

Pentecost's amazing events of Acts 2



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

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Summary: *Pentecost is such a great and exciting holyday. Here I focus on the Acts 2 service, what happened, what was preached by Peter, and more. We also discuss **the speaking in tongues** that happened in Acts 2 compared to what we read happening later in the church, and the differences between Acts 2 and the other times. Why TWO leavened loaves were raised up on Pentecost and what that means. The Wedding of the Lamb to the firstfruits surely has to be at the Feast picturing firstfruits – Pentecost! And more.*

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Welcome to the Feast of Pentecost, or Feast of Weeks (Shavuot), or even the Feast of Harvest of wheat, as it's called in Exodus 23:16.

Pentecost – the term used in the New Testament, means 50, as we counted 50 days from the wavesheaf, the day after the weekly sabbath at the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Thank you for coming to our site today. I'm Philip Shields, host of Light on the Rock. Yeshua, son of God, is the Rock and He is also the Light of the World (John 8:12), as He – and all of us – submit to the will of God the Father, God Most High.

(Short opening prayer)

Would you join me? Let's travel back in my time machine back to Jerusalem of the apostles' day, almost 2,000 years ago. Somehow imagine being able to melt right in to the crowd. We can speak perfect Hebrew and Aramaic and some even speak some Greek. We are dressed appropriately.

Can you **imagine** being in Jerusalem almost 2000 years ago from before Passover through Pentecost?

(Note: these notes are close to the audio, but not word for word. There's much more in the video than the audio.)

THE SETTING FOR THE FIRST New Testament PENTECOST

Going back in my time machine, we were *there* at **Lazarus' illness, his death and resurrection (John 11) in Bethany**, just a few miles away from Jerusalem. All this happened in a relatively short time before the Last Supper Passover (John 13-17) and crucifixion/resurrection. Even though we knew how that story would end for Lazarus, it was thrilling to see a man bound in linen strips trying to come out of the tomb after Yeshua the men there to "take away the stone!"

So many times there are blocks to our vision; stones that have to be rolled or moved out of the way first so we can see what God is doing (John 11:41).

John 11:43-44

Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" 44 And **he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes**, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

Imagine how exciting this would have been to watch. Many believed in him for this, but others did not. Jewish leaders moved with jealousy plotted his death (John 11:53). Yeshua went out of the area to a city called Ephraim for a while as it was so dangerous to stay near Jerusalem before his time.

You and I – in our time machine – witnessed his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We watched him **toss out the money changers** and people desecrating God's temple into a house of thieves. We watched - some days later – from our vantage point on the Mt of Olives as Yeshua was arrested in the **Garden of Gethsemane** after his last Passover service with them.

We watched as Judah (Judas is the Greek form of his name) betrays our Master. He calls him "Friend."

Though we knew what to expect, we could hear the scourging and the anguished gasps and even some screams of pain from our Messiah as his skin was ripped apart. And yes, we watched him carry his cross as far as his weakened body from blood loss and scourging would allow him. We turned our eyes – couldn't bear to watch – as big rusty nails were pounded into his ankles and hands. We wished we could do something...

We were so moved to see him thinking of others during his own agony. He said to his mom, ‘Mother, behold your son; John – behold your mother’ and John took her away, sobbing, so she mercifully wouldn’t be there for the gory end.

From a distance, we watched the Roman soldier rip Yeshua’s side wide open and out came blood and water, and heard his victorious shout of “FINISHED!” as he lay down his head and died. And we watched some hours later when Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea took him down for entombment. Imagine - if we could have been there.

That was Passover day. That evening, nobody was celebrating. A pall hung over all believers in Yeshua. WE knew he’d be resurrected, but it seems nobody else did. It seems they felt all hope was lost! Their hero was dead.

But sure enough – 3 days later his tomb was empty! He had risen, as he had said. **We later saw the empty tomb ourselves before a Roman guard was posted!** And our **Messiah went to heaven on Wavesheaf day** to be accepted by God the Father on our behalf, as Yeshua was First of the Firstfruits = the Wavesheaf. (Learn more with my sermon on Wavesheaf).

And we were there after he appeared here and there to various ones – and finally we were **part of the 500** who saw him rise up to heaven! How exciting! A man who was flesh and blood and had died – was now a resurrected Son of God rising victoriously up in the air! People had been around him for about 40 days (Acts 1:2-3), and Pentecost was coming up.

