

# The amazing meaning of Pentecost, or “Shavuot”

## Understanding this important holyday of Yahweh

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Summary: The Feast of Pentecost/Shavuot is one of the divine appointments with Yahweh (Lev. 23:1-2). So much happened on this day. This teaching goes into many of the important aspects of this amazing feast day.

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Welcome, shalom brothers and sisters to Light on the Rock, where we focus on the light of Yeshua, or Jesus Christ, as He leads us to a closer walk with our heavenly Father.

*Today we're going to talk about, what Scripture calls, “the Feasts of the LORD” – or “the Festivals of Yahweh”, and specifically Pentecost, or Feast of Weeks. It's called “Shavuot” in Hebrew, which means weeks.*

I say “Feasts of Yahweh” because where you see “LORD” in all caps in your Bible, the Hebrew word is YHVH. I gave two sermons a while back asking “What is the Creator's name?” I recommend you hear them. So I say “Yahweh” and don't dare take it upon myself to change His holy name to “Lord” – which is also what “Baal” can be translated as!

So Pentecost is one of the Feast of Yahweh. We'll read all about it later in Lev. 23, but for now just notice the start of Leviticus 23.

### **Leviticus 23:1-2**

And YHVH (the LORD) spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: **'The feasts of Yahweh**, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, **these are My feasts** (Hebrew 'moed' – divine appointments)

This is the day also mentioned in Acts 2, when Father sent His spirit at 9 a.m., and 120 disciples – men and women – spoke in tongues. People from all over the known world were hearing the disciples speak in their own native tongues (Acts 2:5-12). In the story of Acts 2 – read it yourself – people who came to see and hear what was causing the sound of rushing wind, heard whoever was speaking-- speak in their own native language. In the case of Acts 2, these were known languages, spoken around the world.

### **Acts 2:5-11**

And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, **because everyone heard them speak in his own language.** 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs — we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

In what is commonly called “the Old Testament” – though scripture never calls it that – it is believed that it was also on Pentecost when Yahweh, the God of Israel, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob came down to Mt. Sinai and thundered the 10 commandments and wrote them on to 2 tablets of stone.

This day Pentecost is one of the “Feasts of Yahweh”. The word translated “feast” from the Hebrew “moed” has little to do with eating a lot of food and drink (feasting) – but has more to do with the meaning of a “divine appointment”. These feast days were divine appointments with the King of the Universe. And in the case of Yeshua, our Beloved coming King and Husband to the *called-out ones*, think of this as a divine “date”. He wants His affianced Bride to show up for “the date” He has set! Don’t stand Him up! Pentecost, and each of the festivals, is a holy “date”, if you will, with our Beloved Master, Yeshua, Jesus Christ of Nazareth. We are marrying Him and He has set certain times to be “dates” with His called-out and set-apart Bride-to-be. Will you be there?

Have you ever thought of God’s holydays, and especially *this* one which pictures betrothal and marriage, as “a date” with your husband, the King of Israel?

**So today, Sunday May 27, 2012, is the Feast of Pentecost**, or “*Shavuot*” in Hebrew. It’s also called “the Feast of Weeks” and “the Feast of Firstfruits”. It’s tied to the story of Ruth and Boaz. It is widely believed that *King David was born, and died, on the day of Pentecost*. I can’t prove or disprove that. David, the great, great grandson of Ruth and Boaz. David, the progeny of a Moabite and a Jew from Bethlehem.

Jews also refer to this day as “Chag Ha-Bikurim”, Day of the Firstfruits.

**Jews believe it was on this day –or certainly this time of the year -- when Yahweh spoke the 10 commandments on Mt. Sinai** and later wrote them on to two tablets of stone for Moses to place in the ark. It was also on this day when God sent His Holy Spirit and wrote His covenant laws on the hearts of those being converted in Acts 2 – not on tablets of stone, but on hearts of flesh. *Many Orthodox Jews to this day still read the 10 commandments on this day.*

We know the early church kept Pentecost, because it was on this very special day that in fact the new body of believers came together, as one body, unified in spirit and mind – and 3,000 died to themselves in baptism and were resurrected anew in the spirit (Acts 2:41). It was also shortly after Pentecost. In the first covenant times, 3,000 also died after their sin with the gold calf idol (**Exodus 32:26-28**). The parallels are striking

**We’re talking about this holyday today because so much of the meaning of this day has been lost, buried, or not preached correctly – or at all!**

**This year, Feast of Pentecost is on Sunday May 27.** Jews count it differently and they keep it on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of their month Sivan since they begin their count differently than we do. Pentecost is a holy day, a sabbath of rest, but one in which we can do the work of cooking for the group. So Sabbath May 26 is a day of rest followed by the holyday Feast of Weeks/Pentecost on May 27 Sunday.

