

I. Foundation

- A. There are seven annual feasts or “sacred assemblies” that God instructed His people to keep. There are four in the spring and three in the fall. All of the feasts had practical successive meaning, a prophetic successive meaning, and all await an ultimate fulfillment of that prophetic meaning.
1. Passover
 2. Unleavened Bread
 3. First Fruits
 4. Pentecost
 5. Trumpets
 6. Day of Atonement
 7. Tabernacles
- B. Traditional Understanding Pentecost - The fourth appointed feast of God was the spring feast of “Pentecost” or the “Feast of Weeks”. This feast took place 50 days (Penta) after the feast of first fruits and was first understood as an agricultural feast of the wheat harvest. The Hebrew word for this feast is Shavuot. (Lev. 23:15-20)
1. This final spring feast was to follow 50 days (counting Omer) after the Feast of First Fruits. At that time, you were to offer the first fruits of the wheat harvest (Latter First Fruits). Two loaves of leavened wheat made from the finest flour were offered along with multiple animal sacrifices. This was one of the three times per year that all the men of Israel were to gather in Jerusalem. Pentecost was designated as a time of great thanksgiving for the early harvest, in hopes for an abundant fall harvest. (Deut. 16:16)
 2. Tradition also holds that the Israelites came to Mount Sinai in the third month after the first Passover and exodus from Egypt. Therefore, this indicates that Moses was given the Law (10 Commandments) by the Lord at the feast of Pentecost.

II. Partial Fulfillment

- A. Giving of the Holy Spirit – The event of the giving of the Holy Spirit to the Church was not random in the timing or purpose. It was foreshadowed and planned from the beginning, through God’s interactions and instructions to Israel. As the faithful gathered in Jerusalem and celebrated Pentecost, God poured out His Spirit upon them. (Acts 2:1-47)
- B. Jesus Instructed Intercession – The events of Pentecost happened in the context of the people of God responding to and partnering with Jesus, leading up to the event. At Mt. Sinai, the people were to intentionally prepare themselves to meet God and receive His word. At the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Jesus told His disciples to intentionally gather and wait (pray) for it to happen.

- C. Peter Proclaims Joel 2 – As Peter witnessed and experienced the Holy Spirit poured out upon the 120 disciples (both men and women) gathered in the upper room, and the corresponding result of it, He stood up and through the Spirit proclaimed that it was a partial fulfillment of Joel 2. (Joel 2)

1. Why Partial – The biblical narrative is replete with partial fulfillments of prophetic promises that were practically impactful and very real in their day but still pointed to a greater and ultimate fulfillment. Such is the case with the outpouring of the Spirit in 30 AD.

“The clause does not mean, ‘This is like that’; it means that the outpouring of the Spirit that was being experienced that Pentecost fulfilled what Joel described. However, the prophecies of Joel quoted in Acts were not fully fulfilled. The implication of Peter is that the complete fulfillment was yet coming.” - Toussaint

“Certainly the outpouring of the Spirit on 120 Jews could not in itself fulfill the prediction of a global outpouring ‘upon all flesh’ but it was a partial or beginning fulfillment of the coming complete fulfillment at the end of the age.” - Fruchtenbaum

“Peter did not state that Joel’s prophecy was fulfilled on that day. The full details of Joel were not in any way realized in AD 30. Peter quoted Joel as a partial fulfillment of a prediction or better yet a guarantee that God would yet completely fulfill all that Joel had prophesied. The time of that fulfillment is placed clearly at the end of the age or ‘latter days’.” – Writers of the Scofield Reference Bible

- D. There is so much more that can be said and is yet to be understood about this event in Acts 2. However, for this study, a primary thing we want to observe about it is the catalyst, timing, and how those things apply in the complete fulfillment of Joel 2. A reasonable exegesis of the significant activity of God would predict that the future and final global outpouring of the Spirit will not happen randomly, but in accordance with unified intercession and this feast day.

III. Future Hope

- A. Believing Promises – It is my general observation that the biblical promise of a global outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all flesh unto a global harvest of souls does not carry the understanding or hope that it deserves. This is evident in the avoidant attitude that many believers carry concerning the last days. What the bible clearly says is that the “latter days” will be the church’s finest hour. Rather than avoiding or hiding in those days, they will be burning, shining, fearless, and very public witnesses of the coming King and His Kingdom. This will result from a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit just like in the book of Acts.

- B. Actual Promises – The scriptures clearly put forward a last days global outpouring of the Holy Spirit that results in bold witnesses unto a great last day’s global harvest. (Prov. 1:23; Is. 32:15-19, 44:1-8, 45:5-8, 59:14-21, 63:10-14; Ezek. 39:21-29; Joel 2:28-32; Zech. 12:10-13:2; Lk 24:49)

- C. Truth that demands an Outpouring – Aside from the number of passages that directly espouse a last days outpouring unto great harvest, there are many prophetic scriptures that demand a great work of the Holy Spirit that brings the revelation of Jesus and power, far beyond what we currently experience today. The believers at the end of the age are walking in levels of love, boldness, and signs and wonders that we only see in reference to great impartation from the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. Book of Acts – There is no question that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 was the catalyst for the fiery hearts and works that we see in the believers in the early church. (Acts. 1:8, 2:1-11, 2:14, 2:40-47, 3:6-7, 4:1-4, 4:8, 4:13, 4:29-35, 5:5, 5:11, 5:12-21, 5:41-42 etc.)
 - 2. Only a Partial Outpouring - As we consider the believers in the book of Acts, bear in mind that we are looking at only a partial fulfillment or down payment of the promised outpouring of the last days.
 - 3. Promised Outpouring Results – The prophetic declarations concerning the last days believers reveal clearly that the church will operate in both the fiery heart posture and works we just looked at in the book of Acts. It is incredibly appropriate and hermeneutically sound to assume a similar catalytic event (outpouring of the Spirit) will proceed the prophesied end time witness of which the scriptures speak. (Dan. 11:32-35, 12:3; Jer. 16:14-15, Jer. 23:7; Mic. 5:7-15, 7:15-17; Zech. 10:1-12; Mal.3:1-3, 4:1-6; Matt. 13:24-30, 13:43, 24:14, 25:34-40; Rev. 5:9-11, 7:9-14, 10:11, 11:1-6, 12:11, 14:4-5, 19:6-8, 20:4, etc.)

IV. Intentional Partnership with Hope

- A. Hope - Biblically, hope is confidence in God’s promises related to our future and faith is confidence in God in the present. Hope is not wishful thinking but rather it is future certainty based upon the truth revealed by God. In my opinion, the promise of a coming great outpouring of the Holy Spirit is unmistakable and demands partnership and hope in it and for it.

- B. Partnership – The outpouring of the Holy Spirit that happened on the feast of Pentecost in the book of Acts was preceded by believers who were interceding in unity for it to come. So too, all of the last days promises of the outpouring of the Spirit are preceded with a command from the Lord to intercede for it to come.

Feast of Pentecost

May 24th 2020

Foundation, Partial Fulfillment, and Future Hope

(Joel 2, Acts 2)

(Lk. 24:49; Acts. 1:4-5, 1:12-14 2:1; Joel 2:12-19; Mic. 7:7; Zech. 10:1; Rev. 5:8, Rev. 8:3-5)