

## Expect the Unexpected

### The Moment at Pentecost

Acts 2:36–39 (ESV) 36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." 37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

Holy Spirit Person.. Repent...Be Baptized...Receive the Holy Spirit This week and next we will see 2 Biblical Flash Points That God chose to link together even though they occurred 15 centuries apart We will see together...how God weaves His plans through generations... And in the process, we will learn about the Holy Spirit...and ourselves.

2 Weeks Looking at the Flash Point of Pentecost... Today I want us to look... At the First Two annual trips to Jerusalem The Passover and Pentecost

### Feast of the Passover

Reminds us of the night the blood of the lamb The Passover lamb that was sacrificed Was placed above the threshold of the home It allowed God to enter...but the angel of death to Passover It was the 10th plague God had sent to Egypt It finally convinced Pharaoh to let God's people go

Each year the Jewish people...would gather in Jerusalem To remember the Passover... To remember how God had saved their ancestors How one Day a Messiah would come And save them too...The Feast of the Passover was one day In March or April

The Very Next Day...The Feast of Unleavened Bread This Feast lasts 7 days

It reminds us of the urgency of flight out of Egypt The bread is unleavened.....no time to let it rise Leaven became a reminder of their slavery in Egypt, their bondage, and their desperate need to flee

The Final Feast of the Passover Trip.... The Feast of Firstfruits Occurs on the First Day of the Week..after the Sabbath following Passover

They offered the First Fruits of the Barley Harvest to God... They took the First Sheaves of the Barley Harvest And waved them before the Lord The purpose was to consecrate the Harvest to the Lord It was our reminder that God owned the land, the harvest and everything The set apart the best...the first...it belongs to God

But these feasts explode in meaning When you look at them from the context of the Risen Messiah Jesus

### Passover

Passover... Jesus was sacrificed as the Lamb of God on Passover His blood as the Lamb of God Bring us salvation They remembered how the blood of the lamb saved their ancestors And Hoped that one day the Messiah would come and save them too

But we know the Lamb of God...Jesus...has come.. Our trust is in the blood of Jesus...the Lamb of God...sacrificed to save us His blood allows God to enter... But the angel of death to pass over

Passover for us is about Justification Being made right with God...because of our faith Accepting Jesus as our sacrifice Climbing into Jesus as our rescue ark

### Unleavened Bread

Reminded them of the life of slavery they left behind The leaven...the sins...the oppression...they left behind They had to flee...no time...unleavened bread... They ran from slavery and trusted God to save them

The day of unleavened bread reminds us that we too left our old life We too we in bondage to the slavery of sin We put our trust in Jesus...the bread of life Who has no sin...no leaven. Yet He took our sin upon Him So we could be separated...from what enslaves us

We repented...hastily ran back to Jesus We put away the old...buried with Christ Jesus the Bread of Life...took all of our leaven...our sin upon Him It is about our separation- being set apart from what enslaves us

Unleavened bread reminds us... That Jesus was taken down in haste from the cross The Bread of Life was not fully prepared for burial It ok...he didn't belong there anyway

Unleavened Bread teaches about our burial with Jesus. This indicates we should live a life separated from the attitudes and ways of the world. This involves our putting off the old man of sin, characterized by the works of the flesh.

First Fruits The Day after the Sabbath...Sunday morning They remembered the first fruit of their growing season... They set it apart for God...

We remember that Jesus...rose from the dead And was the first of God's spiritual harvest He is the fruit of God's redemption He is the consecrated one...who brings God's blessing to the rest of the Harvest

We embrace the new...resurrected with Christ It is about our consecration- Setting apart the First Portion of the Harvest for God

The Feast of Firstfruits teaches us about our resurrection with Jesus in our spirit as well as our future bodily resurrection. We are saved from our old life to live in the resurrected life of Messiah Jesus today. Putting off the old man is not enough. We must also put on the new man.

