

May 31, 2020
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
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Text: Selected Scriptures

Pentecost Perspectives

1. God's Appointed Times
(Lev. 23; esp. vs. 1-4, 5-8, 9-11, 15-21)

2. God's Appointed Changes in His Times
(Gal. 4:4-5; Mk. 1:14-15)
(Acts 2:1; Ezek. 36:27-28)
(Matt. 13:44-46)
(Matt. 16:18; 23:36-38)

3. God's Appointed Benefits in His Changes in His Times
(Rom. 8:1-2, 10-11, 15-17;)

Points for Self and Group Study

1. Consider several particulars with respect to the New Covenant. First, by reference to the following texts, examine the prophetic view offered regarding the New Covenant, and note how these texts speak principally in regard to the restoration of Israel under Messiah's rule.
Jer. 31:31-34;
Ezek. 11:14-21 (esp. vs. 17-20);
Ezek. 36:22-32 (esp. vs. 24-28) and Ezek. 37:11-14.
Then, note how the writer to the Hebrews, in quoting from Jer. 31 in Heb. 8:6-13; 9:15-16; 10:15-18, shows that NT revelation makes clear that the limited OT prophetic view did, in truth, have implicit (mystery) reference to the birth of the Church.
Note also the NT texts I Cor. 11:23-26 and II Cor. 3:5-6.
2. Consider particulars with respect to our Lord's prophetic word regarding His kingdom in Matt. 13:44-46. In regard to the focus of God's kingdom redemptive working being redirected from national Israel to the institution of the Church, at least for a determined period of time:
 - examine the following texts and note how the OT Scriptures give repeated reference to Israel as being God's "special (peculiar) treasure (people). Ex. 19:4-5; Deut. 4:20; 7:6; 14:2; 26:18; Ps. 135:4; Mal. 3:17;
 - investigate and discuss ways that the singular "pearl of great price / value" might aptly represent the Church. Consider such issues as its formation; its being a gem never referenced in the OT; its coming out from the sea; its being formed by the suffering of a living creature; and its being a gem whose beauty and value are resident in its unity – it cannot be enhanced but cutting, fracturing, etc.;
 - consider how our Lord's reference to His purchase of the "pearl of great value" might give context and inferential meaning to our Lord's introductory use of the word "Church" later in Matt. 16:18;
 - consider how Christ's reference to purchasing the field in which the treasure was found, and then burying that treasure (with implication of a future uncovering), correlates with Christ's pronouncement in Matt. 23:36-38, and even further, with the OT texts with specific reference to Israel in New Covenant prophecies (Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 36:24-28).
3. As noted in the sermon, there are five pivotal events in God's New Covenant redemptive working in Christ:
 - ◆ the incarnation;
 - ◆ the crucifixion (Passover);
 - ◆ the resurrection (Feast of First Fruits);
 - ◆ the ascension; and
 - ◆ the sending of the Spirit to indwell believers (Pentecost).Seek to assign specific and necessary aspects of God's saving works accomplished on our behalf to each of these pivotal events. Surely, all these works are purposeful in God's plan of redemption, in His eternal, Trinitarian Covenant of Redemption with the pre-creation purpose of "bringing many sons to glory" (Heb. 2:10), and the New Covenant end that "you shall be My people, and I will be your God" (Ezek. 36:28).
4. Noting our Lord's words to His disciples in John 16:7, "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper-Comforter shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you", seek to identify and enumerate some of these "advantages (benefits)" Church-Age saints enjoy because we have the indwelling witness of the Spirit. Build your list on explicit texts in Scripture.
Question: Given all the revealed 'Pentecost benefits', why should not the evangelical church (all believers in Christ) view Pentecost as a most richly blessed day in which to "rejoice and remember" God's gracious gift of the indwelling Spirit to them?
Note: In the Old Covenant economy the people were commanded (Deut. 16:9-12) to gather on Pentecost to "rejoice" and to "remember", as well as to bring their prescribed gifts of worship.

Pentecost Perspectives

Scripture Reading:

John 15:26-27; 16:7-15

Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4

1: God's Appointed Times (1)

"Appointed Times" of the Old Covenant

Weekly Sabbath

Passover
Unleavened Bread

First Fruits
Pentecost (Weeks)

Trumpets
Day of Atonement
Tabernacles

Seven
Feast
Seasons
(Holy
Days)

Ref. *Lev. 23*

1: God's Appointed Times (2)

"The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak to the sons of Israel, and say to them, ...

"My appointed times are these:

"In the **1st month**, on the **14th day** of the month at twilight is **the LORD'S Passover.**" ' "

Lev. 23:1-4

13 **14** 15 16 17 18 19 20 21



Passover

1: God's Appointed Times (3)

"My appointed times are these: ...

'Then on the **15th day** of the same month is the **Feast of Unleavened Bread** to the LORD; for 7 days you shall eat unleavened bread.

On the **1st day** is a holy convocation ...

