

Pentecost – Former & Later Rain

WHAT IS PENTECOST?

Pentecost is the great festival that marks the birth of the Christian church by the power of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost means "fiftieth day" and is celebrated fifty days after. Easter.

WHAT HAPPENED ON PENTECOST?

Ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven, the twelve apostles, Jesus' mother and family, and many other of His disciples gathered together in Jerusalem for the Jewish harvest festival that was celebrated on the fiftieth day of Passover. While they were indoors praying, a sound like that of a rushing wind filled the house and tongues of fire descended and rested over each of their heads. This was the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit on human flesh promised by God through the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-29). The disciples were suddenly empowered to proclaim the gospel of the risen Christ. They went out into the streets of Jerusalem and began preaching to the crowds gathered for the festival. Not only did the disciples preach with boldness and vigor, but by a miracle of the Holy Spirit they spoke in the native languages of the people present, many who had come from all corners of the Roman Empire. This created a sensation. The apostle Peter seized the moment and addressed the crowd, preaching to them about Jesus' death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins. The result was that about three thousand converts were baptized that day. (You can read the Biblical account of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-41).

The purpose of Pentecost is: to add to the kingdom, to provide a platform for God to pour out His power, to equip the saints. God mainly shows His power through the saints, but He is not limited to just the saints.

The Latter RAIN

What's coming next in the church? The latter rain!

James 5:7

Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

The latter rain is the out pouring of the Holy Spirit. Just like the first rain that was poured out over the Church, the latter rain will be poured out over the Church (you and me) in a greater manner.

The latter rain will start a world-wide revival.

God is three persons: Father (the I AM), Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit (the Comforter). God loves us and wants a relationship.

Being a Christian is a "religion" different than any religion because God loves us first and He conquered the grave. That is why we have *Christmas* and *Easter*.

I pick this Easter to be the Easter that will usher in the Later Rain. I believe the Easter of 2010 (4/4/10) will accompany the Later Rain of 2010 (5/24/10). The date of 5/24/10 was chosen due to: the condition of the World, the condition of Israel, the condition of the United States, what is being preached over TV, and what is needed. The sooner the date is better than the later date. My second date is Easter 2011 but Israel will have to go to war with the Middle East as soon or before Iran goes nuclear.

Note, the Later Rain did not happen on 5/24/10 as I believed. God (I AM) is too big to place into a box. Gods will start the Later Rain when He is ready, not I. The Later Rain and the war between Israel and the Middle East are not linked as indicated.

Remember, delay is not denial.

Tim LaHaye and others teach that the "The catching away of the Church." (Rapture) will happen before the war between Israel and the Middle East. Tim LaHaye is best known for the Left Behind series of books.

In being a Christian it does not matter your views about the Rapture (Pre, Mid, or Post). Just being a Christian and being guided by the Holy Spirit will position you for what is coming.

An individual's belief concerning the interpretation of Biblical Eschatology that does NOT violate the profession, belief, and commitment to the reality of the Trinity, the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and the sureness of his return (in whatever fashion). The view of Eschatology (study of End Times) should NEVER be used as any sort of litmus test as to an individual's salvation or commitment to Christ.

Hope for the best and prepare for the worst is my view of Biblical Eschatology.

See "Consider", "Tribulation", and "Last Days" for greater details regarding the Rapture.

Mike