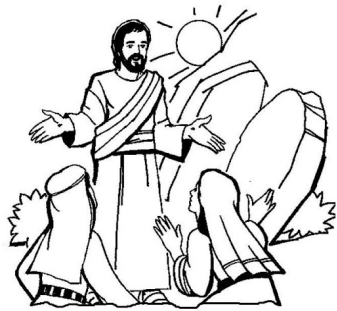


PENTECOST 2020

THE CHURCH AT SARDIS – A CHURCH MARKED BY LIFE?

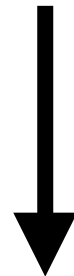
PENTECOST – BREATH OF GOD

THE TIMELINE



RESURRECTION

40 DAYS



ASCENSION

10 DAYS



PENTECOST

ACTS2 VV 1-13

- ▶ The church is in lockdown, it's waiting...
- ▶ Jesus tells his disciples *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes..."* **ACTS1 V 8**
- ▶ Pentecost has several external markers of an internal change

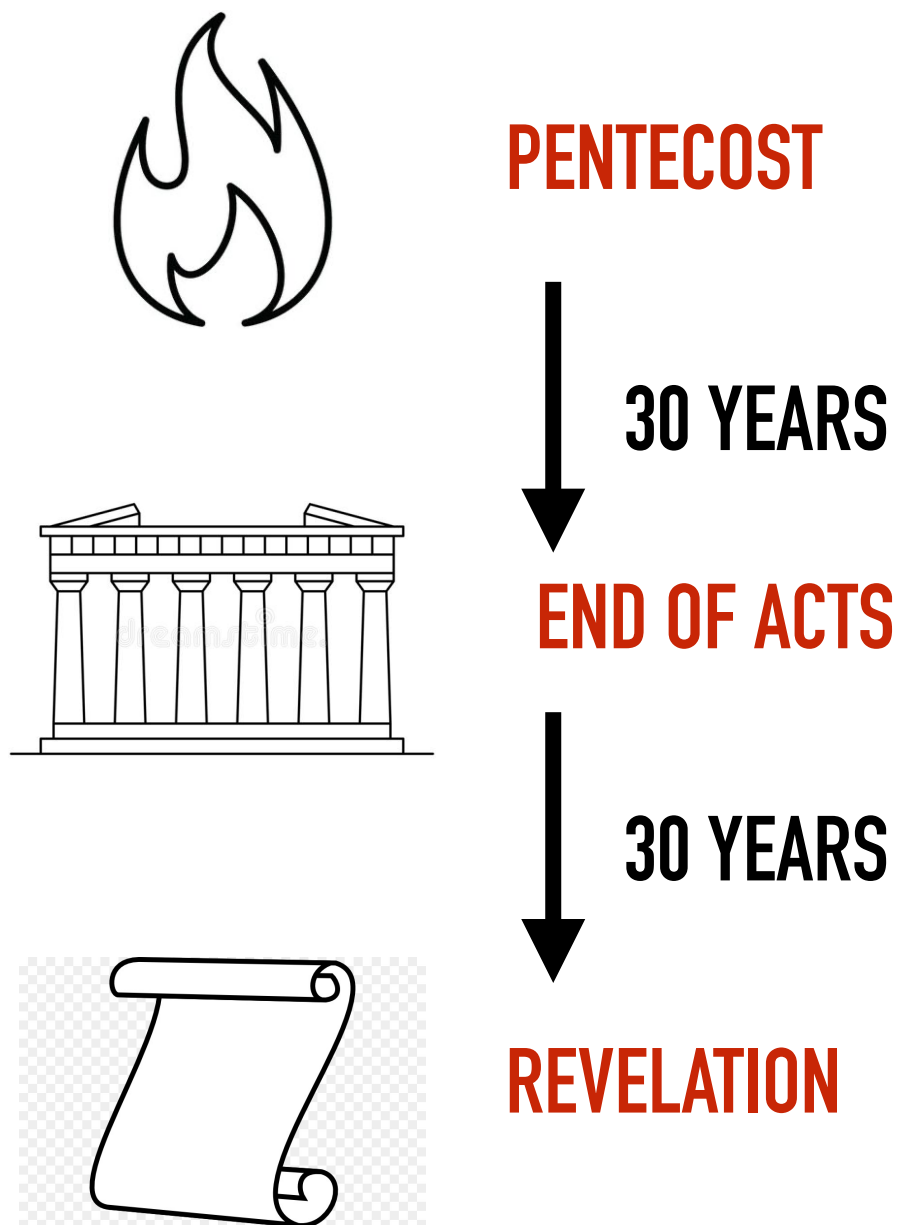
PENTECOST – BREATH OF GOD

ACTS 2 VV 1-13

- ▶ Both the Greek word “πνεῦμα” (*pneuma*) and Hebrew word “*ruach*” are used to mean spirit, but literally mean breath.
 - ▶ *Throughout the Scriptures it is the animating force of God*
- ▶ When the Spirit comes on the Church the situation changes:
 - ▶ The change is collective. **V 4**
 - ▶ The change is supernatural. **V 7**
 - ▶ The change empowers them to go and make a difference. **V 12**

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE ALIVE?

THE TIMELINE



REV3 VV 1-6

- ▶ The “seven-fold” spirit of God, gives us a clue, **V1**
- ▶ The contrast of “dead” with “names written in the book of life” gives us another.
- ▶ Do they have external markers of an internal change?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE ALIVE?

REV3 VV 1-6

- ▶ The church at Sardis is declared "dead", but has many external markers that we might be impressed by:
 - ▶ **Security** - both the city and the Christians in it are secure from external threats.
 - ▶ **Wealth** - Sardis was a very wealthy trading city, located at the cross-roads of east-west and north-south travel.
 - ▶ **Works** - Jesus "knows their deeds" v1
 - ▶ **Reputation** - They have a "reputation of being alive" v1

When faith is replaced by creed, worship by discipline, love by habit; when the crisis of today is ignored because of the splendour of the past... when religion speaks in the name of authority rather than with the voice of compassion, its message becomes meaningless.

Abraham Heschel

MARKERS OF LIFE: LOOKING BACK TO PENTECOST

THE TIMELINE



YOU

2 GENERATIONS

AND YOUR CHILDREN

100 GENERATIONS

AND ALL WHO ARE FAR OFF



THE 7
CHURCHES



ACTS 2 VV 38 & 39

- ▶ Peter preaches and the people respond "What shall we do?"
- ▶ *"Repent and be baptised...and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and all who are far off - for all whom the Lord will call"*

MARKERS OF LIFE: LOOKING BACK TO PENTECOST

- ▶ What are the markers of Life, what does the Spirit of God breathe into his church?
 - ▶ Do we pray collectively and individually, and engage with the word allowing the Spirit to act on us? **V 42**
 - ▶ Are we engaged with the struggle of the needy and poor? **V 45**
 - ▶ Do we have relationships that move us beyond bitterness and anger, reconciling us to one another? **V 47**

