

MESSIAH IN THE OT
PENTECOST – SHAVUOT (FEAST OF WEEKS)
JROC - June 9, 2019
Week 18

On June 9th, the Church is celebrating Pentecost.
At sundown on June 8th to sundown on June 10th – the Jewish community is celebrating Shavuot/The Feast of Weeks (Lev. 23:15-21).

What's the connection? We need to remember that all the feasts of the LORD which He gave to Israel (Lev. 23) are Jesus feasts! The seven feasts of Israel find their fulfillment in Jesus!

Lev. 23:15-17 - And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath (from the day Jesus' rose from the dead [from the Feast of First Fruits]), from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD. You shall bring from your dwellings two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven.

It's harvest time and the wheat harvest is being celebrated. It's (Shavuot) the Feast of Weeks (Shavuot means weeks in Hebrew). Jewish people are going up to Jerusalem to celebrate the harvest. Ever since circa 140 AD, the Jewish community has celebrated the giving of the law at Mount Sinai in Moses' day on the Feast of Weeks.

Pentecost in Greek means "50". Pentecost is the birth of the Church, comprised of Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus. At Pentecost, the Church is celebrating the indwelling of the Spirit of God among those who are redeemed, those who are saved, born again, forgiven of their sins forever through the Jewish Messiah Jesus.

So, Pentecost and the Jewish Feast of Weeks occur on the same day? They have a connection? What's the connection between the giving of the law and the giving of the Holy Spirit? Why is Pentecost celebrated on the same day as the Jewish Feast of Weeks?

Seven weeks following the RESURRECTION OF JESUS – or ON the 50th day. . . the roads up to Jerusalem are crowded with Jewish pilgrims. Why? In Deut. 16:16 God instructed Jewish men from all over the known world to appear before Him in Jerusalem at three times during the year – at three feasts: PASSOVER, FEAST OF WEEKS (Pentecost) and at TABERNACLES. The men often took their families. Luke 2:41-42 tells us that Mary and Jesus went up with Joseph to Jerusalem on PASSOVER when Jesus was 12 years old!

Acts 2:5 tells us, *And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.* This multitude from many nations were gathering in Jerusalem following Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection because of the Feast of Weeks because God commanded all Jewish males to appear before Him in Jerusalem at this Feast! BUT

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consider this with me – this multitude had also gathered in Jerusalem at the last feast – at PASSOVER - when Jesus was crucified. There was much activity in Jerusalem during the week we call “Passion Week” when Jesus died and rose from the dead. There were 2M+ Jewish people witnessing these events. God orchestrated? Absolutely! Had they remembered what they had witnessed at Golgotha? At Calvary? What a loving God we have Who always makes Himself known. God intends for His message to be known and many times in a most visual way. Think of the crucifixion at Passover and the descent of the Holy Spirit at the Feast of Weeks!

And in Jerusalem at this Feast of Weeks, following Jesus' resurrection, they hear a powerful sound “like the blowing of a violent wind. . . .” we're told in Acts 2:2. They're compelled to continue onward.

Acts 2:6 – “*When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.*” Who's the “them”? The disciples.

Acts 2:14-15 – Peter speaks forth, *Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel.*

Joel 2:28a - *And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;* The disciples, being Jewish, were obedient to God's Word. Not only should they have been in Jerusalem for the Feast of Weeks, but Jesus had told the disciples directly before He ascended into heaven that they were not to depart from Jerusalem but to wait for the Promise of the Father. Jesus told them, *You shall receive POWER when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. . . .* They were to wait for the promise of the Father. What was this promise? In John 14:16-17 we read that Jesus told the disciples that the Father would give them *another* (Gk – “of the same kind” – in other words – GOD) Comforter – a Comforter Who would abide with them forever – the Spirit of Truth – Who would dwell within them. God – the Holy Spirit.

So the disciples of Jesus – after His resurrection – were gathered in one place – waiting for His promise. And on that Feast of Weeks, on the day that we know as Pentecost, came a sound from heaven – like a rushing mighty wind and it filled all the house. Wind is frequently used in Scripture as a picture of the Spirit of God (breath of God) – Eze. 37:9-10 (Ezekiel's vision of dry bones – the house of Israel and the house of Judah – the Spirit of God – the breath of God indwells them and they live). Jesus told Nicodemus (John 3:8) that the wind blows where it wills and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell from where it comes and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit. The

sound from heaven is the sound of the Holy Spirit – the life giving Spirit of God - being poured out.

And there appeared unto them tongues as of fire (Acts 2:3) that rested on each of the disciples. What are these tongues? We read in Acts 1:8 that Jesus had told them that the Holy Spirit would come upon them and they would be witnesses...they would SPEAK of Him. Jesus told them, . . . *and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all*

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Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. And the fire? Fire in Scripture often speaks of God's presence.

- The Shekinah glory of God Who appeared to the children of Israel in the wilderness in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.
- God appeared to Moses in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush – a bush that wasn't consumed.

Fire in the Tanakh, the Hebrew Scriptures, also speaks of purification/purging (Mal. 3:3). At Pentecost God sent fire from heaven to manifest His presence and to demonstrate His power. AND, the fire that God sent on Pentecost descended upon LIVING sacrifices (not on animal sacrifices that would die). HE, the Holy Spirit, descended upon and permanently indwelt individuals who were alive! (Rom. 12:1)

And so, on this Feast of Weeks, at Pentecost, the 50th day following Jesus' resurrection, when God the Holy Spirit descended and indwelt those who placed their trust in Jesus, God empowered many Jewish men who came to celebrate the Feast of Weeks to follow their destiny to bless all the nations of the world by sharing the message of redemption through the Messiah Jesus.