It’s an amazing day loaded with meaning. I will present some of its many facts as “Bullet points”.

- **First of all, Shavuot/Pentecost was a *celebration* of the firstfruits of the wheat harvest and end of the barley harvest – both physically – and get this, SPIRITUALLY.** It is a time of thanksgiving, of showing gratitude to the Almighty Creator of the Universe who sent us the “Bread from heaven”. That’s what they called manna – the “bread from heaven” (**Ex. 16:4**). So we remember to thank the King of the Universe who sent the true living Bread, who was “planted” (died/buried) for us, so HE could produce fruit and life for all who accept Him. Yeshua is “the Bread from Heaven” who gives us life. But first he had to die and be buried, and then the wheat can germinate and create a plant producing much grain (**John 12:24**).

**John 6:32-33**

32 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 *For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.*"

- **This feast was one you counted 50 days – hence “Pentecost”, which means “count 50”** from the Sunday after the weekly sabbath that falls after Passover. The counting was called “counting the omer”. The word “omer” could be translated “sheaf”, but it also had the meaning of a weight or measure. For example, in Israel, each person was to collect one omer of manna (**Ex. 16:16**), about 2 quarts, in the 40 year wanderings. In the same way, we have to gather our daily bread and pray for Yahweh to provide each day’s provision for us, hence Yahweh’s Prayer, “Give us this day our DAILY bread” (**Matthew 6:11**; or “day by day” as Luke 11:3 says). Yahweh provides the bread, but we have to go pick it up. They could not gather and store it (**Ex. 16:20**) but had to trust in Yahweh for provision. We would be wise to be in God’s word each and every day. We can’t store a “good Bible study”. I recommend you hear my sermon about “Daily Manna” which you can find on this website around 2004 or 2005. We are to live by every word of God, not just bread. But understand that bread symbolizes the word of God.
- **It’s tied in to betrothal and marriage, to strong covenants, to committing ourselves to our Husband.** It was on this day that Yahweh sent the earnest of His Holy Spirit to the early believers who were crossing over from death into life. One of the meanings of “Hebrew” is one who crosses over. We received the earnest, the small downpayment of the Holy Spirit. The Greek word for “earnest”, or “downpayment” is “*arrabon*” – from which we get “engagement ring” (*arrabona*) today. The ***granting of the Holy Spirit was Yeshua putting the engagement ring***, showing He was in earnest, about marrying His called-out ones.

Many believe the giving of the Law (Torah) was given on this day to ancient Israel. Yahweh made a covenant with the House of Jacob (**Ex. 19:3-6**). The people said, in verse 8, that they would obey and come into covenant. That was their “I do”. Again, they said their “I do” and covenanted with Yahweh that they would obey – **Ex. 24:6-8**.

Many see Pentecost as **the time Yahweh became betrothed to Israel-- Ex. 24:6-8**. Betrothal was considered as strong as marriage, stronger than our “engagement”. Moses is seen as the “matchmaker” bringing the “Bride” – Israel – to the Groom (Yahweh). In the shadow of Mt Sinai they made the wedding agreement, the giving of the

covenant/Law. Mt Sinai is seen as the Bridal chamber – the “*chuppah*” -- and the Law is seen as the *Kettubah* (Wedding contract). Of course Israel was the unfaithful, adulterous wife and why Yeshua needed to die so He could marry a spiritual Israel (see the principle in Romans 7:1-2) composed of all who have accepted Him in faith (Gal. 3:26-29). One is a Jew, or Israelite, who is one inwardly – not outwardly (Rom. 2:28-29).

Some of you are in Chile, Argentina, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and other South American countries. To you He says “Come”. Some of you hearing this are from Russia, France, China, Thailand, and the Philippines. “Come”, He says, “be my called out ones.” I’d love to hear from you.

Remember the Israelites had to wash their clothes, in **Ex. 19:10-11**, for 3 days before they met with Yahweh in **Ex. 20**. In the same way, for The Wedding Supper in Rev. 19, the Bride is seen as having prepared her garments. Yeshua gives his wife clean garments, without spot or wrinkle, as we know it says in **Ephesians 5:26-27**.

Even in the days they were in the land of Egypt, if even the Egyptians and Gentiles obeyed and put the Passover lamb’s blood on their door posts and lintels, those Gentiles were also protected.

