

The Church of the Bible

The Establishment of the Church

- I. The Day of Pentecost
 - A. Feast to give thanks for God's blessing of the harvest (Leviticus 7:30-34; 8:27; 9:21; 10:4; 23:17-20; Numbers 6:19; 28:26-31; Deuteronomy 16:16-17).
 - 1. Called, "Feast of the harvest" (Exodus 23:16).
 - 2. Called, "Feast of the first fruits" (Numbers 28:26; Exodus 34:22).
 - 3. Called, "Feast of weeks" (Deuteronomy 16:10; Leviticus 23:15-17).
 - B. It was a time of rejoicing for deliverance from Egypt (Deuteronomy 16:11-12).
 - C. Always on the first day of the week (Leviticus 23:11, 15-16).
 - D. The events of Acts 2 are the antitype to the Feast of Pentecost...
 - 1. The harvest of Jesus' personal work on earth was completed.
 - 2. The first fruits of the Gospel harvest are offered up to God.
 - 3. Deliverance from spiritual bondage could finally be celebrated!
- II. The Prophecy of Joel
 - A. "In the last days" or "afterwards" were phrases used by the Jews to refer to the period of time from the coming of the Messiah until the end of time.
 - 1. Thus, we are now living in the last days.
 - 2. It is stated explicitly in 1 John 3:18.
 - B. The fulfillment began on Pentecost, but it was not just about one day.
 - 1. The miraculous would continue for some time (cf. Acts 21:9; etc.).
 - 2. The "calling on the name of the Lord" would continue until the end of time (cf. Romans 10:9-17).
- III. The Beginning of the Church
 - A. The church and the kingdom are the same institution (Matthew 16:18-19).
 - B. The kingdom was to come with power during the lifetime of those who heard Jesus (Mark 9:1).
 - C. They were to wait in Jerusalem for the power (Luke 24:49).
 - D. The power was to come with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:9).
 - E. The Holy Spirit came with power in Jerusalem on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus (Acts 2:1-4).
 - F. Therefore, the church of Christ was established and had its beginning on this Pentecost day.
- IV. The Hub of the Bible
 - A. Before Acts 2, all references to the church or kingdom are in the future.
 - B. After Acts 2, all references to the church are in the present or they look back to Acts 2 (cf. Acts 5:11; 8:3; 11:22; 12:1, 5; 13:1-3; 14:27; etc.).
 - C. In this sense, Acts 2 can be seen as the hub of the Bible.