

# Pentecost

Brynmawr Family Church Sermon  
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2011

## Intro-

- What day is it today? Pentecost. But what does pentecost mean? We will be looking at the background to this amazing day and seeing how this applies to us right now.

## The Background to Pentecost

### Read Lev 23:15-22

Pentecost also called 'weeks'. Count off 7 weeks (7x7days=49). The next day is the day of Pentecost (i.e. 'pentecost'= Greek for 50<sup>th</sup>). In order to understand what is happening we need to look at the context.

- The context is Israel just been released from captivity in Egypt. God gives them His law and prepares them for a 'land flowing with milk and honey'. Part of this is feasts based around the harvest seasons in the land of Israel which God was about to give to them.
- However, God wasn't only interested in what was happening then. What was happening to Israel was a great way for God to illustrate about salvation from sin and the wonders of heaven. There was to be a dual fulfillment for each of these feasts. The promised land of Israel and freedom from captivity would be the initial fulfillment. Salvation through Christ would be the ultimate fulfillment.
- There are 7 feasts mentioned here in Lev 23: Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, Weeks, Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Tabernacles. These are arranged in 2 cycles.
- The first 4 are the first cycle, falling close together (within 50 days of each other) in Spring. Then there is a 4 month gap, followed by the last 3, which are the second cycle, falling close together (come within 2 weeks of each other) in Autumn.
- The first cycle is based around the Exodus- from the death of the firstborn until the law was given on Sinai.
- The first cycle of feasts were fulfilled in the first coming of Christ. The second cycle of feasts will be fulfilled in His second coming.
- First coming of Christ- **Passover**- Jesus died at the passover to fulfill it- there were 2 lambs sacrificed:
  - The one for each household, celebrated by Jesus on the night of His 'last supper' with His disciples.
  - The passover lamb in the temple the next morning at 9am. Jesus died at this time to literally fulfill this feast.

**Unleavened bread**- yeast symbol of sin- Jesus fulfilled this when He said ' This is my body broken for you', indicating His sinless sacrifice for us.

**Firstfruits**- this would have taken place on the Sunday after the Sabbath at Passover, therefore, on the day Jesus rose from the dead. A single sheaf of barley waved before God- firstfruit of the barley and grain harvest- marked the beginning of the 2-month Spring Harvest- Jesus fulfilled this by His resurrection on the same day- He is the firstfruits from the dead (see 1Cor 15:20-23).

**Weeks (Pentecost)**- 7 weeks were to be counted off from this date and then 2 loaves of leavened bread was to be brought and waved before God. This marked the end of the Spring harvest which began with Passover. The firstfruits of the summer harvest were offered at this time to God. Jesus fulfilled this by appearing

over a 40-day period, ascending to Heaven, and proving His ascended position by pouring out the Holy Spirit on the 50<sup>th</sup> day. 50 is a special number in scripture- it speaks of Jubilee- in the 50<sup>th</sup> year people's debts were cancelled and land was restored to them, and slaves were to be released. It speaks of salvation being implemented practically.

- The last 3 feasts I believe will be fulfilled by the return of Christ. **Trumpets** speaks of the return of Christ to the final trumpet of the archangel. The **day of atonement** speaks of the day of judgement. Finally **tabernacles** speaks of our heavenly dwelling.
- **APPLICATION**- Jesus came to shed His blood to purchase our salvation. As Christians, we have no problem receiving salvation by faith rather than works, however, when it comes to the Holy Spirit, for some reason we feel we have to earn the right to be filled- this is ludicrous- Jesus has fulfilled the feast on our behalf. If His sacrifice was good enough for the first 3, surely it is good enough on our behalf for the fourth feast. Who are we to not receive all that Christ paid for us to receive with His precious blood? Why should we stop short of the 50<sup>th</sup> day? Why not receive the 50? Why not receive the full package- i.e. The fullness of God's Holy Spirit- this is normal Christianity. The price is paid.

Acts 19:1-6: "Did you receive the Holy Spirit...?"; ...the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied..."

