

At the end of the message

We're going to be

In Acts chapter 2 (Page 743)

So, go ahead and turn there

And stick a pen to hold your spot

Acts 2 – Page 743

But we're actually gonna start in Exodus

In Exodus 14

Moses declares to the people

The amazing work of God

That is to come

After they left Egypt

Pharaoh changed his mind

And sent his army after them

They've got the sea in front of them

And Pharaoh's chariots coming up behind them

And the people are freaking out

Exodus 14:13-14 - Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."

Moments later

God miraculously parted the sea

And the people crossed over

The Egyptian army followed

And God released the water

Eliminating the army

This is a Google map

Of the Red Sea

And this is the likely site

Where Moses said the words

We just read

If we zoom in

You can see how this site

Could hold the whole nation of Israel

Look on Google maps later yourself

It's the only site of its kind

That could hold a group that large
And you can also see how this site
Would be terrifying
If you were being chased by an army
You're coming thru these channels
Only to land in a dead end
The sea in front of you
Pharaoh's army barreling down the channel
After you

It's kind of a resort area now

Beautiful beaches
Picturesque mountains

But you can still see

The channel where the Israelites

Would have emerged onto the beach

Terrifying – can you even imagine?

They cross the Red Sea

At that spot
And then made their way

Down to Mt. Sinai

Now hold on to that a second

The Bible is very specific

About timelines here

For a very important reason

That I'll show you later

So, I want to be

Specific too

You have the Passover (Exodus 12)

In conjunction with the 10th plague

Where God sends the death angel

Scripture calls him

To bring death to every home in Egypt

Not covered with the blood of a lamb

If you're not familiar with that account

Look later at Exodus 12

We can't stay here long

When the angel came to those
That *were* covered by the blood
He passed over

Jesus later uses this celebration
To institute communion
Where *His* blood
As the perfect lamb
Saves us from our sin

So, after the Passover
After the 10th plague
Pharaoh relents
And tells the people to go
They march out
Toward the Red Sea
We've already covered that

After they cross

They go for 40 days

To get to Mt. Sinai
The Bible's very specific
It takes them 40 days

And when they arrive

Moses goes up the mountain

To see God

But before he leaves

He tells the people to prepare themselves

To consecrate themselves

For three days

Wash your clothes

They had been on a long, dusty journey

Abstain from sexual relations

They been on a long, dusty journey

And prepare for God

Because He's going to come... down

Then the Bible says

That God descended in a cloud

Onto the mountain

There was thunder & lightning

Smoke

An earthquake

And the cloud remained there

For six days

The Bible is very specific

I'll show you why in a second

And then on the seventh day

God spoke

And He gave Moses

The Law

The 10 Commandments

Jewish people

Celebrate this event

In conjunction with the festival

Of Shavuot

Shavuot is a Hebrew word

That simply means weeks

“The Festival of Weeks”

Shavuot was the day after

7 full weeks

Since the Passover

7 – 7s

And then the next day

Shavuot

The Festival of Weeks

Are you with me?

Passover

7 weeks

Shavuot

This time period every year

Is in the spring

Traditionally coinciding with

The Barley and wheat harvest

So, the harvest began at Passover

They harvested wheat & barley for 7 weeks

At the end of the 7 weeks

On the day after the 7th week

They would celebrate Shavuot

Representing the end of the harvest

They would honor God

By bringing in two loaves of bread

They would wave them before God

They called it, literally, a wave offering
And then they would give the bread to the priests
To provide for their needs

It'd be like a good Christian person bringing the staff
Rolls from Texas Roadhouse

Just a thought

Now some of you are wondering

At this point

What in the world

Does this have to do

With that video we just watched

Before the message?

