A Pentecost Anointing

We've all read the story of that first Pentecost following Yeshua's resurrection. The disciples were gathered together, the sound of a mighty rushing wind filled the house, tongues of fire appeared, and suddenly people were speaking in languages they had never learned. It was an extraordinary event.

But have you ever stopped to wonder what was happening in heaven that day? Most of us have focused entirely on what happened here on earth. We read about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the thousands who were baptized, and the beginning of the disciples' powerful ministry.

But I believe there was something far greater taking place, something that is easily overlooked if we don't understand the connection between the earthly sanctuary and the heavenly one. And the clues are right there in Scripture.

What Did Peter Say Happened?

The story is recorded in Acts 2, but I want you to pay particular attention to Peter's explanation of what the people were witnessing. After explaining Yeshua's death and resurrection, Peter says something remarkable in Acts 2:33:

> "Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear."

Don't miss that. Peter tells us that what the people were seeing and hearing on earth was the result of something that had happened in heaven. Yeshua had been exalted to the right hand of God, had received the promise of the Holy Spirit from His Father, and had poured out that Spirit upon His followers.

And notice what Peter says just a few verses later in Acts 2:36:

> "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ."

That word *Christ* means *Anointed One*, the Greek equivalent of *Messiah*. Peter is telling the people that Yeshua, whom they had crucified, had been raised from the dead and exalted to a dual position of authority in heaven.

A King AND a High Priest!

Most of us understand that Yeshua is our King. We also know that He is our High Priest. But have you ever considered how extraordinary it is for one person to hold both offices?

In ancient Israel, the kings generally came from the tribe of Judah, while the priests came from the tribe of Levi, through Aaron. These were separate offices. Yet the Messiah was prophesied to hold both. Look at Zechariah 6:12–13:

> Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:
>
> Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and **he shall be a priest upon his throne**: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.

Now compare this with Hebrews 8:1–2:

> We have such an high **priest**, who is set on the **right hand of the throne** of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

There's another prophecy that brings these two offices together.

Psalm 110:

> Verse 1: The LORD said unto my Lord, **Sit thou at my right hand**, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.
>
> Verse 4: The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, **Thou art a priest for ever** after the order of Melchizedek.

Peter quoted this Psalm in Acts 2:34–35 to explain Yeshua's exaltation to God's right hand, while also declaring that He would be a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. Hebrews 5:5–6 also confirms that this priesthood belongs to Yeshua.

The Anointing of Our King and High Priest

Under the earthly sanctuary system, a new High Priest was consecrated to his office by anointing. Exodus 29:7 instructs Moses:

> "Then shalt thou take the anointing oil, and pour it upon his head, and anoint him."

Leviticus 8:12 records that Moses did exactly that when Aaron was consecrated.

Kings were also anointed. In 1 Samuel 16:13, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed David in the presence of his brothers. And what happened next?

> "...and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward."

Notice the connection between the anointing with oil and the coming of the Holy Spirit. Oil was used in the physical ceremony, but it represented something far greater.

Now look at what Hebrews says about Yeshua. Hebrews 1:8–9 declares:

> But unto the Son he saith, **Thy throne, O God, is for ever and eve**r: a sceptre of righteousness is **the sceptre of thy kingdom**.
>
> Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, **hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness** above thy fellows.

Here we have Yeshua's throne, His kingdom, and His anointing all described together.

Yeshua had already been anointed with the Holy Spirit during His earthly ministry. Peter confirms this in Acts 10:38, and we see the Spirit descending upon Him at His baptism. But following His resurrection, He was exalted to His Father's right hand, where He would minister as our heavenly High Priest and exercise His royal authority.

Could the first Pentecost following His resurrection have marked the inauguration of this heavenly ministry, with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit being the visible evidence here on earth? I believe the Scriptures give us good reason to consider exactly that.

The Holy Spirit Could Not Come Until Yeshua Was Glorified

There's another passage that helps tie everything together. During the Feast of Tabernacles, Yeshua spoke of living water flowing from those who believed in Him. John 7:39 explains what He meant:

> "But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: **for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified**."

Then, shortly before His crucifixion, He told His disciples:

> "...**if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you**; but if I depart, I will send him unto you." (John 16:7)

First, Yeshua had to complete His earthly ministry, die, rise again, and return to His Father. Only then the promised Holy Spirit would be sent. And this is exactly what Peter tells us happened in Acts 2:33.

Yeshua had been exalted to the right hand of God. He had received the promise of the Holy Spirit from His Father. And He had poured out that Spirit upon His people. The events on earth were the evidence of His exaltation in heaven. Consider also Hebrews 9:11–12, which tells us

that Yeshua entered the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, by His own blood, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

The earthly sanctuary was only a pattern. The true ministry was taking place in heaven. So could the great event that occurred on Pentecost have been connected with our Messiah taking up His heavenly work as both King and High Priest?

What Was Really Happening on Pentecost?

We are not given a description of a literal anointing ceremony in heaven on that day. Scripture doesn't tell us that someone poured oil upon Yeshua's head in the heavenly sanctuary. But consider what we **are** told.

- We know that Yeshua was raised from the dead and exalted to the right hand of His Father.
- We know that He is both King and High Priest.
- We know that kings and priests under the earthly system were anointed when they were appointed to their offices.
- We know that the earthly sanctuary and its services were patterned after heavenly realities.
- We know that the Messiah is described as having been anointed.
- And we know, because Peter tells us plainly, that the Holy Spirit poured out at Pentecost came from Yeshua after His exaltation in heaven.

These are not disconnected facts. When we put them together, I believe they present a picture of Pentecost as far more than the day when the disciples received the gift of tongues. What if the tongues of fire, the rushing wind, and the miraculous proclamation of the gospel were the earthly signs of our Messiah's heavenly inauguration as King and High Priest?

What Does This Mean for Us Today?

Yeshua is still our King. He is still our High Priest, ministering in the heavenly sanctuary on our behalf. And the Holy Spirit He poured out upon His disciples is still available to His people today.

We may never see tongues of fire resting upon our heads. We may never suddenly begin speaking languages we have never learned. But the evidence of the Holy Spirit in our lives is not limited to miraculous signs.

Galatians 5:22–23 describes the fruit of the Spirit:

> "...love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance..."

And Ezekiel 36:27 tells us something else that is vitally important:

> "And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them."

The Holy Spirit doesn't simply give us extraordinary experiences. He changes our hearts, leads us into truth, and enables us to walk in obedience to Yehovah.

Yeshua also promised that the Spirit of truth would guide us into all truth and show us things to come (John 16:13). That is my prayer for every one of us.

So the next time you read Acts 2, I hope you will think about more than what happened in that upper room in Jerusalem. Think about the heavenly sanctuary. Think about our Messiah, exalted to His Father's right hand. Think about the King who is also our High Priest.

Perhaps the greatest event of that first Pentecost wasn't what the people saw happening on earth, but what those extraordinary events revealed had happened in heaven.

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