

Yom Kippur 14

One Accord: the Ten Days Prior to Pentecost

Acts 2:1 — At Pentecost the Holy Spirit was poured out on His disciples. All those who believed were *together*, in one place, in one accord. The NKJ version says that they were all in one place — *with one accord*. The word *together* and *with one accord* means the same thing. They were not just together physically, but they were *together in Spirit* and *in one accord*. The Holy Spirit was poured out at that time and they were all together in *one place*. It goes on to talk about how all who believed were together (Acts 2:44) and in *every place* they were *one* — *in unity*.

That was the whole pattern of the first community. That's what the bread means — *that we're one*. If we truly take the bread as His Body and really discern the Body, then we won't allow anything to come in to divide us. We won't allow spirits to speak to us and cause *discord*. We won't "give in." The minute we start feeling discouraged, we start praising our Father, knowing that we can see what's happening. We don't have to give in. Praise and giving thanks makes the enemy flee. If he can see that the result of his ministry is that we give thanks, then he will have no place in us. He has to flee. That's what we're doing here.

We break this bread. It is His Body. What's in that cup *IS* His blood. It's the same as His blood and His body. I'm thankful we can be in one place (Acts 2:1), in one accord. The Holy Spirit wouldn't have been able to come to us unless that had happened. The Spirit wouldn't have been able to be poured out, without a people living in one accord. If those 120 had not been in one accord there would have been no one there to begin the Edah — no one to even to know what to say to tell them to repent and be baptized. There would have been no one with the "many other words" to bring them into *koinonia* and to tell them how to lay down their lives by laying all they had at the apostle's feet. The Holy Spirit would have never been given unless they were in one accord together. We're in one accord together, in one place right now. Some day the Holy Spirit might fill us all and come upon us, when we're truly together, discerning the Body.

After our Master ascended, it was ten days later that the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost. It took ten days before He reached His destination and was received in heaven where the coronation went on and then He poured out His Spirit upon the earth. In those ten days right after He ascended, they were all gathered together in this upper room — 120 of them. These 120 were His closest companions during His ministry. They knew Him well. The twelve apostles were there, but the rest were those whom He had healed and cast demons out of and touched along His way. When they went out and preached to the thousands, they had to have that 120.

This was the ten-day period of preparation before Pentecost when they, as the nucleus (seed), were being made “whole” in order to preach the gospel with authority. This was a type to understand how it will be for us when we celebrate Yom Kippur. This was the beginning of the restored twelve-tribed nation — *Israel*.

They were all in that upper room together, confessing their sins to one another with deep grief and remorse for how they had been towards one another and Yahshua during His lifetime on earth. They talked about Judas. All the other people spoke too, all those who had been healed (out of the 120). Kepha, no doubt, was heartbroken over his denial of Yahshua, and Mary (Yahshua’s mother) was recounting her own doubt and misgivings towards her Son when she had come to take Him away for fear He had lost His mind (Mk 3:20-35). She grieved in remorse at the words of the prophet as she remembered Simeon who said her own soul would be pierced by this Son (Lk 2:34-35). Why had she not understood more clearly? What sorrow she must have felt for having hindered Him by her motherly concern (Mk 3:20,21,31-35).

It was a time of really pouring out of their souls and confessing their sins, their shortcomings, their grievances towards one another, and how they weren’t really trusting Him, and how they couldn’t really understand why He had to be killed. Each one disclosed the hidden motives that were at work within them which did not fully honor and recognize His absolute Sovereignty. A complete cleansing had come to all of them over that ten-day period. They were in love with one another as never before. They had never needed or depended on one another as they had now come to know and

understand. Their only desire was to *remain together*. That's why it says in Acts 2:1 that "they were *all together, in one accord, in one place*." This was the nucleus of the coming nation — in perfect harmony and peace with one another. This ten-day period of affliction (of their soul) was the essential stepping-stone to the following day.

Had it not been for this period of preparation, this time of being made perfectly "whole" (one), the Holy Spirit would never have been poured out upon them in power (Acts 2:2). Because they were together in one place and of one accord, without any dissension or division (all their sins were confessed), THEN the Holy Spirit could come upon them in power (verses 4,5,8). The Holy Spirit could not have come to *empower* them, had there been any division between them or sin hindering their consciences and fellowship. They would have been held back by guilt, ashamed to proclaim His Name with all confidence and liberty. He could not have made a *home* in them (Jn 14:17,18,23) due to their uncleanness and disharmony. Whatever remained in them of unbelief or disunity was dealt with. By the end of those ten days the evil one had no place in them in which to dwell. They were a fit dwelling *only* for the clean, Holy Spirit. They were ready to bring in the Kingdom of God and proclaim the good news of that Kingdom during the festival of Pentecost (Mt 12:25). Three thousand were saved at one time.

