

Pentecost.

Acts 2:1-4.

Sunday morning, July 12, 2009.

I. The day of Pentecost.

- A. Pentecost, literally “the fiftieth” Vs. 1. It was the fiftieth day after the first Sabbath following Passover. See Leviticus 23:15,16.
1. The Lord rose from the dead on the first day after the first Sabbath following Passover. “Christ the first fruits.” On this day the first fruits of the grain harvest (Barley) were offered to the Lord. Leviticus 23:10,11.
 2. A week of sevens, or seven sevens would go by, and then the feast of weeks or Pentecost would be celebrated, marking the end of the wheat harvest. It was a harvest festival, and the Holy spirit came for the harvest of the world.
- B. Wind and fire. Vs. 2,3.

The Holy Spirit comes under the sensible signs of wind and fire.

1. Wind.

- It was only the sound of “a rushing mighty wind.” It was not the wind itself which might have taken the house apart.
- The sound of it was loud enough to get the attention of the whole city, which measured about ½ by ¾ mile, summoning them together.
- It came at the ninth hour, which is at the conclusion of the morning service in the temple; right about the time the officiating priest pronounced the benediction on the worshippers, after which they left the temple. Vs. 15
- The wind speaks of sovereignty. “The wind blows where it wishes...”

Jn.3:8

The wind speaks ability. Who can stand against the powers of the wind?
The wind speaks of mystery. “You can not tell from where it comes and where it goes.” John 3:8.

The wind speaks of life. Breath, spirit, and wind are all the same word in the original languages. God breathed the breath, spirit or wind of life into man’s nostrils, and man became a living soul. Genesis 2:7.

- In summary the wind is an emblem of God Himself. Genesis 3:8.

2. Fire.

- “Then there appeared to them divided tongues as of fire...”
- The word translated “divided” carries the sense of “distributed.” It would appear then that the fire appeared as a whole among them, distributing itself as a tongue of fire on each of the 120 present.
 - The fire stands for purity and light. It too is an emblem of the Lord Himself.
 - This fire and light was present in the temple in the holy of holies above the mercy seat of the ark of the covenant, between the two cherubim. It was the only source of light in the holy of holies.
 - This was the inauguration of the New Covenant church. It is a unique event. As the glory of the Lord descended only once on the tabernacle, and only once on the temple, so it came but once on the Christian Church. Exodus 40:34,35; 1 Kings 8:10,11.

- C. They spoke with other tongues.
 - 1. Immediately the Holy Spirit begins to direct the message of the Lord Jesus to all the nations in accordance with the great commission.
 - 2. Immediately the holy Spirit begins to convince and convict the Jewish nation of their culpability in the rejection and death of the Lord Jesus Christ. Tongues were a sign to them to this end for Isaiah had said: "With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; and yet for all that, they will not hear Me." Isaiah 28:11,12 quoted in 1 Cor. 14:21,22.

II. The significance of Pentecost for us today.

- A. We should recognize that Pentecost was a unique event in redemptive history; never to be repeated. It parallels the inauguration of the OT tabernacle and temple. Some Christian groups and individuals have at times lost sight of the uniqueness of this event.
- B. Recognizing the uniqueness of the event, we should be careful not to lose sight of the ongoing significance of the coming and presence of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. The apostle Paul speaks to all believers at all times in Eph. 4:30 saying: "Grieve not the Spirit." and in 1 Thess 5:19 "Do not quench the Spirit."
 - 2. The Lord Jesus spoke to believers of all times great words of encouragement: "Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door shall be opened unto you...for, if you then, being evil, know how to give good things to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" Luke 11:9 and 13.
- C. There were tongues as of fire, and one sat on each of them, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.
The Holy spirit is still for each of God's children, and He is for all of them.
- D. The Holy Spirit still comes to purify and to empower. He comes to form and reform us by the word of God. He comes to conform us to the Lord Jesus Christ. He comes to change us from the inside; to put a new mainspring in our clock.
 - 1. He comes to take our willfulness away, and to make us humbly submissive to, and desirous of, the will of God.
 - 2. He comes to take our self-love away, and to give us a love for the Lord, for His Kingdom, and for His people.
 - 3. He comes to take our unrest away and to give us God's peace.
 - 4. He comes to take our doubts and fears away, and give us His hope and rest.
 - 5. He comes to take our sadness and emptiness, and give us His joy and purpose.
 - 6. He comes to take away the storms of desire that stir up the waters of our soul, and give us His contentment.
- E. He still comes to those who ask for Him, and who wait for Him; those who believe in him and anticipate His coming to them.
This was the disposition of the disciples during the ten days they waited for the Holy Spirit's coming. He became their chief desire; his purifying and empowering work. His rearranging the very fabric and furniture of their souls. Is He your chief desire? His companionship; His purifying and empowering work? "I believe in the Holy Spirit." Do you?