



**PASSOVER**

**TO**

**PENTECOST**

**LESSON 5**

# PASSOVER TO PENTECOST

A large, vibrant fire burns in the center of the image, casting a warm, golden glow. In the foreground, the silhouettes of a crowd of people are visible, with many of their hands raised in the air, suggesting a moment of worship or celebration. The background is dark, making the fire and the raised hands stand out prominently.

## A Spiritual Journey

# PASSOVER TO PENTECOST

On the journey from Pesach to Shavout, while anticipating the harvest, we will encounter many impediments to “peace while waiting.”

- What should we do while waiting?
- Is there Divine Direction on how to wait?

There is something that is stated in the opening of the Acts of the Apostles which reconnects us with something Jesus said in the final chapter of Luke:

- **Luke 24:49** Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but **tarry** in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

➤ Isaiah spoke of Israel being witnesses to (or against) all the nations in the end time (Isa. 43:10; 44:8), by means of the **endowment of the Spirit**:

☐ **Isa. 42:1** "Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One *in whom* My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles

# PASSOVER TO PENTECOST

- The law of prophetic suggestion leads Isaiah from Cyrus to the far greater Deliverer, Who will cause men to forget the work of Cyrus
- The servant passage in Isaiah 42:1-4 in context refers inescapably to Israel.
- But because God's servant Israel failed in its mission (Isa. 42:18-19), God chose one within Israel to **restore the rest of the people** (Isaiah 49:5-7)
- He would take the remainder of the punishment due Israel (Isa. 40:2) in its place (Isa. 52:13-53:12).
- Thus Matthew declares that the **Messiah** takes up the servant mission of Isaiah 42:1-4, and He is marked by the **presence of the Spirit**.
- The express quotation in Matt. 12:18–20, and the description can apply to *Messiah* alone (Psl 40:6; with which compare Exd. 21:6; John 6:38; Phil. 2:7).
- **Isa. 44:3** For I will pour water on him **who is thirsty**, And **floods** on the dry ground; I will pour My **Spirit** on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring;

# PASSOVER TO PENTECOST

- **I will pour my spirit out on your descendants** – Notice salvation comes with the promise of the Spirit, which will enable their descendants to enjoy the promised blessing because they will be wholly devoted to Yahweh
- **Joel 2:28-29** "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. <sup>29</sup> And also on *My* menservants and on *My* maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.
- **him ... thirsty**—rather, “the land” (Isa 35:6, 7) figuratively speaks to *man* thirsting after righteousness (Matt 5:6).
- **floods**—speak to the *abundant* influences of the Holy Spirit, stronger than “water.”
- **spirit**—including all spiritual and temporal gifts, as the parallel, “blessing,” proves (Isa 11:2; 32:15).
- The Spirit was especially associated with the ability to prophesy, to speak as God inspired a person to speak.

# PASSOVER TO PENTECOST

- **Luke 24:49** Behold, I send the Promise of My Father opens up the potential of:
  - **Acts 1:1-3** The former account [*KJV treatise –logos*] I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, <sup>2</sup> until the day in which He was taken up, after He **through the Holy Spirit** had **given commandments** to the apostles whom He had chosen, <sup>3</sup> to whom He also **presented Himself alive** after His suffering by many infallible proofs, **being seen by them during forty days** and speaking of the **things pertaining to the kingdom of God**.
  - Acts picks up the account telling what Jesus would continue to do and teach through the church on earth.
  - The Gospel of Luke tells of Christ's ministry on earth in a physical body, while Acts tells of His ministry from heaven through His spiritual body, the church.
  - For example: In Acts 13:1-3, it is Christ through His Spirit Who sends out the first missionaries; and in 14:27, Paul and Barnabas relate what God did through them

# PASSOVER TO PENTECOST

- As every Christian moves out of the Luke seasons in their lives, they are able to perform Kingdom work, producing a harvest in the Acts phase of their journey
  - Knowing about the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ is enough for salvation but not for Spirit-empowered service.
  - We must identify ourselves with Him as our ascended Lord and allow Him to work through us in the world.
  - We must experience our own death to self, resurrection to new life through a new birth
  - The church is not simply an organization engaged in religious work; it is a divine organism, the body of Christ on earth, through which His life and power must operate.
  - Jesus died for the lost world; thus, we must live to bring that world to Christ
- We will encounter many impediments to “peace while waiting,” and rest assured, the enemy torment us with negative thoughts and vain imaginations about the future.
- Believers learn how to rebuke his lies and curses off of their lives.