The **book of Ruth** is read on Pentecost, as it is about the period from the barley harvest to the wheat harvest, when **Boaz and Ruth were married**, uniting Jew and Gentile as all being part of the “people of God”. This was the season when Ruth covenanted to worship the one true living God Yahweh, and to be grafted in to Israel (like Romans 11). “Your God shall be my God, and your people - - my people”, she said. Israel is called the firstfruits of God (Jer. 2:3).

A result of this marriage was the lineage of King David, Ruth’s great-grandson. I know when King David is resurrected, he will see Gentiles in a very special light. He will say, “Be my guests in Jerusalem. My great-grandma was a Moabite. Together let’s worship and praise the King of Kings. Let’s stop the fighting and start being His people.”

Tradition has it that David was born and died on Pentecost.

**All of Yahweh’s interaction with us has to do with covenant. We are His covenant people.** Yahweh takes covenants and contracts very, very seriously.

**More and more of us suspect and believe that the first resurrection will actually take place on Pentecost.** I believe we will be raised to heaven to be married *up there*, and then return with our Husband to rule the earth together. What more perfect setting can there be? The King who put on a wedding for His son has to surely mean God the Father putting on the wedding for His Son (**Matthew 22:1**). Who else could perform the wedding but God the Father himself? Where else but heavenly Jerusalem could be the proper venue for this wedding? **Get excited, brethren – because this could possibly be you I’m talking about!** In Revelation 19, about the Wedding Supper, the entire context and setting is in **heaven!**

- **Pentecost in new covenant times is the giving of the Holy Spirit**, as a down payment. In the Greek, “earnest” or “downpayment” is almost the identical word used for “engagement ring”. On this day, Father sent the Holy spirit as a token of His intention to marry a Bride of the same mind, same kind as He is. It will be “kind” marrying and

producing after its own kind when Jesus marries His Bride. SO we also will be changed to spirit, as He is spirit and be like HE is (1 John 3:2).

- **Along with the Spirit come some GIFTS of the spirit and FRUIT of the spirit – 2 different things.** They spoke in other languages. They healed the sick and raised the dead. Abba has not lost His ability to still give these gifts, but somehow a lot of people don't believe, don't expect us to speak in tongues, to heal the sick.

Didn't Yeshua say, "these signs shall surely follow *those who believe*: they shall cast out demons in my name, they shall lay hands upon the sick and the sick shall be made well!" See the full quote in **Mark 16:17-18**. Abba or even Yeshua for that matter, have not gone to the big nursing home in the sky. Yeshua *still* heals, He still casts out demons, and HE still works miracles. If we would *believe* more, we'd see more. Believing comes first.

- **The Holy Spirit – given in Acts 2** to the New Covenant assembly of called out ones – **is also Yahweh's incorruptible seed (1 Pet. 1:23)**, which makes Him our Father, and which will spring forth one day into an entirely new spirit being at the resurrection – and incorruptible body (**1 Cor. 15:53-54**). This Spirit gives us Yahweh's mind, His love, His way of thinking. Without it, our carnal mind is against Him and His way (1 Cor 2:10-12 and **Romans 8:7**). But those who are led by His spirit are His children (**Rom 8:9, 12**), for they have the Father's "seed" – His Holy Spirit. The Spirit is the promised *Parakletos*, the come-alongside, the Comforter, who will speak to us of the things of God, if we have ears to hear.
- **Pentecost/Shavuot is one of the 3 pilgrimage feasts (*aliyah* festivals)** people made to Jerusalem. It was one of the "*moedim*" – meaning an *appointed day*, a divine appointment day, and a day when we have an appointment with our Maker. Remember these are DATES with the one we are going to marry. ***These 3 festivals united the nation together, as it made them come together at the holy place***, at the Sanctuary, together. They came as one, before Yahweh if you will – and saw themselves united together, as one, BY Yahweh, as they worship together.

### **Coming as ONE**

This reminds me of what Jesus Himself said this in John 17 in his own prayer about his remaining 11 disciples at the last supper: **"...that they also may be ONE in US..."** (**John 17:21**). **That is the key to us being one.** We must understand what it means to be "IN HIM". I have many sermons on this site that explain "in Him". See (See ).

*We MISS this aspect of being ONE, by not coming together as His people on the holydays especially or by excluding certain ones we deem not worthy of our fellowship.* How shameful. NO one is worthy except the Lamb (**Rev. 5:1-4, 12**). WE each are worthy only when we come under the blood of the Lamb, and accept HIS worthiness in our stead, then we become worthy as we walk our new walk with him. Read Rev. 5!

