

## Pentecost 2023

As we have been engaging with the Lord and His word pertaining to Israel, it is fair to say that the heart of our church is expanding for God's divine purposes with Israel. Both the history of Scripture as well as the prophetic future reveals that everything in God's timeline emphasizes the importance of Israel.

**As we celebrate Pentecost, understand that the Acts 2 outpouring of the Holy Spirit came upon 120 Jewish men and women, in the midst of the Jewish feast of weeks or in Hebrew Shavuot shav-you-ought which means weeks. This feast was 7 weeks and one day after Passover or 50 days. Pentecost means 50 and is the Greek New Testament name for Shavuot. Jews made the pilgrimage to Jerusalem to celebrate the giving of the Torah (law) to Moses on this special day. God had His people's lives revolve around the feasts in order to remember His faithfulness. They would count down the days from Passover to Pentecost, celebrating their deliverance from Egypt in Passover and celebrating the giving of the Torah at Pentecost.**

*Deuteronomy 16:16 (NKJV) "Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed.*

### First Pentecost

Exodus 19:16-20 (NKJV) 16 Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who [were] in the camp trembled. 17 And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. 18 Now Mount Sinai [was] completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. 19 And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. 20 Then the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

- **In order to understand Pentecost more fully we can lay Acts 2 the giving of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem over the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, Exodus 19 (superimpose). The two events are forever inseparable and linked. This link creates profound theological implication for all believers.** This helps us have greater understanding of the sovereignty and forethought of God and His revelation to man. **The second Pentecost could not have come if the first Pentecost had not had happened.**

- **On the same day that Israel celebrated the Receiving of the law from God, He spoke again, ripped open the heavens, sent the sound of a mighty rushing wind, tongues like flames of fire and wrote not on tablets of stone but upon the heart of man when He filled them with His Spirit, His very breath.** The first Pentecost the Law was given, this Pentecost His Spirit was given. The blood of Passover preceded the outpouring of His Spirit.
- **When God spoke from Mount Sinai it is believed His voice spoke simultaneously in all the languages of the world.** Jewish scholars translate EX. 19:16 as people actually saw the voice of God coming out of the mountain in tongues of fire, since it seems strange to see voices these phrases were translated as thunderings and lightnings.
- **After being filled with the Holy Spirit in Acts 2, the baptism of fire, the disciples found themselves proclaiming the Gospel in every language.** Holy Spirit spoke out of their mouth.
- At Sinai 3000 people perished that day because they worshipped a false god.(Ex. 32:28) On Pentecost, 3000 souls were born again and came to life as they responded to the true God (Acts 2:41)
- The initial giving of the Torah was with signs and wonder in the heavens, there were signs and wonders in the upper room.
- As we look at the two separate vents being linked together it gives us a greater/more complete understanding.

**This is the day we celebrate the outpouring of The Holy Spirit upon His church.**  
**The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not simply an add on but is a primary goal of the Bible for all believers.**

**Acts 1:4-5** Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "*Which,*" He said, "*you heard of from Me;*" for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit *not many days from now.*" **Acts 1:8** but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to *the remotest part of the earth.*"

**Jesus died on Passover, was resurrected and spent 40 days on earth revealing himself to His disciples. Following His ascension the disciples met in one accord in the upper room in prayer for 10 days.**

**Acts 2:1-8** (NKJV) 1 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. 5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, 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?”

- **Wind**-There came a noise like a violent rushing wind and it filled the whole house. The sound that drew the crowd was the noise like a violent rushing wind. **A sound from heaven!**
- **Fire**-Tongues of fire distributing themselves, resting on each one of them. The flame of God descended upon them, not a mountain.
- **They were all filled with the Holy Spirit (breath of God)** and began speaking with other tongues or languages as the Spirit was giving them utterance
- **The crowd was confounded (Confused, perplexed) because these Galilean, uneducated men were speaking boldly in other known languages** the wonderful works of God!

**Purpose of the infilling was not so we would have a specific gift but that the church would have the fullness of the Holy Spirit!** From the beginning God longed to dwell with man and tabernacle with him. The Holy Spirit is the very essence and person of God, who possesses all gifts, establishes all fruit and is the power of God living in you and through you. Jesus came to save us yes, but He also came to baptize with **Holy Spirit and fire!** There is a fire that is available for every believer who will not settle but will pursue the fullness of His Holy Spirit. Where the world is headed there is no other option for the church we must be filled, focused and abiding.

**There is a diversity in teaching about being filled with the Holy Spirit but perhaps that is because there is diversity in the New Testament itself.** Though we were meant to build bridges within the Kingdom of God we have built doctrinal walls that highlights our understanding and experience and has no allowance for others. God doesn't follow our systematic and doctrinal systems, He is not contained by us though often times our unbelief confines Him from moving fully.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit according to the word of God can happen at the time of conversion, before or after water baptism, with tongues, with prophecy, with boldness, with joy accompanying it. It is evident that God likes diversity. The Holy Spirit is free to do it any way He pleases and our job is to hunger and thirst for everything that He has. **The one consistent evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit is a life that is sanctified to look more like Jesus.**

### **Different works of the Holy Spirit**

#### **1. Receiving the Holy Spirit**

In John 20 after Jesus death and resurrection but prior to His ascension Jesus breathed upon His disciples

John 20:21-22-So Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”<sup>22</sup>And when He had said this, He breathed on them and \*said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

- In receiving the person of the Holy Spirit the disciples are born again and receive the indwelling Holy Spirit. Making them a new creation
  - This passage parallels the Father breathing on Adam in the first creation and a new creation began. **This is John 3:3 being born again**
1. **Being filled with the Holy Spirit**
    - A deeper work of full consecration, fully yielding your life to the life of Jesus Christ
    - Being equipped from power on high to fulfill your mission to the world.
    - Both purifies your heart, empowers and emboldens. Jesus saved you so He could fill you. **This is Acts 2-being filled!**
  1. **Fellowship, abiding, getting to know and understand Holy Spirit. Ongoing encounters and fillings with the Holy Spirit.**

**The question for today is if you have been saved by His grace, have you been baptized by the Holy Spirit of God. Have you given Him everything you know how to give and have you received His fullness.** Are streams of living water flowing from you, are you abiding in the continual filling of the Presence of God? Are you free from the power of sin in your life and does the Holy Spirit have His full grip upon you?

**steps that can be used to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit** (these are meant to help guide.)

1. Repent and receive Jesus Christ as Lord
2. Change your mind about sin, renounce it
3. Hunger and thirst for righteousness, long for more of Jesus through prayer and the word. Feed your faith
4. Obedience and total surrender of every part of your life
5. Ask, contend
6. Have a Spirit filled believer lay hands on you
7. Receive by faith

**This is not to be a doctrine that can be fully explained with the mind, it is an experience, an encounter with a baptism from the Son of God that is for every single believer that is backed with powerful encounters in Scripture and men, women, boys and girls throughout history.**

## Revival groups

- Discuss the beauty of superimposing or laying the Acts 2 Pentecost account on top of the Exodus 19, Mount Sinai account. How does this provide a fuller picture of Pentecost?
- Discuss the similarities and difference's between the accounts.
- Discuss-The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a primary goal of God for every believer.
- Discuss the purpose of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- Share testimony of when you were filled with the Holy Spirit. What led up to that point in your life and how would you encourage others to pursue God in this way.

Pray for those who are hungry and thirsty for the baptism of fire!