

Pentecost - Acts 2 12-06-20

Acts 2 is one of the most important chapters in the Bible for a number of reasons. The Story of Pentecost begins in the Old Testament, where it is called the Feast of Weeks. IN Exodus 34:22 Moses commanded the people to appear before God three times a year; the Passover, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles. Pentecost occurred 49 days after the Passover. Traditionally, it was also seen as the date that the giving of the Law of Moses occurred in Exodus. For many of the people, it meant that they would come to Jerusalem for Passover and stay to leave at Pentecost. This meant that these are the people who witnessed (and participated in) the murder of Jesus.

Before this chapter, there had been a promise by Jesus of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in Acts 1:8. This fulfilled promises that had been made by John the Baptist in the beginning of his work. This promises was fulfilled in Acts 2:1-4. After this, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is not mentioned again in the Scriptures. Instead, Scriptures would point to only ONE baptism (Eph. 4:5). When the Spirit arrives as promised, the power of the Tower of Babylon, the confusion of language and the scattering of mankind is reversed.

As the people marvel, Peter stands up and delivers a sermon. It begins with a quote from one of the oldest prophets of Israel: Joel. Joel had seen this day coming, and described it as the beginning of the last days (the last covenant, the covenant of Christ). It would begin with the pouring out of the Spirit of God and the revealing of signs and wonders. It would conclude with the Day of the Lord, which was the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. Joel summarizes with this: *"Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved"*.

Peter then makes the application. Jesus was known to all as one who was attested by signs from God. This actually tells us the purpose of miracles: to confirm that someone indeed came from God. Jesus' death was a predetermined plan, although this did not mitigate that He had been murdered by the people to whom Peter spoke. Yet He had not remained dead, as God had raised Him up, something all there could attest. Jesus was now reigning in heaven.

This profound message ended with Peter declaring that the people were guilty of the greatest murder in history. Worse, the one they murdered had been raised and now ruled. In such a situation, could there be any hope? The people were pierced to the heart, and asked "What shall we do?"

This begins the process of salvation. Peter declared in Acts 2:38 that first they needed to repent of their sins. Then he stated that they needed to be baptized. This baptism in water was not the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It was not baptism into John. It was a baptism into the name of Jesus (Romans 6:1-3) for the remission of sins. The result of this was "The gift of the Holy Spirit", which we know in other places such as Romans 6:23 is eternal life.

Peter did not merely teach this to only those there. He declared that this *"...promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."* (Acts 2:39) Later these same people would declare that all men everywhere would be saved the same way (Acts 15:11). Thus thousands of people were saved that day by obeying that form of doctrine brought by the Apostles.

That day was a first day of the week. It inaugurated the new worship of God. They had come to worship as Moses instructed, but now they would worship in Christ. That new worship is described in Acts 2:42-45 as being a continuation in the Apostle's doctrine, breaking of bread (communion), prayer, and

contributing to the needs of Saints. Later the New Testament writers would tell us that this worship was practiced every first day of the week (Acts 20:7, 1 Cor. 16:1-2).

The Day of Pentecost was the day that the Kingdom was opened. In this chapter we saw the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, the purpose of miracles, the Plan of Salvation, and the Worship of the Church.

Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved

Acts 22:16 And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'