

The Road to Pentecost

Colossians 3:1-4

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, **set your hearts on things above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.** **3** For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Passover: April 8th

Day of Pentecost: May 28

Most will observe on Sunday, May 31.

The term Pentecost comes from the Greek meaning "**fiftieth**". It refers to the festival celebrated on the fiftieth day after Passover, also known as the "**Feast of Weeks**" or **Shavout**; Festival of Harvest and Day of the First Fruits

For the Jew Pentecost/Shavout/Feast of Weeks has a double significance. It marked the all-important wheat harvest in the Land of Israel (Exodus 34:22) and it commemorates the anniversary of the day when God gave the Torah to the nation of Israel at Mount Sinai.

But for the Disciples who were sent by Jesus to the upper room to terry the day of Pentecost has an entirely new meaning.

For the early Church it was a day of Encounter...

It was a day of Visitation by the Holy Spirit of God...

It was a day of Empowering...

It was a day that set their Hearts and Minds on Things Above...

Genesis 28

10 Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. **11** When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. **12** He

had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. 14 Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. 15 I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

16 When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." 17 He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

Jacob had just tricked his Father Isaac into thinking he was Esau
Jacob had just stolen the blessing from his brother
Now he was fleeing for his life, headed to his Uncle Laban

Jacob believed in the Blessing...

But he had yet to encounter the God of the Blessing until now...

Jacob saw the angels ascending and descending

Jacob saw the Lord

Then he said:

"Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." 17 He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place!"

Can I tell you - One Encounter with God caused Jacob to set his heart and mind on things above, not on earthly things...

Jacob had an encounter with God - it was a Confirmation & Realization...

In Daniel Ch. 4 Nebuchadnezzar was the king of Babylon. He has a dream from the Lord that greatly disturbs him and he speaks to Daniel about it. These are the words of Daniel to King Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 4

Daniel answered, “My lord, if only the dream applied to your enemies and its meaning to your adversaries! 20 The tree you saw, which grew large and strong, with its top touching the sky, visible to the whole earth, 21 with beautiful leaves and abundant fruit, providing food for all, giving shelter to the wild animals, and having nesting places in its branches for the birds— 22 Your Majesty, you are that tree! You have become great and strong; your greatness has grown until it reaches the sky, and your dominion extends to distant parts of the earth.

23 “Your Majesty saw a holy one, a messenger, coming down from heaven and saying, ‘Cut down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump, bound with iron and bronze, in the grass of the field, while its roots remain in the ground. Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven; let him live with the wild animals, until seven times pass by for him.’

24 “This is the interpretation, Your Majesty, and this is the decree the Most High has issued against my lord the king: 25 You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes. 26 The command to leave the stump of the tree with its roots means that your kingdom will be restored to you when **you acknowledge that Heaven rules.** 27 Therefore, Your Majesty, be pleased to accept my advice: **Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed.** It may be that then your prosperity will continue.”

For King Nebuchadnezzar the encounter he had with God in the dream was a wake up call...

Daniel said, “your kingdom will be restored to you when **you acknowledge that Heaven rules.**”

King Nebuchadnezzar had an Encounter with God - It was for Awakening...

"Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed."

Then it says two months later that is what happened...

Vs. 33,34

33 Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like the ox. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird.

34 At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever.

There is an encounter that is for Mercy and Awakening...

Acts 19

1 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples ² and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

3 So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?"

"John's baptism," they replied.

4 Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. 7 There were about twelve men in all.

This is what I would call - An Encounter of In-filling and Power

"the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied."

Oh what a powerful encounter they had with God...

They spoke with a Heavenly Language...

They Prophesied: spoke by divine inspirations...

Now listen this one encounter didn't end there:

8 Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. 9 But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. 10 This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

This One Encounter with God - brought Power & In-Filling

- **Men were turned into Ministers** - *“He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall”*
- **A Move of God hit the City of Ephesus...**
- **God did extraordinary Miracles** - *“even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.”*

Colossians 3

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, **set your hearts on things above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.**