

The Feast Of Shavuot

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In this eJournal I will use the words Shavuot and Pentecost intermingled throughout the article. I do this to assist both those who are and are not familiar with the Hebrew and English words for the Feasts of the Lord. I will also refer to the Old Testament as the Tanakh and the New Testament as the Apostolic Writings. The Word is not Old or New, He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

THE FEAST OF SHAVUOT (PENTECOST) (fifty) The Eve Sivan 5 (May 18), First Full Day Sivan 6 (May 19th) and Second Day Outside of Israel Sivan 7 (May 20) 2010.

Exactly fifty days after the Feast of Firstfruits (known as resurrection Sunday), the celebration and thanksgiving for the completed grain harvest takes place. The Feast of Pentecost (Greek for fifty), or Shavuot (Hebrew for weeks), occurs near the end of the harvest instead of at the beginning. Therefore the children of Israel were to offer baked loaves of bread instead of raw grain. It is important to note that at the Feast of First Fruits (during Passover) there was no leaven found in any bread. The Feast of Pentecost in contrast has an offering in which two cakes of leavened bread are offered.

The Old and New Testament Scriptures dealing with the Feast of Pentecost are found in; Exodus 19, 20, 24; 23: 16-17, 34:22-23; Deut. 16: 9-12; Lev. 23:15-21 and Num. 28: 26-31. Acts 2; 2 Cor. 3; Heb. 8.

The Feast of Shavuot is also known by the following names in scripture.

1. The Feast of Harvest.
2. Feast of Weeks.
3. The Day of Firstfruits.
4. The Feast of Weeks of the Firstfruits of The Wheat Harvest.
5. The Feast of Pentecost, in The Apostolic Writings.

The two terms used in the Apostolic Writings are; The Feast of Pentecost or The Feast of Weeks. The Feast of Pentecost is also the feast that God referred to when He told Pharaoh that Israel must hold a feast in the wilderness;

"v: 5 Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness." V:9 And Moses said, We will go with our young and with our old, with our sons and with our daughters, with our flocks and with our herds will we go; for we must hold a feast unto the LORD. Exod 5:1, Exod 10:9

An interesting fact about the Feast of Pentecost is the presentation before the Lord of two-leavened wave loaves. We know that leaven has been a symbol of evil or false teaching, corrupting in its influence to the believer and the church. During Passover there is absolutely no leaven present. Now we see in the next feast leaven. Why? The Feast of Pentecost has to do with the church (us), which has not yet come to sinless perfection. This feast is about the double portion blessing from the Lord. The first Pentecost was fifty days after Israel departed Egypt arriving at Mt. Sinai where God gave the Law to Moses (10 commandments). The second Pentecost was in Jerusalem fifty days after the First Fruits Offering (resurrection) of Jesus Christ where He poured out His Spirit and wrote His laws on their hearts by the anointing of the Holy Spirit in the upper level of the Temple. At the first Shavuot 3,000 perished and now at Pentecost 3,000 receive eternal life, His laws written on their hearts and anointing of the Holy Spirit to bring His laws to life!

"This is the agreement (testament, covenant) that I will set up and conclude with them after those days, says the Lord: I will imprint My laws upon their hearts, and I will inscribe them on their minds (on their inmost thoughts and understanding)." Heb 10:16 AMP

What is a double portion anointing? His laws imprinted upon our hearts and brought to life by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in order to make; "*us able ministers of the New Testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.*" Too much word and you will dry up, too much spirit and you will blow up, but just the right balance of word and spirit and you grow up. It is not a matter of having one or the other, but having both in proper order and balance. Because of this double portion the church now has the power to remove the leaven from our lives. 2 Cor 3:6 (KJV)

If we understand how leaven works, we can understand how sin works in the life of a believer and why it is important to let the Holy Spirit remove any of these five leavens.

1. When leaven is placed in a batch of dough it begins the action of fermentation.
2. Leaven puffs up, and adds no nutritional value to the original batch of dough.
3. Leaven works silently, secretly and gradually until the whole lump is leavened.
4. Leaven left unattended will make the whole batch becomes like itself.

Here are five biblical references to Leaven (sin) that we can identified and destroyed from Shavuot to Tabernacles through the double portion of Word and Spirit given to the church.

1. The Leaven Of Herod Is Worldliness

"And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod" Mark 8:15...6:14-28.

Herod was very sinful and worldly in his ways. He feared the Word of God in John's mouth. He was sly as a fox, sensual, proud and murderous. He was controlled by the spirit of the world.

