

PENTECOST

1. **The key passages on Pentecost are Exodus 19-24 and Acts 2.**
2. **Pentecost occurs exactly 50 days, or seven weeks, after the Feast of Firstfruits.**
 - a. **Lev 23:15-16** 15 You shall count seven full weeks from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering [the Feast of Firstfruits]. 16 You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath.
 - b. **Dt 16:9-10** 9 You shall count seven weeks. Begin to count the seven weeks from the time the sickle is first put to the standing grain. 10 Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to Yahweh your God....
 - c. This is during the third month of Israel's lunar calendar.
 - (1) **Ex 19:1** 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.
3. **In the OT, Pentecost is when God gave the Torah to Israel.**
 - a. **Ex 19:1** 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.
 - b. **Ex 19:10-11** 10 ...Yahweh 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 Yahweh will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.
 - c. **Ex 24:15-18** 15 Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. 16 The glory of Yahweh dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. 17 Now the appearance of the glory of Yahweh was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. 18 Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.
 - d. The Mosaic covenant between Yahweh and Israel was officially cut around Pentecost.
 - (1) **Ex 24:3-11** 3 Moses came and told the people all the words of Yahweh and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, All the words that Yahweh has spoken we will do. 4 And Moses wrote down all the words of Yahweh. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. 5 And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to Yahweh. 6 And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. 7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, All that Yahweh has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient. 8 And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, Behold the blood of the covenant that Yahweh has made with you in accordance with all these words.
4. **In the NT, Pentecost was when God gave the Spirit to the Church.**
 - a. **Jn 7:39** 39 ...This [Jesus] said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

- b. **Ac 1:4-5** 4 ... While staying with [the apostles Jesus] ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, you heard from me. 5 For John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.
- c. **Ac 2:1-4** 1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly 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.
- d. **Ac 2:14-18** 14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. 15 For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, because it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: 17 And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. 18 Even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.
- e. **Ac 2:33** 33 Being...exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, [Jesus] has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.
- f. **Ro 8:23** 23 ...Not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

5. Both the OT and NT Pentecosts were publicly verifiable events.

- a. OT Pentecost.
 - (1) **Ex 19:10-17** 10 ...Yahweh 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 Yahweh will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. ...16 On the morning of the third day there were thunders, lightnings, 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.
- b. NT Pentecost.
 - (1) **Ac 2:1-18** 1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly 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. 5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. 7 And they were amazed and astonished saying, Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of

Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, 11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God. 12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, What does this mean?

6. All Jewish males are to appear before Yahweh every Pentecost.

- a. **Ex 23:14-17** 14 Three times in the year you [Israel] shall keep a feast to me [Yahweh]. ... 16 You shall keep the Feast of Harvest, of the firstfruits of your labor, of what you sow in the field. ... 17 Three times in the year shall all your males appear before Lord Yahweh.
- b. **Ex 34:23-24** 23 Three times in the year shall all your males appear before Lord Yahweh, the God of Israel. 24 For I will cast out nations before you and enlarge your borders. No one shall covet your land, when you go up to appear before Yahweh your God three times in the year.
- c. **Ac 2:5-11** 5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. 7 And they were amazed and astonished saying, Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, 11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.
- d. Pentecost is a holy convocation. No ordinary work may be done.
 - (1) **Lev 23:21** 21 ... You shall make a proclamation on the same day. You shall hold a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work. It is a statute forever in all your dwelling places throughout your generations.

7. Pentecost relates to Israel's annual wheat harvest.

- a. **Ex 23:16** 16 You shall keep the Feast of Harvest, of the firstfruits of your labor, of what you sow in the field.
- b. **Ex 34:22** 22 You shall observe the Feast of Weeks, the firstfruits of wheat harvest....
- c. Israel must present a grain offering of new grain to Yahweh.
 - (1) **Lev 23:16-17** 16 Then you shall present a grain offering of new grain to Yahweh. 17 You shall bring from your dwelling places two loaves of bread to be waved, made of two tenths of an ephah.
- d. Unlike at Firstfruits, the bread is to be baked with leaven.
 - (1) **Lev 23:17** 17 [The loaves] shall be of fine flour, and they shall be baked with leaven, as firstfruits to Yahweh.
- e. Burnt, grain, drink, food, sin, and peace offerings must also be offered to Yahweh.
 - (1) **Lev 23:18-19** 18 ... You shall present with the bread seven lambs a year old without blemish, one bull from the herd, and two rams. They shall be a burnt offering to Yahweh, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to Yahweh. 19 And you shall offer one male goat for a sin offering, and two male lambs a year old as a sacrifice of peace offerings.
- f. The priest waves the two bread loaves before Yahweh and then eats them.

- (1) **Lev 23:20** 20 ...The priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits as a wave offering before Yahweh, with the two lambs. They shall be holy to Yahweh for the priest.

8. Pentecost is a time:

- a. To give God the tribute of a freewill offering.

(1) **Dt 16:9-12** 10 ... You shall keep the Feast of Weeks to Yahweh your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as Yahweh your God blesses you.
- b. For corporate joy.

(1) **Dt 16:11** 11 ... You shall rejoice before Yahweh your God, you, your son, and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, the Levite who is within your towns, the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow who are among you, at the place that Yahweh your God will choose, to make his name dwell there.
- c. For remembering God has moved us from slavery to blessing.

(1) **Dt 16:12** 12 You shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and you shall be careful to observe these statutes.

9. Pentecost signifies the reversal of the Tower of Babel.

- a. At the Tower of Babel, God confused the language of all the earth.

(1) **Ge 11:6-9** 6 ... Yahweh said, Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech. 8 So Yahweh dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. 9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there Yahweh confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.
- b. At Pentecost, God overcame that confusion to communicate his mighty works to all.

(1) **Ac 2:4-12** 4 ... [The apostles] were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. 7 And they were amazed and astonished saying, Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, 11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God. 12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, What does this mean?

10. The Church Age began at Pentecost.

- a. **1 Co 12:13** 13 ... In one Spirit we [the Church, since Pentecost] were all baptised into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.