

Study of Acts

Lesson 2

Acts Chapter 2, Exodus 11 & 12

1. Pentecost = a Jewish festival held on the 6th day (and usually the 7th) of Sivan also called Shavuot (MAY- JUNE ON THE JEWISH CALENDAR), fifty days (7 Sundays after Easter) after the second day of Passover. It was originally a harvest festival or day of the FIRST FRUITS, but also commemorates the giving of the Law (the Torah).
 - a. To understand the significance of Pentecost we must understand the meaning of Passover. Pentecost follows the feast of unleavened bread or Passover
 - a. The first Passover Exodus 11 and 12 (read some of the text)
 - b. Passover was also called the festival of unleavened bread. Found in Exodus 12:39 READ
 - c. Passover is the commemoration of the liberation of Israelites from slavery. This festival was also significant in that it represented the act of removing leaven, yeast or teaching. The old yeast or leaven represents teachings and doctrines of man.
 - d. Celebrated from generation to generation Exodus 12:24-27
 - e. Peter speaks of Jesus death signifying that He is our Passover lamb in Acts 2:36-38 and follows up with telling us to repent of following the old ways of man and follow the Jesus in newness of life. We see the transition from Passover to Pentecost in Romans 6:4
 - b. Shavuot or Pentecost is a festival of the grain harvest or NEW YEAST
 - a. removing the old yeast is significant in that Jesus explained in Matthew 16:6 that the leaven or yeast represents teaching and he warned against the teaching of the Pharisees, which is the doctrines and traditions of men. At Passover we are taught to remove the old yeast, and at Shavuot we are given NEW YEAST the Holy Spirit teaching.
 - b. Pentecost commemorates the giving of the Torah (Moses receiving the law on Mt Sinai), and the giving of the Holy Spirit in Acts.
2. Jesus promises of this new (yeast) teaching through the Holy Spirit in John 14:26 and we see the fulfillment of this new teaching on Pentecost in Acts 2:1-4 so let's look at some of the parallels in both the giving of the law and the giving of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Fire, wind and voices (thunder)
 1. Exodus 20:18 In Strong's Concordance, the word thunder in this verse is translated as a loud voice or languages. According to Jewish tradition, 10 commandments were spoken in every language of the world. So that the whole world might understand it. People trembled at the flash of lightning and billows of smoke
 2. In vs 4-6 of Acts 2, the Holy Spirit enables the disciples to speak in other languages to equip them for the great commission, taking the

gospel into ALL NATIONS, mighty rushing wind and fire appeared on their heads.

- b. There are also parallels in how it helps us in our Holy Living
 - a. In Exodus at the giving of the Law, God gave Moses the 10 Commandments on tablets of Stone.
 - b. At the giving of the Holy Spirit the word says He put the “law on their hearts” Jeremiah
 - c. Hebrews 8:10 – I will make a covenant with the house of Israel...I will put my laws into their minds and write them on their hearts. This doesn’t happen except the Holy Spirit dwells with in us so that we no longer live by the law but by the leading of the Holy Spirit.
 - d. In Ezekiel 36:26-27 it says “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh, And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”
3. Pentecost = 50 days there is significance in the number
 - a. Penta meaning the number 5. The significance of the number 5 is that 5 represents GRACE or God’s goodness, kindness and favor like in the story if Jesus taking 5 loaves and transforming them to feed 5 thousand.
 - b. Also, the Book of Psalms is divided into 5 major sections. Section 1 (Psalm 1 to 41) refers to the Passover, Israel's beginning, and the start of the God's plan of salvation that centers around Christ, Jesus is our First Fruits, our forerunner, our Passover Lamb!!
4. The fact that the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost is hugely significant in that He is the one who “puts the law in their (our) hearts”.
 - a. The Holy Spirit could only come through Jesus being the Passover lamb, and because God gave us this gift, we are NOW free from the slavery of sin that once held on to us as the Holy Spirit empowers us to walk out a life of holiness and a life that is pleasing to God Philippians 2:13, For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him!!!!
5. In Acts 2:42-47 we begin to see that this new community of believers began to see the significance of the season they were living in.
 - a. They devoted themselves to this NEW YEAST, teaching vs 42
 - b. They began living in UNITY in the Spirit of God vs 42, 46, Paul also speaks of this in Philippians 2:1-11
 - c. What does this unity in the spirit look like? In Acts chapter 2 it says, “And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.” That’s right the gospel was spreading, and the COMMUNITY began to grow...we will talk about this community next week.

1 Corinthians 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.