2. The Leaven Of The Sadducees Is False Doctrines

"How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees." Matt 16:6-12 (KJV)

This leaven was the leaven of false doctrines. They did not believe in the supernatural, in angels, or in bodily resurrection. They had religion without the supernatural.

3. The Leaven Of The Pharisees Is Hypocrisy

"In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy." Luke 12:1 (KJV)

Jesus interprets the leaven of the Pharisees as hypocrisy. They "say and do not." They were religious, fasted, tithed, believed in the supernatural, in the sacred scriptures, but were white washed sepulchers. Jesus said; "do as they say but not as they do." Remember Leaven causes one to be puffed up and adds no nutritional value.

4. The Leaven Of The Corinthian Church Is Sensuality, Malice & Wickedness

"It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. V:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:" ¹

Cor 5:1-2, 7 (KJV)

This leaven was the leaven of sensuality. This leaven is mentioned throughout the entire Epistle. It is summed up in "puffed up". The purging out of the leaven as seen in this Epistle is the proper use of Church discipline. Paul said it was the leaven of malice (spite, meanness) and wickedness, which was old leaven and needed purging out. All Churches need to purge out sinful practices and its leavening influence.

5. The Leaven of Galatia Is Traditions Of Men & Religious Dogma

"A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." Gal 5:9

The leaven here is the mixing of bondage and liberty, works instead of faith in Christ. The Galatians were under attack by the Judaizing teachers of "oral rabbinic laws and the traditions of the elders," to take them back to beggarly elements as Paul put it. These were not teachers of the covenants (written laws) of God, but instead teachers of the oral traditions of men. Paul taught the Galatians the Torah free of the "oral laws

and traditions of the elders" which were known as the traditions of men this is different than the laws contained in the Word of God.

The Five Leavens that can be removed by the washing of the water of the word and the power of the Holy Spirit. Eph. 5:26

1. The Leaven of Herod is the Spirit of Worldliness.
2. The Leaven of Sadducees is Emergence Church Modernism.
3. The Leaven of Pharisees is Hypocrisy.
4. The Leaven of Corinth is Sensuality and wickedness.
5. The Leaven of Galatia is the Traditions of men through the subtle influences of religious dogma.

The two leaven Pentecost Wave Offerings are a prophetic representation of God and believers, Jews and Gentiles, Word and Spirit and that the root of sin (leaven) has not yet been eradicated from the church, even though we have His laws written on our heart and are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Sin has only been arrested and atoned for, not eradicated yet, thus we need the double portion anointing of the Word and Spirit.

When we have the Law written in our heart and mind because of Shavuot (Pentecost) we have a double portion blessing. "Grace is not a substitute for law, but rather becomes the higher motivation to obey all of God's Covenants from the garden to the return of the Messiah." Why? Because the born again heart has been infused with the power of the Holy Spirit bringing *all* the covenants to life. This way we serve Him from a *grace-full-heart* that desires to obey His commandments. This obedience becomes the maturity of law and spirit working together in harmony by the Holy Spirit in each believer. The believer does not blow up (too much spirit) or dry up (too much law), but grows up through the double portion anointing of Shavuot / Pentecost (the balance of spirit and law). Acts 3:6-10

Prophetic Symbols Of The Double Portion (Two-Tenth Deals of Fine Flour approximately 10 lbs.).

"Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the Lord. 17 Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baken with leaven; they are the firstfruits unto the Lord." Lev 23:16-17 KJV

1. The Manna that fell had two-tenths deal of fine flour, on the sixth day they were to gather twice as much double portion (Ex. 16:22, 36).
2. The Meal Offering presented on the Sheaf of Firstfruits was made from two tenths deal of fine flour double portion (Lev. 23:13).

3. The Twelve Loaves of Shewbread on the golden table was made with two tenths of deal of fine flour, meaning a double portion, of life and health in the Bread of His Presence. (Lev. 23:17)
4. The Two Tables of stone with Ten Commandments or two tenths again is double portion.
5. The Two Tables of stone are fulfilled in Two Commandments, Love God (commandments 1-4) and your neighbor (commandments 5-10), double portion.
6. The Feast of Pentecost is the infusion of the Law and Spirit for a double portion anointing.

It is important to note that fine flour comes from whole wheat. This wheat must be taken and put through the *grinding* and *crushing* process to become refined. Then it is suitable to become bread. Paul so elegantly says it this way; *"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;"* Phil 3:10 (KJV)

The fine flour and scriptures speak of trials, testing's, temptations and sufferings of the believer. It is through the crushing and breaking process that we become suitable to become bread for a spiritually hungry world. Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it and then distributed it saying, *"this is My Body eat of it."* We are the Body of Christ and many of us have been blessed, broken and distributed to a lost and dying world.

