

THE GREAT DAY OF PENTECOST

Acts Two

Introduction:

1. There have been many great days in the history of the world.
 - a. The day the Law was given at Mt. Sinai.
 - b. The day Jesus was born.
 - c. The day Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world.
2. The first Pentecost day after the ascension of Christ may have been the greatest!
3. Why was Pentecost a great day?

Discussion:

I. PENTECOST WAS A MAJOR FEAST OF THE JEWS.

- A. All men were required to attend three feasts (Ex. 23:14-17):
 1. Passover commemorated the saving of the firstborn.
 2. Pentecost celebrated the beginning of harvest.
 3. Tabernacles commemorated the years in the wilderness.
- B. Pentecost was also known by other names:
 1. The Feast of Weeks (Ex. 34:22).
 2. The Feast of Harvest (Ex. 23:16).
 3. The Feast of Firstfruits (Num. 28:26).
- C. Pentecost came fifty days after Passover (Lev. 23:15,16).
 1. "Pente" is from Greek meaning "fifty."
 2. Seven sabbaths were counted from Passover; the following day was Pentecost.
 3. Pentecost always fell on the first day of the week.
- D. The Lord was crucified at Passover; He was vindicated at Pentecost.

II. THE APOSTLES RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT ON PENTECOST.

- A. Jesus commanded them to wait in Jerusalem (Acts 1:4, 5, 8).
- B. They were baptized in the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.
 1. The apostles were all together in one place.
 2. There was a sound as of a rushing mighty wind.
 3. There appeared tongues as of fire sitting upon each one.
 4. A great number of people were attracted.
- C. The apostles began to speak in tongues as the Spirit gave them

utterance.

1. They were all Galileans, but spoke in languages they had never learned.
2. Sixteen different nationalities were present.
3. Each heard the apostles speak in his own language.
4. These were actual languages, not “estatic utterances.”
5. Most were amazed, but some mocked.

III. PETER PROCLAIMED THE GOSPEL ON PENTECOST.

- A. He refuted the charge of drunkenness.
- B. This was a fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel.
 1. Joel was a ninth century BC prophet to Judah.
 2. When Peter said, “This is that,” he meant it was fulfilled.
- C. Joel foretold what would happen “in the last days” (Joel 2:28-32).
 1. “The last days” is “The Christian Age” (Heb. 1:1,2).
 2. God would pour out His Spirit on “all flesh.”
 - a. “All flesh” means both Jew and Gentile.
 - b. Young and old, male and female, would be included.
 - c. Only the apostles were baptized in the Spirit, but through them others would receive spiritual gifts.
 3. “Wonders in the heaven and earth” is apocalyptic language used to foretell momentous events.
 4. “In that day,” Joel said, “Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.”
- D. Peter preached the crucifixion of Christ.
 1. Jesus was accredited by His miracles (John 3:2; 20:30,31).
 2. Jesus died according to God’s eternal purpose (Eph. 3:11; Rev. 13:8).
 3. The Jews delivered Him to lawless men who crucified Him.
- E. Peter also preached the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.
 1. God raised up Jesus for the grave could not hold Him.
 2. David foretold the resurrection of Christ (Psa. 16:8-10).
 3. God had sworn He would set David’s Seed upon his throne (2 Sam. 7: 12, 13).
 4. Peter and the other apostles were witnesses of the resurrection (Acts 2:32; 1 Cor. 15:1-8).
- F. Jesus was raised to sit at God’s right hand in Heaven.
 1. He is now ruling from His throne in Heaven (1 Tim. 6:15).
 2. He has poured out the Holy Spirit upon His apostles.

3. He will continue to reign until all His enemies are put under His feet (1 Cor. 15:25, 26).

IV. PETER USED THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM ON PENTECOST.

A. He had confessed, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matt. 16:16-19).

1. Jesus had promised Peter the “keys of the kingdom.”
2. Peter opened the doors of the kingdom on Pentecost to the Jews, and at the house of Cornelius to the Gentiles.

B. Those who heard were “cut to the heart” and cried out “What shall we do?”

1. They believed and were sorry for their sins, but were not saved.
2. Peter told them to “repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of their sins” (Acts 2:38).
 - a. Being sorry for sins is not repentance.
 - b. Repentance and baptism are joined by “and.”
 - c. Both relate to the remission of sins.
 - d. Sinners must repent and be baptized in order to have the remission of sins (cf. Matt. 26:28).

3. Those who were baptized would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (cf. Acts 3:19).

V. THE FIRSTFRUITS OF THE GOSPEL HARVEST WERE BROUGHT FORTH ON PENTECOST.

A. Those who gladly received the Word were baptized.

1. 3,000 were baptized on that occasion.
2. They did not delay for their souls were in jeopardy.

B. They continued steadfastly in:

1. The apostles’ doctrine (teaching).
2. Fellowship (giving, sharing).
3. The breaking of bread (the Lord’s Supper).
4. Prayers (1 Tim. 2:1,2) .

C. The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Conclusion:

1. Acts 2 is “the hub of the Bible.”
2. If we obey the same Gospel today, in the same way, we will be added by the same Lord to the same church.

