

The Feast of Weeks

SHAVUOT / PENTECOST

Shavuot is celebrated on the sixth of Sivan on the biblical calendar which is the day of Pentecost! From the day that the barley sheaves were waved before the Lord (the earlier first fruit offering) , the Israelites were to count off seven weeks and on the fiftieth day Israel would offer the second first fruits to the Lord.

“Three times a year all your men must appear before the Lord your God at the place He will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of

Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles. No man should appear before the Lord empty-handed”. (Deuteronomy 16:16).

The first fruits of the wheat harvest would be taken and two loaves of bread leaven bread baked. Those living in Jerusalem would bring first fruit offerings of their crops and offer them before the altar. Even pilgrims would partake in this feast and bring their baskets of offerings from afar.

GOD’S MARRIAGE COVENANT WITH ISRAEL

Shavuot is directly related to Passover. On this day in the history of Israel

God came down on Mount Sinai and spoke with Moses and gave Israel the Torah.

“Now all the people witnessed the thundering, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off.” Exodus 20:18

In the Hebrew this verse literally reads: “and the people saw the voices and torches.” This relates to the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out and appeared like “tongues of fire” upon the heads of those gathered. Just as God appeared to Abraham when he made a covenant with

Him in a fiery torch, and just as He appeared on Mount Sinai, in lightning flashes, just so He appeared to the first disciples in the upper room when they received the Holy Spirit.

“And suddenly a sound came out of the heaven as borne along by the rushing of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

“And tongues as of fire appeared to them, being distributed; and it sat upon each of them.

“And they were all filled of the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:2-4

Prophetically this was God’s marriage covenant that He made with Israel.

(Exodus 19). The Hebrew word Torah (Deut. 1:5) means instruction. Here the Israelites received their instructions from the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Israel here became a nation (as one) just as in the book of

Acts when the Holy Spirit was poured out in the upper room on the day of Pentecost: “When they Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:1-4

In the book of Acts (Acts 1:4-5) we read that Yeshua instructed His disciples to “wait” for the gift that the Father promised – this scripture relates to Leviticus 23:16 where God commanded the Israelites to “count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath”, also known as the “counting of the Omer.”

“To the next day after the seventh Sabbath you shall number fifty days.

And you shall offer a new food offering to the Lord.” Leviticus 23:16

The disciples were all joined together in prayer in the upper room (Acts 1:13-14) they were “counting the Omer” as they were awaiting for the Feast of Pentecost. On the Day of Pentecost/Shavuot the Holy Spirit was poured out from on high! Every spring feast can be regarded as designed by God as a rehearsal for Yeshua future entrance into history and also to prepare the hearts of His people and to show the Lord’s heart to us. The Feast of Weeks was celebrated with a lavish banquet of the best foods for the whole house of Israel. This banquet was to be celebrated in Jerusalem, the city of the King!

You shall truly tithe all the increase of your seed that the field brings forth year by year.

“And you shall eat before Jehovah your God in the place which He shall choose to place His name there, the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the first-born of your herds and of your flocks, so that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always.” Deuteronomy 14:22-23

The Lord’s ultimate desire is for all nations to come up to Jerusalem to meet with the King of the whole earth. (We understand and know that this shall be fulfilled during the millennial reign of Yeshua from Jerusalem).

“And in this mountain the Lord of Hosts shall make a feast of fat things for all the people, a feast of wine on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of refined wine on the lees. And He will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering which covers all people, and the veil that is woven over all nations.” Isaiah 25:6-8

“Also the sons of the stranger, who join themselves to Jehovah to serve

Him, and to love the name of Jehovah, to be His servants, everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and takes hold of My covenant; even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples,” Isaiah 56:6-7

Prophetically the Feast of First fruits was fulfilled through Yeshua’s resurrection on the first day of the week (the day after the Sabbath). Just as Yeshua has come and was offered to God as a spotless lamb, just so He arose in glory and power as the “First fruit offering” and just so was the Holy Spirit poured out on the Feast of Shavuot. (Acts 2:1-4).

Pentecost is the end of the Spring Feasts and it is the final Feast connected with Yeshua’s first coming, just as the Fall Feast point towards Yeshua’s second coming. In Ezekiel 36, the Lord speaks about a day that was to come where He would give Israel a new heart and put a new spirit within her; where He would take away the heart of stone and give her a heart of flesh and where He would “put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”

Ezekiel 36:27

On the day of Pentecost when the promised Holy Spirit was poured out the Spirit of God (Ruach Ha Kadesh) wrote the instructions (Torah) of God on the hearts of His disciples, according to this promise in Ezekiel 36, just as

God gave instructions to Israel on Mount Sinai by writing them with His finger on stone tablets, yet now He wrote them on the heart of His people by the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:20).