Hang with me

I said a moment ago

That Jesus used the celebration of Passover

Centuries later

To institute what we call "the Last Supper"

Communion

Where, in the same way

We celebrate
That death passed over us
Because of the blood of the Lamb
Covering our lives

With that in mind
I want you to notice
The parallels here

Moses leads the people from Egypt

Immediately after Passover

Jesus is crucified

Immediately after Passover

40 days later

Moses climbs Mount Sinai
To ascend... to God

40 days later

Jesus climbs the Mount of Olives
And literally ascends to Heaven

For the next 10 days

The people consecrate themselves

And wait for the voice of God
To speak to them in fire and smoke
On Mt. Sinai

And for the next 10 days

The disciples
Also devote themselves to prayer
And community
Before God spoke to them
With tongues of fire
At Pentecost

Moses brings them Law

Jesus brings us Grace & Truth

The Gospel of John describes this:

John 1:17 - For the law was given through Moses; grace and Truth came through Jesus Christ.

Even the word Pentecost

Literally means 50th
Pentecost is simply the Greek translation

Of the Hebrew word Shavuot

This is all a parallel

That the Jewish Christians would have immediately recognized

With that in mind:

Let me give you three quick parallels

Between these two events

And then we'll end

By reading today's passage

And making a few very direct applications

For us today

Parallel #1:

Is the parallel of Covenant

In the Old Testament

Moses led the people from

Slavery in Egypt

To freedom in the Promised Land

In the New Testament

Jesus leads us

From slavery in sin

To freedom in a new relationship with God

Moses' covenant was the law

To change us from the outside

Jesus' covenant is thru His forgiveness and His Spirit

To change us from the inside

So, this covenant was brought

Moses descending down the mountain

The tongues of fire descending down on the Apostles

Moses' covenant was written on tablets of stone

What is the covenant written on now?

The Bible tells us:

Jeremiah 31:31-33 (NIV) - "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law *in their minds* and write it *on their hearts*. I will be their God, and they will be My people.

I need you to know

If you're not in a covenant relationship with the Lord

That He wants to be a husband to you

He wants to put His ways on your mind

He wants to put His way in your heart

Just like a covenant

Like a marriage

You have to choose

You have to commit

You can't slide into a marriage

You can't go from "hanging out"

To married

Without making a declaration

If you're not in a covenant relationship with the Lord

If you don't know if you're in a covenant relationship with the Lord

Don't leave today

Without being sure

God wants to write His ways

Not on tablets of stone

But on our mind

And on our heart

The first parallel is covenant

The second parallel

This is cool

The second parallel is of bread

“Bread”

Remember the original setting

It's at the end of the barley harvest

The end of the wheat harvest

And the people are called

To bring bread before God

It's called a wave offering

Because the bread is not destroyed

It's waved before the altar

And then given as a gift to the priests

Remember, we talked about Texas Roadhouse

Just reminding you

OK – so bread is made up of grain

Right?

But also yeast

And yeast in Scripture

I don't have time to explain this

Just trust me

Yeast in Scripture represents sin

So, you have two loaves

Two items

Representing God's provision

The grain

And *our* sin

The yeast

And this festival

In Moses' day

Represents us returning these two sinful things

Back to God

So, fast-forward to Jesus' day

And Jesus' covenant

Who is this covenant

Available... to?

The Jews

But also the Gentiles

And that's new

Two sinful people groups

That because of this moment

Because of this festival

Because God is paying this price

To Passover our sin

Through Jesus

The perfect lamb

We can now bring

Both groups

Jews and Gentiles

As gifts

Offerings

Back to God

And at Pentecost

God said because of Jesus

Because of His death and resurrection

Now the harvest

Is open to everyone

Jews & Gentiles

And we

His followers

Are expected

To collect the harvest

We, His followers

Are expected

To turn the world upside down

Look how Jesus lived His life:

Matthew 9:35 - Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

Notice Jesus' model

Proclaiming the Good News

And providing relief from the brokenness of this world

That's how Jesus lived His life

And then He told us to follow Him

To live our life that way

Follow Him in proclaiming the Good News

And follow Him in bringing relief from the brokenness of this world

Lots of groups

Want to do one or the other

Jesus consistently did both

We should consistently do both

Next verse:

Matthew 9:36 - When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

The way Jesus did life

Led Him to be *more* compassionate

Not less

If we find ourselves

If you find yourself
Seeing the needs around you
Without compassion
Or not having enough compassion
To even see the needs in the first place
Then maybe we've misunderstood
Our role in this world
Maybe we've misunderstood
Why the church even exists
Because Jesus saw the needs of the crowds
With compassion

Matthew 9:37-38 - Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field."

