

TWO HARVEST ... PENTECOST 2016

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Why are we here on a Sunday? This is the Feast of Pentecost. Why are we here? The simple answer is ... it's Pentecost. Why has God given us The Feast of Pentecost?

It contains great news for all of us. Most churches believe that today is the only day of salvation ... you have to choose now. If that is correct ... then regrettably it's a pretty poor picture for mankind. What about the Chinese? They know little or nothing about Christ. What about the Muslims? Then there's a billion or more Catholics ... then Hindus, agnostics, atheists ... multi millions who don't know the true God. In the main ... people are deceived.

No matter which way you want to count it ... it appears to be the case that the majority on the earth are not going God's way. So ... most are destined to death ... lost for ever. Thank God that's not how it ends. Pentecost hints at what is going to happen to the vast majority in the future.

Leviticus 23:2 (NKJV)

2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.

Leviticus 23:4 (NKJV)

4 "These are the feasts of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times.

THESE ARE GOD'S FEASTS ... NOT THE FEASTS OF THE JEWS ... NOT THE FEASTS OF ISRAEL ... NOT THE FEASTS OF THE CHURCH OF

GOD ... NOT THE FEASTS OF MANKIND. Why can't the world see that?

Leviticus 23:15-17 (NKJV)

15 "And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed.

16 Count fifty days (*Greek: count 50 days*) to the day after the seventh Sabbath; (*the day after Saturday ... Sunday*) then you shall offer a new grain offering to the Lord.

17 You shall bring from your dwellings two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven. They are the firstfruits to the Lord.

Leviticus 23:20-21 (NKJV)

20 The priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits as a wave offering before the Lord, with the two lambs. They shall be holy to the Lord for the priest.

21 And you shall proclaim on the same day that it is a holy convocation to you. You shall do no customary work on it. It shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

Numbers 28:16-17 (NKJV)

16 "On the fourteenth day of the first month is the Passover of the Lord.

17 And on the fifteenth day of this month is the feast; unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days.

Numbers 28:26 (NKJV)

26 "Also on the day of the firstfruits, when you bring a new grain offering to the Lord at your Feast of Weeks, you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work. (*That's us today*)

What does God want us to learn?

Exodus 23:14-17 (NKJV)

14 "Three times you shall keep a feast to Me in the year:

15 You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread (you shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt; none shall appear before Me empty);

16 and the Feast of Harvest, the firstfruits of your labours which you have sown in the field; and the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labours from the field.

17 "Three times in the year all your males shall appear before the Lord God.

There are two harvests mentioned: The Feast of Harvest ... the Firstfruits harvest. Then ... a second harvest ... a final harvest ... the feast of gathering in. Two harvests ... early harvest pictured by today and a later harvest pictured by a feast of ingathering.

Exodus 23:16 (NLT)

16 "Second, celebrate the Festival of Harvest, when you bring me the first crops of your harvest.

"Finally, celebrate the Festival of the Final Harvest at the end of the harvest season, when you have harvested all the crops from your fields.

Most churches believe there is only one harvest. But they are wrong there are two harvests and Pentecost is our day ... the Harvest of Firstfruits.

Matthew 9:35-38 (NKJV)

35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and

healing (Jesus had a three-part ministry) every sickness and every disease among the people.

36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

37 Then He said to His disciples, **"The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few.**

38 Therefore **pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest."** (God sees people as a potential harvest)

Today is the Feast of Harvest ... God's Firstfruits.

Matthew 13:24-30 (NKJV)

24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: **"The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;**

25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.

26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.

27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'

28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'

29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.

30 **Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' "**

Matthew 13:36-43 (NKJV)

36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."

37 He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.

38 The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.

39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.

40 Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.

41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,

42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then the righteous (*the Firstfruits*) will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

The first harvest is at the end of the age ... the harvest of the Firstfruits.

James 1:16-18 (NKJV)

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

There are Firstfruits ... that's what we are. Then there are latter fruits.

1 Corinthians 1:18, 22-29 (NKJV)

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom;

23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,

24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.

27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,

29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. (*We aren't special ... but ... God can make us special. We have had the common sense to respond*)

1 Corinthians 15:20-26 (NKJV)

20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruit, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. (*The believers*)

24 Then comes the end, (*the final harvest ... separated by 1,000 years... pictured by The Last Great Day*) when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.
26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

Doesn't it say in the Bible that there is only one day of salvation?