There is so much more... After the Passover Trip people returned home..for 40-50 days. Barley season was over... Time to harvest Wheat Then it was time to go back to the Temple...to Jerusalem

## Pentecost

Pentecost just means 50

While Passover was all about God's Peace Pentecost is all about God's Power It occurs during the Wheat Harvest May or June of the year

Early on in Jewish History the Pentecost was a thanksgiving celebration 2 loaves of Bread were baked and waved as offerings to God Both loaves were baked with Leaven The bread was made with fine flour that purified any impurities

The Wave offerings of these 2 Loaves of Bread Acknowledged man's dependence upon God For the harvest and their daily bread It was a feast of Thanksgiving

The Feast of Pentecost occurred on the Jewish Calendar On the sixth day of the Hebrew month of Sivan. It is during the third new moon after Passover. This corresponds to the Gentile months of May-June. The feast lasted for one day.

It initially celebrated God's power...but then something happened that Changed everything.. We read about that flash point in Exodus 19

Exodus 19:1-20 (ESV) 1 On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. 2 They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, 3 while Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: 4 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." 7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. 8 All the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord.

9 And the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever." When Moses told the words of the people to the Lord, 10 the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments 11 and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. 12 And you shall set limits for the people all around, saying, 'Take care not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death. 13 No hand shall touch him, but he shall be stoned or shot; whether beast or man, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain." 14 So Moses went

down from the mountain to the people and consecrated the people; and they washed their garments. 15 And he said to the people, "Be ready for the third day; do not go near a woman." 16 On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. 17 Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. 18 Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. 19 And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. 20 The Lord came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

Let me expand on this a bit... On the 6th Day of Sivan... The Day of the Feast of Pentecost God's People stood at the foot of Mt Sinai...

God descended upon the Mountain in a Fire...and smoke filled and covered the Mountain The smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace The entire place shook... There was a loud sound of a trumpet...that just became louder and louder God spoke to Moses..."In Thunder"

But this is where the English breaks down a bit English translation says the people experienced "thundering and the lightnings" But the Hebrew word translated thunder is our English, really means....Loud voice or proclamation..

In fact it is translated that way 383 times in the OT Only 10X is it translated as thunder

He Hebrew word translated lightning in our English, really means...bright fire Jewish scholars believe that the people actually "saw the voice of God" coming out of the mountain in tongues of fire.

The mixed multitude that came out of Egypt saw the tongues of fire and heard the one voice of God speak in their different languages so they could understand His words.

Since it seems strange to "see voices," this phrase was translated as thunderings and lightnings. The voices sounded like thundering and appeared as fire.

So on the Day of the Feast of Pentecost the 6th day of the 3rd Month of Sivan... God descended to speak to His people on Mt Sinai The Voice of God appeared as loud rumble and fire

The Jewish people literally saw the voice of God As thundering and fire The Entire place shook as an earthquake

God descended on that Day to give us the Ten Commandment...the law... Jewish Scholars believe that on that day God gave Moses the Torah- what we call the first 5 books of the TO

So for the Jewish audience...Pentecost While a thanksgiving offering of 2 loaves... Also became the day when God showed His power Delivered the Law And did so with flames from above and the booming voice of God like thunder

Pentecost became known as a day of God's power But it also came with a promise... This is where God's word explodes...

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (ESV) The New Covenant 31 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

After Mt Sinai...through Jeremiah...God said...one day...Pentecost will be different. I will stop writing on their tablets... And instead write on their hearts. On that day..they shall know me... I will forgive their sins...and remember them no more.

Each year for 1500 years.... The people would come to Jerusalem each year celebrating Pentecost hoping that God would fulfill His word to write His laws on their hearts. For 1,500 years they went home disappointed.

But God would not do it on Mt Sinai... Instead..it would be on Mt. Zion in Jerusalem With that background we can now begin to understand Acts 2

Remember the instructions Jesus had given them... Don't you dare to try to represent me... Until you receive my power and the Helper is in you

So lets remember the timeline. Jesus the Passover Lamb was sacrificed on Passover. His blood covered those who believe. Then on the Day of Firstfruits, the first day after the Sabbath. Their Sabbath was on Saturday. The First Day after the Sabbath after Passover is the Day of First Fruits. What happened on that day? Jesus was resurrected.

Jesus was the First Fruit of the New Covenant. The first offering to God of Spiritually reborn people with God writing on their hearts. He presented Himself....resurrected...as evidence of the First Fruits.