On the **7th day** is a holy convocation ...' "

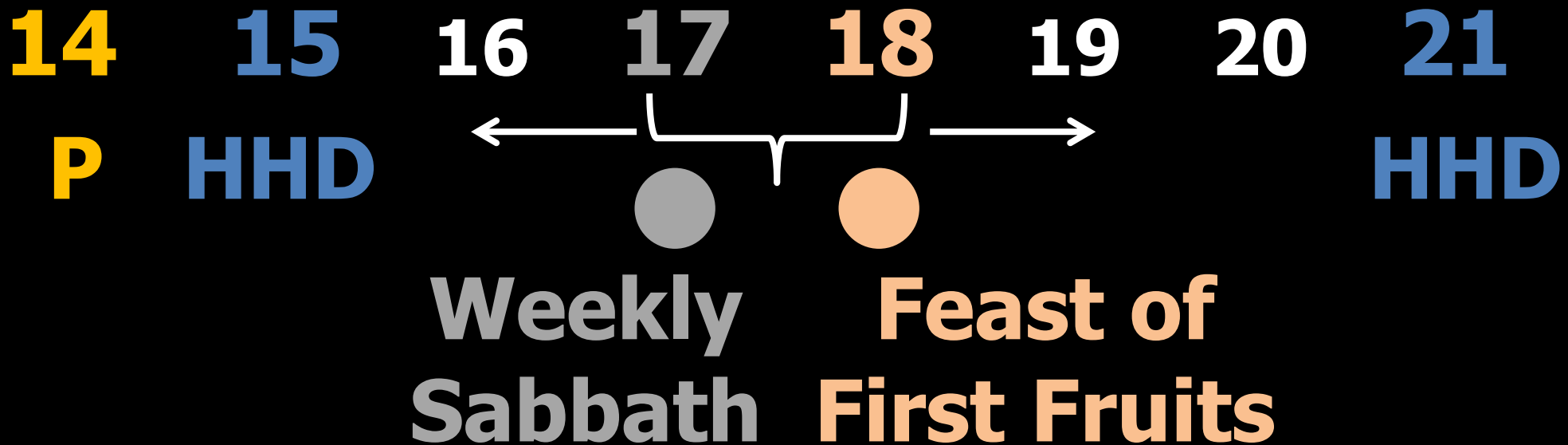
Lev. 23:5-8



1: God's Appointed Times (4)

“Then the LORD spoke to Moses saying, ...
‘ ... you shall bring in the **sheaf of first fruits** ...
to the priest. And he shall wave the sheaf before
the LORD for you to be accepted; on the
day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.”

Lev. 23:9-11



1: God's Appointed Times (5)

The Feast of Pentecost (alt., Feast of Weeks)

“You shall also count for yourselves from **the day after the Sabbath**, from the day when you brought in the sheaf of the wave offering (FFF); there shall be **7 complete Sabbaths**. You shall count **50 days to the day after the 7th Sabbath**; ...

On this same day ... you are to have a holy convocation. It is to be a perpetual statute in all your dwelling places throughout your generations.”

Lev. 23:15-21

1: God's Appointed Times (6)

FFF

week #1

Sab1

Sun

week #2

Sab2

Sun

week #3

Sab3

Sun

week #4

Sab4

Sun

week #5

Sab5

Sun

week #6

Sab6

Sun

week #7

Sab7

Pentecost

"7 complete Sabbaths"

50 days

**"count 50 days to the day after
the 7th Sabbath"**

Appointed “First Day of the Week” Events

Feast of First Fruits → Christ’s Resurrection

Feast of Pentecost → Indwelling Spirit

Creation Week → Creation of Light

2. Appointed Changes in God's Times (1)

“But when **the fullness of the time came,
God sent forth His Son, born of a woman,
born under the Law, in order that He might
redeem those who were under the Law,
that we might receive the adoption as sons.”**

Gal. 4:4-5

**“Jesus came into Galilee preaching the gospel
of God, and saying, ‘**The time is fulfilled**,
and the kingdom of God is at hand;
repent and believe the gospel’.”**

Mark 1:14-15

2. Appointed Changes in God's Times (2)

**“And when the day of Pentecost
had come (lit., was being fulfilled)
they were all together in one place.”**

Acts 2:1

**“And I will put My Spirit within you
and cause you to walk in My statutes, ...**

**And you will live in the land
that I gave to your forefathers;
so you will be My people and I will be your God.”**

Ezek. 36:27-28

2. Appointed Changes in God's Times (3)

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

Matt. 13:44-45

Israel: “My special treasure” *Ex. 19:6; etc.*

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had, and bought it.”

Matt. 13:46

2. Appointed Changes in God's Times (4)

"Truly I say to you, all these things shall come upon this generation."

"Behold, your house is being left to you desolate."

Matt. 23:36, 38

"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock **I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it."**

Matt. 16:18

Israel → Church

Birth of Israel and Birth of the Church

Formation of Israel: Born at Sinai (*Ex. 19:1,10-11*)

50 days following Passover

Law given on 'Pre-Pentecost' Day

Old Covenant established

Formation of the Church: Born in Jerusalem (*Acts 2*)

50 days following Christ's Resurrection (FFF)

Spirit sent on Pentecost Sunday

New Covenant instituted

2. Appointed Changes in God's Times (5)

Notable Changes:

Old Covenant → New Covenant

National Israel → Church

(Sat.) Sabbath → The Lord's Day (Sun.)

2. Appointed Changes in God's Times (6)

**Five pivotal events in God's
New Covenant redemptive working in Christ
through the Spirit**

Incarnation

Crucifixion (Passover)

Resurrection (FFF)

Ascension

Pentecost

3. Appointed Pentecost Benefits (1)

**“There is therefore now no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus.”**

**“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus
has set you free
from the law of sin and death.”**

Rom. 8:1-2

3. Appointed Pentecost Benefits (2)

“And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.”

“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Christ Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.”

Rom. 8:10-11

3. Appointed Pentecost Benefits (3)

“For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, ‘Abba, Father!’

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.”

Rom. 8:15-17