

Predestined to Pentecost

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Pentecost is one of God's Holy Days and is positioned between the Passover and the Last Great Day of the Festival of Booths, or Tabernacles (Lev. 23:34-36; Jn. 7:37; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

The Passover is observed in the first month of the year (Lev. 23:4-8) and foreshadowed the sacrifice of the Lamb of God (Jesus Christ; cf. Jn. 1:29, 36) whose shed blood would make it possible for every repentant sinner to be forgiven and reconciled to their heavenly Father. This is why Christ is described as the firstfruits of his Father's plan of salvation, or reconciliation (Rom. 5:10).

But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at his coming (1Cor. 15:23).

So far, Christ is the only firstfruits to have been resurrected from the dead (Eccl. 9:5-6; 11:8; Job 14:10-15, 21; Acts 2:29; 13:36-37; 1Cor. 15:12-19).

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have died (1Cor. 15:20).

Christ's resurrection, and acceptance by his Father in heaven, was pictured shortly after the Passover by "the wave sheaf offering" mentioned in Leviticus 23:9-14. As Christ fulfilled what the wave sheaf represented, his Father has given him authority to resurrect everyone who repents of their sins.

No one can come to me (Christ) unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I

will raise him up at the last day (Jn. 6:44; Ed. note in parenthesis).

However, Christ will not resurrect anyone until he returns to establish his Father's government on this earth (Rev. 17:12-14; 19:11-16).

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We (who have repented of sin) shall be changed⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality (1Cor. 15:51-53; Ed. note in parenthesis).

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.¹⁷ Then those who are alive at that time shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air (spirit realm) (1Thes. 4:16-17; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Everyone who is resurrected at Christ's return received the Father's Holy Spirit when they repented of their sins and were baptized during their lifetime. And, it is this same Spirit that Christ will utilize when he resurrects these people at his return. In Matthew 13:33, the Father's Holy Spirit is compared to leaven that grows within a loaf of bread (cf. 2Pet. 3:18).

But if the Spirit of Him (God the Father) who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit that dwells in you (Rom. 8:11; Ed. note in parenthesis).

As Christ was the first to be resurrected from the dead, those who are resurrected at Christ's return are part of a resurrection that was foreshadowed by the symbolism associated with the Day of Pentecost.

Read: Leviticus 23:15-21.

Just as the wave sheaf represented Christ being resurrected and accepted by his Father in heaven; so, the two wave loaves at Pentecost represent everyone resurrected at Christ's return. These individuals were predestined, by God the Father, to be part of this resurrection.

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that he (Christ) might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ **Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified (forgave them after their repentance of sin); and whom He justified, these He also glorified (ref. to their future resurrection from the dead) (Rom. 8:29-30; Ed. notes in parentheses).**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴ just as he chose us in him (Christ) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace (willingness to forgive sin), by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved (Christ; cf. Mt. 3:17). ⁷ In him we have redemption (reconciliation to the Father) through his blood, the forgiveness of sins,

according to the richness of His grace (Eph. 1:1-7; Ed. notes in parentheses).

But we are bound to give thanks to God (the Father) always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification (setting apart for service to God) by the Spirit and belief in the truth (of God's word) (2Thes. 2:13; Ed. notes in parentheses).

It could be misunderstood that only those during the time of the Second Covenant (NT) were predestined to be in the resurrection at Christ's return. However, it is clear that many during the First Covenant were also predestined to receive God the Father's Spirit.

Then the word of the Lord came to me (Jeremiah), saying: ⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you (set you apart); and I ordained (appointed) you a prophet to the nations" (Jer. 1:5; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Many of God's prophets retained God's Holy Spirit throughout their lifetimes, and therefore will be part of the resurrection at Christ's return.

Yet for many years You had patience with them (nation of ancient Israel), and testified against them by Your Spirit in Your prophets (Neh. 9:30a; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Other leaders during the First Covenant also had the Father's Holy Spirit and will be part of the resurrection at Christ's return.

And the Lord said to Moses: "Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom

is the Spirit and lay your hand on him” (Nu. 27:18).

Do not cast me (King David) away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me (Psalm 51:11; Ed. note in parenthesis).

My Spirit which is upon you (Isaiah), and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants’ descendants, says the Lord, “from this time and forevermore” (Isa. 59:21; Ed. note in parenthesis).

So even if Isaiah’s descendants were not chosen as prophets, some of them could still be led to repentance by the Father; receive His Holy Spirit and be used to serve in other ways.

It is important to note that everyone predestined to be part of the resurrection at Christ’s return, had to be adopted first. This is because every human being commits sin at some point in their lives and as a result comes under the influence of Satan.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23).

And you (repentant individuals predestined to be in the resurrection at Christ’s return) He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course (Gr. aion, aeon; spirit being) of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of

wrath just as the others (Eph. 2:1-3; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Even the religious leaders during Christ’s ministry were under Satan’s influence and, to such an extent, Christ told them their father was Satan, and not God the Father.

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it (Jn. 8:44).

So regardless of race, gender, or societal status, everyone is held captive by Satan’s deceptions and are separated from God the Father.

Your iniquities have separated you from God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear (Isa. 59:2).

