

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

OPERATING IN THE SPIRIT REALM

RLJ-1434

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PART 5: FIRE FROM ABOVE

WRONG PRIORITIES

After the resurrection, Jesus spent 40 more days on earth, showing himself to the disciples and teaching about events in the kingdom of God. **Acts 1:1-3**

The apostles still had not understood the difference between the kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of God (Heaven). They were not interested in heaven where they would end up after death; instead, it was more important for them to see a physical resurrection of the kingdom of Israel as it had been under King David.

Jesus was not interested in the kingdom of Israel at this time but wanted to build His eternal kingdom through which people from every nation would be saved and born again.

Jesus could not take the disciples any further at this time because they were consumed with physical activities; the only thing that could change them was the Holy Spirit. Jesus spoke sternly to them to wait in Jerusalem and do nothing until they had been baptized with the Holy Ghost. **verses 4-8**

A HISTORICAL TIMELINE

Jesus was crucified on a Wednesday, the day before the Sabbath, also called a high day. Thursday was a commemoration of when God's angel passed over the Hebrew children and killed the firstborn of the Egyptians. **Exodus 12:21-24; John 19:31-35**

Jesus rose on Sunday, the first day of the week, having spent 3 days and nights in Paradise. **Luke 24:1-7**

In the Book of Acts we learn that Jesus spent 40 days with his disciples after the resurrection. **Acts 1:1-3**

This means that Jesus ascended into heaven 44 days after he was crucified. **Acts 1:9-12**

The Jewish festival of Pentecost is also known as the Feast of Weeks. **Exodus 34:22**

The word "Pentecost" means 50 days after the Passover; we can therefore conclude it was 7 days from the ascension of Jesus until the day of Pentecost. **Acts 2:1**



STAYING BUSY IN THE FLESH

Jesus ordered the disciples to stay in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit had come. He did not give them a time frame; they were expected to be obedient and patiently wait. **Acts 1:4-5**

The 120 congregated in the upper room where Jesus had observed the Passover meal with the 12 apostles. **Acts 1:12-14**

This was not a small room since it had space for 120 persons. There were 11 apostles, 70 other men and 39 women. **verse 15**

The apostle Peter decided that it was time for a business meeting to replace Judas Iscariot. Since Jesus had not spoken to them about a replacement, he selected two men from the 70 others and cast lots to try and find out who God wanted to replace Judas. Even though there was much prayer during these seven days, they were still moving in the flesh. **verses 16-26**

This was the first and last time we hear of Matthias.

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

The disciples had no clue as to what the Holy Ghost was going to do. After seven days of all kinds of activities, the 120 were finally in the same place and of one accord. Having exhausted every human resource, they prayed, worshiped God and waited expectantly for the Holy Ghost to come as promised.

The Holy Ghost came without warning and it was like an explosion in the room which they described as a mighty rushing wind. **Acts 2:1-2**

The 120 men and women lost control over their mental capacity as tongues of fire sat on the head of each one. **verse 3**

The Holy Ghost was not just upon them but filled each one of them with His power and presence and then moved on their tongues as they began to speak foreign languages which they had never learned. **verse 4**

They could not remain in the room any longer and spilled out on the street and continued speaking in tongues. **verses 5-12**

The power on the disciples was so great that they must have swayed back and forth that is why they were accused of being drunk. **verse 13**

Peter told the crowd that it was only 9 AM and there was no reason for them to be drunk. **verse 14-15**

Peter started to preach and the text for his sermon came from the prophet Joel, who had lived some 800 years before Christ. **Joel 2:28-32**

From Joel, Peter turned to Jesus. **Acts 2:22-28**

To confirm his message, Peter quoted from the Psalms. **Psalms 16:8-11**

Peter then built upon the Old Testament Scriptures to prove to the Jews that Jesus was indeed the long awaited Messiah. **Acts 2:29-36**

It was then that the Holy Ghost descended upon the Jewish men who were standing and listening and they were convicted of their sins. **verse 37**

Peter gave an invitation to salvation and 3,000 men received Jesus as their Lord and Messiah (Savior). **verses 38-41**

The church of Jesus Christ was born on the day of Pentecost. At 9:00 AM it had 120 members but by the evening the number had grown to 3,120 members. **verses 42-47**

When the crowd of Jews met the 120 disciples in the morning they had no intention of accepting Jesus as their Messiah but the power of the Holy Ghost flowed out from the disciples and smashed all resistance and opened their hearts so they could repent!

No man can be saved without the Holy Ghost! John 6:44; 65

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?