I’m giving all this to remind you that for that first Pentecost the year Christ died and rose to heaven -- was a thrilling but unsettled time. Emotions were being yanked up and down for weeks!

We even heard his apostles ask him if he would at that time “restore the kingdom to Israel” (Acts 1:6). **Yeshua focused on the coming baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5, 8)...** and then right then and there, while we all watched, (Acts 1:9), he was taken up and a cloud finally received him out of sight. Of these 500, only 120 showed up for Pentecost later.

Read the rest of Acts 1. The early believers were in harmony, in one accord (Acts 1:14), including many women, and Yeshua’s brothers, and his mother Mary. Can you imagine if you had grown up with Yeshua as his half-brother? **In any case, about 120 were there (Acts 1:15);** God led them to select **Matthias** to replace Judas.

Then on Pentecost, we were all of one accord, waiting (remember time machine) – as Yeshua said to wait, until the promised Holy Spirit would come. He said they would be “baptized –IMMERSED -- with the Holy Spirit soon” (Acts 1:5). And that’s exactly what happened!

This was not the first time people received God’s spirit. There are *many* clear examples that God had given his Spirit also in the Old Testament, but only to a **FEW individuals here and there.** And sometimes it was for a specific skill or purpose. But it’s clear that God have his spirit to the prophets, certainly to Daniel, Jeremiah, King David, Moses, Joshua.

If you don’t understand this – check out my sermon on it: **Search bar – “Holy Spirit Old Testament”** – and my sermon on this will pop up.

In fact, at the end of the Old Testament period, we see in Luke 1:15 that John the Baptist was filled with Holy Spirit from inside his mother’s womb (Luke 1:15)! His mother Elizabeth (Luke 1:41) and his father Zacharias, were both also filled with Holy Spirit (Luke 1:67).

But it wasn’t until the New Testament when God gave the Holy Spirit to large groups of people – throughout the land, as Joel 2 prophesied for both men and women -- and quoted in Peter’s Pentecost sermon. This was 9 a.m.

Acts 2:1-4

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a **rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.**

3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of FIRE, and one sat upon each of them.

4 And they were ALL FILLED with the Holy Spirit and began to **SPEAK with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”**

Now picture the scene. You hear the sudden sound like that of hurricane or tornado type wind. Not the destruction – just the sound. People outside rush in to see what’s happening.

How exciting! Those 120 were filled with God's presence, his nature, his seed, his power, his mind... FILLED. How I'd love to know I – and you – were also filled with God's spirit.

Do you fully realize God wants you to have this gift of his – the Holy Spirit. Don't be dilatory in receiving it!

- **Do you regularly PRAY FOR more of God's spirit? YOU should. Did you today? Yesterday? Every day? We should! Father would love you to let him come into your life and make it his home. He'd love to.**

Luke 11:13

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will **your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit** to those who **ASK** Him!"

So ASK! Father wants us to have His nature, his spirit! Another scripture says that so often don't have something really good in our life simply because we didn't ask! (**James 4:2**). And when we ask, we need to be asking for something that is not just selfish but is truly good and will benefit so many. Being filled with God's Holy Spirit fits into that!

(Some other time I'll explain why we say "Holy Spirit" and not "Holy ghost".)

John the baptizer and his mom and dad were filled with God's spirit. Paul and others speak of how the early brethren were **FILLED with God's spirit** (**Acts 2:4; Acts 4:8-9 Peter; Stephen – Acts 7:54-56; Barnabas Acts 11:4; the whole group Acts 4:31; Paul – Acts 9:17-18**).

Ephesians 5:18

"And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but **be FILLED with the Spirit...**

I'd like to be FILLED with God's spirit, but also to be **LED by God's spirit**. **Romans 8:14** says those who are LED by God's spirit are children of God.

Now in Acts 2, they were HEARD speaking in other languages – languages of MEN. That is clearly what is taught in THIS occurrence. No interpreters, just a hearing miracle.

Years later, "speaking in tongues" appears to be very different from what we read in Acts 2, which was a miracle of the hearing. No interpreter was needed

in Acts 2, but later Paul says God commands that there should be no public speaking in tongues unless there was someone gifted with interpreting the tongue. He refers to speaking the language of angels or speaking to God "in the spirit".

1 Corinthians 13:1

"Though **I speak with the tongues of men and of ANGELS**, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal."

I'll post the scriptures I refer to below, but for time's sake you should carefully read **1 Cor. 14** where Paul lays out the guidelines on speaking in tongues.