But why are the people of Yahweh suing each other, fighting each other, refusing to worship their father together? WHY are we not living the biggest sign that we are His people by the incredible love we have for one another and all people, for that matter (**John 13:33-34**). Let's forgive one another. Let me be part of your group. You be part

of ours. There’s only one true ekklesia – the called out ones. We belong to Christ, not to a denomination. We who belong to Messiah have to start finding one another.

**The latter and former rains**

The success of these harvests was dependent on **Yahweh sending the rains** at the proper time, “the former and latter rain”. The “former rain” is actually in the fall, to get the new seed going, and then the “latter rain” was in the spring – opposite than what many of us might have thought.

**Spirit and truth**

In Biblical thought, these rains were representative of the Holy Spirit and its 2 fold view – so we can worship the one true God in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24). **We have to have a heart for Yahweh (spirit) and obedience to His word (“Thy word is truth”) and teachings.** There is a coming great outpouring of God’s spirit at the end time, in the latter rain fulfillment, but we’ll talk about that in a future sermon.

- **ALL the feasts of Yahweh point to His Son, Yeshua**, our Savior and redeemer. All of them do; not just Passover, as we shall see. He IS the Passover Lamb (**1 Cor. 5:7**), sacrificed by His Father on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Abib at 3 pm. Salvation is really the ultimate love story – the love of God for His created people. On Passover, it is traditional to read the Song of Songs, the Song of Solomon – did you know that?

He IS also the Bread of Life from Heaven (**John 6:35, 48**) – the unleavened matzah we eat during the days of Unleavened Bread in the Passover season. He also is the first fruits of the barley harvest that was presented to Yahweh to set apart and sanctify the rest of the harvest, “to be accepted on your behalf” (**Lev. 23:9-11**). So Yeshua is the first of the first fruits. He is also the Word of God, the Torah in person. He IS the GROOM of the Day of Pentecost, pictured by Yahweh at Sinai and Boaz in the book of Ruth. In the fall holydays, we see Yeshua in all of those days also.

- **These feasts reveal the pattern, the TIME TABLE, for the SPIRITUAL harvest of souls**, paralleling the physical harvest in Israel. Just as there was a time for barley, which was different from wheat – which came later, which was different from the fruit harvests in the fall. **It all got harvested, but not all at once.**

In the same way, Yahweh is not losing the battle for souls. There are people He is calling first, and there will be some called later. But when Yahweh decides it’s time to call people, their minds are opened. Those being judged now are those being called now. You can see that in 1 Pet. 4:17.

WE who are being called now, are called a kind of Firstfruits of His creation (James 1:18). Each one is being called in his order, starting first with Christ (1 Cor. 15:20-24).

The Feast of Tabernacles – *Sukkot* – occurs right *after* the large fall harvest of the fruits and vegetables. It was the largest harvest that involved just about everybody. Many have understood that the Feast of Tabernacles represents the millennial reign of Christ. We know it is during that time period when the whole world will eventually come to Jerusalem to worship the king. That’s when everyone begins to have their minds opened and to come to a relationship with their king and to a knowledge of the truth.

IF you have your mind opened by Yahweh now, and if you’re being called now – then now is the day of *your* salvation (2 Cor. 6:2), now IS your opportunity. But for billions of people who have never heard the name of Yeshua or Jesus Christ, is it even fair to throw them all into hell fire for something they didn’t even have a chance to know?

Judgment is on us now, those of us being called.

**1 Peter 4:17**

For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

- **The Spring/Summer Feasts picture the FIRST coming of Messiah. The Fall Feasts depict and picture the SECOND coming of our Master. The males were to bring the tithe of the increase (Ex. 23:14-17; Deut. 16:16-17) of their income from flocks, herds, and produce.**

It is one of the 3 feasts where we are told to be sure to have a holyday offering (Deut 16:9-10). (Holyday offerings are not commanded on all 7 feast days – See Deut 16:16-17). Don’t appear empty-handed. And yes, if you wish, we would accept donations to help support this ministry. But that’s up to you. I never ask for your financial help on this website. I work free of charge in sharing the word of God with you, but if you wish to support some of the costs of what we do, we thank you.

**The holydays give us a BLUEPRINT of Yahweh’s plan of salvation and plan for the future, of what to expect.** *Even Pentecost has a future reality*, something yet to happen, I believe. We’ll see this in more depth later in the sermon about the 2 large leavened loaves that are raised to Yahweh (Lev. 23:17-20), the “bread of the firstfruits”.

