THE WAIT IS OVER!

ACTS 2:1-11
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If you're going to wait all year long for one thing, shouldn't it be pretty great?
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Multiply that anticipation by 2,000 + yrs and you may gain a small sense of exhilaration and excitement associated with the events in Acts 2...
Last time, we were together at this hour we spoke of a time when the primary thing the Apostles were told to do was **WAIT!** **Wait For the Promise.** Wait for the **Coming of the Holy Spirit.**
“Be patient, therefore, Brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the Coming of the Lord is at hand.”
Acts 2:1a begins-
“When the day of Pentecost came…”

Pentecost is the Greek word for “50” IE. (7 Sabbaths plus 1 day after Passover.)

In the Old Testament, the Day of Pentecost is described as the Second of Three Annual Feasts of the Jews.
Passover - Deut. 16:1-8 required that the children of Israel—“Observe the month of Abib, (our late March or early April) and keep the Passover to the LORD your God…”

WHY?
Passover - Deut. 16:1-8 “For in the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night. Therefore you shall sacrifice the Passover to the LORD your God, from the flock and the herd, (Passover Lamb) in the place where the LORD chooses to put His name…

AND WHAT WERE THEY TO DO?
Passover - Deut. 16:1-8 - “You shall eat no leavened bread with it; seven days you shall eat unleavened bread with it, that is, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste), that you may remember the day in which you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life. And no leaven shall be seen among you in all your territory for seven days...
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*Passover* - Deut. 16:1-8 - nor shall any of the meat which you sacrifice the first day at twilight remain overnight until morning... you shall sacrifice the Passover at Twilight, at the going down of the sun, at the time you came out of Egypt...
Passover - Deut. 16:1-8 “And you shall roast and eat it in the place which the LORD your God chooses, and in the morning you shall turn and go to your tents. Six days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a sacred assembly to the LORD your God. You shall do no work on it.”
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*Passover* was exactly when Jesus the “Passover Lamb” was crucified.

*It is also the Genesis of the unleavened bread which we partake of in our communion service. Today representing the body of Jesus.*

*Do you know the story of what the Jews call “Afikomen”?*
Pentecost - The Second Feast Day was Pentecost, AKA – “The Feast of Weeks or “The Day of the First Fruits.” This was when the Jews would bring in the first of their wheat harvest to offer before the Lord.
Pentecost - Deut. 16:9-12 - “You shall count seven weeks for yourself; begin to count the seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the grain. Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the LORD your God blesses you.”
Pentecost - was a feast associated with the Joy of the Harvest, during which Israelites brought forth a freewill offering unto the LORD, as a demonstration of the thanks in their heart.
Pentecost - “You shall rejoice before the LORD your God, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, the Levite who is within your gates, the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who are among you, at the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide. And you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and you shall be careful to observe these statutes.”
Pentecost – Leviticus 23:15-21 describes how, at The Feast of Pentecost, Israel was to celebrate by bringing a new grain offering to the LORD and by waving two loaves of leavened bread unto the LORD.
Pentecost – Prophetically, this is a powerful picture of the work of God in the New Covenant, fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2.

1) No atoning sacrifice was necessary on this day - *because the price had already been paid by Jesus.*
Pentecost – Prophetically, this is a powerful picture of the work of God in the New Covenant, fulfilled at the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2.

2) Instead there was a great harvest unto God, and great thanksgiving for that harvest.
Pentecost –