# PASSOVER TO PENTECOST

We are new creatures, *who by the love of God* -- were created to shine, and we must arise to bless our lives with thoughts and words that oppose the enemy while we wait.

- Perhaps this is why the Bible talks so much about waiting.
- God wants us to know that waiting is far from a passive activity in which we do nothing.

In fact, Scripture teaches us that God wants us to **actively participate** in the work He desires to accomplish.

Strategically, waiting can cultivate good fruit in in our lives such as patience, perseverance, and endurance.

- It also draws us closer to our Savior and points those who are watching us to the gospel.

To that end, here are a number of things to do while we wait for the harvest

1. Believe that the God who saved us hears our cries:

- **Micah 7:7** Therefore I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; My God will hear me.

# PASSOVER TO PENTECOST

- Have you ever felt like your prayers are bouncing off the ceiling?
  - Perhaps, even having prayed for years about something, but God seems to be silent
  - Encouraging words of promise escape us: Rom. 8:32 *He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*
  - This verses reminds us that the cross is our guarantee that God is for us and is committed to give us everything we would ask for **if we knew everything He knew.**
2. Watch with expectancy but be prepared for **unexpected answers** (Psalm 5:3).
- While God has been faithful to answer many of our prayers, it's often been in far different ways than we would have anticipated.
  - God knows that the only way to do what we and He desire, may involve varying degrees of discomfort in our lives.
  - Can we humbly put aside our pride as we wait on Him?
  - Learning to love like Jesus requires us to say no to constant selfish demand

# PASSOVER TO PENTECOST

- Growing in patience inevitably involves some form of waiting, whether in a long line or a lifetime for a loved one to come to Christ.
  - When we lay our requests before him, it is by faith that we wait and watch in anticipation of God's good work in with and through us and others.
3. Put our hope in all of the declarations of His will through His Word
- **Psl. 130:5-6** I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, And in His word I do hope. <sup>6</sup> My soul *waits* for the Lord More than those who watch for the morning-- Yes, *more than* those who watch for the morning.
    - People who guard a city, and those who attend to the sick, long for daylight.
    - In Israel, worshippers tarrying for the morning sacrifice, longed for the hour when the lamb sacrifice shall smoke upon the altar.
    - David, however, waited more longingly, waited more expectantly than all of these
    - He was not afraid of the great *Adonai* as he longed and yearned for His presence
    - Oh, to be thus hungry and thirsty after God! – The original text read "My soul for the Lord more than those *watching for the morning—watching for the morning.*"

# PASSOVER TO PENTECOST

- This is an intentional poetical repeat – longing for communion with God
  - We can hope a doctor will heal us, a teacher will pass us, a spouse will love us, our employer will reward us, or a friend will help us.
  - We can be tempted to put our hope in things that may disappoint us in the end.
  - But it is only when we put our hope in Christ that we can wait with confidence and know we will not be put to shame.
4. Trust in the Lord, and not depend on our mental acumen or frail understanding
- **Prov. 3:5-6** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.
  - Why is it so tempting for us to depend on our own wisdom rather than the wisdom of our all-wise God?
  - What makes us think that we know better than He does what is best for us?
  - **Prov. 3:1-12** presents us with firm Conditions to obtain the wisdom of God
    - A. The first condition for receiving God's guidance is that we learn His truth (v. 1–4).

# PASSOVER TO PENTECOST

- ❑ The will of God is revealed in the Word of God (Col. 1:9–10), and the only way to know His will is to study His Word and obey it.
  - ❑ By receiving the Word within our hearts, we experience growth in godly character so that **mercy and truth** (“*love and faithfulness,*” NIV) become beautiful ornaments in our lives (Prov. 3:3; 1:9).
  - ❑ It isn’t enough for believers to carry the Bible in their hands; they must let the Holy Spirit write it on their hearts (3:3; 7:3; 2 Cor. 3:1–3).
  - ❑ Obedience to the Word can add years to your life and life to your years
- B. The 2<sup>nd</sup> condition is unmeasured *obedience to God’s will* (V . 5–8).
- ❑ “**He shall direct your paths**” (v. 6, NKJV) is **the promise**, but the fulfillment of that promise is predicated on our obedience to the Lord.
  - ❑ We must trust Him with all our heart and not just with our minds.
  - ❑ Heart obedience means total commitment to Him (Rom. 12:1–2).
  - ❑ The word translated “trust” in V 5 [**bātah** – *lie down at ease; feeling secure*], depicting a servant waiting for the master’s command in readiness to obey

