

The Nature of Pentecost

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For those who rightly divide the Word of Truth often disagree as to when the present dispensation began. Viewpoints range from the view that the present dispensation began with Matthew to that view that the present dispensation began after Acts 28.

Crucial to these positions is that view taken of the day of Pentecost. If the Body of Christ began on or before the day of Pentecost, then any teaching or practice of that day applies to the believer today. If the Body of Christ began after the day of Pentecost, then practices and teachings of that day do not necessarily apply to the believer today.

Those who profess to know the Lord are very contradictory about these issues. While the vast majority hold that the present age began on or before the day of Pentecost, many are unwilling to teach or practice what was done on the day of Pentecost.

1A. Prophesied

- 1B. Acts 2:16-21; Joel 2:28-32; Acts 3:19-21
- 2B. Paul's gospel -- Romans 16:25

2A. The apostles did not know of the mystery

- 1B. Revealed to Paul -- Gal. 1:11,12; 2:1-7
- 2B. NOW (several years later) to apostles -- Ephesians 3:5; Col. 1:26

3A. Command to Baptize -- Acts 2:38 cf. I Cor. 1:17; Eph. 4:5

4A. A Jewish Feast -- Lev. 23:14-17; Acts 2:14, 22, 34

5A. Money and Pentecost -- Acts 5:1-11 (divine sanction)

- 1B. Communal -- Acts 2:43-45; 4:32-35; Matt. 10:7-10
- 2B. Today -- I Tim.5:8

6A. The filling with the Spirit -- different in nature and effect

- 1B. Was automatic -- Acts 2:4; Ezek. 36:24-28
- 2B. TODAY -- need to be filled -- Eph. 5:18; 3:19; Col. 1:9

7A. Tongues -- Acts 2:4-9; I Cor. 14:8; 13:8; 1:22; Eph. 4:11

8A. Hearers

- 1B. Jews only -- Acts 2:14, 22, 36
 - note -- Acts 1:8; Lk. 24:47
- 2B. TODAY -- Gal. 3:26-28

9A. Hope

- 1B. Earthly -- Acts 3:19-21
- 2B. TODAY -- Phil. 3:19-21

Acts 13 -- Birth of the Grace Dispensation

Note: The question is, "When did God begin to deal with men in accordance with the plan of Ephesians 3:6?"

Note: The outline on the Nature of the Day of Pentecost settles once and for all that the present dispensation did not begin on that day.

1A. The unpardonable sin -- Matt. 12:31; Mk. 3:23ff; Lk. 12:10

- 1B. 'Blaspheme' is a greek word meaning 'speak against God, blaspheme; speak against, slander, insult.' Thus the basic meaning is that of slander. Slandering requires three parties -- the slanderer, the slandered, and the audience. The question is then, "When did God judge Israel guilty of this terrible crime?"
 - 2B. Occasions when God did not as evidenced of the effectual fervent prayers of righteous men -- James 5:16; I Jn. 5:16
 - 1C. The crucifixion -- Luke 23:34 -- implies the present dispensation did not begin at Pentecost.
 - 2C. The stoning of Stephen -- Acts 7:60 -- implies it did not begin in Acts 9.
 - 3B. No such sin is mentioned in connection with Pentecost
 - 4B. Acts 7:51 -- resisting the Holy Spirit. This a person can do alone. To blaspheme the Holy Spirit requires another person(s).
 - 5B. The first slanders -- Acts 13:6-12; 44-47
- Note: All of the requirements are met.

2A. God's wrath was against Israel after they rejected Paul's testimony -- I Thess. 2:14-16.

note: this is significant to all of those who start the present age in Acts 2 or 9. Note how the event squares with the above.

3A. Name changes

1B. Some men like Jacob and Peter acquired new names. Both names were used. There are two occasions in scripture where names were replaced.

1C. The start of Israel: Abram and Sarai become Abraham and Sarah -- Gen. 17:5, 15

2C. The start of the Body: Saul becomes Paul -- Acts 13:9

4A. The door of faith to the Gentiles

1B. Peter clearly spoke first to Gentiles -- Acts 10:9-48; 11:1-19; 15:7

2B. Paul's door of faith -- Acts 14:27

5A. First apostles -- I Cor. 12:28, see Acts 14:14 and compare Acts 13:2

6A. Paul aborted before due time -- I Cor. 15:8

1B. The greek expression is, "And lastly of all even-as-if to-the-(an) abortion he-was-seen by-me-also." See Marshall's interlinear.

2B. The greek 'ektroma' means 'abnormal birth, miscarriage' (Bible Societies Lexicon)

3B. Thus, Paul was saved **before** not after the present dispensation began

7A. The salvation of Cornelius -- Acts 10

1B. Gentile salvation always part of God's program -- Isa. 49:6; Ezek 47:22, 23

1C. Some gentiles became Jews. Cornelius had not done so.

2C. The kingdom -- Jews above Gentiles forever

1D. Spiritually -- Isa. 2:1-3; Jer. 3:17; Zech. 8:13, 22, 23, 3; Rev. 21:24-26

2D. Politically -- Isa. 24:23; (2:4); 60:1-16 (3, 11, 12, 16); Joel 3:1

2B. A people for God's name -- Acts 15:14 cf. Amos 9:12 (Cornelius not in Body)

3B. A distinction -- Acts 10:15 -- see also Joel 2:32 (Acts 2:21) and cf. Col. 1:26

1C. Cornelius declared 'clean' (gospel can now go to him)

2C. Today, Israel **down** to level of gentiles -- Romans 11:32

8A. The salvation of Sergius Paullus -- Acts 13:6-12

• A jew blasphemes, is blinded for a season. Compare Romans 11:25

• Full equality. First two members (jew and gentile) named Paul -- Eph. 3:1-6

9A. Separate NOW -- Acts 13:2

10A. Acts 13:46 cf. 28:28 (was sent)

11A. Paul's boast in the 'dead' man -- II Cor. 12:1-9 (60 A.D.) cf. with Acts 14:19 (46 A.D.)

12A. Cornelius compared with Sergius Paullus

Cornelius	Sergius Paullus
Worshipped JHVH, alms to Israel	Prudent
Saved thru Jewish message	Saved thru blinding of Jew
Water and tongues	No water; no tongues
Peter	Paul

13A. Some additional problems with Acts 9 position

1B. Church at Antioch of Syria -- Acts 11:19-22

• saved through the ministry of the scattered

• Paul did not build on another's foundation -- Romans 15:18-21

• Acts 14:27 proves Paul did not open door before he left Antioch in Acts 13:3