Read Acts 1:1-8; 2:1-39

## **The Significance of Pentecost**

### **Significance of Pentecost- Spirit is for all- 'all flesh'- Acts 2:17**

- O.T and also before Pentecost in N.T Holy Spirit came on 'select' individuals for a set purpose.
- Joel promised a time when the Holy Spirit would be poured out on all (believers).
- Pentecost is the keeping of that promise.
- Peter finishes his pentecost sermon by spelling it out- Acts 2:39 'For the promise is to you and to your children, and to ALL who are afar off (us!) as many as the Lord our God will call'

### **We receive the promise by faith**

- A promise is a promise- God keeps His word. Why call it a promise if it is something else, like a wage or something we have to earn?
- Faith needs an object- the object is God, not us. He is our loving Father- He knows how to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him! It is not up to us, but up to Him, and He has already said 'yes!'- the promise of Pentecost has already been fulfilled!
- Acts 1:4- Reason for the 'tarry in Jerusalem' wasn't to get them 'holy' enough, but more to do with God's calendar- He wanted to do something special to fulfill the true meaning of the feast of weeks.
- We don't need to tarry anymore for the Holy Spirit, He is available right this second- the promise has already been fulfilled- there doesn't need to be a repeat of the day of pentecost, just a receiving in the light of it. Simply accept what is already yours.

## **The Expectation of Pentecost**

### **'Baptism' means God is not stingy- Acts 1:5**

- Religious transliteration of the word 'baptism' in scripture robs it of its real meaning. Baptism= to be immersed- hence full immersion where possible for water baptism. John the immerser, John the dunker- as John dunked you in water, so now you are

- going to be dunked, immersed, completely saturated in the Holy Spirit.
- 'Mighty, rushing wind', tongues of fire
- Holy Spirit 'fell on' Acts 11:15-16 Peter explains about the Holy Spirit falling on a crowd of Gentiles as he was preaching to them, and likens it to their own experience at Pentecost-  
'As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'
- My experience of Holy Spirit 'falling' on me.
- Multiple fillings- Peter's many fillings:  
John 20:19-22 Jesus breathes on them saying 'receive the H.S', Acts 2:4 'were all filled with the H.S' (the day of pentecost), Acts 4:8 'Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit said', Acts 4: 31 'and when they had prayed the place was shaken and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit' (again, after being filled previously at Pentecost).
- Power encounter- 'clothed with power from on high' -Luke 2:49 (same writer as book of Acts). People's experience of electricity running through their body. Sometimes manifestations- not to be our focus, but they happen, and if they don't it doesn't mean there is something wrong with us- God will fill us in the way He chooses.

## **The Results of Pentecost**

### **Spiritual Gifts- Acts 2:4- 'spoke in other tongues'**

- Spiritual gifts (not only tongues) are a result of the baptism of the Spirit. If we want to excel in spiritual gifts we need to be filled with God's Spirit.
- Spiritual gifts are given by God to equip God's people for effective works of service (Eph 4). Spiritual gifts can be likened to power tools to get the job done.
- Some of the Spiritual gifts are revelatory- they reveal to us what God is speaking. Speaking in tongues is to do with communication to God and from God.
- Pentecost according to Jewish tradition was the day Moses received the ten commandments on Sinai. Pentecost is God writing His Word into our hearts by His Spirit. It is God bringing revelation to us, and enabling us to obey it.  
Isaiah 54:13 All your sons will be taught by the LORD, and great will be your children's peace.  
Jeremiah 31:34 No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."  
John 6:45 It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me.  
1 John 2:27 As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit--just as it has taught you, remain in him.  
Ez 36:26-27 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

### **Assurance**

- Pentecost, again according to Jewish tradition was also the day of David's birth and death (Jesus was the 'Son' of David. David was a type for the Messiah). The throne of David's 'son' would be established forever, and God would not let his anointed see decay. Peter brings out the fact that David died, but Jesus was raised physically from the dead and was now in heaven and promised eternal life to all who trust in Him. The proof was the Holy Spirit- God's downpayment, His deposit, guaranteeing what is to come- eternal life for us.
- Anointing and kingship go hand in hand. The anointing comes from the anointed one. The word Christ and Messiah both mean the anointed one- the king. The Holy Spirit coming is the sign of the Kingship of Jesus- it shows He is exalted to the right hand of the Father- it is the evidence of His exaltation.

### **Effective Evangelism**

- Power to be His witnesses- Acts 1:8

- The 2 loaves- leavened= sinners brought into God's presence, bread made from wheat= harvested, firstfruits of the summer harvest- Jews saved, and later Gentiles- the 2 loaves. The Spirit comes to bring in the harvest.

### **Summary**

- **The Background to Pentecost**
- **The Significance of Pentecost**
- **The Expectation of Pentecost**
- **The Results of Pentecost**

**Song:** *Come Lord Jesus Come (All who are thirsty)*