

## SHAVUOT / PENTECOST

Shavuot Shah-vo-oat (means "weeks") is the fourth Feast of the Lord. It is also called the Feast of Weeks and comes in early summer following the the three spring feasts taking place in week of Passover, picturing blood sacrifice and redemption. The last three feasts come in the fall, and represent judgment and new beginnings.

Jews were to count 7 weeks plus one day after the Feast of First Fruits (Bikkorim.)  
Fifty days.

Leviticus 23:10-11, 15-16.

The Day of First Fruits was to occur on the day after Sabbath (verse 11) always the Sunday of Unleavened Bread, or what we call Passover Week.

Jesus died and had to be buried on Friday before Sabbath began at sundown. On Sunday morning Messiah, Christ rose from the dead, being the First Fruits of those who slept (died.)

In John 12:24 Jesus says, "Most assuredly, I say to you, except a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it will produce much grain." Here, He speaks of His death and resurrection bringing forth much fruit.

The Jews celebrate Shavuot as the day Moses came down with the Tablets of law; the Ten Commandments. This is the day the Law was given.

1. This was a harvest celebration.
2. All were required to go to Jerusalem for the feast.
3. This was to give a first fruits offering of wheat in form of 2 loaves of bread.
4. The loaves were made with leaven. Remember, for Passover, the bread had to be unleavened, picturing the sinless Messiah. These loaves are picturing sinful man. Why two loaves? To Christians, the loaves represent the "baked" or completed Jew and the "baked" Gentile or Christian, harvested and given to God fully complete.

The Book of Ruth is read during this time because she was the ancestor of King David (his great-grandmother.) As Christians, we see that the Gentile Ruth found grace in the eyes of her kinsman-redeemer. We, too, have found grace in the eyes of our Kinsman-Redeemer, Yeshua Hameshiach, Jesus Christ.

Jews enjoy milk products on these days, especially cream cheese goodies, because the day represents the fact that at the giving of the Law they were newborn babes.

Torah is read all night to atone for the people being asleep when Moses returned.

Women have always decorated everything with expensive décor, flowers, even paper decorations if unable to afford other things. This is referred to as "Decorating the Bride," as a celebration of the wedding of the Jews and the Torah.

Another name for it is "the Festival without a Date," because the date "floats" on the Jewish calendar.

For forty days our Savior appeared to His disciples in His resurrected body; then He ascended to Heaven.

Acts, chapter 2

Ten days later was the Sunday of Shavuot or what we call Pentecost, Greek for "fifty." Fifty, in Hebrew, represents "fullness."

On that day in Jerusalem the Holy Spirit descended upon the believers standing on and around the temple steps. The upper room was too small to hold all of those people.

On that day when Moses came down from the mountain with the tablets, he found the people involved in great sin. Three thousand were slain. Exodus 32:28

On that same day, so many years later, 3000 Jews joined the "ekklesia," the called-out body of Christ, the Church. These men had come from all nations and were able to hear the gospel each in his own tongue!

The first Christians were Jews but from this day on the door was opened for Gentiles just as Ruth was welcomed.

The "Decorating of the Bride" can be seen as a picture of the Church awaiting her Bridegroom, Jesus Messiah.

Let's compare the two events.

**MOUNT SINAI**

- 1. The Law was given (Ten Commandments)
- 2. Fire came down on the mountain top
- 3. Three thousand died that day
- 4. A nation was called out that day

**TEMPLE STEPS**

(Upper room could not have held all those people)

- 1. Grace was given (Law was written in their hearts)
- 2. Tongues of fire came upon the men
- 3. Three thousand born again
- 4. A "nation" of the Church was born on that day

So, is it possible that a future Pentecost will be the day of the rapture?

Could it hint at the harvest of Christians?

Those two loaves offered on Shavuot were representative of the completion of the harvest fulfilled in the "baked" or finished loaves of bread, one of completed Jews, the other Gentile believers.

Romans 11:25

"For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in."

What a perfect time for God's plan to be fulfilled. Pentecost, meaning "fullness."

The birth of the Church, like David, and calling the Church home, same day would be just like the order God displays.

One more reason to expect the catching away of the Church in late spring/ early summer is Scripture which seems to hint that the time of Jacob's trouble will begin after spring harvest.

Micah 7:1

"Woe is me! For I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits...."

MICAH 7:2

"The good man is perished out of the earth.." Hebrew word, "avad" means 'to cause to vanish'

Could this be a reference to all the Christians who have vanished, or gATHERED As the harvest?

As, one day when Jews are staying up all night decorating Bride, will the Bridegroom catch away His Bride?

Revelation 22:20

"He which testifies these things says, "Surely I come quickly. Amen.

Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus."

Maranatha!