

Acts is the only connecting link between the Gospels and the Epistles:

Matthew (28:6) ends with Christ's resurrection

Mark (16:19) ends with Christ's ascension

Luke (24:49) ends with promise of the Holy Ghost

John (21:22) ends with promise of Christ's second coming

Acts 1:1-11 links all four themes to the New Testament church.

- **PENTECOST**: means "fiftieth" - held fifty days after the Feast of Firstfruits
- **Passover** - deliverance from Egypt, death of the Passover Lamb
- **Firstfruits** - start of barley harvest, waved first sheaf of grain, entire harvest belonged to the Lord
- **Pentecost** - end of wheat harvest, waved two loaves of leavened bread, in thanks for entire harvest
- **Passover** - Jesus died as the Lamb of God
John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.
1 Corinthians 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:
- **Firstfruits** - Jesus was the first of the "harvest" to rise from the dead
1 Corinthians 15:20-23 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.
- **Pentecost** - Formation of the NT church, comprised of both Jews and Gentiles
Ephesians 2:13-16 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:
- **Pentecost in the Old Testament** - Giving of the Law by Moses
- **Pentecost in the New Testament** - Law written in Hearts by the Holy Ghost
2 Corinthians 3:3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

AND WHEN THE DAY OF PENTECOST WAS FULLY COME ... (Acts 2:1)

- "was fully come" - literally, "was being fulfilled"
- The Pentecost outpouring fulfilled the Feast of Pentecost - **HOW?** Deuteronomy 16:9-12

Deuteronomy 16:9 Seven weeks shalt thou number unto thee: begin to number the seven weeks from such time as thou beginnest to put the sickle to the corn.

- **Pentecost (giving of the Holy Ghost) was connected to the Feast of Firstfruits (resurrection of Christ) - Jesus rose so we could have His resurrection life!**

Deuteronomy 16:10 And thou shalt keep the feast of weeks unto the LORD thy God with a tribute of a freewill offering of thine hand, which thou shalt give unto the LORD thy God, according as the LORD thy God hath blessed thee:

- **Pentecost involved individual and collective sacrifice. Acts says the NT church met daily (2:46), cared daily (6:1), won souls daily (2:47), searched the Scriptures daily (17:11), and increased in number daily (16:5). Almost every chapter in Acts mentions prayer!**

Deuteronomy 16:11 And thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that is within thy gates, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are among you, in the place which the LORD thy God hath chosen to place his name there.

- **Pentecost involved rejoicing and being gathered in His name! God's presence always produces a physical reaction. God rejoices over our praise and worship (Zephaniah 3:17).**

Deuteronomy 16:12 And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in Egypt: and thou shalt observe and do these statutes.

- **Pentecost involved thankfulness for deliverance! We keep God's law because we are free!**

Pentecost can be "fully come" (fulfilled) any time God's people get together "in one accord"!

Phrase used six times in Acts - 1:14, 2:1, 2:46, 4:24, 5:12, 15:25