

Shavuot

(Feast of weeks / Pentecost)

A harvest celebration!

“As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

--ISAIAH 55:10—



“You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing,”

Psalm 145:16



The feasts in Leviticus 23 were God's 'appointed times'. Israel was to look to God and thank Him for all He had done for them; from the time of the Exodus (Feast of Passover) to the wilderness wanderings (Feast of Tabernacles). But as time moved on and God reveal Himself more and more, the Feasts took on other symbolic meanings though never dismissing their original intent...God revealing His plan of redemption. Watch the scriptures coincide as we look at the feast and the fulfillment in Jesus and His redemptive work through the Holy Spirit.

The Feast concerns the harvest.

1.) **Feast of Weeks: End of the period of waiting, following Passover. Period of time between Passover and Feast of Weeks is called 'Counting of the Omer' --Lev. 23:15-21/Duet. 16:9-12--**

- Lev. 23:17—"a wave offering of **first fruits**, two loaves, baked with leaven" 1Cor. 15:20, "Christ, the first fruits..."
>What do the two loaves symbolize? The leaven?
>Eph. 2:14, loaves=**Jew/gentile**, leaven=**sin**
>What was offered with the two loaves? Why?
>Lev. 23:19 "one male goat...two lambs" yearly
>A **sin/fellowship** offering=Eph. 2:15b-16
- V.20—"a sacred offering to the LORD for the priest"
>Who was it offered to? To whom did the offering belong?
>Rom. 12:1-2 "offer your bodies as living sacrifices...
pleasing to God..." Mark 9:41 "...**you belong to Christ...**"
- Duet. 16:10-11—What kind of offering is mentioned, and with what attitude?
>"A **freewill** offering...**rejoice** before the LORD"
>What did God tell Israel to remember and why?
>"remember...you were slaves in Egypt."—Slaves don't give freely or with an attitude of rejoicing, they give for fear of punishment. *What do you think about contrast?*

Offering first fruits, waiting and Redemption

So what can we make of this Feast today? Well, with Jesus being the first-fruit offering to God at His resurrection, (1Cor 15:20) there was a period of waiting like the time of the 'Counting of the Omer', but for what? Jesus told his disciples, "Do not leave Jerusalem, but **wait** for the gift my Father

promised, which you have heard me speak about...John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Acts 1:4-5. As Jesus was the first fruits of the resurrection, those waiting for the Holy Spirit were the first fruits among men (James 1:18). From Passover to Tabernacles, Israel goes through the complete growing and maturing cycle; and Paul recalls this very period in the believers life in Romans 8:23, "...but we ourselves, who have the **first fruits of the Spirit**, groan inwardly as we **wait** eagerly for our adoptions as sons, **the redemption** of our bodies."

The giving of the Law and the Holy Spirit.

2.) **Even in Jesus' time, Jews related Shavuot with the giving of the Law at Mt. Sinai because it happened at the harvest time as well. So what significance is there? Exodus 19:16-19/Acts 2:1-4**

- Ex. 19:16b & Acts 2:1 *Who was present at the base of the mountain? In the upper room (Temple Mount)?*
>V. 16b—"everyone in the camp", all of Israel. V. 1—"they were all-together in one place." **Both were a place of worship for each group.**
- Ex. 19:18-19 & Acts 2:2-3 *What's the setting like?*
>V.18-19—smoke, fire and loud trumpet sound, V.2-3—fire and a loud violent wind, possibly a trumpet type sound. **The smoke hid the presence of God, but with the sacrifice of Jesus access to God was now open for all, for God now dwells in the human heart, rather than a house of stone.**
- Ex. 19:19 & Acts 2:3-4 *What was given at both locations?*
>V. 19—"Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him."
V.3-4—"tongues of fire came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues." **Just as at Sinai, the same was given at Pentecost. The Word of God.**
- The functions of the **Law** and of the **Holy Spirit** are the same:
 - *It's in our hearts: **Law**-2Cor. 3:1-3, **H.S.**-Rom. 8:9-11
 - *It guides and teaches us: **Law**-Ps. 119:24, **H.S.**-Jn. 16:13
 - *Convicts of sin: **Law**-Rom. 7:7, **H.S.**-John 16:8
 - *Brings forth fruit: **Law**-Psalm 1:1-3, **H.S.**-Gal. 5:22-23
 - *Its Truth: **Law**-Psalm 119, **H.S.**-John 14:15-17