

the main points again...

Old Testament Pentecost- see Leviticus 23.-14
Originally a thanksgiving for the firstfruits of the harvest...

What makes a good Pentecost sermon?

Mistaking the beginning for the end, the signpost for the destination...

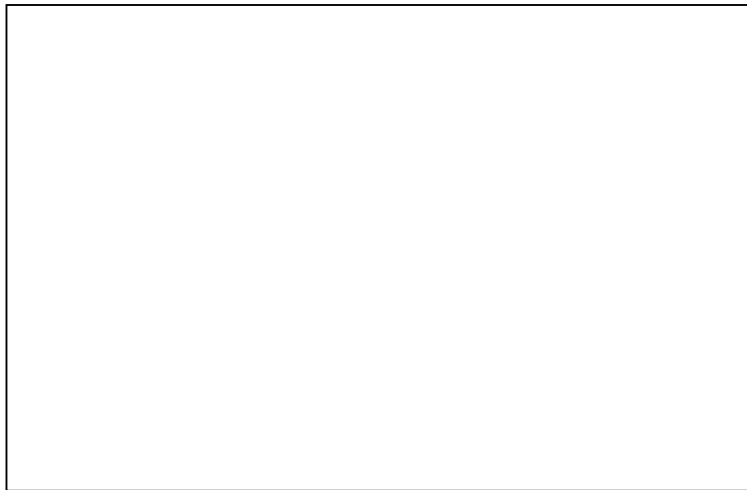
The Acts Pentecost leads to:

Worship and witness

BUT what does this mean? (v.12)

The beginning of the end- heaven breaking out on earth...

The last days, signifying an earth-shattering new thing



...why are these the last days?

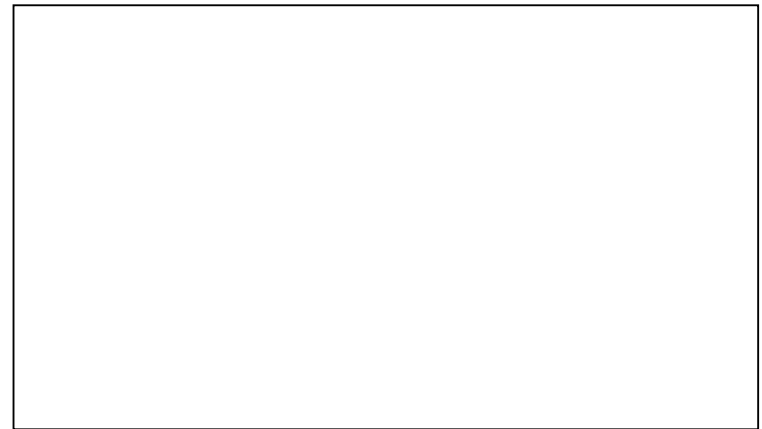
Because of Jesus

32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

...what shall we do?

“Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ **for the forgiveness of your sins**. And you will **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**”

Escaping a corrupt generation by storing up heavenly treasures...



“Being saved doesn’t just mean, as it does for many today, ‘going to heaven when you die’. It means, ‘...knowing God’s rescuing power, the power revealed in Jesus, which anticipates, in the present God’s final act of deliverance”
- Tom Wright

So what...

Read Leviticus 23, especially verses 9-14.

Pentecost was a festival giving thanks for what we have received through God's provision and praying for the forthcoming full harvest...

How do you think these actions might relate to what happened on Pentecost in Acts 2?

Look at the other festivals here...do you think we might learn from their practice of pausing, feasting and fasting?

Read Acts 2.1-41

What do you find most striking about this passage?

What does Peter mean by suggesting that we are in the 'last days'? In what ways is this the beginning of the end?

How do you read the images of the bloody moon etc?

Consider our use of the phrase 'earth-shattering'. Does the earth really shatter?

Work your way through verses 22-36

What do we learn about Jesus from these verses?

Trace the course of reference from the speaking in tongues through to 'God has made thus Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and God'

Is this the only way to preach the gospel? How much of this message would be accessible to people unfamiliar with the Old Testament?

Cf. Acts 17 and the message to the Areopagus

What shall we do then?

Consider each of Peter's answers to this question through vv.38-40...

Respond together in prayer and discussion...

Sunday May 11th 2008



The Beginning of the End

Acts 2.1-41

Devoted to Christ, his people, his mission