AND, did you ever consider that the power of God at Pentecost reversed the curse of Babel? At the Tower of Babel – when mankind wanted to make a name for themselves, God took the gift of the ONE language (Gen. 11:6) which He had given man to communicate with him and confused their language so they wouldn't understand one another. God then scattered mankind (Gen. 11:8). At Pentecost God opened the way of communication. The Jews from every nation said, "We hear them speaking in our own tongues – the wonderful works of God" (Acts 2:11). God's desire is that His message of salvation be taken to the world – to Jew and Gentile (Gen. 12:3). At Pentecost we see the door opened wider. . .to the nations...so that they could hear this powerful message of forgiveness of sin.

A Jewish person in Jerusalem on this Feast of Weeks would be remembering past events in Jewish history. What past events? This feast points back to Mt. Sinai and the giving of the Law. And to what does it look forward? To the New Covenant which God had

promised to the house of Judah when God would write His law on their hearts (Jer. 31:33) when He would put His Spirit within them (Eze. 36:27).

What occurred on Mt. Sinai in Moses' day? Exodus 19:16-18 tells us that when Moses went to receive the Law, the entire nation of Israel was in fear over the smoking mountain the sounds of thunder and trumpets that accompanied the sight. In Exodus 19:18 we're told that Mt. Sinai was completely in smoke because the Lord descended upon it in FIRE and the entire mountain quaked greatly.

Why were the Jewish people to count 7 weeks from the Feast of First Fruits during PASSOVER which would bring them to the 50th day following those 7 weeks? God

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intended for them to ALWAYS REMEMBER PASSOVER...to always remember their redemption from bondage through the BLOOD OF THE PASSOVER LAMB!

They were to remember their physical deliverance at the first Passover, to thank God, and to anticipate a greater deliverance through the blood of the perfect Passover Lamb, the Messiah. Jesus was crucified on Passover. And, they were to anticipate God's Spirit indwelling them.

Let's connect more dots between the Feast of Weeks and Pentecost. Let's connect more dots between the giving of the law and the giving of the Holy Spirit. What happened at the giving of the law? We read in Ex. 32 that while Moses was communicating with the Lord and receiving God's law – it was PARTY CITY down below! Ex. 32:25 – the people were unrestrained! They were worshipping a golden calf. After they had experienced first-hand the miracles of God – after their lives were spared by God – they were worshipping a golden image??? Before we begin pointing fingers – what about me, you, us? After we see God's mighty hand working in our lives – how do we respond? This is a rhetorical question; we each need to answer this question before God.

When Moses came down to the people and witnessed this perversion, he said in Ex. 32:26, *Whoever is on the Lord's side, come to me.* The sons of Levi moved toward Moses. What did Moses instruct them to do? Ex. 32:27, *And he said to them, 'Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.'* Moses instructed the Levites to kill their fellow Israelites! And when did this happen? At the giving of the law! Ex. 32:28 - *So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day.*

On the Feast of Weeks/on Pentecost, 50 days following the resurrection of Jesus, Acts 2:41 tells us - "about 3,000" people were given eternal life when the Holy Spirit

descended. What an amazing contrast is taught within this one feast. On the Feast of Weeks the law was given. The law is called the ministration of death in II Cor. 3:7 because the law reveals our sin. “The wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23). On Pentecost the Holy Spirit was given. II Cor. 3:6 states that the Spirit gives life.

Scripture teaches that the law is perfect. So, how can the law be called the ministration of death? The law reflects Who God is – He is perfect, righteous, holy – and we are NOT! The law is perfect because it restores the soul (Psa. 19:7)...because it shows us our sin and our NEED for salvation. The law condemns – it cannot give eternal life – because in our flesh we cannot keep the law (Rom. 8:3). We are sinners.

Another amazing connection between the OT and the NT....

In Leviticus 23:16, God instructs the children of Israel to offer a NEW GRAIN offering to the Lord on the Feast of Weeks. Lev. 23:17 tells us, *You shall bring from your dwellings TWO WAVE LOAVES. . . they shall be baked with LEAVEN. . .* These two

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loaves of bread baked with LEAVEN (symbol of sin in the Scriptures) were to be WAVED before the Lord on the Feast day. TWO wave loaves with leaven? How about Jew and Gentile coming before the Lord – ONE NEW MAN (Eph. 2:15) – placed in the body of Christ – the CHURCH – that was born on this Feast of Weeks, on Pentecost?! Two loaves with leaven; Jew and Gentile – sinners BUT SAVED by GOD’S GRACE!

And in synagogues on the Feast of Weeks where the two loaves with leaven are to be waved before God, the book of Ruth is read.

What does the book of Ruth teach? The book of Ruth tells us of God’s plan of redemption for both Jew and Gentile. In the book of Ruth, Naomi represents Israel and Ruth represents the Gentiles. Boaz, the kinsmen redeemer, represents JESUS. In the book of Ruth, Boaz redeems BOTH Naomi, the Jew, and Ruth, the Gentile, who were destitute...who knew their NEED!

The Feast of Pentecost speaks to the promise of eternal life to both Jew and Gentile baptized into the body of the Messiah by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The Feast of Pentecost speaks to God’s PRESENCE and POWER in our lives as believers in the Messiah Jesus.

Peter, on the day of Pentecost, preached and people were cut to the heart and said, “Brothers, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37). The new believers in Jesus responded with immediate action, repentance, fellowshiping, sharing the Gospel. How do we respond?