

# Pentecost Sunday

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**A Testament is a solemn covenant. The gospel is the Lords Testament (covenant) of salvation. It is an agreement between God and his people in which God makes certain promises and requires certain behaviour from them in return**

50 Days ago was Easter Sunday. **Q: "so do you know what that makes today?"**

The word 50<sup>th</sup> comes from the word **Pentecoste!**

So today this makes it "**Pentecost Sunday**"

If you ask a Jew today, the Day of Pentecost (**Shavout**) is the day when they remember that God gave the Torah, Old Covenant, the ten commandments to Moses which was 50 Days from the Passover.

**Q: What do Christians remember the day of Pentecost as mentioned in Acts as? What does it mark?**

**Q: The birthday of the church?**

Well the church of God existed way before the day of Pentecost.

For the Christians the Day of Pentecost is the birth of the "NEW COVENANT church.

The church wasn't birthed at Pentecost, the **NEW COVENANT CHURCH** was, because Israel was the Old testament church-

**Ekklesia**- which we translate to "Church" in English, means a "**called out company**", called out of the world into the Kingdom of God.

Israel were called out of Egypt (the world) into the Promised Land (Heaven).

The Greek word for Congregation referred to the Children of Israel in the wilderness I in Acts is EKKlesia. Church.

**Acts 7:37 This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.**

**Acts 7:38 This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:**

The Old testament Hebrew word **Qahal** which refers to the assembly or congregation of Israel –has the same meaning as the Greek word which we translate to “Church” .

So the Church of God has been around since Abraham- then Jacob, Abrahams Grand son became Israel and from him came the nation known as Israel which was the Church of God”

So the Day of Pentecost in the New Testament is not the Birth date of the Church as the Church of God was Israel but it’s the birth of the **NEW COVENANT** church.

**Q: So are there now 2 Churches- one under the old covenant and one under the new?**

No! there is only One- The true church of the true God can only be His church by the covenant of Grace through faith in the finished work of the Son of God upon the cross of Calvary.

So it’s important to note that the New covenant church is not just the gentile church but it also applies to Israel. **Heb 8:8 Because finding fault with them, He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah;** We know (as well see in a moment) that this is definitely referring to the New Covenant church for all believers, not just the Jews, but it also includes the Jews. To be saved they have to come under the new covenant.

Keeping the Law will not save them- only by coming under the New covenant can they continue to be the church of the living God.

**Gal 2:15 "We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles,**

**Gal 2:16 "knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ**

**and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.**

E.G. If a Ravi or a good Law keeping Jew in Jerusalem, keeps the ten commandments, Loves the Lord His God with all his heart and his neighbour as himself, is a generous God fearing man and truly loving neighbour BUT does not Believe in the Blood atonement of Jesus Christ- in the sacrifice of Jesus to take away our sins, in other words doesn't accept Jesus as the Messiah, is he saved? NO Because there is only Salvation In and through the Blood sacrifice of the Lamb of God who takes away the Sins of the world. And by the works of the Law no flesh- no human can be justified.

Jesus said to His Disciples:

**Mat 16:15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"**

**Mat 16:16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."**

**Mat 16:17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.**

**Mat 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, ( the rock is not Peter {his name means stone} but the confession of Faith in Jesus)and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.**

**Mat 16:19 "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."**

So Jesus is saying that His Church will be built on the rock of Confession or profession of Faith in Jesus as the Christ Son of the Living God!

This is the New covenant church which God had promised in : **Jer 31:31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah;**

**Jer 31:32 "not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD.**

**Jer 31:33 "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.**

**Jer 31:34 "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."**

You can't be under 2 covenants one has to be fulfilled and be made Obsolete (Out dated- finished) in order for the New to be in place, other wise it's like being married to 2 people at a time, it's not right.

Listen to What Paul says in Hebrews 8:6-13 in regards to this prophesy regarding the New covenant church.:

**Heb 8:6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.**

**Heb 8:7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.**

**Heb 8:8 Because finding fault with them**

( the fault wasn't with the Law- God didnt make a mistake- the fault was with us no being able to keep the Law- the law could not justify us it was there to point out our sins and to lead us to the saviour **Gal 3:24** says: **Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.** ), **Paul goes on in Heb 8:8-**

**He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah;**

**Heb 8:9 "not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD.**

**Heb 8:10 "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.**

**Heb 8:11 "None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.**

**Heb 8:12 "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."**

**Heb 8:13 In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.**

You can't be under 2 covenants. The first has to be Obsolete in order for a second, the better one as it's referred to here comes into action.

Under the New covenant Christ has fulfilled the Law, so in Him we have fulfilled the requirements of the Law, and we don't need to be taught the law **they are written in our hearts "none of them shall teach his neighbour"**.

You realize that when you are born again you know right from wrong.

You don't need to be taught that murder is wrong you know it, the same with adultery etc..... We might need help and guidance to overcome certain things, it might take us time but the Law is written in our hearts.

You know that Up until the law was given, there are no recorded deaths on the journey from Egypt to the promised land.

In fact each time the people murmured and complained against God and Moses, *although God stated that He wasn't pleased with it*, they were always blessed anyway.

- When they complained about no bread, they got Manna from heaven,
- when they complained of no meat, God sent the Quails,
- when they complained of no water, Water came out of the rock.

God was being Gracious to their unrighteousness.

