

Pentecost

(Shavuot)

1. Last week we looked at 7 attributes of the apostles of the early church
 - a. This week we are going to study the history of the first Shavuot...which happened on Mount Sinai
 - b. And compare it to the feast of Shavuot...in Acts chapter 2
 - c. Shavuot is the Hebrew name of Jewish holiday...that we call Pentecost
 - d. Pentecost is a Greek word...that simply means 50...because Pentecost is 7 Sabbaths after the feast of unleavened bread
 - e. 7 Sabbaths is 49 days...then Shavuot is the 50th day
 - f. The Jews were commanded to celebrate these 7 feasts...every year
2. Slide...chart
 - a. 3 out of the 7 feasts...were called pilgrim feast...
 - b. They are called pilgrim feast...because all males...the age of accountability...were required to go to Jerusalem...to make offering at the temple
 - c. The 3 pilgrim holidays were Passover...Pentecost...and Tabernacles
 - d. The feast of Pentecost is probably the least understood feast...of the Biblical holidays
 - e. You may ask...why do we Christians need to know about these Biblical holidays
 - a. God is a God of order...and uses the 7 Jewish feasts to do 2 things
 - b. They remind us of the past events of God

- c. And secondly...they look forward to a future prophetic fulfilment
 - f. The feast of Passover remind Israel of the passing over...of the angel of the death...killing all the first born in Egypt...as the final plague in Egypt.
 - g. The fulfilment of the Passover...is found in Jesus...going to the cross as our Passover Lamb
 - h. Let me back these things up with scripture so we can see and read it for ourselves
3. 1 Cor 5:7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.
- NKJV
- a. The next feast...the feast of unleavened bread...which reminds Israel how they needed to be ready to go at a moment's notice in Egypt
 - b. They were not to put leaven in the bread and wait for it to rise...instead bake it as a flat bread without leaven
 - c. At the temple...the High priest would bake bread without leaven...and make a wave offering to the Lord God
 - d. The fulfilment of unleavened bread is in Jesus...because leaven represents sin...and Jesus was the sinless offering to God...for sin
4. 1 Cor 5:6-8, 6 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with

the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. NKJV

- a. The third feast is the feast of first fruit...
- b. Which commemorates the early barley harvest...and Israel was to make an offering to God...with the first fruit of the harvest
- c. The fulfilment...is the resurrection of Jesus as the first fruit of the resurrection

5. 1 Cor 15:20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. NKJV

- a. We will skip Pentecost for now...and move on to the 5th feast
- b. The fifth feast is the feast of trumpets...which starts the 10 days of Awe...by the blowing of the trumpets
- c. At the sound of the trumpets...the Jews were expected to repent for the next 10 days...of all their sins they have committed in the last year
- d. 10 day after the blowing of the trumpet...is the Day of Atonement
- e. The future fulfilment of the feast of Trumpets is the rapture of the church

6. 1 Thess 4:16-17, 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. NKJV

- a. The sixth feast is Day of Atonement...where the high priest uses 2 goats
- b. The scape goat gets to go free...and the other is offered as a sin offering for the sins of Israel

- c. This offering for sin only happens one day a year...on the day of atonement
 - d. By sprinkling the blood on the Mercy seat inside the Holy of Holies
 - e. The fulfilment is in the crucifixion of Jesus
7. Heb 9:24-28, 24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; 25 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another — 26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. 27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, 28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. NKJV
- a. The seventh is the feast of Tabernacles...which reminds Israel of God's provision while they wondered in the wilderness.
 - b. The fulfilment is twofold...because Jesus comes to the earth 2 times
 - c. The first time born of a virgin...so think on the feast of Tabernacles
 - d. The second coming of Jesus is to set up the millennium kingdom...we read about this last week...the day the Lord returns in
8. Zech 14:4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south. NKJV