**Many believe the great Wedding Supper in heaven between Yeshua and the Called-out ones will happen on the Day of Pentecost.** More and more of us believe we will celebrate our wedding up there for several months, starting with Pentecost, and then all return to land on the Mount of Olives on the Feast of Trumpets and set up the Millennial reign of the Messianic era. (Hear my sermon “I go Prepare a Place for You.”)

- **“HEBREW”:** I said earlier that those God is calling, **were passing from death into life.** Remember that one of the meanings of Hebrew – is “one who crosses over”. Abraham had to leave Babylon, cross over the Jordan into the Promised Land. We too, are people who are crossing over from our old way to HIS way, from death to life.

**Heber in Hebrew means “that which passes further, on the other side, a passing over”.** When I give the sermon on the Threshold Covenant, you will see even the Passover in new light. You’ll see that it was much more than just having Yahweh hover above the houses of Israel. Much more. It’s very fascinating and exciting. But that’s for later.

There’s a sense of turning around, going back to Yahweh, going back to the Garden in all of this meaning. **The Hebrew word of “repent” had a meaning of “turning around”;** going in the opposite direction you and I had been going.

- **Pentecost, and all the feasts/appointed times of Yahweh, are times of great joy (Deuteronomy 16:11)** and is to be celebrated and observed forever (Lev. 23:21).
- **The holydays are also for Gentiles.** Remember the Gentile “mixed multitude” who went out of Egypt with Israel, were commanded to also keep these holydays if they were among the Israelites and later, in their land (**Deut. 16:11, 14; Ex. 12:48-49**). There was basically one law in the land – whether Israelite or stranger, with very few exceptions. (**Num. 15:12-16; Lev. 24:22**).

**And we know that in the Millennium, the Creator's holydays will once again be kept.** Scripture tells us the whole world will send representatives to Jerusalem to keep the feasts (Zechariah 14:16-19), and in fact if they don't come, Yahweh will send plagues and turn off the rain (drought) to get their attention. He wants ALL His creation – Israel AND Gentile alike, coming before Him. We are ALL children of God by faith through Abraham (Gal. 3:26-29). In the New Covenant scriptures, we read how Paul was openly discussing Passover and the days of unleavened bread to the mostly Gentile Corinthians (1 Cor. 5:7, etc.).

#### **Zechariah 14:16-19**

16 And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left *of all the nations* which came against Jerusalem **shall go up from year to year to worship the King, YHVH of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.**

17 And it shall be that whichever of the *families of the earth* do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, Yahweh of hosts, on them there will be no rain. 18 If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which Yahweh strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. 19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

To my brothers and sisters in Guatemala, in Mexico, in Chile, in Taiwan, in the Philippines – listen to what our Father, the Creator, says about you in Gal. 3. By the way, I'm planning a sermon soon that will be geared just for my Gentile brothers and sisters.

#### **Galatians 3:26-29**

26 For you are ALL sons of God *through faith in Christ Jesus*. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 ***There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*** 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Note that the Torah was for ALL flesh – including the stranger in the midst of Israel.

#### **Deuteronomy 31:10-13**

10 And Moses commanded them, saying: "At the end of every seven years, at the appointed time in the year of release, at the Feast of Tabernacles, 11 when all Israel comes to appear before Yahweh your Elohim in the place which He chooses, **you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing.** 12 Gather the people together, men and women and little ones, ***and the stranger who is within your gates, that they may hear and that they may learn to fear Yahweh your God and carefully observe all the words of this law,*** 13 and that their



children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear Yahweh your God as long as you live in the land which you cross the Jordan to possess."

***So that's a high-level view, and now more details.***

**Passover was the rebirth of God's nation, of Yahweh's children.** They were slaves in Egypt for hundreds of years and needed to find their identity again. In the spring, as new growth begins to appear, Yahweh delivers them from slavery. They were just as worthy of punishment as the Egyptians were, but Israel came under the blood of the lamb, so Yahweh passes over their homes and land.

**In the Bible, "Egypt" is a symbol for the world apart from God,** a world in darkness and sin (Rev. 11:8). Israel had to come out of darkness into the light, out of sin into obedience, out of paganism into worshiping the one living God. They could not do it on their own, however, any more than we can leave the life of sin behind without help. So Yahweh says HE bore them out on Eagle's wings (**Ex. 19:4**), depicting the supernatural help He gave them – the pillar of fire and cloud by day, the manna, the protection, etc.

