

PENTECOST

Pentecost is also called Shavuot (Feast of Weeks) because it is calculated by counting off 50 days after the 1st Sabbath after Passover.

In the Old Testament Shavuot was celebrated by:

- The usual animal sacrifices for sin and peace offerings etc., as the Messiah had not yet come
- Taking the first fruits of the **wheat harvest** and making it into a loaf baked WITH yeast and waving it before YHWH (the LORD) as an ACCEPTABLE offering to Him
- The giving of free-will offerings of the fruits of people's labour

Scriptures for the above include these below and Exodus 34:22:

Leviticus 23:17

You shall bring in from your dwelling places two loaves of bread for a wave offering, made YaHUaH.

Deuteronomy 16:10

Then you shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks to YaHUaH your Elohim with a tribute of a freewill offering of your hand, which you shall give just as YaHUaH your Elohim blesses you;

In the New Testament, the disciples were all together at one place on the Feast of Pentecost **when the Set Apart Spirit was poured out onto them** for the first time since the Messiah was resurrected.

Acts 2:1-4

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.

And they were all filled with the Set Apart Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

The Messiah himself has revealed to us the symbolism of the O.T. feast of Pentecost by giving us clues as to the **significance of the wheat harvest** in his teachings.

Mat 13:24 YaHUsha told them another parable: **"The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field.**

Mat 13:25 But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away.

Mat 13:26 When the **wheat sprouted and formed heads**, then the weeds also appeared....

Mat 13:37 He answered and said unto them, He that sows the good seed is the Son of man;

Mat 13:38 The field is the world; **the good seed are the children of the kingdom**; but the weeds are the children of the wicked [one];

John the Baptist said:

Mat 3:11 "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. **He will baptize you with the Set Apart Spirit and fire.**

Mat 3:12 **His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."**

It is clear that **the good seed of wheat** represents **believers/children of the Kingdom of Heaven**. John the Baptist prophesies that **the Messiah will baptise the "wheat" with the Set Apart Spirit**.

So why in The O.T. did they wave loaves of bread made with yeast before the Father? What did that mean?

As with all the feasts and most things in scripture, the pattern is things are always done first in the physical and then in the spiritual.

We learn during Passover, that yeast represents sin, hypocrisy and false doctrine. (Mat 16:12, Luke 12:1, 1 Cor. 5:6-8). That was why there was no yeast in Passover and Unleavened Bread, as the Messiah was without sin, and as we partake of him, the Bread of Life, we partake of a sinless being. We repent of our sin and embrace the price he paid for us, to re-unite us with the Father. Then in the week following Passover, we focus on introspectively looking into our own hearts and minds and ask the Father to show us where we have areas of sin, hypocrisy and false doctrine, to enable repentance.

Then, 50+ days later, we arrive at the Feast of Pentecost.

Now it no longer surprises us that these loaves are baked with yeast. As after that time, we realise that whilst we are on this earth, we still have to struggle with our sin and flesh. In the O.T., that loaf was waved before the Father and was ACCEPTABLE to Him. In the New Testament, the ULTIMATE sign of acceptance is poured out onto the disciples, the gift of the precious Holy Spirit. Given to us freely, by the Father, even though we still sin and at times walk in the flesh, we are accepted because of the incredible price His son paid, by taking that sin from us and putting it on the Messiah's account.

John 12:23 YaHUsa replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

John 12:24 Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

John 12:25 Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

The Messiah introduces the concept of "dying to self" here. (Also see Matt 16:24 and Romans 6:1-14). We are the wheat, so unless we die to ourselves and live by the power of the Holy Spirit, we will not bring forth fruit. Pentecost is a season to reflect on whether or not we are bearing fruit or not? We need to look ourselves and ask: do we see the fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23? Are there any gifts of the Spirit we desire, that we want to ask the Father for? Are we functioning well in the body of Christ, serving with the gifts of the Spirit He has given us?

Lastly, as in the O.T. they gave free-will offerings at Pentecost, so we see again an interesting tie-in in this passage below, again with the wheat harvest and the free-will offering concept tied in. Isn't scripture so incredible!

2 Cor 9:6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

2 Cor 9:7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for Elohim loves a cheerful giver.

2 Cor 9:8 And Elohim is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

2 Cor 9:9 As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

2 Cor 9:10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

2 Cor 9:11 You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to Elohim.

2 Cor 9:12 For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to Elohim.

2 Cor 9:13 By their approval of this service, they will glorify Elohim because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Messiah, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others,

2 Cor 9:14 while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of Elohim upon you.

2 Cor 9:15 Thanks be to Elohim for his inexpressible gift!

Something else ...

Jews believe that the Torah was given to Moses on Mt Sinai near the time of the Feast of Pentecost. Sadly that day Moses came down and saw the people worshipping the Golden Calf and so **3 000** people were killed that day (Exodus 32:25-27).

Incredibly on the Feast of Pentecost as Peter spoke to all the people about the Good News it says this:

Acts 2:41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about **three thousand** were added to their number that day.

It is impossible for us to prove that the Golden Calf incident occurred at that exact time as it does not say in the scriptures, but it is an interesting "coincidence" regarding the 3000 if that is the case!

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June 2022