

PENTECOST SUNDAY

June 9, 2019

“Babel, Pentecost, & the Blessing of the Nations”

Introduction: What is Pentecost?

- Pentecost was originally celebrated as a Jewish _____.
- Christians celebrate Pentecost as the birth of the Church Age that was begun through the pouring out of the _____.

Key Point: It is important to consider the events of Pentecost in light of biblical history in order that we might better understand what they mean for us for us in the _____ as well as the _____.

The Events of Pentecost — Acts 2:1-13

- On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit filled the disciples.

Acts 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.

Important Observations

1. The imagery of the rushing _____ was symbolic of God’s presence. (Job 38:1; Ezek. 1:4)
 2. These events were the fulfillment of Jesus’ _____ made to the disciples in Acts 1:4-5.
 3. The manifestation of the Spirit’s filling was shown through the disciples’ _____.
- The disciples went out and began to publically proclaim Jesus as Messiah to the crowds gathered in Jerusalem for the feast.
- Acts 2:5-13—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 and Medes and 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?” 13 But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

Important Observations

1. The crowd was comprised of _____ from various parts of the Roman world.
2. These people each understood what the disciples were saying in their own native _____.
3. They were all _____ about what exactly it was that they were witnessing.

Key Question: _____?

The OT Background of Pentecost—Genesis 11:1-9

- Throughout church history, Christians have noted the connection between Pentecost and the OT account of the Tower of Babel.

Gen. 11:1-9—1 Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. 2 And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3 And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. 4 Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” 5 And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. 6 And the Lord 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 the Lord 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 the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

Important Observations

1. Racial diversity and culture-making capability were inherent to God's original _____ for us. (Gen. 1:28)
2. Because of mankind's rebellion against God's commands, He brought _____ upon us, confusing our language and scattering us across the earth.
3. The diversity of language and the resulting development of distinct cultures stands as a testimony to how sin _____ us from both God and one another.
4. Every culture therefore reflects both the _____ of our being made in God's image as well as our _____ nature that seeks to rebel against God's authority as our Creator.

Interpreting the Events of Pentecost

- Both the events of Pentecost themselves and the language that Luke uses to describe them link these two important accounts together.

BABEL - Genesis 11:7-8 (LXX)	PENTECOST - Acts 2:6-8
7 Come, and let us go down, and <u>confuse</u> (<i>sygcheō</i>) their tongue there so that they will not <u>hear</u> (<i>akouō</i>), each one, <u>the speech</u> (<i>phōnē</i>) of the next." 8 And the Lord <u>scattered</u> (-) them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city and the tower.	6 And at this <u>sound</u> (<i>phōnē</i>) the multitude <u>came together</u> (+), and they were <u>bewildered</u> (<i>sygcheō</i>), because each one was <u>hearing</u> (<i>akouō</i>) 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 <u>hear</u> (<i>akouō</i>), each of us in his own native language?"

- The pouring out of the Spirit enabled mankind to both _____ and _____ the message of the Gospel.

Acts 2:22-24—22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

Acts 2:36-37— 36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." 37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

- The baptism of the Holy Spirit is ultimately the work of Christ in order that the _____ might know Him as Messiah and might be delivered from God's judgment and become recipients of His _____.

Acts 2:33—Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

Gal. 3:14—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

Rom. 10:12-13—12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13 For "EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED [JOEL 2:32]."

The Significance of Pentecost Today

1. The events of Pentecost remind us of the important work of world _____.
2. The events of Pentecost remind us that the indwelling Holy Spirit creates _____ among believers from diverse cultural backgrounds because we are all collectively "in Christ."
3. The events of Pentecost remind us that the present indwelling of the Spirit will be made consummate when God _____ in consummate fullness among His people. [Isaiah 25:6-9 → Rev. 21-22]

Isa. 25:6-9— 6 On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. 7 And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. 8 He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. 9 It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."