What delivered them was faith in the blood of the lamb on their doorposts. It's the same for us. Our Savior defeated the penalty of sin for us, nailing the penalty – the charges against us – to the cross (**Colossians 2:12-15**). Many misunderstand that passage to mean He nailed His own laws to the cross, which is nonsense. He nailed the guilty verdict to the cross.

**Days of Unleavened Bread – once redeemed, we commit to a life of obedience**

Next they had the 7 days of unleavened bread, depicting a life dedicated to obedience, humility and simplicity. Israel left Egypt on the first day of Unleavened Bread. We too have to put out the bitterness (the sour yeast) out of our lives, the pride and "puffed up" way of living that simply has to go.

**Soon after Passover, the firstfruits of barley is pounded into fine flour and waved,** raised above the high priest, as an offering to Yahweh to bless the harvest, on behalf of the rest of the harvest. This pictures Yeshua's resurrection and ascending to Father to be accepted and to begin the rest of the harvest.

**So that's the Day of First Fruits - - the wavesheaf of Barley (not to be confused with the Feast of Firstfruits, or Pentecost) Lev. 23:9-11**

PASSOVER and Unleavened Bread is about BARLEY. It was the poor man's grain, poor man's bread. It was also grain used largely for cattle and livestock. It represented humility. It's amazing that the Eternal El Shaddai's son was represented by the firstfruits of humble barley.

Pentecost was more about the firstfruits of WHEAT, considered a finer grain and bread (Ex. 34:22). Then in the fall, at the Feast of Tabernacles, came the largest crop of all – the fruits and vegetables. All this pictures the sequence of the harvest of souls, of humans, in God's plan of salvation.

**The FEAST OF WEEKS/FIRSTFRUITS/PENTECOST/SHAVUOT**

Next, we count 50 days – what Pentecost means – from the day after the WEEKLY Sabbath during the days of Unleavened Bread. This brings us to 50 days later, always on a Sunday.

**Leviticus 23:15-18**

15 'And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: **seven Sabbaths [or weeks] shall be completed.** 16 **Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath;** then you shall offer a new grain offering to Yahweh. 17 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*. They are **the firstfruits to Yahweh**.

So I believe, as many do, that Pentecost/Shavuot always falls on the first day of the week, 50 days after Yeshua – what the barley firstfruits depicted – rose to heaven to be accepted on our behalf. Yeshua was resurrected, in fact, on the “first of the weeks (sabbaths)” (John 20:1) – as it should be translated without the inserted words in English.

Lev. 23 goes on to list sacrificial animals, which we don’t do anymore with the death of our Messiah. **Look at v. 21-** This verse says it’s a holy convocation, no customary work, and shall be a statute forever. If it was no longer required, why would Yahweh start the new group of called-out ones in Acts 2, and have Yeshua telling them to wait until that particular holyday, when they would be imbued with power from on high (**Acts 1:7-8**).

**THE TWO WAVE LOAVES (Lev. 23:17)**

TWO leavened loaves from the first of the wheat harvest were raised high and offered to Yahweh. As far as I know, it was the only time leavened bread was ever offered to the living God.

**TWO: why two?** Only God is ultimately perfectly ONE, totally unified, totally one. Throughout scripture we see a duality being presented from start to finish. First Adam and Christ the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam. Physical Israel and Spiritual Israel – those who are redeemed and part of the covenant people.

The grains of wheat were beaten out of the stalks. It is translated as “threshing” for example in Judges 6:11, where Gideon is seen beating out or threshing the wheat on the **threshing floor**. Wheat has to be crushed before it is thrown up in the air to separate the chaff from the wheat. We also have to come with a broken heart, a broken self-will, before God’s spirit (the wind) can separate us as part of the early wheat of God (those being called first). So this was done on “threshing floors”.

In a future sermon we will talk about threshing floors more, and even the threshold covenant. It is just amazing how often we see Yahweh doing things at threshing floors. Significant turning points for Israel, big events – happen at threshing floors. *He is sifting his people from the chaff.*

- **Gideon’s** wet and dry fleece happened at a threshing floor (Judges 6:37).
- It was at a threshing floor when Israel was awakened to their sloppiness with the things of God, when **Uzzah** touched the ark and was struck dead (2 Sam 6:6)
- **Ruth and Boaz** – see **Ruth 3:2-14**, their commitment happened at the threshing floor.
- **John the Baptist** said the Messiah would clean out the threshing floor and bring in the wheat and burn the rest (Matthew 3:12)
- Don’t forget, even **the holy Temple** was built on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. It was there that the curse on Israel was lifted and David was forgiven.