- a. Now...lets look at the middle feast...Pentecost...
- b. It is to remind Israel...of the day...the Lord gave Moses the 10 commandments...and the covenant of the law
- c. The covenant promised...a blessing of the Lord...when you kept the law...and cursed...if you broke the law
- d. The fulfilment of this feast...is what we are reading today in the book of Acts...the birth of the church along with the new covenant
- e. At the feast of Pentecost...the priest is to wave two loaves of bread...both baked before the Lord...but only this time...with yeast in the bread
- f. Isn't that strange...doesn't yeast represent sin in the Bible...yes it does
- g. So why would God...now want the priest to wave...not one loaf ...but 2 loaves of bread...both with yeast in them
- h. All you have to do is look at the church and the new covenant of Grace to understand
- i. The waving of the 2 loaves of bread...with yeast...represent Israel and the gentiles coming together...under the same covenant of grace...the gospel
- j. God births...the new church...with a new covenant of grace...on the very anniversary of the day that He gave Israel the law...at the first Shavuot
- k. In order to understand what is taking place in the book of Acts chapter 2
- l. We should go back and look at the very first Shavuot
- m. The ordinance for the feast of Shavuot is in Leviticus...but in Deuteronomy...Moses reminds Israel why they are to celebrate Shavuot

9. Deut 4:7-14,7 (Moses is addressing the nation Israel) "For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the Lord our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? 8 And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day? 9 Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren, (here is why they celebrate Shavuot) 10 especially concerning the day you stood before the Lord your God in Horeb (or mount Sinai), when the Lord said to me, 'Gather the people to Me (the Lord wants Moses to gather the people to Him), and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.' 11 "Then you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire (God is revealing Himself to Israel by fire) to the midst of heaven, with darkness, cloud, and thick darkness. 12 And the Lord spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of the words, but saw no form; you only heard a voice. (what God is doing is getting their attention) 13 So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone. 14 And the Lord commanded me (Moses) at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that you might observe them in the land which you cross over to possess. NKJV

10. Slide...Israel saw God in the form of fire and heard Him speak

a. God revealed Himself and His covenant at the first Shavuot...or Pentecost

- b. This is the day that God gave the ten commandments...and Moses had to tell them the covenant...because all they heard...was trumpets
- c. What I want us to see...is that Israel saw the Lord in the form of fire...and they heard His voice in the form of trumpets
- d. But it was Moses who had to tell them of the covenant...based on keeping the ten commandments...or the law
- e. All this fire and thunder and trumpets...was doing...is getting Israel's attention...to cause them to fear the Lord
- f. This event at mount Sinai...it is to be remembered by a feast day...and celebrated as a feast day
- g. Now 2000 years ago...God creates a new covenant...through the sacrifice of His Son...the Passover Lamb for sin...on the very day of Passover
- h. Jesus died on the cross Thursday evening before the sunset...at the same time the lambs were being slaughtered at the temple for Passover feast
- i. Jesus was put in the grave just before sunset...at the start of Passover on the 14th of Nisan
- j. Jesus was in the grave for the feast of unleavened bread...to show us Jesus knew no sin
- k. Then on the 3rd day...He rose from the Grave...on the very day...of the feast of first fruits
- l. 50 days after Jesus dies on the cross...on the very day of Pentecost...the disciples are gathered in the upper room to celebrate Pentecost

m. And just like 50 day after the first Passover...the same kind of event happens

11. Acts 2:1-4, 2 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. NKJV

12. Slide...The 120 saw God in the form of fire and heard Him speak

- a. Jesus's 120 disciples were in Jerusalem celebrating Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came upon them with power
- b. They saw God in the form of fire...heard the Spirit...that sounded like wind
- c. They started speaking...foreign languages...**not** of the new covenant of grace...don't miss this
- d. But of the working wonders of God...which we will see in a moment
- e. Please notice...what the speaking...in the foreign languages...or tongues does...it gets the attention of who
- f. The pilgrims coming to the mandatory Jewish feast day at the temple

13. Acts 2:5-11, 5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men (**gentiles**), from every nation under heaven. 6 And **when this sound occurred**, the multitude came together, (**notice the noise drew them in**) and **were confused**, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? 8

And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? 9
Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and
Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of
Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11
Cretans and Arabs — we hear them **speaking in our own tongues the wonderful
works of God.**" (Underline the wonderful works of God) NKJV