Acts 1:3 (ESV) 3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

He ascended 40 days later... Pentecost comes on day 50 Thus they prayed in the upper room for 10 days They had studied Scriptures and had seen God do many things on the Feast Days

I don't think they were too surprised...that it happened at Pentecost They may have thought it would happen on Pentecost But they had no idea what "IT" was

Those in the Upper Room... Prayed for every bit of God...and this helper.... that they could get...

Acts 2:1-4 2 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

God's Timing was Perfect... It was the Feast of Pentecost... Jerusalem was full of Jews from all over the World They had come to celebrate and offer thanks to God To celebrate with 2 loaves of bread.. And to remember how God had revealed Himself and His power on Mt Sinai

To celebrate that God had given Moses the Torah and the 10 commandments To remember that those things came at a high price

God had been very angry at them for worshipping the false golden calf While Moses was on the mountain with Him God told Moses...God to the Promise Land...but I will not go with you... You can have my promises..but not my presence. God issued a punishment that day for their disobedience.

Exodus 32:27-28 (ESV) 27 And he said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'Put your sword on your side each of you, and go to and fro from gate to gate throughout the camp, and each of you kill his brother and his companion and his neighbor.' " 28 And the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And that day about three thousand men of the people fell.

On that day 3000 people died for their disobedience

On Mt Sinai God gave them the Torah But the Torah could not provide them with power The Torah was not the promise of The Father.

The truth is that the Feast of Pentecost had been a foreshadowing... Of the Messiah who would usher in a new covenant

The Messiah who would rescue everyone from their sins Lead us to a place...to a flash point Where He would speak to us. And when our trust was fully in Him... His presence and His power would fall on us

Because the mission is too big Witness to everyone...I am going to use you... To change the world.

They began immediately...in that moment...praising God... To those who had come from all over the World Speaking in languages that they would recognize And understand.

There was such a loud noise that accompanied the arrival of the Holy Spirit That people were drawn to them...

Acts 2:2–6 (ESV) 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ... 6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.

Instead of rushing to the foot of Mt Sinai They rushed to the foot of Mt Zion

Their ancestors stood and watched God manifest Himself With loud sounds and flashes of fire They stood in awe as God's presence filled the mountain and smoke engulfed it.

No doubt it was a huge flash point Now they were drawn to the same thing...God manifesting Himself Loud sounds and flashes or tongues of fire People thought they were drunk...but they were just full of the Spirit of God Peter..once shy..now full of the Holy Spirit..boldly preaches

At Pentecost on Mt Sinai...3000 people died for their disobedience and lack of trust in God But look at what happens during this Pentecost on Mt Zion...

Acts 2:37–41 (ESV) 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

3000 people lost on Mt Sinai for lack of faith 3000 people saved on Mt Zion for their faith God is a God of details... That should be a flash point for us... God connecting dots...over centuries

Now Remember this was all occurring.... During the Feast of Pentecost... When people were waving 2 loaves of Bread... Offering the 2 loaves of Bread to God to show their dependence upon Him And to say "Thanks"

The 2 Loaves were baked with Leaven- a common symbol of sin. They already had a feast of unleavened bread...now they were using leavened bread.

One loaf symbolized the Jews who would receive the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem The other loaf symbolized the Gentiles who would receive the Holy Spirit soon in Cesarea...

It would start with a man named Cornelius validating that this promise was for both the Jew and the Gentile The Holy Spirit had come for all Just as Jesus had promised...

Acts 2:39 (ESV) 2:29 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

The 3 Feast Seasons of the Lord Represent the Encounters that God had with His people

Passover (God's Peace)....Pentecost (God's Power)...and Tabernacles (God's Rest)

God wanted us to see in Passover that Jesus is the Lamb of God Who died for our sins... Whose shed blood covers and saves those who believe

But He also wants us to see at Pentecost... That Jesus is the resurrected...glorified Messiah Who is very much alive... And who sends to us the Holy Spirit

Can you imagine...How exciting it must have been... When those early followers fully experienced the Holy Spirit?

We read Acts...and their lives were different. Each day God was just wowing them. New Discoveries... New Powers... New victories

They lived lives out on the edge... They lived in the danger zone. The further on the edge the hotter the intensity They were the original Jesus Freaks... They seemed unstoppable

We read Acts and think... Man I wish God would do stuff like that in my life I wish my Spiritual journey was exploding with adventure. They were so lucky,,,,,No they weren't!