**2 Samuel 24:16**

16 And when the angel stretched out His hand over Jerusalem to destroy it, Yahweh relented from the destruction, and said to the angel who was destroying the people, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And the angel of Yahweh *was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. [He is called Ornan elsewhere.]*

Father wants to get rid of the chaff in our lives and prepare us to be offered – raised up – to him. I believe deeply that we literally will be raised up to Yahweh to heavenly Jerusalem, on this very day in a soon-coming year, to marry the son of God in heavenly Jerusalem itself, and then return to earth with our Husband and reign with Him over the earth.

The first Adam and Eve were told to rule the earth (Gen. 1:26-28); have dominion over it. But they failed. They let the serpent rule them. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam (Yeshua – 1 Cor. 15:45-59; Romans 5:12-14) will rule the earth with His bride, when they are married and on the earth together. That will be the millennial reign of Yeshua and the called out ones – pictured by the 2 loaves. Let that sink in. Your calling is high.

**I believe Scripture shows that those 2 loaves of leavened bread picture US, the redeemed, the called out ones.**

**James 1:18**

Of His own will **He** brought us forth by the word of truth, *that WE might be a kind of firstfruits* of His creatures.

**Those who are being called now to live the new life in Christ are the two leavened loaves.** Why leavened? We have been sinners, but we are also the first of the redeemed sinners in God's plan of salvation. But first remember this: saying we're leavened loaves does not excuse us to continue sinning. Quite the contrary. Once a loaf is leavened, it can't continue leavening other things....it's done being leavened!

***Why two? Scripture doesn't say.*** There are lots of ideas. My personal speculation, based on the **Ruth's** story, is that this pictures Gentiles and Israel. I don't think it pictures the northern kingdom of Israel and Judah to the south. They were one to begin with. *But Yahweh has taken down the middle wall of partition, making Gentiles and Israelites ONE in Him.*

*FOLKS, we're of HIS kingdom, not of any earthly nationalities. That's where our loyalties are! So it doesn't matter if you're a Peruvian, Guatemalan, Chinese, Russian, Kenyan or Mexican or Jew – we're all of Yahweh's house, HIS kingdom. This day shows that! Many of you from 40-50 countries are going on this site. I'd love to hear from you. But most of all, welcome!*

Yes, the time is coming that all the redeemed are being grafted into the new spiritual Israel, as **Romans 11** speaks of. Check it out. Remember, branches were broken off the natural, cultivated Olive tree that represents Israel. And branches from the wild olive tree, that picture Gentiles (anyone not of Israel), were being grafted in.

One thing I think is a fascinating happenstance perhaps is that in English, a twig or branch suitable for grafting is called a "scion" – which is pronounced like Zion almost! It can also mean a "notable descendant".

There were also two LAMBS of a public peace offering offered on this day. Why Two? Again, perhaps to show He is the Lamb of God both for Israelites AND Gentiles, if you are Filipino, Japanese, or are a Chinese or Ukrainian or Peruvian or Mexican or Iranian-- that doesn't matter as long as you accept Yeshua as your king and leader. True believers will love you and accept you in their fellowship regardless of your nationality, color, sex or your past, if you've repented.

**When we come to Yahweh's holy presence after we are called, we must come as repentant sinners**, eager to turn around and go the other way. The Hebrew word for "repent" means "turn around" or even "return". Just as the Prodigal Son turned around and returned to His father, so do we when we come to our right mind. But leavened loaves – because we're not going to be absolutely perfect and pure until the resurrection, when this corruption puts on incorruption as 1 Cor. 15:says. That is when we present ourselves without spot or wrinkle – pictured by the 12 unleavened shewbread in the holy place. So, our Savior accepts us in our imperfect state as long as we are coming humbly and repentantly. Even Paul, decades after his conversion, was still admitting that he all too often still did the things he really didn't want to do (Romans 7).

Once we are forgiven, we are called the children of God and can now come boldly before the throne of grace, but not on our own merit, but in him, in Christ, through Yeshua's perfection. We are now seen as being in Christ, in God (Col. 3:3). So now we pray in Jesus' name, in Yeshua's name, speaking on HIS behalf, confidently as HE would himself (John 14:13-14; 15:16; 16:23).

But it's also important to remember that Pentecost – and therefore these 2 loaves – are intricately intertwined with Passover, then the barley firstfruits is offered up during the days of Unleavened bread, then we start counting of 7 weeks plus 1 -- hence the 50<sup>th</sup> day.