Therefore, mankind as a whole is held captive by Satan, but those who are predestined to be in the resurrection at Christ’s return are purchased back and adopted by God the Father.

.... there shall be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them (2Pet. 2:1b).

“You (Christ) are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God (the Father) persons from every tribe and language and people and nation” (Rev. 5:9; Ed. notes in parentheses).

This captivity was mentioned by Christ when he began his Galilean ministry and quoted from Isaiah 49:8-9, 61:1-2.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord (Lk. 4:18).

It is no coincidence that deliverance of the captives, and setting at liberty those who are oppressed is associated with Christ's proclamation in Luke 4:18 because it was Christ's sacrifice that paved the way for everyone to be set free from whatever sins were preventing them from inheriting everlasting life in his Father's family. This truth was reflected by a 50-year cycle culminating in the Jubilee year which granted liberty for everyone who was oppressed; whether they had been sold into slavery or lost their property (Lev. 25:10). This counting to 50 also pictures freedom for those who are predestined to be in the resurrection at Christ's return because the count to Pentecost begins at the conclusion of the weekly Sabbath during the Passover period and ends 50 days later. Therefore, everyone predestined for this resurrection will celebrate it in advance as they observe the Day of Pentecost each year.

Per the example in Jeremiah 34:8-22, anyone who prevents God's faithful servants from celebrating this Holy Day, that represents God-ordained freedom/liberty, will suffer dire consequences.

This freedom from sin and adoption into God's family is also intended for those who refused to trust and obey God during their lifetime.

The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose (because of sin), it (with its freedom of choice) was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free (Romans 8:19-23; The Jerusalem Bible; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Because Almighty God is not willing that anyone perish forever (2Pet. 3:9b), He will pour out His Holy Spirit on all those who previously rejected His way of life (Jer. 31:31-34; Joel 2:28-32). This will commence at Christ's return and continue to a future resurrection at the end of his one-thousand-year rule (Rev. 20:4-10). In the meantime, the majority of mankind remains resistant to trusting in, and obeying God's word (Rom. 8:7).

But even to this day, when Moses is read, the veil lies on their heart. Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord (repents of their sins), the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit; where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (2Cor. 3:15-17; Ed. note in parenthesis).

True liberty comes when an individual rejects Satan's value system, and begins living a new life of willing obedience to every word of God (Mt. 4:4; Rom. 6:3-4).

But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one is blessed in what he does (Jas. 1:25).

It is no coincidence that this perfect law of liberty was given to the nation of Israel on the Day of Pentecost, fifty days after they left Egypt (which is a symbol representing sin, or the transgression of God's law: 1Jn. 3:4).

Sadly, much of Christianity teaches that mankind is free from obeying God's law, which is a lie.

For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through licentiousness (lawless behavior), the ones who are barely escaping from those who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of depravity; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into slavery (2Pet. 2:18-19; Ed. note in parenthesis).

So, the Day of Pentecost is intended to be a celebration of freedom from living a sinful way of life which causes harm to both the sinner, and those who are negatively affected by the consequences of sinful conduct. For those who have genuinely repented of their sins, they can rejoice in knowing that their inheritance in God's family is sure, even though it has not been fulfilled yet. They are also reminded that through no righteousness on their part, God the Father nevertheless predestined them to be resurrected at the return of Jesus Christ, as pictured by the Father's acceptance of the two loaves waved on the Day of Pentecost (1Cor. 1:26-31).

Finally, there is a great responsibility for those who will be resurrected at Christ's return, and it is expressed in the symbolism of the two loaves of bread (Lk. 12:48). Christ performed a miracle with five loaves of bread and fed five thousand people (Mt. 14:21). But as Christ stated, greater works than this will be done by God's faithful servants in the future (Jn. 14:12). Therefore, those who are represented by the two loaves of Pentecost will do greater works by feeding millions of people during Christ's millennial rule, and into the period of the resurrection that follows because mankind is not meant to be sustained by bread alone. Instead, they need to feed on God's word, which is personified in Christ and taught by those who faithfully serve and obey him.

As the living Father sent me (Christ), and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds (spiritually speaking) on me will live because of me. This is the bread which came down from heaven – not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this (spiritual) bread will live forever (Jn. 6:57-58; Ed. notes in parentheses).

So, everyone who is represented by the two loaves of Pentecost will be compared to a shepherd looking after flocks of people as the following prophecy confirms.

I (God) will set up shepherds over them who will feed them (God's word/truth); and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking, says the Lord (Jer. 23:4; Ed. notes in parentheses)

And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding (Jer. 3:15).

.... Your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, but your eyes shall see your teachers. Your ears shall hear a word behind you saying, "This is the (right) way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left (Isa. 30:20-21; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Part of this teaching will include judging specific cases/arguments.

And I (John) saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and has not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years (Rev. 20:4; Ed. note in parenthesis).

In conclusion, Pentecost is a Holy Day to rejoice in the liberty that is comes from knowing and obeying God's word, as well as excited anticipation of the resurrection that will occur at Christ's return. It is also a reminder, for those who are resurrected, that they will be given responsibility to teach/assist everyone living throughout the millennium, as well as those who will come up in the last resurrection of the dead.

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