We must... pray... for the harvest

We must... talk to God... about people we love...

Who don't know Him

We must... tell people... the Gospel

But we should never talk to people about God

Before we talk to God about them

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field."

God is certainly calling us

To be the answer to that prayer

In our day

The harvest is plentiful

But few are willing to harvest

The first parallel is covenant

The second parallel is the offering of bread

The third parallel is fire

“Fire”

Let’s look back at the maps

I think this next part is fascinating

Moses and the people

Went from the Red Sea

To Mount Sinai

Modern day Mt. Jabal Maqla

You can look that up – Jabal Maqla

It’s hard to see

From aerial pictures today

And it's such a remote area

We don't have anything like Google Streetview for it

But you can kind of tell

If you look real close

That the top of the mountain is blackened

Zooming in helps a little bit

But it's still hard to see

Here's a picture somebody put on Google maps

Do you see how it's got darker rocks on top?

Here's a picture from another angle

The top of the mountain looks torched

This picture looks exactly

The way you would expect it to look

If the Book of Exodus

Recorded things accurately

God descended upon the mountain

In fire and smoke and lightning

You know, fire can be a wonderful thing

The fire from the sun

Provides energy for our entire planet
The fire in a hearth
Or in a pit
Provides comforting, wonderful moments
To gather around and enjoy friends & family
Fire can be a wonderful thing

But if your house catches on fire
Or a person catches on fire
Fire is horrible and scary

The power of God
Is represented in these two accounts
As fire

And like fire
It can be comforting or horrifying
Depending on your situation

When Moses came down from God
With the law written on tablets of stone
The people's sin
Became exceedingly obvious
And that day

Exodus 32 tells us
3,000 people died
Because of their sin
And because of the consuming judgment
The fire
Of God

That judgment of God
Is a horrifying image
Read Hebrews 12
That judgment of God
Is a horrifying image
For us when we're bearing the weight of our own sin

But because of Jesus
The presence of God
Can also warm us
And comfort us
And draw us together in humble celebration
Of our powerful Creator

At Mt. Sinai
When Moses came down the mountain
3,000 people yielded their lives

Because of their sin

Acts 2 says on the day of Pentecost

3,000 people also yielded their lives

But in a wholly different way

Acts 2:41 (NIV) - Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Look at that verse

Not only is that fascinating

Because of the 3000-person parallel

Dying *in* their sin

And dying *to* their sin

Two events

1,400 years apart

That's fascinating to me

But look at that verse again

3,000 were added

That's 3,000 men

Very likely another 3,000 women

And 3-4,000 kids

And that doesn't even count the Christian people

Who've moved to Jerusalem from California *looking* for a church
That's 10,000 brand new believers
On the first day of the Church

If you have come to believe that the church is designed to stay small

If you have come to believe that the church is designed to stay static

If you have come to believe that the church is mostly designed for people
Already inside the church

You may have misunderstood the Gospel

And you've certainly misunderstood the book of Acts

Because this church

Which was launched in weakness and chaos

This church was filled with the wonder of God

And was immediately bursting at the seams

With people who were flocking to the Gospel

To see His wonder

Now with all of that serving as context

Let me take the last couple minutes

To read the text for today

I think we'll hear it differently

Read Acts 2:1-14a

And the world would never be the same...

In the next couple of years

Hundreds of people

Are going to give their lives to Christ

At this church

I'm not a prophet

But I'm quite confident

In the next couple of years

Hundreds of people

Are going to give their lives to Christ

At this church

If you don't know the Lord

I want to introduce you to Him

He'll turn your world upside down

Now I don't wish anyone ill

But I did pray for you this week

If you don't know the Lord

And I asked God

I said, some of them...

If you don't know the Lord

I want to introduce you to Him

If you know the Lord

We need your help

Because in the next couple of years

Hundreds of people

Are going to give their lives to Christ

At this church

And they're going to need love and support and encouragement and prayer
and teaching

And if you know the Lord

That's why He has you here