

### The Hebrew Significance of Pentecost

- Pentecost (Shavout) was 50 days after the Feast of Firstfruits (the Sunday during Passover week).
- Pentecost is always on a Sunday (Seven weeks and 1 day after Firstfruits).
- Pentecost celebrates the giving of the Torah by God to the Jewish people.
- The Jewish people count each day (“the counting of the Omer), making a connection between freedom from slavery (Passover) and freedom from idolatry (Pentecost).

### Pentecost in Acts 2 is related to the Kingdom, not to the church.

- The church could not begin (nor be revealed) until the Kingdom had been offered and rejected.
  - All people had to be “shut up in disobedience” before God could “show mercy to all.” Romans 11:28-32.
  - Pentecost was the beginning of the Jewish nation being “shut up in disobedience.”
- When Israel would be temporarily cast away, then the “reconciliation of the world” could take place. Romans 11:15.
  - Only by the removal of Israel could “the world” be made a recipient of God’s grace through Jesus Christ.
  - Only by the removal of the church can Israel be the recipient of God’s promises to Abraham.
- The Kingdom could not be offered—
  - Until there were 12 apostles ready to reign
  - Until the King has been rejected, crucified, and raised again
  - Until the Holy Spirit had been given to empower the proclamation of the Kingdom

### The Filling of the Spirit

- The 120 were baptized with the Spirit when the day of Pentecost was “fully come” (KJV, Acts 2:1)
  - Not because they prayed hard enough, fasted, repented, etc.
  - They were instructed to *wait*, and when the time of the Lord had *fully come* to send His Promised Spirit, He did so!
  - The entire 120 were filled with the Spirit. This is a foretaste of what God will do just before the arrival of the Kingdom. Ezekiel 36:24-27.
- The gift of tongues-
  - The clear sign that they had received the Spirit was that they began to speak with other tongues.
    - This was essential to their Great Commission task of telling the world about the Kingdom.
    - At this point, they did not know the Kingdom would be rejected. Their expectation was that the Messiah and His Kingdom would be established in short order.
  - The gift of tongues was a previously prophesied sign of receiving the Spirit. Mark 16:16-18
  - Not only did the gift of tongues enable the proclamation of the Kingdom, but it was a sign of the Kingdom itself. When the Kingdom arrives--
    - The babel of Babylon will be reversed
    - Demons will be cast out
    - Serpents will become tame
    - The sick will recover
- One of the dangers of “Already / Not Yet” Kingdom theology (also called inaugurated eschatology) is it is always at least semi-charismatic. If the Kingdom is present or being presented, then Kingdom signs must accompany its presence or presentation. Inaugurated eschatology has no logical means of removing the “sign” gifts.

### The baptism IN the Holy Spirit –vs–The baptism BY the Holy Spirit

- At Pentecost, the 120 received the fulfilment of the promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:3-4). The risen Lord was the Baptizer, baptizing *in* the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:8).
- In the church, we are baptized *by* the Spirit into “one body,” which is the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13).