3) The response given to God on the day of Pentecost was not to be done out of obligation to a particular Law. It was the joyful heart-response of God’s people unto Him.
Feast of Tabernacles - Deut. 16:13-15 -
“You shall observe the Feast of Tabernacles seven days, when you have gathered from your threshing floor and from your winepress. And you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant and the Levite, the stranger and the fatherless and the widow, who are within your gates...
Feast of Tabernacles - Deut. 16:13-15 -
Seven days you shall keep a sacred feast to the LORD your God in the place which the LORD chooses, because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you surely rejoice.”
Feast of Tabernacles - This was to happen on the fifteenth day of the Jewish month of Tishri (our Sept-Oct.). It celebrated God’s deliverance and provision for Israel during the time of wilderness wandering; took place in the Promised Land.
Feast of Tabernacles - Leviticus 23:39 says that the Feast of Tabernacles began on the first day with a Sabbath-rest, and ended on the eighth day with a Sabbath rest. It was all about rest and refresh-ment, remembering what God had done.
We have Jesus dying on the Passover. (Sacrifice)

The church being born at Pentecost. (Celebration)

And many see the Day of Judgment in the Feast of The Tabernacles. - (Rest)
Acts 2:1b continues:
“They were all together in one place…”

I take this to mean the Apostles.
It could be the 120 (?)

But the context points to it meaning the 12 Apostles (including Matthias)

This would exclude the others present.
2) The remainder of the activities in Acts 2 (IE. the preaching of the First Gospel Sermon) was done by the 12 Apostles - “Peter and the Eleven” (v. 14).
When the Holy Spirit came- He came in a truly spectacular way...
There was “a noise like a violent rushing wind."
In the Old Testament, great winds would sometimes accompany great demonstrations of God’s power on behalf of Israel (Parting of the Red Sea- Ex 14:21; God’s provision of Quail in Num 11:31) and it is also spoken of in connection with God’s Judgment (Ezek 13:11,13).
The apparent message is that the Apostles Pentecost Sermon was INSPIRED BY GOD, not men, and contained God’s Perfect JUDGMENT for today.
“And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.” (Acts 2:3)
God’s presence and His power were often accompanied with fire in the O.T. (The Burning Bush of Ex 3; The Pillar of Fire in the Wilderness Journey in Ex 13ff), and God Himself is described as a “consuming fire” (Deut 4:24; also Heb. 12:29).
However, “the fire of God” as described in the N.T. is most often a reference to God’s Righteous Judgment and/or the Refining Process He uses to make people Holy for Himself. Likely the fire here has to do with God’s Righteous purpose to create a new church, a refining place, made up of those who faithfully obey His Son’s Gospel.
Unique Issue: The Language Barrier
Acts 2:9-10 says there were “Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs…”

How could this issue be solved?
Unique Solution: A Reverse Babel

“They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues.”

The other tongues here were the various languages represented by the multitude gathered in Jerusalem for Pentecost...
At the original Babel, GOD thwarted the building of a tower to Heaven, by confusing their languages. Here He reverses the process, allowing those present to hear God’s Word in their own language, thus completing the work of Jesus – “building His church” Matt. 16:18.”
It is implied that the Apostles were given the actual WORDS or MESSAGE itself.

This, too, would have been consistent with Jesus’ promise concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit.

*John 16:13* Jesus had said; “When He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all Truth.”
It is implied that the Apostles were given the actual WORDS or MESSAGE itself.

Luke 12:11-12 – “When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”
The Apostles didn’t really understand all this when Jesus first said it - it only became clear to them after Jesus was “glorified” (see John 12:16).

What is clear OR what became clear on that Day was that what was happening, was happening for a reason...
Joanne Milne, age 40, from Gateshead, England was born deaf. In addition, during her 20’s she contracted *Usher Syndrome*, a rare medical condition that causes one to lose their sight...
Last March (2014) she was fitted with cochlear implants, and now, after 40 years of silence, thanks to this life-changing procedure Joanne is now able to hear.

God has a life-changing procedure for you as well!
Can you imagine the blessing of hearing for the first time?

*Multiply that by Eternity*—and you have the value of hearing the understanding the Gospel for the first time...

I mean really *hearing* it...and *obeying* it.
Jn 12:46-48 – ”I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness. If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the Word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.”
Mk. 16:16 -“He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.”
You know that you need to Repent.
You know you need to be Baptized.

You’re not deaf.
You can hear.

“What are you still waiting for?

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