- a. The Holy Spirit is upon the disciples...speaking about the workings of God
...in a language they did not know or understand
- b. For the purpose...of getting the pilgrim's attention...so Peter...filled with
the Holy Spirit can preach the gospel
- c. What happens is...the pilgrims who are on the way to the feast of
Pentecost...heard this strange commotion
- d. Because the disciples...were actually speaking...actual foreign languages
- e. Why do I bring that up?...Because some people say, well, the gift of
tongues was given to the early Church so they could preach the gospel
- f. Not so...the gift of tongues...is only one...of the many gifts of the Holy
Spirit...not THE gift of the Holy Spirit
- g. I said last week that the Holy Spirit comes upon us...so that we can preach
the gospel...which is true
- h. The point I am making...is that "**the tongues**" that is being spoken...is not
the gospel
- i. But rather...the wonderful working of God being spoken to God

- j. In Acts 2:14...Peter has to stand up and preach the gospel...which he will do in verse 38
 - k. Why...because all the pilgrims heard...the wonderous workings of God
 - l. The 120 are not using these **tongues to convey a message to human beings**...but to God...how do I know
 - a. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 14...that whoever speaks in an unknown tongue does not speak to man...but to God
14. 1 Cor 14:2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. NKJV
- a. So there is no way...they were preaching the gospel to man...using the Holy Spirit gifting...of tongues
 - b. The event that is happening in Acts chapter 2...is a typical...non-repeatable event that mimics the event of mount Sinai
 - c. This is how it worked at the first Shavuot
15. Ex 20:18-22, **(this is at the base of mount Sinai)** 18 Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. **(they saw and heard the wonderous working of God)** 19 Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." 20 And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin."
- a. That's how the Lord gets their attention...and they want to know more about God...but not to close...so the send Moses

16. 21 So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was. 22 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'You have seen that I have talked with you from heaven. NKJV

- a. God did not speak directly to the people of Israel about the covenant
- b. Rather He spoke to Moses and Moses spoke to the people...of the covenant of the law
- c. In the book of Acts...the pilgrims heard and saw the wondrous working of God...and Peter spoke to them about the new covenant of grace
- d. In the old covenant...the law was written on stone tablets
- e. In the new covenant...the law is written in the minds and hearts of man

17. Jer 31:31-34, 31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah — 32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." NKJV

- a. This event of Acts 2 is about the birth of the church...the birth of the new covenant...not the speaking in tongues

- b. The birth of the new covenant...is in similar fashion...and on the very anniversary of the first covenant
- c. The result...of hearing...the wonders of God in their own languages...cause 2 reactions in the people who heard it

18. Acts 2:12-13, 12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?" 13 Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine." NKJV

19. Slide... It caused people to question what was happening

20. Slide...It caused some to mock the workings of God

- a. These two results...are why it is so very important...to do the things of God properly...and in order
- b. When we realize...the reason why they spoke in tongues...was to get their attention...to draw them near...with...the first working of the Holy Spirit
- c. God got their attention...so Peter could preach the scriptures and the new covenant of Grace to those who would listen
- d. The speaking of tongues caused these reactions...some are amazed...some are perplexed...and some are mocking
- e. If you have ever shared the gospel with someone lately...you will get one of these 3 reactions
- f. Because it is the same working...of the same Holy Spirit...that caused people to be

21. Slide... either amazed...some to be perplexed...and some to mock

- a. What happens next...is Peter stands up...and says...you cannot not deny what you just experienced...and we are not drunk

22. Acts 2:14-15, 14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. 15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. NKJV

- a. What the pilgrims experienced...is a working of the Holy Spirit
- b. Now each of them...have to decide...how they are going to react to the hearing of the gospel by Peter
- c. They can be amazed and accept Christ as Savior and Lord
- d. They can be perplexed...or on the fence...as to who Christ is
- e. Or they can mock Christ...
- f. But each person has to make their own decision about Christ
- g. I used to mock Christ...then I was perplexed...until I was later amazed when I read the gospel for myself
- h. So kind and loving is our Lord...that He pursued me...and the Holy Spirit never tired...trying to reach me...to show me who Christ is...the Lord

23. Pray...Jesus thank you for your gospel...thank you that you saw it good to die for our sins...so that we can spend eternity with you...Lord thank you for the power of the Holy Spirit to spread the good news of what Jesus did for man on the cross...may you receive the glory for not only the power of the cross...but the power to tell other of the cross...Thank you for pursuing us...with the good news of salvation...Amen