

History of The Feast of Shavuot/Pentecost:

- Shavuot means “weeks” in hebrew (Exodus 34:22).
- Pentecost means “fiftieth” week in greek (Acts 2:1).

The Feast of Shavuot/Pentecost is introduced to us in the book of Exodus chapter 34. In this chapter Moses made new tablets of stone that contained the ten commandments and the covenant law (this is why in Jewish tradition this feast also celebrates the receiving of the ten commandments and law on Mt. Sinai). This is after the children of Israel worshipped the golden calf in Exodus 32 and Moses threw down the first tablets, breaking them (Ex. 32:19). The covenant with God and Israel is renewed as well in Exodus 34. It is during this section that Israel is requested of God to come and appear before Him three times a year. The second gathering/feast is Shavuot/Pentecost.

As with each feast, the children of Israel are required to bring an offering to the Lord. The feast of Shavuot/Pentecost commemorates the wheat/grain offering. So they were instructed to bring an offering of grain to the Lord during this feast. To read a full description of how Israel was to observe the feast read Leviticus 23:15-22.

Not only was Israel to bring an offering to the Lord, but they were to look after the poor and the foreigner as well.

Leviticus 23:22 “When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigners residing among you. I am the Lord your God.

Prophecy of the outpouring of God’s Spirit:

The book of Joel is a prophetic book that lays out the elements of God’s redemptive and restorative work. It is often referred to as a manuscript for revival! First we see God bringing judgement to His people. We see a call to repentance. We see the refreshing that comes from repentance. We see the impact that the repentance and refreshing of God’s people has on the land itself. Then we see God bringing judgement to foreign nations. We ultimately see the blessing, purification and restoration of God’s people that is the result of suffering and judgement.

In Joel chapter 2 we find five powerful verses (28-32) that speak of the outpouring of God’s Spirit:

28 “And it shall come to pass afterward. That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. 29 And also on My servants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. 30 “And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. 32 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the Lord has said, Among the remnant whom the Lord calls.

Prophecy Fulfilled:

Acts 2 begins with the day of Pentecost coming. The people of Israel would have been set to commemorate and observe the finale of the feast of Pentecost like they always had for hundreds of years. In Acts chapter 2 however we see the fulfillment of what was prophesied in Joel 2.

Acts 2:1-4 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all [a]with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them [b]divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:12-16 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?” 13 Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.” 14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. 15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only [e]the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel (2:28-32).

Jesus spoke of this day numerous times as well.

Luke 24:49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be [a]witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

So we see that in the context of the Feast of Pentecost that the children of Israel received in Exodus, the Spirit of God is poured out in Acts chapter 2, which fulfilled the prophecy of Joel 2. It is amazing how the scripture all come together.

Again, Pentecost celebrates the receiving of the ten commandments, the wheat harvest, and the outpouring of God's Spirit. Gathering for the Feast of Pentecost is a part of our inheritance. The 50 days after Passover are a great time to be expectant and have anticipation for a move of God during Pentecost, in your personal life, the church and the city. We are able to share in the gift of the celebration because we have been grafted into the covenant made with Israel by the blood and resurrection of Jesus. Let's believe God for revival, a return to His word, and a fresh outpouring of His Spirit. Let's bring Him an offering of our lives in this season as we continue to seek to advance His Kingdom!