



## PENTECOST / FEAST OF WEEKS / SHAVUOT

The Feast of Pentecost, also known as the Feast of Weeks or Shavuot, is a celebration of God's faithfulness and provision, commemorating the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the early believers. Rooted in the agricultural cycle of Israel, this feast marks the completion of the wheat harvest and symbolizes the first fruits of the Holy Spirit. It is a time to rejoice in God's grace, the gift of His law, and the empowerment for witness and service.

### Key Scripture:

Leviticus 23:15-22, Deuteronomy 16:9-12

**Other Scripture References:** Exodus 19:1, Exodus 19-20, Leviticus 23:17, Acts 2:1-4, Joel 2:28-32, John 14:16-17, 26, Matthew 28:19-20, Ephesians 4:1-6, Galatians 5:16-18, 22-23, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Acts 1:8

**Accompanying Book References:** *The Seven Feasts of Israel* by Zola Levitt pages 8-11.

### 1. THE BIBLICAL ROOTS OF PENTECOST

Originating in the Old Testament, Pentecost is a pilgrimage festival celebrating the wheat harvest and commemorating the giving of the Torah at Sinai, reminding us of God's covenant and law.

#### AGRICULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

**(Leviticus 23:15-16 & Deuteronomy 16:9-12)** Pentecost is deeply rooted in the agricultural cycle of ancient Israel. Leviticus instructs the Israelites to count seven weeks from the Sabbath after Passover, marking the completion of the grain harvest, particularly the wheat harvest. Deuteronomy further emphasizes this connection, highlighting the joy and celebration associated with bringing in the firstfruits of the harvest.

#### HISTORICAL COMMEMORATION

**(Exodus 19:1, Exodus 19-20, & Leviticus 23:15-16)** Beyond its agricultural significance, Pentecost also holds historical significance for the Jewish people. It commemorates the giving of the Torah (the Law) to Moses on Mount Sinai, fifty days after the Exodus from Egypt. This event marked a pivotal moment in Israel's history, establishing their covenant relationship with God and laying the foundation for their national identity.

#### SYMBOLIC OFFERING

**(Leviticus 23:17)** The offering of two loaves of leavened bread, baked with the firstfruits of the wheat harvest, is a distinctive feature of Pentecost. This offering symbolizes the culmination of the harvest season and acknowledges God's provision and faithfulness. The leavened bread, unlike the unleavened bread of Passover, represents the everyday life of the people, sanctified and offered to God in gratitude.

Here's why this offering is so meaningful:

- **Culmination of the Harvest:** It signifies the completion of the grain harvest, a time of great joy and thankfulness for God's provision.
- **Leavened Bread:** Unlike the unleavened bread of Passover, which symbolizes purity and separation from sin, the leavened bread of Pentecost represents the reality of everyday life. Leaven, in this context, can be seen as representing the imperfections and complexities of human existence.
- **Sanctification:** By offering this leavened bread to God, the Israelites were acknowledging that even their ordinary lives, with all their flaws, could be sanctified and offered back to Him in gratitude.
- **Firstfruits:** The use of the firstfruits of the wheat harvest emphasizes the dedication of the best of the harvest to God.

The New Testament redefines Pentecost as the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, marking the birth of the Church and empowering the disciples to spread the Gospel globally, fulfilling Jesus' promise of a Helper and Advocate.

### **FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY**

(**Acts 2:1-4 & Joel 2:28-32**) The outpouring of the Holy Spirit occurs on the Jewish Feast of Pentecost, signifying a profound fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. In the book of Joel, we learn that it was foretold of a time when God would pour out His Spirit on all people, and this prophecy finds its ultimate fulfillment in the New Testament event.

### **BIRTH OF THE CHURCH**

(**Acts 2:1-4**) The descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples marks the birth of the Church, the community of believers empowered by the Spirit to carry out Christ's mission. This event signifies the transition from the old covenant to the new covenant, where the Holy Spirit dwells within believers, guiding and transforming them.

### **EMPOWERMENT FOR WITNESS**

(**Acts 2:4, 4:8**) The gift of the Holy Spirit, promised by Jesus, equips believers for witness and service. In Acts we learn the disciples spoke in different languages, enabling them to share the Gospel with people from various nations. This empowerment highlights the global scope of Christ's mission and the role of the Holy Spirit in spreading the message of salvation.

Pentecost, a harvest festival celebrating firstfruits and commemorating God's covenant with Israel at Sinai, finds new meaning in the New Testament with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, marking the birth of the Church and empowering believers for global witness.

## **2. THE FEAST OF PENTECOST POINTS TO CHRIST**

Pentecost is profoundly linked to Christ and the New Covenant. Just as the Holy Spirit descended upon Mount Sinai, empowering Israel for its mission, the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples at Pentecost, empowering them to be witnesses to the ends of the earth. This event marked the birth of the Church and the beginning of the new covenant era, where the Holy Spirit dwells within believers, guiding and empowering them for service and witness.