# PASSOVER TO PENTECOST

- ❑ The danger is lean on our own understanding and we thereby miss God's will.
    - Abraham did this when he went to Egypt (Gen. 12:10–20) and so did Joshua when he attacked the little town of Ai (Josh. 7).
  - ❑ When we become “wise in [our] own eyes”, then we're heading for trouble (V 7)
  - ❑ Seasons of waiting reveal where we are placing our trust.
- C. The 3<sup>rd</sup> condition is to resist fretting, refrain from anger, and choose patience
- ❑ **Ps. 37:7-8). Rest [dāmam – *hold your peace; keep silent*] in the Lord, and wait patiently [hîl – khool-- *while waiting wait*] for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. <sup>8</sup> Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret--*it only causes harm.***
  - ❑ It's easy to say we trust God, but our response to delays, frustrations, and difficult situations exposes where we are actually placing our hope.

# PASSOVER TO PENTECOST

- Are we convinced God is listening?
- Do we believe he's good?
- Do we accept that our circumstances are sovereignly ordained?
- Do we doubt he really cares about us?

D. Be strong [hold our heads up] and take courage [believing we see our breakthrough]

**Ps. 31:24** Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, All you who hope in the LORD.

Have you noticed that one of the biggest battles in long seasons of waiting is **fighting fear** and all its companions like anxiety, fretfulness, and worry.

You know that voice that asks: , *What if this happens? What if God doesn't answer my prayers?*

It is the gospel we learn that enduring strength and courage will never be found in ourselves

Our "light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison" (II Cor. 4:17).

# PASSOVER TO PENTECOST

E. While waiting, search for opportunities to experience God's goodness

☐ **Lam. 3:24-25** "The Lord *is* my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"

<sup>25</sup> The Lord *is* good to those who wait for Him, To the soul *who* seeks Him.

☐ **Ps. 27:13-14** I would have lost heart [*KJV I had fainted*], unless I had believed

That I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. <sup>14</sup> **Wait**

[*qāwâ- expect; bind together by twisting*] on the Lord; Be of **good courage**,

And He shall strengthen your heart; **Wait, I say, on the Lord!**

☐ Spurgeon: "Wait at his door with prayer; wait at his foot with humility; wait at his table with service; wait at his window with expectancy.

☐ When our focus is on our problems and what God has or has not given us, we are prone to grumbling, complaining, discontentment, bitterness, and selfishness

☐ When our definition of goodness is what brings us the most comfort, happiness, and gratification *in this life*, then anything that threatens these things will tempt us to question God's love and goodness.

# PASSOVER TO PENTECOST

F. Wait for God's promise instead of going your own way

- Acts 1:4** And being assembled together with *them*, He **commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem**, but to **wait for the Promise** of the Father, "which," *He said*, "you have heard from Me.
- Scripture offers plenty of examples of saints who got weary of waiting for God and chose to do things their way.
- God's goodness is promised for those who wait patiently for him!
- Regardless of how long or how hopeless things appear to us we are told to wait
- Even when it seems to cost us everything, when we wait for him, we will never be disappointed.

G. Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful with thanksgiving

- Col. 4:2-4** Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; <sup>3</sup> meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, <sup>4</sup> that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak

# PASSOVER TO PENTECOST

❑ Another temptation we face when God does not seem to be answering our prayers is to *stop praying*, while **giving way to a spirit of cynicism**.

❑ While God may not answer in our timing or in the way we expect, He will accomplish His good purposes in our lives when we wait for Him

H. Remember the blessings He has promised which are yet to come

❑ **Isa. 30:18 Therefore the LORD will wait**, that He may be gracious to you; And therefore, He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For the LORD *is* a God of justice; Blessed *are* all those who wait for Him.

❑ **Keep in mind God's waiting was** on account of Israel's persistent perverseness (Isa. 30:1, 2, 9, 15, 16), **therefore**, Jehovah would *delay* in punishing them

During long (or even short) seasons of waiting, our hearts will be encouraged to remember that the best is yet to come!

• One day sin will be no more, and we will be free from the demands and temptations of a self-oriented life and experience everlasting joy.

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Wednesday – 12 Noon



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**Pastor Clabon Bogan**

**“Study in the Beatitudes”**

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