

Remnant Life Church
June 5, 2022
Pentecost: A Heavenly Invasion
Acts 2:1-12

The word invasion is not a comfortable one

- It conjures up images of armies crossing geographic borders
- It is a basement with wood beams filled with termites
- It is Martians arriving in a small midwestern town only to be bested by the young handsome sheriff and his adorable petite yet feisty girlfriend
- I feel now at this time that it is very important for me to share with you my top 3 space invasion stories
 - Number 3 - War of the Worlds (I enjoyed both the 1953 version starring Gene Barry and Ann Robinson as well as the 2005 Tom Cruise version)
 - Number 2 - Independence Day starring Will Smith and Jeff Goldblum (great aliens!)
 - The sequel was even watchable
 - Number 1 - is an episode of *The Twilight Zone*
 - It was the 24th program of season 3 that aired for the first time on March 2, 1962
 - A giant race of people called the Kanamits come to earth (7'2" Richard Keil in a pre-James Bond Jaws role)
 - They have wonderful, advanced technology they want to share with earth as linguists attempt to decipher the writing in a book that is, as near as they can tell goes by the benevolent title of To Serve Man
 - Toward the end of the story, if you remember, the main character, one of the men who figured out the title, is getting ready to board one of their vessels to be taken to their planet along with thousands of others anxious for the opportunity to visit this utopian planet
 - Just as he is walking up the steps to enter the vessel his assistant comes running up holding the book and shouting, "Don't get on that ship! We deciphered the rest of the writing...it's a cookbook!!"
 - So, the word invasion is very specific in what it represents

Yet, did you know that heaven has invaded earth on multiple occasions?

- In one of the earliest recorded found in **Genesis 28** Abraham's grandson, Jacob, has tricked his father Isaac and stolen the birthright of his brother Esau
 - He is on the run as his brother, furious at what has happened, is in pursuit
 - Jacob decides to stop for the night in a town called Bethel on his way to Paddan-aram to stay with his uncle Leban, another 450 miles south from Bethel
 - One night, Jacob has an incredible dream of a ladder reaching to heaven from earth
 - He was being shown that Heaven, just like earth, is an open place and connected to one another
 - So much so that angels travel back and forth to do the will of God

- We see this time and time again through the Scriptures of angels coming to earth bringing messages from the very throne of God
 - Many in the NT encounters revolved around Jesus
 - It was an angel who announced to Zechariah that his son John was going to be a great man in the eyes of the Lord (Luke 1:11)
 - It was an angel who announced to Mary that, in spite of the fact that she had never known a man, she would give birth to the Son of God (Luke 1:28)
 - A whole heavenly choir of angels appeared to the shepherds in the fields to announce the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:13)
 - At Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove to show God's approval and pleasure at what was happening (Luke 3:21-22)
 - And in the wilderness following the temptation of Jesus, angels came and ministered to His needs (Matt 4:11)
- Yet it was not angels alone
 - Abraham, Moses, Isaiah, and Daniel all witnessed or experienced moments when heaven invaded earth
- But there was another heavenly invasion that stands above the rest
 - Because it was not only a connection between heaven and earth, but it has impacted every single believer of Jesus Christ from the first church recorded in Acts 2 to every one of us here at Remnant Life Church on June 5th, 2022
 - The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

READ – Acts 2:1-2 (Miles Saksek)

A series of supernatural events took place as a result of the heavenly invasion

- The first was the sound of a violent blowing wind inside the house where they were gathered
 - The word used for “sound” in the original language is *eh-khos* (guttural)
 - It translates as a roar of the sea or a report
 - In other words, it is a sound that immediately gets your attention
 - Notice that it was not a violent wind but a SOUND like a violent wind
 - This was something that could be explained as a natural occurrence or phenomena
 - And it not only filled the house but could be heard throughout the city
 - How do we know this? Because people began to immediately come together to see what the sound was (Acts 2:6)
- The second were the tongues of fire that came upon the disciples
 - This was not the full assembly of people later but the 12 (Matthias had been elected to replace Judas Iscariot) as well as the some other disciples of Jesus and the women – about 120 (Acts 1:15)
 - That flame of fire was symbolic of the Holy Spirit, and it was designed to show that something very special, never seen before was happening
 - Why a flame?
 - Because fire alters everything it comes in contact with

- Just as the Holy Spirit does
 - Today, a number of church groups, most notably the Methodist Denomination and the Presbyterian Church of Canada use the flame of fire as a part of their symbolic logo
 - The third supernatural event was the speaking in other tongues or languages
 - The timing and the location of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, as witnessed by this ability of the disciples, was critical to the plan of God
 - The time of year is Pentecost
 - You may have thought that Pentecost was the name given to the time that the Holy Spirit was given to man
 - But Pentecost was actually instituted by God back in the time that the Israelites came out of Egypt
 - Remember when we said that the Israelites did not know how to live as a nation when they left Egypt
 - God not only had to give them his laws and guideline for how to live together
 - But He also taught them how to worship Him
 - He did this by instituting 7 feasts
 - 4 in the spring
 - 3 in the fall
 - “Pentecost” is the Greek word which means fiftieth.
 - This feast began following seven weeks, or forty-nine days, from the presentation of the first ripe fruit or Passover.
 - It is also called the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks.
 - It was intended to teach the people to acknowledge the goodness of God in giving the harvest. It was, in essence, Israel’s Thanksgiving Day.
 - The location is Jerusalem
 - Three of the 7 feasts were known as pilgrimage festivals
 - IOW – to celebrate it required that you travel to Jerusalem (**Gen; Deut**)
 - The festival of Tabernacles was one
 - The second was Passover – which was the time that Jesus entered the city on the Sunday before His crucifixion
 - The third was at Pentecost
 - The Holy Spirit came at this time, allowing the disciples to do supernatural things, in order for the most people to be impacted by it as possible
 - It was also the start of the Great Commission, given by Jesus, to take the Gospel message to the whole world
 - Did you hear all of the languages that were present in the city at that time?
- What was the result of this invasion?
 - It changed the disciples
 - They would go out to much of the then known world for the next 50 years and preach about Jesus and the Kingdom of God

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 - It changed the disciples
 - They would go out to much of the then known world for the next 50 years and preach about Jesus and the Kingdom of God

- They would be so committed that all but one would be martyred for their faith
 - It changed the people
 - **READ** – Acts 2:37-41
 - 3000 were saved at their very first church service
 - It changed the world
 - The life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ that the disciples would share for the rest of their lives was the single most significant event in the history of all creation
 - It ended the reign of death brought by sin and brought love to the forefront of all things
- But we have been given a choice
 - Those who heard that first sermon preached by Peter had a choice
 - All those around the region where the disciples would preach had a choice
 - You have a choice this morning as well
- Your first choice is whether you want to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior
 - While you are given the opportunity to make that decision, your salvation is not about what you do, but what Jesus did for you
- You also have the choice of how you will live as a Christian
 - Compromised?
 - Trying to please everyone around you?
 - Or in a way that reflects the presence of Jesus Christ in your life through your love, kindness, patience with others and the joy you live in every day?

The power of the Holy Spirit that was given to every believer at Pentecost just a couple of months following the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the same power you have today.

- That is why Christians should never fully fall into the depths of despair – even though you may be experiencing some great difficulties
- It is why we should never give place for temptation to overwhelm and consume us
- But it is why we can be more than conquerors as Paul wrote to the church in Rome

The coming of the Holy Spirit was a pivotal moment in the life of the believer as it gave us all that we need to be victorious over sin, and the plans of the enemy