

# Community on Columbia

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Bible Study Group Members

FROM: Ole Anthony

SUBJECT: Feast of Pentecost

The Feast of Pentecost was the second of the three great annual Pilgrimage feasts where all people had to present themselves before the Lord or be cut-off from the promise. The ancient Rabbis taught that many specific incidents in the scriptures happened on the Feast of Pentecost.

- 1) "... And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." (Gen. 1:2)
- 2) The tower of Babel was destroyed and the languages were confused. (Gen. 11:1-9)
- 3) God gave the Torah to Moses on Mt. Sinai. (Ex. 19-23)
- 4) Korah's rebellion and Aaron's rod blooming. (Numbers 16:1 - 17:13)
- 5) David died on the Feast of Pentecost. (I Kings 2:10-12)
- 6) The Holy Spirit was shed on all flesh. (Acts 2:1-42; Joel 2:28)

Twenty-four years after the crucifixion of Christ, Paul was in Ephesus and the people desired that he stay there with them. His response was interesting; he bade them farewell saying, "I must by all means keep this feast (Pentecost) that cometh in Jerusalem." (Acts 18:21)

Also on Pentecost the book of Ruth is read. It is said that Ruth made her famous plea to her mother-in-law (type of the Body) on the day of Pentecost:

"And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me."

The three pilgrimage feasts represent the progressive apprehension of the revelation of God. On Passover the bride of God is chosen out of the world and thereby betrothed; on Pentecost the bride is given the power to become; on Tabernacles she is married.

In the first centuries of the church Christians celebrated the feast. The church Father Jerome says of Pentecost:

"There is Sinai, here Zion; there the trembling mountain, here the trembling house (temple); there the flaming mountain, here the flaming tongues; there the noisy thunderings, here the sound of many tongues; there the blowing of the rams horn, here the gospel trumpet" (Peter's speech).

The feast was highly esteemed among the earlier fathers. Chrysostom calls it, "The metropolis of the festivals." Pentecost is the feast of empowerment, if we are willing. "Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power." (Ps.110:3)

## PENTECOST READINGS

### Law

Gen. 1:2  
Gen. 11:1-9  
Ex. 19:1 - 23:33  
Le. 23:15-22  
Nu. 3:1-51  
Nu. 16:1 - 17:13  
Nu. 28:26-31  
Duet. 14:22 - 16:17

### Prophets

Josh. 24:1-25  
I Sam. 11:12-15  
II Sam. 23:1-7  
I Kgs. 2:10-12  
Is. 40; 41; 42; 49  
Is. 60:1 - 61:13  
Je. 31:23-40  
Eze. 1:1 - 3:27 ; Eze. 11:13-25 ; Eze. 36:1-37  
Ho. 10:1-15  
Joel 2:1-32

### Other Readings:

Habakkuk 2; 3  
Ps. 113-118  
Ps. 120-134  
Ps. 18; 68; 98; 110:3  
Book of RUTH

Acts 1:1 - 2:47  
Acts 18:21; Acts 20:16  
He. 8:6-13 ; He. 12:18-29  
Rev. 17:1 - 18:24