

The Lord Comes to His Holy Temple, Part II

Text: Acts 2:1-13

II. The Lord Comes to His Holy Temple

There are a few other very relevant considerations that must be pondered, before we move on, brethren.

Brethren, what exactly is going on here in this "coming of the Spirit?" Well, we have already seen in chapter one, and in the Gospels, that this special "baptism" of the Holy Spirit, is especially meant to empower the Apostles unto the laying of the foundation of the church. The Cornerstone has been laid (in Christ), and the Apostles were to wait in Jerusalem, for this special anointing of the Spirit, which would enable them to begin to lay the foundation of Christ's church. The Spirit would empower them, so that they could bear witness to the resurrection of Christ. And so, the emphasis is not on the "conversion" work of the Spirit, although clearly, the Spirit is converting here (3000 souls are added to the church on this one occasion!). But rather, the emphasis is on the empowering of His witnesses, so that they might be equipped to lay the foundation of Christ's church in the New Covenant, where all people, from all nations, are welcomed into the fold of God (Acts 2:38-39).

But brethren, up to this point, what was the primary object of reference, to which souls looked, in order to find reconciliation and fellowship with God? It was the temple, was it not? Remember, in John 4, when Jesus was speaking to the Samaritan woman, and the woman questioned Jesus as to why the Jews worshiped God at Jerusalem, when the Samaritans worshiped on the mountain in Samaria. And Jesus, first informed her that the Samaritans had been wrong all along...for, salvation was of the Jews. But then He went on to say something interesting, did He not? The time was coming, and now had arrived, in which people would worship God, not in any one fixed location, but in spirit and in truth. For God is Spirit, and He is looking for a people to worship Him in spirit and in truth. And what Jesus was doing there, was indicating that the physical temple, the shadow, was soon to be replaced by the intended substance, namely, the people of God themselves; the church! God would no longer dwell in a

tabernacle building, but rather, in a spiritual house...His church (not the building, but the people).

Well brethren, what we see happening here in Acts, is a visible manifestation of this reality. God, by His Spirit, is entering His Holy sanctuary! Remember when Moses set up the tabernacle, and then Solomon the temple, following the sacrifices of consecration, God filled the temple with smoke, indicating that the glory of His presence was now there in the temple. Well, here in Acts, when the winds rush upon the house, and particularly the people of God in the house, it is indicative of the fact that God's dwelling is now in the consecrated church, His New Covenant temple...His people! Even the pillars of fire remind us of the great pillar of fire, which led the Israelites through the wilderness by night. Only now, there were several pillars, resting over each of the Apostles, signifying the presence of God with the "foundation layers," ultimately set to permeate the whole church! God is now revealed in the church; the pillar and support of His truth! The mighty wind "*filled* the whole house" (vs. 2).

Now brethren, follow me a little further here for a few moments. Something marvelous is going to come out of all of this, bringing us to a glorious conclusion.

Read John 1:14. Here, this can also be translated, "And the Word [Jesus] became flesh, and "tabernacled" among us." Jesus, the very embodiment of God in flesh, "tabernacled" among us. Someone greater than the tabernacle had arrived, to reveal the glory of God to the world! Read John 1:18. No one has seen God at any time. What did Jesus do? He revealed Him, in His own Person!

How is God revealed now, brethren? Certainly, not through the Pope! He is no vicar of Christ! If anything can be called the "vicar" of Christ, in any sense, it would be the church. The church; the Body of Christ, is now the revealer of God; she is the Lampstand, which stands in the Holy Place, shining light on the Most Holy Place, where God's presence resides! Read 1 John 4:12.

Brethren, what happened at the baptism of Christ? What happened when Christ was set apart unto His official public ministry? What was the initiating moment of His public ministry? Read Luke 3:21-22. It was the descending of the Spirit upon Him! And what does He do, immediately after He comes back from being tempted in the wilderness? Read Luke 4:14-21.

He explains what has happened when He was anointed by the Spirit. He defines the very purpose and ministry, for which, the Spirit has set Him apart, in accordance with the OT Scriptures (vs. 18-19).

And what happens at Pentecost? The same thing. The Spirit anoints the Apostles unto their task, and then Peter, in His sermon, explains that which is going on, in accordance with the OT Scriptures (Joel).

And so brethren, all of this to say, that here in Acts, at Pentecost, following in the footsteps of the Head, the Body of Christ is anointed unto the ministry, for which God has set her apart. And that ministry is comprised of fulfilling the great commission, as the New Covenant Temple of God. And here in Acts, God, by His Spirit, officially takes up residence in His church! We are the Most Holy Place, brethren! And we are a kingdom of priests unto our God! And we are "Mount Zion" (see Rev. 21; especially verses 9ff and 12-14).

Additional Conclusive Thoughts

1) Pentecost brings about a reversal of the judgment that fell upon the world at the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11). Man, united then, sought to usurp God and glorify himself. God divided the languages and divided the people into nations. He set apart Israel (in Abraham) in the very next chapter. But ultimately, He would bring back a people from every nation (Abraham's spiritual Seed), following the atonement of the Christ, which would enable the Spirit to dwell in His people.

Pentecost reverses the curse, bringing the nations back together, as one people in Christ. Only now, being filled with the Spirit, men are united unto the end of glorifying God, according to God's proper and righteous intention. [Acts 2:5-11; 3000 were saved from among this large variety!].

2) All are gifted by the Spirit! This fulfills Moses desire from Numbers 11:16-30 (esp. vs. 29). Every member of Christ's church is gifted unto the church!

3) The tongues/languages spoken were revelatory in nature (vss. 17-21). The Apostles spoke specific languages (vs. 8), and they spoke "The wonderful works of God" in those languages (vs. 11).

4) The implications of being a part of Christ's glorious church are glorious, indeed! [Eph. 1-3]

AMEN!!!

*****Next time, Lord willing, we will begin to consider Peter's sermon*****