But what happens in Jerusalem on Pentecost is clearly different that what "Speaking in tongues" was later on.

Later on interpreters were needed, **and it was called "speaking in the spirit" and "speaking to God" (1 Cor. 14:2)** as I'll post in a minute. But here in Acts 2 – the miracle is in the HEARING, not in the speaking so much.

Acts 2:5-13

"And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, **from every nation under heaven.**

6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, **because everyone HEARD them speak in his own language.**

7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?"

8 And how is it that we HEAR, each in our own language in which we were born? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs – **we HEAR them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.**"

12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

13 Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

Bible RULES for speaking in tongues

Clearly, later, speaking in tongues was in a language unknown to the hearers. But in Acts 2, they spoke in *known* languages, with no interpreter needed. Later, interpreters were needed – and unless someone was given the GIFT of interpreting tongues – which Paul describes as either **“speaking to God” (1 Cor. 14:2, 28)** or as **“the tongue of angels” (1 Cor. 13:1)**.

We’re also warned NOT to FORBID “speaking in tongues” – as many ministers have done, contrary to scripture (1 Cor. 14:39-40).

Speaking in tongues should be permitted, if God has given that gift, but only if there’s an interpreter and only if the service is conducted decently and in order (1 Cor. 14:40).

IMPORTANT NOTE – not in the audio – needed for complete teaching: There is also the account of **gentile Cornelius and his household** being baptized by the Spirit - - before water baptism – as a sign from God that HE definitely had accepted this family to be among the elect. They all also spoke in tongues upon receiving the Holy Spirit (**Acts 10:44-48**). Again, a third example in **Acts 19:1-7**, where 12 men were rebaptized and upon receiving the Holy Spirit, also spoke in tongues spontaneously. But it’s clear, that outside of these 3 unique circumstances – Acts 2, Acts 10, Acts 19 – speaking in tongues was not a gift given to everyone receiving God’s spirit. *We are not told in Acts 10 and 19 if they spoke in known languages as in Acts 2 – or in the spirit, as in tongues of angels or to God in the spirit.*

1 Corinthians 14:2-5

“For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but *to God, for no one understands him*; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. 3 But he who prophesies (means “speaking under inspiration” or can also mean foretelling) speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

5 I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.”

Paul prefers understandable teaching to someone speaking in tongues which no one understood – except in Acts 2, at the original Pentecost.

So far, I have not been given the gift of speaking in tongues, but I do hope God has given me the gift of inspired preaching – or what's called “prophesying” here.

*We must ALSO beware of thinking “speaking in tongues” is the final proof of having God's spirit. Too bad. That's not scriptural. **God gives different gifts of the spirit to different ones.** So some have that gift, while others have *other* gifts of the Spirit. Gifts are listed in Romans 12 and 1 Cor. 12.*

In fact, John the Baptist – considered by Yeshua as the greatest who ever lived (Matthew 11:11; Luke 7:28) – never performed a single miracle or sign (John 10:41) and never spoke in tongues as far as we know.

1 Corinthians 14:13-15

“Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.

14 **For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.** 15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding”.

1 Corinthians 14:18-19

“I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;

19 yet in the church ***I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue***”.

So Paul clearly explains that inspired teaching is preferable to tongues – especially if there's no interpreter.

Here are Paul's inspired RULES from God about speaking in tongues in church:

1 Corinthians 14:27-28

“If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be **TWO or at the most THREE**, each in turn, and let one interpret. [one at a time, 3 max]

28 **But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.”**

So if there is “speaking in tongues” going on, it should not descend to bedlam, chaos, noise, and everyone doing it all at once, as you'll see in some churches. Confusion and bedlam are NOT of God.

1 Corinthians 14:32-33, 40 ESV

32 “And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. [under the speaker’s control]

33 **For God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.** [“author of” is not in the original Greek]

40 “But all things should be done **decently and in order**”.

Perhaps I can give an updated sermon on “speaking in tongues” where we go in depth, but that should be enough to get you started.

Peter’s Pentecost Sermon

BACK TO ACTS 2 – Those given God’s spirit did speak under inspiration at this Pentecost, but it was in a way, at that time anyway, where everyone HEARD them speak in his own human language, without an interpreter. And what they heard in Acts 2 was HUMAN language – NOT the tongue of angels or speaking to God. (Acts 2:7-11).