### **THE PROMISED HELPER**

(**John 14:16-17, 26**) Jesus promised His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit to be their Helper, Comforter, and Advocate. The outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost fulfills this promise, demonstrating the ongoing presence and ministry of Christ through the Holy Spirit.

### **EMPOWERMENT FOR THE GREAT COMMISSION**

(**Matthew 28:19-20**) The disciples, filled with the Holy Spirit, are empowered to fulfill the Great Commission, to "go and make disciples of all nations". The Spirit equips them with boldness, wisdom, and supernatural gifts to proclaim the Gospel and establish the Church.

### **UNIFYING THE BODY OF CHRIST**

(**Ephesians 4:1-6**) The Holy Spirit, poured out on all believers, creates unity within the diverse body of Christ. Just as the disciples were able to communicate with people from different languages and cultures, the Spirit breaks down barriers and unites believers in a common faith and purpose.

Pentecost, marking the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, is deeply connected to Christ and the New Covenant. Just as the Spirit empowered Israel at Sinai, it empowered the disciples to be witnesses to the world. This fulfilled Jesus' promise of a Helper and equipped them for the Great Commission. The

Spirit also unites the diverse body of Christ, breaking down barriers and establishing the Church in the new covenant era.

### 3. SIGNIFICANCE FOR BELIEVERS TODAY

For Christians today, Pentecost is a reminder of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It calls us to yield to the Spirit's guidance, allowing Him to produce His fruits in us. It also reminds us of our mission to be witnesses of Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit to share the Gospel and make disciples of all nations.

#### THE INDWELLING SPIRIT

(**Galatians 5:16-18, 22-23**) Pentecost reminds believers that the Holy Spirit dwells within them, providing guidance, comfort, and empowerment for daily living. Just as the Spirit empowered the early Church, He continues to work in and through believers today.

#### SPIRITUAL GIFTS

(**1 Corinthians 12:4-11**) The events of Pentecost highlight the diversity of spiritual gifts bestowed by the Holy Spirit. Believers are encouraged to discover and utilize their unique gifts for the edification of the Church and the advancement of God's kingdom.

#### ONGOING TRANSFORMATION

(**Galatians 5:22-23**) Pentecost is not just a past event but an ongoing experience for believers. The Holy Spirit continues to transform and renew believers, producing His fruit in their lives and conforming them to the image of Christ.

#### WITNESSING TO THE WORLD

(**Acts 1:8**) Pentecost serves as a reminder of the believer's call to witness to the world. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Christians are to share the Gospel with boldness and compassion, participating in the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations.

### 4. SUMMARY

Pentecost, rooted in the Old Testament as a harvest festival and a commemoration of the giving of the Torah at Sinai, finds renewed significance in the New Testament. Symbolized by leavened bread representing everyday life sanctified to God, it marks the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, fulfilling prophecy, establishing the Church, and empowering believers for global witness. This event signifies the transition to the new covenant era where the Holy Spirit dwells within believers.

Pentecost also points directly to Christ, fulfilling His promise of a Helper and equipping the disciples for the Great Commission. The Spirit unites the diverse body of Christ, breaking down barriers and empowering them for service and witness. For believers today, Pentecost is a reminder of the Spirit's ongoing presence, guiding and transforming us, bestowing diverse spiritual gifts for the building up of the Church, and calling us to boldly share the Gospel with the world.

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Visit [www.MinuteWithMike.com](http://www.MinuteWithMike.com) for more reference downloads on **The Seven Feasts of Israel**.

## QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

### WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

1. From **Leviticus 23:15-22**, what is the biblical significance of the Feast of Pentecost in the Old Testament?
2. How does the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in **Acts 2** connect to the Feast of Pentecost?
3. What are the key symbols and rituals associated with the Feast of Pentecost found in **Leviticus 23:15-22** and **Deuteronomy 16:9-12**?

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

4. How does Pentecost foreshadow the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church?
5. What is the significance of the Holy Spirit's role in empowering believers for witness and service?
6. How does Pentecost emphasize the importance of God's law and covenant in the lives of believers?

## QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

### HOW DOES THIS ALL APPLY TODAY?

7. How can you actively seek the guidance and infilling of the Holy Spirit in your daily life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. In what practical ways can you be a witness of Christ and participate in the Great Commission?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. How can you cultivate the fruits of the Holy Spirit in your relationships and interactions with others?

### BONUS CHALLENGE QUESTION (OPTIONAL):

How does the Feast of Pentecost deepen our understanding of the Trinity and the interconnectedness of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in God's redemptive plan? Consider reviewing Exodus 19-20, Leviticus 23:15-22, John 14:16-17, 26, Acts 2:1-4, and Ephesians 4:1-6.