



PASSOVER

TO

PENTECOST

LESSON 2

PASSOVER TO PENTECOST

A photograph of a church congregation with their hands raised in praise. The scene is lit with warm, golden light, creating a spiritual atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

A Spiritual Journey

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The Day of Pentecost (Shavout) is viewed as the birth of the Christian church because the number of believers exponentially increased after the Holy Spirit descended upon those who gathered in the Upper Room.

But Pentecost is one of those celebrations ordained and outlined by Jehovah in the first five books of the Bible) which were given to God's people to help them stay focused on Him as the only source and strength of a people.

These holy days also teach us the **key truths of redemption** and help us anticipate and receive new good gifts that pour forth from the favor or grace of God.

During the fifty days of waiting for the wheat harvest and our fifty days of anticipation for the "promise," we have the opportunity to review the key truths of redemption and build a blessed anticipation of Jehovah's new and good gifts.

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On the day of Pentecost, the Scripture says, the Spirit of God descended from heaven like a violent, rushing wind and rested as tongues of fire on the believers gathered in the Upper Room.

The promised Comforter had come, and not only would He guide those gathered into all truth; He would actually fill them with Himself.

How awesome, the very Spirit of God not only filled the room but inhabited those who put their faith in Jesus as Messiah.

The blessed and beautiful truth is that the Holy Spirit still makes His habitation among us, filling us with His power, truth, and love today.

He is still guiding and teaching us -- revealing the Father's love, grace, and mercy; and He still causes us to experience His power and victory in our lives.

Our study is intended to help us see Him (the Spirit) stand in stark contrast to the weaknesses, imperfections, and brokenness found in our daily lives.

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When we come to see ourselves for who we really are apart from our Creator—we will admit our we are “cracked pots” and “broken clay vessels” controlled by the spirit of this world and lacking the wisdom, power, or authority to love or receive love perfectly

- **II Cor. 4:7** But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.
 - This truth is spoken in the shadow of the comparison of Jesus’ witnesses being greater than Moses’ message because Moses’ glory could fade and the **law** could be ignored, whereas the glory of God lives through Jesus’ witnesses even in death.
 - Many Greek writers felt that contentment in suffering displayed special power.
 - Whereas philosophers were often hailed as strong and un-swayed by testing, Paul reminds his readers that his power is from God alone.

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- “Earthen” or “clay” jars, which were readily discarded, are discussed here in contrast to bronze containers; because clay was always available, such containers were cheap and disposable if they were broken or incurred ceremonial impurity.
- Some Greek writers similarly described the body as the soul’s container; for Paul, however, the contrast is not between body and soul but between humanity and God.

I am encouraging everyone to position themselves to encounter God the Father for salvation, deep healing, and wholeness.

Each of the days leading up to Pentecost (May 23), we should daily ask Jesus to take all the darkness plaguing our lives into Himself, and give us the power to destroy all of sin’s power against us as we gain His powerful joy, hope, and resurrection life.

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As you call upon the Holy Spirit's revelation over the next fifty days, may our hearts and minds be transformed to reflect the heart and mind of Messiah Jesus, who made us free.

The Bible tells us to count the fifty days beginning with Passover and ending with Pentecost, called in Hebrew Shavuot (Lev. 23:15-16).

Through every season of our lives, we can be confident that God is always leading us through His Word.

- And we can be assured that God's Word always guides in the right direction.
- His word lights the way ahead of us so we can see clearly which way to go.

As we contemplate on the Blessing of Passover, we must be reminded how sin created a chasm between God and the people He made in His own image.

- Restoring the fellowship that was lost required the shedding of blood.
- In love, God created a system of substitutionary, sacrificial atonement (Lev. 17:11).

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During Pharaoh's oppressive rule over the Jewish people in Egypt, God instructed His people to slaughter a lamb and place the blood over the doorposts of their homes.

Done in faith, this sacrificial blood protected the Israelites from the judgment God was pouring out upon the Egyptians. God said: "When I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt" (Exod. 12:13).

God instructed His people to forever remember and celebrate His protection and deliverance from oppression, which came through their Passover lamb (Lev. 23:4–5; Num. 9:2).

- Yet the promised protection of the Passover lamb found its fulfillment in Messiah Jesus. Jesus told His disciples during the Passover celebration, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matt. 26:28).

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The blood Jesus shed on the cross offers forgiveness, protection, and deliverance from sin and oppression once and for all.

- Beloved, the Father's love is revealed through the Passover.
- Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed, and our victory is secure in Him!

So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

- **II Cor. 4:17-18** "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal **weight of glory**,while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.
 - Plato and many philosophers after him contrasted the temporal and the eternal.
 - By Paul's day many Platonists thought that bodily things were heavy and weighed down the soul, but that the soul was light
 - Once freed by the body's death, it would soar up to the pure heavens from which it had originated.

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- Paul here inverts the image but perhaps partly for a play on words that a few Jewish readers skilled in Hebrew exposition might catch: “glory” and “weight, heaviness,” represent the same Hebrew word – **baros**.
- Paul does not deny the reality of the visible world but does agree that it is subject to decay, whereas the unseen world is eternal.
- In making this statement, however, Paul is still contrasting his ministry with that of Moses: he does not teach an outward law written on stones, but the law written in his inner person by the **Spirit** (II Cor. 3-4).

As we seek things above, we also have to contend with the things below, and it is a constant challenge.

- Daily pressing needs and distractions hinder us from focusing on our unseen God.

It is during these anticipatory days leading into Shavuot, we must allow Jesus to wash away my inadequacies, and seek the only remedy which will fill our hearts and mind with Jesus' hope and vision for my life.

