last week, Luke, writing to Theophilus told him who were gathered together of the disciples by name, the women, Mary the mother of Jesus, and His brothers.**

It is important that we recognize that His brothers are here because, in the gospel of Luke, it indicates that they did not believe in Him at 1st.

So on the day of Pentecost they number 120.

Let us continue:

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

- 2. And in this unknown language that each of them were speaking, they were praising God. They were filled with joy, and happiness and they were speaking in a spiritual voice to God. Amen!**

Let us continue:

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews, from every nation under heaven.

- 3. The Day of Pentecost, is the 50th day after the Passover celebration in the Jewish faith and it is called the “Feast of Weeks” or the “Feast of 50 days” in rabbinic tradition. So, there would be a large gathering from all over the area to celebrate the “Feast of 50 days.”**

Let us continue:

When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.

- 4. Can you imagine, what is happening, nothing like this has ever happened before!**

Let us continue:

Utterly amazed, they ask: “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?”

- 5. They can tell, by their dress, and accent, that they are Galileans. They know from that, they all would not be able to speak their language or all different languages as a group, and they are praising God in each person’s language. So, they are baffled.**

Let us continue:

“Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?”

- 6. Luke, wanted to make sure that Theophilus’ understood how abnormal this would be, it would be miraculous!**

Let us continue:

“Parthians, Medes and Elamites, residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Sirena; visitors from Rome: both Jews and converts

to Judaism:, Cretans and Arabs: we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!”

6. Notice that Luke, declares that these people, understood what they were saying; declaring the wonders of God. This is the Holy Spirit working in the lives of the hundred and 20 that were gathered together.

Let us continue:

Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

7. Wouldn't that be our comment also?

If we had been present and heard these multiple languages being spoken by common people that were unable to read and write as a whole.

Would not that be our thought also?

Let us continue:

Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

8. Some things never change, if someone is speaking erratically different, that we can't quite pigeonhole, they are drunk or worse, right? They are about to get a real earful.

Let us continue in the Scripture:

Then Peter stood up with the 11, raised his voice and addressed the crowd.

9. The Scripture says, that Peter stood up and addressed the crowd, this is the same Peter that denied Christ 3 times, and

that was asked 3 times by the Lord, if he loved Him, and was told each time when he answered to “Feed my sheep.” This then is his 1st opportunity to witness for Jesus, and he will become known as “the rock” preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Let us continue:

“Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

These people are not drunk as you suppose. It’s only 9 in the morning!

No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: in the last days, God says, I will pour out my spirit on all people.”

- 10. Peter is now making a reference to a witness by Joel the prophet and he is telling them how this is possible.**

Let us continue:

“Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.”

- 11. Peter is indicating that this is a manifestation of God’s will in the latter days to both men and women. By using Joel as a witness, he is convincing them that this is acceptable because it was prophesied by someone the Jewish people believed in.**

Let us continue:

“I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

- 12. Peter is indicating by this statement, that many things will befall the earth and that men, and women will call upon God through Jesus Christ and they will be saved.**

Let us continue:

“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through Him, as you yourselves know.

- 13. In other words, you have been in Jerusalem before and have been aware of Jesus the Messiah although you did not know who he was at that time.**

Let us continue:

This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross.

- 14. Notice, the change in Peter, he has no fear, he is accusing them of being participants in killing Jesus. Let us continue:**

But God raised Him from the dead, freeing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him.”

- 15. This is the very 1st message of salvation by one of the 12 disciples.
This message, has been carried down through the ages by many thousands of people and it is still being ministered to sinners yet today. Amen!**

Peter goes on to say:

“David said about Him: I saw the Lord always before me. Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, because You will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, You will not let Your Holy One decay.

You have made known to me the paths of life, You will fill me with joy in Your presence.”

- 16. Think about this, Peter is speaking to the Jewish people and he is invoking words spoken by David, their beloved King that God blessed and they have built monuments to.**

Let us continue:

“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendents on his throne.

Seeing what was to come he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that He was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did His body decay.

God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are his witnesses of it.

- 17. Remember, in last weeks sermon, that it was important by prophecy to put another in Judas Iscariot’s place to be a witness.**

Let us continue:

“Exalted to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.”

- 18. And thus Peter has explained what is happening**

in their presence and they are witnesses of it.

Let us continue

“For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, the Lord said to my Lord, sit at My right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for Your feet.

- 19. When Peter says, “David did not ascend to heaven” he is talking about that until the Messiah’s crucifixion; “a life given for life and a death given for death;” that David was in a resting place awaiting the Messiah to free him and carry him to heaven.**

Peter continues:

Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

- 20. Peter is speaking to very devout Jews, they know the Torah, and the prophets, and they realize, that what Peter is saying is true. This should be very important to us, because it is a further witness of the crucifixion and resurrection of the Messiah, Jesus Christ of Nazareth and the very people who are complicit in crucifying Him are now going to accept Him.**

Let us continue:

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

- 21. That very statement, indicates that they knew exactly what had happened, but hadn’t put it together as to what it meant. Now the guilt, is upon them.**

Let us continue:

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

- 22. Where did Peter get that idea from? From Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit of course. Notice, what Peter goes on to say:**

The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off: for all whom the Lord our God will call.

- 23. And so Peter, extends the call or promise of salvation and eternal life to them, their children, and all who are called by God. Do you remember when the Holy Spirit 1st troubled you to make a commitment to Jesus Christ and God the Father? I do! It was Through the Holy Spirit as it spoke to your heart! I would imagine, that everyone feels something in their soul before they make a commitment to be a Christian and to live a Christian life.**

Could I have a witness here?

Let us continue:

With many other words he warned them, and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about 3000 were added to their number that day.

They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

- 24. In this way, they set the example for us, as we continue to follow Christ as they did.**

Let us continue:

Everyone was filled with awe in the many wonders and signs perform by the apostles.

All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

25. Think for a moment, what the Scripture we just read indicates. It is almost like the Garden of Eden for them. Remember what I told you last week; that had they known that the Messiah would not return for thousands of years, they might have done things differently. But at this point they are blissfully happy and are being treated well by all people around them. They can even meet in the temple courts at the synagogue with no one persecuting them.

What a wonderful time that must've been for them.

Let us continue:

And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Summarize and close