The Two Wave Loaves being made of fine flour speak of witness, double portion, law and spirit and two becoming one in the prophetic symbol of the Jew and Gentile becoming One New Man together by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In short we can say that Passover speaks of the sinless Christ, the Lamb of God, and those who are redeemed by faith in His sacrifice. The believer at Pentecost with human frailties still renders imperfect service thus we have two leavened wave offerings *prophetically* representing the *sanctifying* work of the Holy Spirit and the word of God. The next feast or the Feast of Tabernacles is a feast that prophetically represents the church in its fullness mature and in perfection by the Blood of the Lamb, the Word of God and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. There is no *leaven* used during the Feast of Tabernacles, because this feast represents Tabernacling with Him for eternity. Glory to God we finally experience the fulness of our salvation free of *leaven* (sins influences)!

When we study Shavuot / Pentecost, we see that it points to the coming of the Holy Spirit, to form the church of Jesus Christ with both Jew and Gentile, and to write upon the heart and mind of believers God's Laws. The Story in brief, is that Shavuot / Pentecost is *tied* to Passover. The Nation of Israel left Egypt during the Feast of Passover by the blood of the Passover Lamb in the first month, the month of Nisan. They crossed the Red Sea (at the Gulf of Aqaba) and received their baptism, and were led to the foot of Mt. Sinai. Here they experienced the Feast of Shavuot / Pentecost, in the third month, which was Sivan. (Gal. 4:25 Mt. Agar in Saudi Arabia)

During this Shavuot feast, "The Church in the Wilderness" was given;

1. The Ten Commandments.
2. The Tabernacle.
3. The Aaronic Priesthood.
4. The Sacrificial System.

*"This is He, that was in the **church** in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the Mount Sinai, and with our fathers: who received the **lively** oracles to give unto us:"* Acts 7:38 (KJV)

To fully understand this feast, we must look to the natural and then to the spiritual; biblical scholars call this the type Shavuot, then the antitype Pentecost. The Greek name for Pentecost is simply "fifty," it is important to note this word is not used in the Tanakh (O.T.), but does appear three times in the Apostolic Writings (N.T.). Passover to Shavuot is fifty days (Pentecost). Passover took place on the fourteenth day of the first month (Nisan) we know that Israel left Egypt on the fifteenth, day during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Arriving at Mt. Sinai on the first day of the third month of Sivan (Ex.16:1, 19:1). The Lord told Moses to have the people sanctify themselves for the three days, then Moses went up the mountain and the Lord gave the Wilderness Church the Ten Commandments on tablets of stone. The time frame from Egypt to Mt. Sinai and the giving of the Law was Pentecost "fifty days". (Gal. 4:25 Mt. Agar in Saudi Arabia)

Here is how the timeline works out.

First month of Nisan	15 days.
Second month, Zif	30 days.
Third month Sivan	<u>4 days.</u>
	49 days or 7 weeks.

On the morrow (49 + 1 = 50) the Lord wrote with His finger the Law on tablets of stone. Israel recognizes this feast as the time to commemorate the giving of the law. In Leviticus 23:15-16 we see the linking of Passover with Pentecost. We are to count from the Passover Wave Offering (Firstfruits / Resurrection day) 49 days, or seven Sabbaths (7 x 7 = 49), on the "morrow" add one day and you arrive at Pentecost or fifty.

In Acts we see the fulfillment of this time period again as fifty days (Matt. 5:17-18; 11:13). Remember Moses told Pharaoh that they must go three days into the wilderness and sacrifice to their God? This was their emergence from slavery to freedom; now compare this to Jesus spending three days and nights in the tomb and the resurrection of life on the first day or morrow after the Sabbath. After the Lords resurrection He was seen for forty days speaking to His followers. At the end of this time He told five hundred followers to tarry in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit was outpoured upon them. Have you ever wondered what kind of excuses the 380 who tarried *not*, later presented to the 120 obedient ones or how they must have felt when they realized they missed the outpouring?

40 days of ministry by Jesus
10 days of tarrying in obedience to His Word
50 days, thus we have the Pentecost anti-type.

"And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: 16 Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD." Lev 23:15-16 (KJV)

On the fiftieth day after leaving Egypt, the Lord wrote by His finger on tablets of stone His Law. At the same time in the camp people were *breaking* the Law and 3,000 were slain (type). In contrast on the fiftieth day after the Resurrection of Jesus the New Covenant commandments are written by the finger of God on the *heart* and *mind* at Pentecost and 3,000 are saved unto life by the power of the Spirit (anti-type).