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The bountiful and infinite power in the blood of Jesus is sufficient for all of our inadequacies, and His solution to completing God' good work He has started in us.

- **Phil 1:6** *I pray with great faith for you, because I'm fully convinced that the One who began this gracious work in you will faithfully continue the process of maturing you until the unveiling of our Lord Jesus Christ! (TPT)*
- He knew that what Christ had begun in their lives would be completed, for Christ is the Alpha and Omega, the Author and Finisher of our faith (Rev. 1:8; Heb. 12:1–2).
 - *Heb. 12:2 Looking to Jesus, the founder [KJV author & finisher] and perfecter of our faith.*
- Through thick and thin, through hard times and easy times, through darkness and light, Jesus is the One at work in you through the Holy Spirit.
 - As an author comes up with an idea, writes out a rough draft and spends countless hours revising the manuscript, making it perfect as possible, Jesus revises us

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- Or a leader guiding hikers through forest and mountain trails Jesus **guides our path.**
- Or a **teacher** starting with a student and with great patience teaches them until they know the material well, Jesus is our **Divine Instructor.**
- Or a builder starting with a foundation and spending months from foundation to the paint on the walls, Jesus is our **Sure Foundation.**
- Or a **coach** pushing a runner getting in shape then running with endurance to the finish line, Jesus runs with us. Our faith is a work in progress.

This season of waiting for the wheat harvest is also a time of anticipating advancing from brokenness to beauty.

The enemy will try to tell us that our continued failure and faltering deems us to be insignificant in the eyes of God.

- He wants us to believe that we are not making any positive impact for the Kingdom

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As we are progressing and advancing in our Kingdom work skills, our daily life challenges may seem insurmountable.

That's because our unseen enemy seeks to intimidate us through thoughts and words, so we feel defeated, retreat, and give up our good fight to carry the good news of Father's love.

- But beloved of God, be of good courage, and don't give up the fight.
- Rebuke the liar, for it is by, The Truth that you have been chosen
- We have been called out from a fallen dying world; and justified in the courts of heaven
- We reign under the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:2).

The blood of Jesus actively covers every mistake, weakness, and failure so that in God's hands all brokenness is transformed into life-giving beauty.

Indeed, the "thorn" in our flesh is the insecurity Satan uses to intimidate us—it is what brings us to the end of ourselves so that Jesus' powerful Spirit can arise within us.

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- We have to remain diligent in encouraging ourselves in the Lord.
- Through our imperfect clay vessels, God's powerful, loving Spirit is revealing Jesus as the hope and the way.

In these fifty, we are reminded that the God of Life and Hope plans to grant us increase and another yield in the upcoming harvest season.

- Are we listening to the clear directions of the Husbandman
 - **Matt. 13:15** *For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'*
 - When He walked the earth, Jesus was surrounded by a spiritually blind people who did what they had always done and therefore they reaped what they had always reaped.
 - He was surrounded by an oppressed people who thoughtlessly followed the ways of their society.

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- Most would never look up to seek the divine revelation and life Jesus came to give.
- The condition of the people's hearts made it necessary for Christ to use parables.
[He told stories about familiar things to help explain unfamiliar concepts]
- Christ quotes **Isa. 6:9–10** to explain why He was using parables: *the hearts, ears, and eyes of the people had become dull, hard, and blind.*
- By using parables, He was exciting the curiosity of the concerned, those who really wanted to know the truth.
- But He was also hiding the truth from the rebellious; He would not cast these pearls of truth before swine (7:6).
- The parables did not keep people from learning the truth; rather, the parables excited their interest and encouraged them to learn.
- This is a fulfillment of 11:25—the proud will not see, but the babes will learn the truth and be saved.

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- May God gift us today with a hunger and thirst that drive us to look for more than what we have always received!

Waiting for Shavout, we are expected to reflect His Glory. May we be like the singer in **Psalm 46:8-11** “Come, **behold the works** of the LORD, Who has **made desolations** in the earth. ⁹ He **makes wars cease** to the end of the earth; He **breaks the bow** and **cuts the spear** in two; He **burns the chariot in the fire.** ¹⁰ **Be still, and know that I *am* God**; I will be **exalted among the nations**, I will be **exalted in the earth!** ¹¹ The LORD of hosts *is* with us; The God of Jacob *is* our refuge. Selah

The natural inclination of self-centered people is to think the world revolves around them and their pleasures and desires.

Even for those of us who seek to follow Jesus, our fears and insecurities propel us to focus more on ourselves than the things of God.

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Often our hearts and souls need to be put in alignment with truth from God our Father so we will grow, thrive, and fulfill His call upon our lives.

In Ezekiel 36 we find God correcting the souls of His children, saying: “It is not for your sake...that I am about to act, but for My holy name....I will vindicate the holiness of My great name....Then the nations will know that I am the LORD ...when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight” (V 22–23).

- What a wake-up call! The entire purpose of God moving on our behalf is that His holiness and glory would shine!
- Our lives revolve around God, like planets around the sun, and we live to reflect the power and greatness of God.
- The Lord went on to say: “I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart

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- of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances...so you will be My people, and I will be your God....I am not doing this for your sake....I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places will be rebuilt....Then they will know that I am the LORD” (Ezk. 36:25–38).

Saints of God, by God’s power we are transformed, and anything holy and good in us must be understood as coming from God and not from ourselves so the Lord receives all the glory and honor!

We must relinquish and repent of our self-centered fears and insecurities and of being focused on the material world.

- May we with confidence declare that the Lord reigns over our lives and all that exists.
- May we forsake restlessness and learn to be still and know that He is God.

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