Peter gets up and gives HIS Pentecost sermon. On this occasion, his Pentecost sermon was all about the Spirit being poured out and then he glorifies and focuses on the risen Messiah, Yeshua the Son of God.

Peter begins by explaining that in Joel 2:28-32, we read of how in the last days God pours out his spirit so even young men and young women, and old men and women are given the Spirit and prophesy.

The church service in Acts 2 is special and unique in several ways. Obviously, WOMEN were in the church service of 120, as we read in **Acts 1:14-15**. And God poured out his spirit on ALL who were in attendance, yes even the women. And ALL – on that occasion – spoke, as the Spirit gave them utterance. This was a unique circumstance, as it was the first time the Holy Spirit was given to so many – and by the end of the day – 3,000 MORE were given the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:41, 47) – and more daily after that!

After speaking about the prophecies of Joel 2, Peter goes on:

Acts 2:28-34

You have made known to me the ways of life;
You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'

29 "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 31 he, foreseeing this, **spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. 32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.**

33 Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He [Yeshua] poured out this which you now see and hear.

[The one spirit is from God the Father – through Christ – to us. The Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ – is one and the same spirit.)

34 **"For David did not ascend into the heavens,** but he says himself:

'The Lord said to my Lord, [YHVH said to Adonai]
'Sit at My right hand...'

Don't leave out God the Father. HE was the God of Israel, overall in charge, but sent the one who became Yeshua when "God" was seen. God the Father has always been God Most High, or God in the Highest (**Luke 1:30-33**; 2:14). Christ was the SON of God in the Highest. God the Father is very active throughout the Bible!

The "GOD OF" the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob/Israel -- was clearly believed to be God the Father – see Acts 3:13; 5:30; Matthew 15:31. We also know Yeshua was known as "the God of Israel" as well - when seen! **Exodus 24:10.** But NO one has seen the Father (John 6:46; John 1:18; 1 John 4:12) but MANY did see someone known as "YHVH".

Please study my sermons about WHO is YHVH? You'll be surprised, I promise. <https://lightontherock.org/message/yhvh-is-yhvh-the-father-or-the-word-or-both-the-foundation-part-1>

At the end of Peter's sermon, those from outside who came in were cut to the heart, were urged to repent and be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit – and they did, and 3,000 were added to the congregation (Acts 2:41). There was

great joy! Over time, even MANY PRIESTS and even former Pharisees were called and converted – and accepted in the body of believers (Acts 6:7).

Peter did not address anything else during HIS Pentecost sermon really, except that the Holy Spirit was being poured out, and that the Messiah had died and had risen. That was pretty much Peter's sermon material. He did not cover the first Pentecost at Sinai, or the two leavened loaves, or fruit of the spirit, or gifts of the spirit – just the Holy Spirit and the Christ.

So for time's sake I urge you to hear my **Pentecost 2020 sermon “5-Fold Meaning of Pentecost” for details** on the first Pentecost in Exodus 19-25 – and how **fire and lightning** engulfed Mt Sinai's top - - and MOSES went INTO the top of the mountain, presumably through the FIRE to speak directly with the Almighty. Exodus 24:12, 16-18.

The FIRST RESURRECTION AND WEDDING OF THE LAMB – MOST LIKELY ON PENTECOST

I also covered in the 2020 sermon about **the 2 loaves of LEAVENED BREAD that were raised up toward heaven** – picturing US, the first fruits after Christ – who will be changed to glorious spirit, shining as bright as the sun – and then we'll go to heaven to be accepted also by our Father – and then be married in heaven, to Yeshua! Amen! And then return with him to rule the earth for 1000 years.

Matthew 22:1-10 speaks of a KING putting on a wedding for his son. We know who the Son is. The King is the Father of Christ. WHERE is that king? WHO else could preside over and seal the wedding of Christ? Where else could it be suitable enough to be the site of the wedding?

Matthew 22:1-3

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said:

"The kingdom *of heaven* is like a certain KING who arranged a marriage for his SON, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and *they were not willing to come.*"

Ultimately the servants bring in anyone they could find, as those who were called first, refused to come. Ultimately, the wedding was filled with guests “both bad and good” (Matthew 25:8-10)

Matthew 22:8-10

Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 9 Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' **10 So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests”.**

So again, what happened on Pentecost? 2 leavened loaves were raised toward heaven and back down. Who did those loaves represent? The firstfruits. Who are the firstfruits? WE are (James 1:18). And who were seen standing on the Sea of Glass in HEAVEN? The firstfruits, the 144,000 (**Rev. 14:1-4**). Are you getting it?