“When the Lord finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, He gave him the two tablets of the Testimony, the tablets of stone inscribed by the Finger of God.” Exodus 31:18

God chose the first Pentecost after Yeshua's resurrection to pour out the Holy Spirit on 120 believers (Acts 1:15). Those gathered in Jerusalem at this time who witnessed this miraculous outpouring were astonished and some were even saying that these believers were drunk, but Peter filled with the Holy Spirit, boldly explained what had happened and that this was a fulfillment of Joel's prophecy.

"And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; and also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days." Joel 2:28-29

" And in the fulfilling of the day of Pentecost, they were all with one accord in one place.

And suddenly a sound came out of the heaven as borne along by the rushing of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And tongues as of fire appeared to them, being distributed; and it sat upon each of them.

And they were all filled of the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And dwelling at Jerusalem there were Jews, devout men out of every nation under heaven. But this sound occurring, the multitude came together and were confounded, because they each heard them speaking in his own language. And they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, Behold, are not these who speak all Galileans? And how do we each hear in our own dialect in which we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya around Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them speaking the great things of God in our own languages.

And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying to one another, What does this mean?

But others mocking said, These men are full of sweet wine. But Peter, standing up with the Eleven, lifted up his voice and said to them, men, Jews, and all who dwell at Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to my words. For these are not drunk as you suppose, for it is the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel!" Acts 2:1-14 (and onwards).

From this point in history, God's Spirit has been available to all who truly repent and are properly baptized. The Day of Pentecost is a reminder to us that God poured out His Spirit to establish His Church – the group of brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruit of His creatures." James 1:18

It is God's spirit within us that sanctifies us and sets us apart (by His set apart Spirit, Ruach Ha Kadesh) as believers. (Romans 8:9-14)

Just as God gave Israel the law (Torah) on Shavuot, just so He has written them on the hearts of the believers on Pentecost and so He has given us His commandments because He loves us. The essence of God's law is love.

"Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves another has fulfilled the Law. For: Do not commit adultery; do not murder; do not steal; do not bear false witness; do not lust;" and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love works no ill to its neighbor, therefore love is the fulfilling of the Law." Romans 13:8-10

"By this we know that we love the children of God, whenever we love God and keep His commandments.

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not burdensome."

1 John 5:2-3

Why do we celebrate Shavuot/Pentecost?

We celebrate and remember what God did not only in the lives of Israel, but through Yeshua in our own lives. We celebrate the miracle God did in our hearts by giving us His precious Holy Spirit and “writing His truth on the tablets of our own hearts”. (Romans 8:4) (Hebrews 8:10-11)

Shavuot teaches us that we need the Spirit of God to fill us, and that we are dependent on the supernatural working power of the Holy Spirit to guide us, to teach us and to lead us into the “truth” of God’s Word. We need the infilling of the Holy Spirit to empower us to be witnesses for Yeshua. (Acts 1:8). We cannot live a life of victory without the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

The purpose of the infilling of the Holy Spirit as believers is to establish God’s righteousness in us by writing His laws on our hearts. "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My Laws into their mind and write them in their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. And they shall not each man teach his neighbor, and each man his brother, saying, Know the Lord, for all shall know Me, from the least to the greatest." Hebrews 8:10-11

In the book of Acts (Acts 1:4-5) we read that Yeshua instructed His disciples to “wait” for the gift that the Father promised – this scripture relates to Leviticus 23:16 where God commanded the Israelites to “count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath”, also known as the “counting of the Omer.” “To the next day after the seventh Sabbath you shall number fifty days. And you shall offer a new food offering to the Lord.” Leviticus 23:16

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Feast of Shavuot.

THE BLOWING OF THE SHOFAR

On Pentecost the shofar is blown which the rabbi’s call the blowing of the “first shofar.” The last shofar is blown during the Feast of Trumpets, also known as Yom Teruah. (1 Corinthians 15:51-52).

Shavuot is connected with the marriage union between YHVH and His people. And this is exactly what happened when God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai – He betrothed Himself to Israel! (in the Jewish culture the first part of this marriage contract was called the “kiddushin”, when the Bride says “yes” to the marriage contract “the ketuva” and she binds herself to her husband it is announced with a shofar).

The last shofar is blown during the Feast of Trumpets, also known as Yom Teruah. (1 Corinthians 15:51-52). This is called by the rabbis the “wedding of the Messiah” – “For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ shall rise first.

Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And so we shall ever be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

My we as the bride of Yeshua so search our hearts and be ready at the blowing of the last trumpet.