

Question

Why do the authors of The Urantia Book say that Pentecost is the fortieth day after Passover, when the Greek word "pentekoste" literally indicates that it is the "fiftieth" day after Passover?

Answer by Chris Halvorson

First of all, the revelators do not directly state that Pentecost is the fortieth day after Passover, that notion is an incorrect conclusion, resulting from an incorrect assumption, and falsely validated by an incorrect interpretation.

The confusion begins with the illusion that the events at the end of Paper 193 are followed, about one hour later, by the events at the beginning of Paper 194. Actually, the Pentecost story in Paper 194 is ten days after Peter first calls the 120 followers of Jesus together for an approximately two-week long conference (at the end of Paper 193). This time gap in the retelling of the events is the same time gap that exists between chapter 1 and chapter 2 of the book of Acts in the Bible. Section 5 in Paper 193 parallels Act:1.1-11, and section 6 parallels Act:1.12-26; then section 0 in Paper 194 parallels Act:2.1-13, and section 1 parallels Act:2.14-41.

In the year A.D. 30, Passover was on April 8, so Pentecost was May 28. As stated in paragraph 193:5.1, Jesus' final morontia appearance, his so-called ascension, was on May 18. Hence, "the forty days of his morontia career on Urantia" (193:5.3) were April 9 to May 18, inclusive. These forty days are not the same forty days that the apostles are said to have been "in hiding" (194:1.1). The latter forty days were April 18 to May 27, inclusive. After tarrying in Jerusalem for the week subsequent to the resurrection (on April 9), the apostles left for Galilee on Monday, April 17; so, for April 18 through May 27, the apostles were out of the sight of the Jewish leaders; that is, they were "in hiding" (see 191:6.1 and 192:0.1,3-4).