

HISTORIC CHANGE

We can all think of days throughout history that changed the world and our nation. The signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the assassination of John F. Kennedy, the Cold War, and 9/11 are just a few events that changed history. But there is one day in history that changed the world like no other. “Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:47). God began adding those who believed, confessed, repented, and were baptized (Acts 2:36-38) to His Church. There is no day in history comparable to the change that was brought about on this first Pentecost day after the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

* **There was a CHANGE in Law.**

The Law of Moses gave way to the Law of Christ (Col. 2:14; Gal. 6:2). The Law of Christ (the teachings of the New Testament) became authoritative and God's plan to save (i.e. “Repent and be baptized” {Acts 2:38}) was preached for the first time at that historic day of Pentecost.

* **There was a CHANGE in Priesthood.**

The Priesthood was no longer a duty of the Levites as under the Old Law (Deu. 10:8). The New Testament Priesthood is a duty of all Christians (1 Pet. 2:5, 9). The High Priest Hood had been an office held by Aaron and his sons under the Law of Moses. The New Law brought about a new High Priest – Jesus Christ (Heb. 2:17, 4:15).

* **There was a CHANGE from the Physical to the Spiritual.**

The Physical nation of Israel had served its role in God's Divine plan to redeem mankind (Mat. 5:17; Col. 2:14). On this historic day of Pentecost (Acts 2) a new, Spiritual Israel (the Church of Christ) became God's chosen people (Gal. 6:15-16). The saved are those who obey God's New testament plan of salvation (Acts 2:38, 47).

* **There was a CHANGE in Sacrifice.**

The animal sacrifices of the Old Testament gave way (Heb. 10:4) to the perfect, sinless sacrifice of the Son of God (Heb. 9:26; 10:10). The blood Jesus shed on the cross is the only sacrifice that can save man today. God tells us that we can contact that blood in Jesus' death. “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:3-4). The Christian's “walk in newness of life,” has replaced the meat and peace offerings commanded under the Old Law and as recorded in the book of Leviticus. Under the New Law, God requires a sacrifice of one's

self by simple and humble obedience to Him. “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Rom. 12:1-2).

The establishment of the Church of Christ, as recorded in Acts 2, is indeed a day that CHANGED the world. God has given all men the opportunity and the invitation to be added to that Church (John 3:16; Mat. 11:28-30; Acts 2:47). It is now our privilege and responsibility to obey God’s plan whereby He may add us to His glorious Kingdom and among the saved.

- *Brad Green*