

### LESSON III

REVIEW VERY BRIEFLY THE FIRST TWO LESSONS before beginning the third. Pause at the end of the second lesson to read Hebrews 9: 15-17 written at the top of the cross on Chart 1.

(This scripture was not used in Lesson Two so that you might have an excuse to remind them again that the Mosaic law is not binding on us today. Point out in this text that a will does not come into effect until after the one who made it is dead; therefore, Christ's new law did not come into effect until after the cross. This will help explain many questions later on down the line, such as the "thief on the cross." Do not fail to make this point clear!)

(TURN TO THE NEXT CHART.)

#### A NEW CHART

You will note that this new chart is designed along the same lines as the first one we looked at. These first two represent the Patriarchal law and the Mosaic law. The third part represents the Christian law. This is the third period of Bible history, and the last law that God's people will be under.

#### 50 DAYS

Now we are going to have a "change of pace" right here. Up to this point we have been talking in terms of centuries of time, and each lesson has covered at least one thousand years or more. In this third lesson we are going to continue to move forward in time, but now it will only be a matter of 50 days!

We want to study the events of only one day, and that day was named "Pentecost." (According to Lev. 23:15,16 and II Chron. 8:12, 13 this day came 50 days after the Passover Feast.) We read in Acts 1:3 of Jesus showing himself alive for a period of "40 days" after His resurrection from the dead. The 50th day after the Passover is our lesson for this time. On this first Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection something very important happened. This day and its events will be our subject now.

#### LOOKING FORWARD TO PENTECOST

First, let us notice some verses which point forward to this day. There are a lot of things in each of these passages, but for now let's just decide which direction they point: (Note the arrows pointing forward in each case.)

#### OLD TESTAMENT

1. Daniel 2:44 - speaks of a future kingdom.
2. Isaiah 2:2,3 - tells of the house of the Lord being established and the word of the Lord going forth from Jerusalem.
3. Jeremiah 31:31 - predicts a completely new covenant somewhere down the stream of time.
4. Joel 2:28 - said that the Holy Spirit would come on some notable future day.

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Yet, when we open the pages of the New Testament, this event still has not come to pass.

### NEW TESTAMENT

1. Matthew 3:1,2 - shows John saying the kingdom is still "at hand."
2. Matthew 16:18- depicts Jesus as saying He "will build" His church at some future date. (So it still had not come.)
3. Mark 9:1- The Lord told His disciples that some of them would still be alive when the kingdom came with power.
4. Acts 1:4- Jesus returns to heaven with the command for them to "wait for the promise."

### LOOKING BACK TO PENTECOST

When we come to the other side of the day of Pentecost, we see the scriptures pointing backward to a great event: (Note the arrows pointing backward.)

1. Revelation 1:4 - speaks of seven congregations of the church already in existence in Asia.
2. I Corinthians 1:2 - makes it clear that a church is in existence in the city of Corinth at that time.
3. Acts 11:15 - Peter looks back to an event and calls it "the beginning."
4. Acts 8:1 - speaks of "the church which was in Jerusalem."
5. Acts 5:11 - speaks simply of "the whole church."

### PENTECOST ITSELF

The event to which all these verses point is in Acts 2. At this point all lines converge. We want to read this chapter with you and see if we can discover what happened on this day in history.

\*\*\*\*\*READ ACTS 2 AND EXPLAIN IT\*\*\*\*\*

When you are finished, go back and note these points which fulfill the prophecy:

1. Daniel's kingdom  
(Daniel 2:44) - Jesus speaks in Matt. 16: 18,19 of the church and the kingdom in the same breath.
2. Isaiah's house - Begun at Jerusalem as Isaiah predicted.  
(Isaiah 2:2,3) (Acts 1:4; 2:5) Church is called "house of God."  
(I Timothy 3:15)
3. Jeremiah's new covenant - Acts 2:38 commands repentance and baptism in the name of Christ. This is the first time God required exactly this, so must be new.  
(Jeremiah 31:31)

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4. Joel's Holy Spirit given - Peter said, "This is that spoken by Joel." Acts 2:16)  
(Joel 2:28)
5. Was at hand as John said- Came 3 years later after close of Jesus' ministry.  
(Matt. 3:2)
6. Jesus predicted "some" - All apostles except Judas were alive. (Acts 1:15-26)  
would be alive when  
kingdom came. (Mark 9:1)

CONCLUSIONS

In this lesson we have learned that the Lord's church was begun on the first Pentecost after His resurrection. In Acts 2:47 is made the first mention in all the Bible where anyone was "added" to the existing church.

This all happened just 50 days after the point where we closed our last lesson. Thus, we realize that this was a real religious movement begun at a definite point in history.

Next time we will study about this church as it is described in the New Testament. We think you will find this an interesting study. It will be different from what you have studied before about the church. We will try to study this church as we would study any other historical movement.