### **The number 50**

Shavuot falls on the 50<sup>th</sup> day after the barley first fruit sheaf is waved, hence the Greek name Pentecost. Why 50? **What's significant about 50?** They had to count 50 days.

- **The Holy Spirit was given 50 days after Yeshua went to heaven** upon his resurrection to be accepted on behalf of the rest of the harvest. He was the fulfillment of the barley first fruit wavesheaf – actually a bowl of fine barley flour taken from the barley in the firstfruits of sheaves. On Pentecost, Yahweh gave the earnest of the spirit, the deposit. In Greek, the word used was "*arrabon*", meaning "earnest" or "down payment". Even today in Greece, the word for "engagement ring" – what you give to a woman you've proposed to, and intend to marry – is "*arrabona*". This happened on day 50. The New Covenant assembly of called-out ones occurred on 50, Pentecost.
- **50 is also the 8<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> week** of the 50 day count. (Another way of looking at it: Seven weeks = 49 days; the next day would be the 8<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> week.) This pictures the new beginning after perfect 7x7 week of weeks. This IS our new beginning, our new life as a FULLY spirit born child of Yahweh in the Highest.
- In Hebrew, **the letter Nun has a numerical value of 50**, and its word picture is a FISH. Hebrews have **understood the "FISH" to represent LIFE**.

I want to end with a reading about how Yahweh sees his marriage to YOU – now part of the Israel of God.

You can read of the marriage covenant between Yahweh and Israel in Ex. 19:8, and especially after He had spoken the commandments and then to Moses. When faced with the covenant, the people said “I do” three times (Ex. 24:1-8). We read of this espousal and marriage also in Ezekiel 16:1-13, one of the most moving passages of scripture.

**Ezekiel 16:1-14**

Again the word of Yahweh came to me, saying, 2 "Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations, 3 and say, 'Thus says Yahweh God to Jerusalem: "Your birth and your nativity are from the land of Canaan; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. 4 As for your nativity, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed in water to cleanse you; you were not rubbed with salt nor wrapped in swaddling cloths. 5 **No eye pitied you, to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you; but you were thrown out into the open field, when you yourself were loathed on the day you were born.**

6 **"And when I passed by you and saw you struggling in your own blood, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' Yes, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!'** 7 I made you thrive like a plant in the field; and you grew, matured, and became very beautiful. Your breasts were formed, your hair grew, but you were naked and bare.

8 "When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; ***so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says Adonai Yahweh.***

***[In context of marriage, “spread my wing” was an idiom referring “to take one as a wife”.]***

9 **"Then I washed you in water (baptism); yes,** I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I **anointed you with oil [holy spirit].** 10 I clothed you in embroidered cloth and gave you sandals of badger skin; I clothed you with fine linen and covered you with silk. 11 I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your wrists, and a chain on your neck. 12 And I put a jewel in your nose, earrings in your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head. 13 Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate pastry of fine flour, honey, and oil. You were exceedingly beautiful, and succeeded to royalty. 14 Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendor which I had bestowed on you," says Adonai Yahweh.

Yahweh is going to later on call all people. Their time of judgment is coming.

Remember that Sodom – a sinful city known for its many sins, not just homosexuality, will have a time of “more favorable” judgment than the city of Capernaum in Jesus’ day!

**Matthew 11:23-24**

23 And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24 ***But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you."***

So I'll leave it with that. Pentecost, Feast of Weeks, Feast of Firstfruits, Sukkot – what a GREAT holyday, what a great appointed time it is. A time of JOY, a time of feasting, a time of

covenanting, a time when God’s WAY – his law – is written not just on tablets of stone, but this time on our hearts! A time when Yahweh married Israel and committed to marry the new Israel of God, the called –out ones who are all sons of God in Christ. A time revealing those being called now to be the first ones called, the first fruits.

You realize – if you’re hearing and understanding this – this day is about how Abba has called a small first fruits of spiritual harvest – you and me – to come into His presence. Hallelujah. You have a wonderful Shavuot, a powerful day of Pentecost. May Yahweh bless you and keep you. May His face shine upon you, and bring you peace. And so will Yahweh bless you!

Until next time, this is Philip Shields, your brother and a minister in our Messiah asking for blessings, peace and shalom to all of you as you walk in *His* light. Until next time.... Shalom and joy to all of you.

[www.LightontheRock.org](http://www.LightontheRock.org)

*If this message has been encouraging and helpful to you, please let others know about it and also tell them about this website. We want to point everyone to the truth of God’s word and to their Savior, as shown by HIS holy days.*