In Acts chapter two we have an amazing account confirming the type and anti-type of the full Shavuot / Pentecost experience. It was the Jewish practice to read Ezekiel 1 in the temple for Shavuot this reading was done in the upper level (room) of the temple not in a large house somewhere in Jerusalem. This passage dramatically describes Ezekiel's vision of the glory of God. He describes the tremendous manifestation in these terms; *"I looked, and I saw a windstorm coming out of the north—an immense cloud with flashing lightning and surrounded by brilliant light. The center of the fire looked like glowing metal."* (Ezek 1:4)

Imagine thousands of Jewish worshipers leaving the "upper level" (room) of the temple after the morning service (at the third hour, Acts 2:15) having just read this passage from Ezekiel 1. Suddenly.....the *same* manifestations that were read from Ezekiel 1 about the Holy Spirit started to appear before their very eyes; *"And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them."* Acts 2:2-3 KJV

No wonder they were amazed and perplexed by the tongues of fire. It certainly got everyone's attention. They must have wondered if God was revealing his Shekinah Glory for the first time in nearly six hundred years! The Glory of God was present at the giving of the *Law*; the same glory was manifested at the giving of the *Holy Spirit*. The prophet later wrote: *"I will put my Spirit in you and cause you to walk in my statutes..."* (Ezek 36:27). Here we have the clarity of why the Holy Spirit has come; it is to cause... us to walk in His Commandments.

These Jewish pilgrims, who had come from all over the dispersion, were hearing the impossible. These Galilean disciples were speaking various languages with such an exact "dialect" that the crowds saw it as an irrefutable miracle. Having received their undivided attention through these acts of God, Peter was able to preach a powerful

sermon about Jesus the Messiah, and three thousand souls responded to salvation. The first fruits of believers had come in a wonder-full way; "*Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.*" 2 Cor 3:6 (KJV)

Type; at Sinai we have Jesus the Law giver, fire, darkness, trumpet voice, quaking, thunder, and lightning. Anti-type; at Jerusalem on Mt. Zion, we have Jesus who baptizes with the Holy Spirit, tongues of fire, rushing mighty wind, shaking, and three thousand are saved *not* slain. Thus we have a double portion blessing of law and spirit fulfilled in the Feast of Shavuot / Pentecost.

"This is the agreement that I will set up and conclude with them after those days, says the Lord: I will imprint My laws upon their hearts, and I will inscribe them on their minds (on their inmost thoughts and understanding)," Heb 10:16 AMP

As Passover speaks of redemption, Shavuot speaks of revival, especially during this era. The message of Shavuot is one of great hope and joy. May the day come soon when the Holy Spirit will be poured out upon the "House of David," and they will all look, in faith, to the one who was pierced! Zech 12:10

Blessings Pastor Bob Hill

Personal note:

I want to thank you for reading this; I hope it was insightful, interesting and a blessing. We at Renewed Hope Ministries have been celebrating "The Sabbath and Feasts of The Lord" for more than a decade. It has inspired us to re-evaluate our national and church holidays and how we have celebrated them in the past. I challenge you to make a study of biblical feasts and dates verses current religious and secular holidays. Col 2:8 (KJV)

Here are some suggestions on how you can celebrate Shavuot / Pentecost. I have included a Hebraic perspective and also some suggestions of how Jewish and Gentile churches and families have celebrate the Feast of Shavuot / Pentecost.

Typical Jewish Synagogue Celebration

The Synagogue is usually decorated in greenery, flowers and baskets of fruit to symbolize the harvest aspect of Shavuot. The Scripture reading is Ex 19-20 (the giving of the Law), and Ezek 1 (the prophet's vision of God's glory). The scroll of Ruth is also read since it takes place during the spring harvest. Another special custom, Tikun Leil Shavuot (Preparing for the Arrival of Shavuot), developed from the Jewish people's love for the Torah. Traditional Jews stay up the first night of this holy day studying the Torah. Many synagogues customarily hold confirmation services for teenagers during this season to recognize their culminated childhood studies of the Torah.

Typical Jewish Home Celebration

The home celebration of Shavuot follows many of the same customs of other biblical holy days. As Pentecost approaches, the holiday table is set with the best linen and dishes. The yom tov (holiday) candles are kindled by the woman of the house.