2 Corinthians 6:1-2 (NKJV)

1 We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

2 For He says:

"In an acceptable time I have heard you,

And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. (*Greek ... "a day of salvation" ... " behold, now is a well accepted time; behold now is a day of salvation)*

2 Corinthians 6:2 (YOUNGS LITERAL TRANSLATION)

2 for He saith, **'In an acceptable time I did hear thee, and in a day of salvation I did help thee, lo, now [is] a well-accepted time; lo, now, a day of salvation,'--**

Today IS OUR DAY OF SALVATION ... our day is today ... we don't get any other opportunities.

How did God's plan work this way? Why are there two harvests?

Genesis 2:8-9 (NKJV)

8 The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.

9 And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. **The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.**

Genesis 2:15-17 (NKJV)

15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

16 **And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; (including the Tree of Life)**

17 **but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."**
(Hebrew: dying you shall surely die)

Genesis 3:22-24 (NKJV)

22 **Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—**

23 **therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.**

24 **So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.**

They were evicted from the garden ... and they couldn't access The Tree of Life. Since then ... down to today ... very few have had access to The Tree of Life.

Mankind was sentenced to "go do it yourself!!". Mankind was cut off from access to The Tree of Life.

There was one man here and there that had God's Holy Spirit ... Noah ... Abraham ... Isaac and Jacob ... Joseph ... Moses ... and a few here and there.

Down to the New Testament times. People still don't want to know the truth. Jesus was rejected in His day. The Apostles (with the exception of John) were martyred. Why's that? Why are the majority today in darkness? Let's look at the real reason why.

Revelation 12:9 (NKJV)

9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (*Satan ... the Great Deceiver ...of the whole world!*)

There are only a few who God is working with today ... His Firstfruits. Now ... how do you prepare people to be Firstfruits? ... to be like God in mind and spirit ... to prepare them to help rule in the world tomorrow. You would need supernatural help! They can't do it on their own.

That's where the Holy Spirit comes in. You need the Holy Spirit to: give you spiritual understanding and secondly ... you need the spiritual power to live properly. Pentecost shows us just how God empowers His chosen Firstfruits.

John 14:26 (NKJV)

26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

John 14:26 (Amplified Bible)

26 But the Comforter (Counsellor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you.

At this stage the Holy Spirit hasn't been sent.

John 16:5-7 (NKJV)

5 "But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?'

6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send it to you. *(Parakletos ... one who comes alongside to help. The Comforter, Counsellor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengtheners, Standby will not come to you ... Amplified Bible)*

If Jesus didn't go away ... The Holy Spirit couldn't be sent.

John 7:37-39 (NKJV)

37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. *(The spirit was not given until Jesus was glorified)*

Let's look at the fulfilment.

Acts 1:1-8 (NKJV)

1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen,

3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;

5 for John truly baptised with water, but you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Let's see how it all worked out.

Acts 2:1-6 (NKJV)

1 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.

5 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.

Acts 2:11-12 (NKJV)

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?"

Acts 2:14-18 (NKJV)

14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.

15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,

That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;

Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

Your young men shall see visions,

Your old men shall dream dreams.

18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants

I will pour out My Spirit in those days;

And they shall prophesy.

Acts 2:32-33 (NKJV)

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 poured out this which you now see and hear.

Jesus has received the Holy Spirit and has poured it out.

Acts 2:36-41 (NKJV)

36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

38 **Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

39 **For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."**

40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."

41 **Then those who gladly received his word were baptised; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.**

On Pentecost the real harvest can now get started. The Holy Spirit has become readily available.

Pentecost is a reminder to us today. We should be grateful that we have the Holy Spirit to help us. We are being prepared to help bring in the final harvest.

This is our Day of Salvation.

Romans 13:10-14 (NKJV)

10 **Love does no harm to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.**

11 And **do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.**

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. **Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.**

13 **Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.**

14 **But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.** *(A call to action)*

Let's be grateful that we are one of God's Firstfruits. Realise that time is short. Wake up ... live decently and make our calling and election sure.

Let us look forward to our Day of Harvest.