Although the ten commandments weren't yet given there were things which latter were written in the ten commandments which were still in place such as the law of the Sabbath and a few other references to Gods Laws, but it wasn't till after the laws were written on Stone that you read of people being punished for their sins.

God was Gracious to them and was blessing them and they weren't really experiencing punishment for their transgressions, they were still under the Abrahamic covenant which was one of faith.

In fact **"the Just shall live by faith"** is not a New testament concept it's actually a direct quotation from the Old. **It was always supposed to be of the heart by faith.**

After the law was given/ written on stones there were severe consequences imputed on those who broke Gods Law.

**For Example:** Before the Law was given the Sabbath was still considered as a holy day to the Lord, there are references to the Sabbath way before that but people weren't killed for not keeping it..

For example this event was before the ten commandments were given:

**Exo 16:23 Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD has said: 'Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. Bake what you will bake today, and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning.'"**

**Exo 16:24 So they laid it up till morning, as Moses commanded; and it did not stink, nor were there any worms in it.**

**Exo 16:25 Then Moses said, "Eat that today, for today is a Sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the field.**

**Exo 16:26 "Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, which is the Sabbath, there will be none."**

**Exo 16:27 Now it happened that some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather (you see they weren't following Gods commandment from the heart- in their hearts they had broken the Sabbath commandment but it wasn't yet written on stone) , **but they found none.****

**Exo 16:28 And the LORD said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws?"**

**Exo 16:29 "See! For the LORD has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day."**

**Exo 16:30 So the people rested on the seventh day.**

God was displeased with them, but there doesn't seem to be any punishment imputed on them for their trespass against the Sabbath.

But as soon as they received the law, no sooner was Moses almost down from the mountain, they had already broken the first commandment which meant they broke the Law. Because of the peoples disobedience 3000 people were killed.

**Rom 4:15 because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression.**

**Rom 4:16 Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,**

**Rom 4:15 But the law brings punishment on those who try to obey it. (The only way to avoid breaking the law is to have no law to break!)**

**Rom 4:16 So that's why faith is the key! God's promise is given to us as a free gift. And we are certain to receive it, whether or not we follow Jewish customs, if we have faith like Abraham's. For Abraham is the father of all who believe.(N.L.T)**

Now listen to the consequences in regards to the Sabbath, after the ten commandments were written on stone:

**Num 15:32 Now while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering sticks on the Sabbath day.**

**Num 15:33 And those who found him gathering sticks brought him to Moses and Aaron, and to all the congregation.**

**Num 15:34 They put him under guard, because it had not been explained what should be done to him.**

**Num 15:35 Then the LORD said to Moses, "The man must surely be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp."**

**Num 15:36** So, as the LORD commanded Moses, all the congregation brought him outside the camp and stoned him with stones, and he died.

So once they received the Law they became accountable.

**Rom 5:13** (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

**Rom 4:15** because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression.

It wasn't till it was written on stone as the law that the Law became **the ministry of Death- the letter that kills.**

**2 Cor 3:6** who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

**2 Cor 3:7** But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away,

**2 Cor 3:8** how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious?

**2 Cor 3:9** For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory.

**On the first Pentecost, when the Law was given, 3000 people were condemned to killed because of their sins, on the day of Pentecost where the new covenant church was birthed by the Holy Spirit of God, 3000 souls were saved!**

Now there is a reason why the Law was given to people and why the consequences were fatal- we will have to look at this at another time but it had to do with the peoples pride and wanting to be judged according to their performance.:

**Rom 6:20** For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

**Rom 6:21** What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.

**Rom 6:22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.**

**Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

The writer of Romans says this in regards to the transfer between the Old and New covenant.

**Rom 7:1 Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?**

**Rom 7:2 For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband.**

**Rom 7:3 So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.**

**Rom 7:4 Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another; to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.**

This is the way it now works under the new covenant Church.

**Rom 3:19 Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses and to bring the entire world into judgment before God.**

**Rom 3:20 For no one can ever be made right in God's sight by doing what his law commands. For the more we know God's law, the clearer it becomes that we aren't obeying it.**

**Rom 3:21 But now God has shown us a different way of being right in his sight--not by obeying the law but by the way promised in the Scriptures long ago.**

**Rom 3:22 We are made right in God's sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, no matter who we are or what we have done.**

**Rom 3:23 For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard.**

**Rom 3:24** Yet now God in his gracious kindness declares us not guilty. ( N.K.J.Rom 3:24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, )He has done this through Christ Jesus, who has freed us by taking away our sins.

**Rom 3:25** For God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God's anger against us. We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed his blood, sacrificing his life for us. God was being entirely fair and just when he did not punish those who sinned in former times.

**Rom 3:26** And he is entirely fair and just in this present time when he declares sinners to be right in his sight because they believe in Jesus.

**Rom 3:27** Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on our good deeds. It is based on our faith.

**Rom 3:28** So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.

**Rom 3:29** After all, God is not the God of the Jews only, is he? Isn't he also the God of the Gentiles? Of course he is.

**Rom 3:30** There is only one God, and there is only one way of being accepted by him. He makes people right with himself only by faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles.

**Rom 3:31** Well then, if we emphasize faith, does this mean that we can forget about the law? Of course not! In fact, only when we have faith do we truly fulfill the law.

**Eph 2:4** But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

**Eph 2:5** even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

**Eph 2:6** and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

**Eph 2:7** that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

**Eph 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

**Eph 2:9** not of works, lest anyone should boast.

**Eph 2:10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.