After the traditional blessings and prayer, blessings are chanted over the cup of wine or kosher grape juice (kiddush). The challah bread is then blessed and shared by all. A traditional holy day dinner with foods symbolizing Shavuot is then served. Milk products are appropriate because Scripture is often described as "the milk of the word" (1 Peter 2:2). Cheese blintzes and cheesecake are commonly served during Shavuot. All of these customs are to remind Israel that Shavuot is a wonderful and important feast of the Lord.

New Testament Church Shavuot / Pentecost Observance

Place the two wave loaves on a table in front of the congregation. Each loaf should be on a white cloth napkin so that the leader could pick them up and wave them before the Lord. They are to be repeatedly waved: up and down then side-to-side. While the leader is waving them the worship team or singers should lead the congregation in worship songs with the themes of unity and power.

A Congregational Prophetic Act

On a table you can have cups of water on it; one for each participant. (In large assemblies, more tables, more loaves.) After a prayer for unity, the leader and his wife can stand beside the table as the people pass by. Each person may break off a good sized morsel of bread from one of the loaves, take a cup of water and return to their place, but remain standing. The worship team should lead in a song(s) of thanksgiving for His abundant provision (double portion blessings) as the people come for the bread and the water. The water is to be held in the left hand, the bread in the right hand. Each individual now should go from person to person linking right arms, taking a small bite of the bread, taking a sip of water, then declaring that they are in unity (or repenting of lack of unity if necessary). Try to portion out your bites so that you can link with at least ten people. As the congregation is going from one person to another declaring unity, the singers should softly keep singing songs of unity. At the close of the celebration, read a scripture on unity. For example Ecclesiastes 4:12

Believers Home Observance

With all the spiritual meaning behind the holy day of Pentecost, believers in Jesus can find great blessing in celebrating it. Much of the traditional Jewish observance can be *intertwined* with the *fulfillment* of the messianic perspectives for this feast, this way it has a biblical foundation, historical and present truth revelation. All the feasts should be celebrated with these dynamics present so that the spirit can give them life.

The Three Dimensions Of Pentecost

1. Abundant Provision

2. Supernatural Revelation
3. Outpouring of The Holy Spirit

The evening that starts Pentecost, a number of preparations could be made for the observance. The dinner table is set (I suggest make it a celebration) use the good linens and dishes *if* possible. 2 candles are lit with two loaves of challah bread on the table. You may want to decorate the house with greenery or fresh flowers, a prophetic reminder of the harvest aspect of Shavuot (biblical culture).

1. Abundant Provision: The first nights dinner and conversations (testimonies) focusing on God's abundant provision. Consider also bring a first fruits offering for church (set aside a tithe of your tithe for the month).

As the sun is setting on Erev Shavuot (evening of Pentecost), the family and friends gather around the festive table. The holiday candles are lit and the leader picks up the two challah loaves (a prophet visual act representing Jew and Gentile, Word and Spirit) and waves them towards the east, west, south, and north while thanking the Lord for His Abundant Provisions. Then the following *type* of blessings could be recited:

Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us by thy commandments and commanded us to be a light unto the nations and has given us Yeshua, our Messiah, the Light of the World.

Next, the holiday dinner is served, which might include some dairy dishes to help commemorate the prophetic aspects of the sincere milk, that is the Word of God. God's Word becomes a special joy to believers in Jesus because His Holy Spirit enables believers to follow his instructions.

During day of Pentecost set aside time to ask God for supernatural revelation from His Word.

2. Supernatural Revelation: Begin by reading the Torah Exodus 19-20, Prophets Ezekiel 1, Joel 2, Ruth and the book of Acts 1-3.

On the last night of the holy day of Shavuot the dinner table maybe set again. Maintain the greenery or fresh flowers from the evening before. The 2 holiday candles are lit and then the following scripture is read: Acts 1-3.

3. Outpouring of The Holy Spirit: Prayer can be offered for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all those present. The head of the house could anoint and lay hands on those present and pray for refreshing.

Then the following type of blessing is could be recited:

Blessed are thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has given us life, sustained us and brought us to this season.

Next, the holiday dinner is served, which can again include dairy dishes to prophetically commemorate the sincere milk, that is the Word of God. God's Word becomes a special joy to believers in Jesus because His Holy Spirit enables believers to follow all of His word.

Of course these are just suggestions for celebrating the "Shavuot The Feast of The Lord." The above suggestions recognize tradition while integrating the spirit of life, joy and love into the celebration of Pentecost!

Blessings as you celebrate Shavuot, Pastor Bob Hill

Shavuot; *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."* Acts 1:8 KJV

"What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all." The Apostle Paul 1 Cor 14:15 & 1 Cor 14:18 KJV