And when did God marry Israel? ON or near Pentecost. Are you seeing it? It makes no sense for God to marry firstfruits people in the FALL that pictures the rest of the world being called.

There will be others at the wedding supper besides the Bride and Groom. See “Wedding of the Lamb” in Search bar.

SO we're now sharing in Christ's glory, **either there as a guest** at the wedding and watching – or as the BRIDE -- **“the Israel of God” (Galatians 6:16)**, the very CHURCH or EKKLESIA of God who will marry him, all glorious in beauty (**Psalm 45:13-15**) How awesome is that!! **Galatians 3:26-29** – we're all ONE now in Christ, no matter what country or color or ethnic group we're from!

Psalms 45:13-15

“The royal daughter is all glorious within;

Her clothing is woven with gold.

14 She shall be brought to the King in robes of many colors;

The virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be brought to You.

15 With gladness and rejoicing they shall be brought;

They shall enter the King's palace.”

Where's the king's palace? In heaven! (Revelation 19:1-16). Then we'll charge back on brilliant angelic steeds -back to earth with our King of kings -**Rev. 19:17-19.**

OUR OWN marriages are supposed to be a picture of the loving male Husband and respectfully loving female wife – that point to Yeshua and the Church, according to Eph 5:21-33. One man, one woman (we are “one body”). Paul,

in talking about our marriage, says it's a mystery – **“But I speak concerning Christ and the church!” (Ephesians 5:32).**

Do you see why Satan is attacking marriage so much, and demeaning the leadership of men so much? And changing the definitions of male and female and husband and wife, mother and father? He wants confusion and to destroy what all this is supposed to picture!

For more details on Pentecost – hear my other sermons from other years. Hear yesterday's sermon too!

Oh my brothers and sisters: **we need to be seeking God as never before.** We need to be joyfully accepting the call to come to the wedding (Matthew 22:1-10) and *not be giving excuses why we can't* do what we're called to do. God gets angry at that and fills his wedding as those first called were not worthy. Why we can't pray first thing every day, why we can't give up the lusts of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – as I've had to, and as YOU have to, as we ALL have to.

Be praying for God to pour out his spirit! Don't let your oil be running out. Seek first the Kingdom of God. Don't get up and check your cell phone first. Don't get up and turn on the news right away. NO, no, no – seek you FIRST the kingdom of God and his righteousness. FIRST.

I believe just as Israel married YHVH on or very close to Pentecost, I have believed for decades now that **the wedding of the Lamb will be in heaven, sealed by God the Father, and very likely on or near the Day of Pentecost.**

He's marrying the first fruits. The church – which is the bride of Christ (Eph 5:25), is called “first fruits” numerous places. See last year's sermon too.

For other scriptures showing firstfruits pictures Pentecost – see **Lev. 23:10-20; Exodus 23:16, 19; 34:22**

So First fruits is pictured by Pentecost, not the Fall holydays with their huge fruit and vegetable and oil harvests (olives). Those picture the rest of the harvest being called and having their minds opened – in their time, in their season.

God is not trying to convert the whole world right now. If he is, he's sure losing! And you know God isn't losing. Right now he's working on the first fruits – the early harvest only – and then will convert the whole world later.

The sequence is clearly seen in 1 Cor. 15:20-28.

I covered a lot about the wedding of the Lamb probably happening on PENTECOST – and happening in HEAVEN – in last year's sermon AND the series "Wedding of the Lamb".

I hope we are seeking our King and our Beloved husband-to-be and are **talking frequently with Yeshua, with HIM -- as well as our Father.**

What Bride speaks only to the Groom's father? Pray to your Beloved Yeshua too!

- **Stephen** prayed to his Lord Jesus, for example in **Acts 7:59** – "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit".
- John prayed in **Rev. 22:20** – "Come Lord".
- **1 Cor. 16:22** – "Oh Lord, come."
- **And 1 Cor. 1:2** implies praying and talking to Yeshua.

So yes, be talking with our BELOVED Yeshua, our Beloved King, Beloved Master and husband-to-be – as well as to God the Father of course.

SO Pentecost is always A VERY, VERY exciting day to me. Father, send your wonderful Son quickly, soon. Come, dearly Beloved Lord, Master and King.

CLOSING PRAYER