I know that for the Holy Spirit to come upon people, they've got to be *without sin*. You can read it yourself (Acts 1:12 - 2:1). They returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. They went into the upper room where they were staying. It says, with one accord, in prayer and supplication. Mary and all His brothers — everyone was up there. It says with one accord they were praying with supplication. Can you imagine what would have happened if the 3,000 came in the next few days and they didn't have those people who were filled with the Holy Spirit? They were the leaders of the community. It just showed the same pattern throughout. I guess in those ten days they were remembering all the words He spoke. Just like He had said in Mt 28:18-20, "Command the people who believe in Me, the same things I commanded you." They remembered everything He spoke, everything He did. They recounted everything He did all the way to the cross.

They started putting it all together according to the scriptures. Then Peter and the rest of the apostles could give that tremendous proclamation. Three thousand repented and with many, many, many other words they kept on exhorting them on just exactly how to be saved. They told them what they had to do, but with *many other words* they told them exactly what they had to do.

They proclaimed the *comprehensive gospel*, the full account, the whole thing, so they could fully comprehend it and understand it. There wasn't any mistake about it afterward (Mt 10:34-39; Mk 10:29-30; Lk 14:26,27,33, etc.). He was *thorough* in what he presented, leaving no room for *obscurity* or *confusion* as to what they were guilty of (Acts 2:23; Rom 1:16 - 2:16). Along with all the apostles, he declared to them the *whole purpose* of God (Acts 20:27) and as a result it formed a life that was "whole" (Acts 2:42-45). They were *wholly devoted* to the words (Mt 28:19,*20) of the apostles and experienced in "reality" the Life of the Son of God. This is what they were baptized into and could now begin being that "witness" of Messiah's Kingdom on earth (Mt 24:14; Acts 1:8; Jn 15:26-27).

That's how the first community began. They had a lot to think about once everyone responded. Many of them were from other parts of the world and had traveled long distances for the day of Pentecost. Some of them had left their families behind. There's much in that account. We overlook a whole lot of what actually happened.

These 3,000 were convinced, weren't they? They really saw and understood it. That's why Ps 116 says, "What can I do to repay You for all Your mercy toward me. Thank you for hearing my voice and my supplication. I will call upon Your name for as long as I live." I know that's what they did. They made supplication.

We too have this to look forward to in greater fullness. It will happen at a phenomenal pace if we will but cleanse ourselves from those things that hold back the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We have to be done with the world, the flesh and Satan. There's nothing to look back to. We have to press on. That's what I want and I believe that's what you want and that's what the nucleus must be dedicated to if the words of our Savior are to ever come to fulfillment (Mt 21:43; Isa 53:10-11). We were

chosen to fulfill that final witness of His Kingdom on earth specifically at this time in history. We have to call upon Him and have no regard for our own flesh, but crucify it. We are under obligation to obey the Spirit now (Rom 8:12-13).

We have to come to the knowledge of the truth in every area that we especially need our Master Yahshua the most. He isn't ashamed of us, He knows we can obey Him, because He has revealed Himself to us (Lk 10:21-22). He was willing to reveal Himself to us because He knew that we were willing to do all His will (Jn 7:17-18). We have to be purified so the full effect of the gospel can be manifested through our lives. We have to be clean vessels for our Father's use. All the errant ways, the deep-seated bents in us that we inherited from our fathers have to go. At least, we have to come to self-judgment, where the evil one will not sway or have dominance over us in any way that would cripple or weaken the Body. We have to maintain our boast for a 50-year period with increasing love and purity until Jubilee.

Our Father is impressing these words upon us. We are all He has, and He is counting on us. The lack of devotion and love that caused the early church to fall, along with their messengers, must not fail with us. He's seeing to it that we are saved. We can't be disheartened by the work He is doing in our lives.

He wants to fully release us one day and when that day comes we have to be perfectly ready and prepared just like those 120 that were faithfully together, in one accord and intent on one purpose. And that was to see the Kingdom of God established on earth. They went before us (both their obedient and disobedient examples) so that we could have a foundation upon which to build. After 1900 years of darkness, we have to be linked up to the faithful of the first century and complete what they began (Heb 11:39-40).