They were not uniquely favored The life they lived was not supposed to be unusual It is the norm for them and for us It is called lived a Spirit led...Spirit filled life

So why do we long for it...and it seems fleeting? Because we miss what happened.... During their ten days in the upper room

Put yourself in their sandals... Jesus left...they are grieving...scared...sad...and afraid The Jewish Leaders had just crucified Jesus They likely thought that they were wanted men They were part of the rebellion So they were probably eager to hide away and pray

Jesus said He would send another helper...just like Him I wonder what they expected? A knock at the door? A telegram with instructions?

Maybe they would receive new bodies...like Jesus... He said the Helper would be in them... Would he speak to them? Would it be like an internal radio? Would this "another" helper...show them visions? Would He come in dreams...like to Joseph?

Maybe it would be the Archangel Michael Another rabbi? The Military Leader they had hoped for?

They had no idea what to expect... But they had been given strict instructions...to wait With a promise that they would receive power... And this time..whoever...or whatever came...wasn't going to leave them alone

But here is the key to receiving the full power of the Holy Spirit....Please don't miss this...

They prayed to receive without any limitations or restrictions.

They prayed to receive this "helper" They didn't have any limitations They didn't have preconceived expectations.... Jesus said they would receive a helper... They needed all the help they could get... So they just prayed to make sure they received all that He was giving

I don't know what is coming...I don't know what I will have to do....I don't know how I will be changed....I don't know if I will be embarrassed or not...I don't know what will be required of me....I don't know. But from the depths of my soul....If God is sending it....I want it all.

Is that you?

Do you want God's help so much...that you pray without restrictions? When you pray for the Holy Spirit...do you want all that He offers...or just the comfortable stuff?

Honestly...some pray with comfort limitations I think a lot of times..we pray God...please pour out your Spirit on me... But make sure I stay in control...Make sure I don't do anything embarrassing God I want your Spirit but I don't want to become one of them...

You know....charismatic... God please don't embarrass me... If you have to give me a gift God...could you avoid the public ones?

Others pray in arrogance God..the only gift I want is tongues, prophecy or healing Give me a good one God. I want to show you off to my friends. I want to look super-spiritual.. A public gift like that would reassure me and others that I am really saved

Some pray in geographic limitations God I want all that you have.... But I don't want to go anywhere you might send me... Give me God...but keep me here.

I think many of us...including me... Have not seen the full manifestation of the Holy Spirit in our lives We have not received all the Power Jesus intended to leave us.. And we have not seen the miraculous of the Spiritual Life we are supposed to enjoy Because we have been praying with limitations...

We never see the miraculous of God or live the Spirit filled life Because truthfully....we are not sure we want it. We haven't fully surrendered or embraced our desperate need for help

The Disciples had no idea what they were praying for... They just knew they needed God's help...God's power...and God's comfort They were desperate for God...in whatever way He wanted to show up...Jesus Paid it all and they wanted to receive it all.

Are you so desperate for more of God.... That you will take Him in whatever form...or manifestation..that He chooses?

Then we must decide now...if we really want everything the Holy Spirit IF we really want everything... that the Holy Spirit wants to give us. Do we trust Him enough and are we desperate enough... To want it all...every bit of whatever the Holy Spirit wants to pour out on us Out along the edges...always where I burn to be

As we reflect...empty yourself.... Of any restrictions you have put on the Holy Spirit Empty yourself of limitations due to your desire to control... To be comfortable... to be passive.. To accept only a manageable portion of the Spirit If you don't empty yourself of you.... There will be no room to be filled with the Holy Spirit

Less of me God...more of you... I am desperate for your help...I want every bit that you offer to me Please God...Send me the Holy Spirit...I need everything He's got. Help me God to embrace and expect...the unexpected.

Here it comes again.... We have to die to ourselves.... We must daily kill the beast that is... Our control...our comfort...our desire to be God. Praying with limitations is the sin of taking God's place as sovereign Lord

The only way that there is room for the Spirit in Us Is for us to kill our flesh spiritually As we empty ourselves..of us... We can be filled with more and more of the Holy Spirit.

We must repent of the sin of limiting God. Or we will never live the Spiritual Life Jesus intended for us. This moment...is our upper room