



Feast of Pentecost

Dates: May 25 (Sunset) - May 28, 2023 (Pentecost Sunday)

Description: The Feast of Shavuot (Hebrew:weeks)/Pentecost (Greek:fiftieth) 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 worshiped 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.

- **Exodus 34:22-23** "And you shall observe the Feast of Weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year's end. **23** "Three times in the year all your men shall appear before the Lord, the LORD God of Israel.

The offering: 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**.

Annual scripture readings: During the Feast of Shavout/Pentecost among the Jewish community the book of Ruth is one of the main books that is read. In traditional settings, the Book of Ruth is read on the second day of Shavuot. One reason for the reading of Ruth on Shavuot is that its story takes place at harvest time, and Shavuot also occurs at the time of the spring harvest.

- The book of Ruth is about a Moabite (Gentile) woman who, after her husband dies, follows her Israelite mother-in-law, Naomi, and the Jewish people with the famous words "wherever you go, I will go, wherever you lodge, I will lodge, your people will be my people, and your God will be my God" (Ruth 1:16). She asserts the right of the poor to glean the leftovers of the barley harvest, breaks the normal rules of behavior to confront her kinsman Boaz, is redeemed by him for marriage, and becomes the ancestor of King David.

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 judgment 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 judgment to foreign nations. We ultimately see the blessing, purification and restoration of God's people that is the result of suffering and judgment.

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

- **Joel 2:28-32** "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 menservants 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 [a]saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be [b]deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

The Day of Pentecost (which is the 50th day after Passover) was the day that the Spirit of God was poured out in **Acts 2** fulfilling what was prophesied in **Joel 2**. We see Jews from several nations were present as they came to Jerusalem for the feast and witnessed this powerful outpouring of God's Spirit, and the birth of the Church!

Prayer focuses (this is the end of the 21 days of prayer and fasting for Israel/100 million believers have engaged in the Isaiah 62 Fast, let's celebrate this miracle)

- **Thanksgiving and praise** for the word of God, the commandments of the Lord given on Mt. Sinai (**Exodus 34**).
- **Worship** to God for His faithfulness to His covenant with Israel and to all who put their faith in Jesus Christ. Worship Him for being a merciful God, in ways we do not deserve.
- **Intercede** for Israel, for Jews around the world, during the feast of Pentecost to have their eyes opened to the revelation of Jesus. That Jesus is the Word made flesh that came and dwelt among us (**John 1:14**), that He fulfilled the law (**Matthew 5:17**), and that the law and the prophets all point to Him (**Luke 24:44-45**). Pray for the understanding that the gospel is the power of God for salvation for the Jew first and then the Gentile (**Romans 1:16**).
- Intercede for the understanding of God's covenant to Israel to increase in the hearts of Gentile believers, similar to Ruth in the Old Testament. Pray that Gentile believers would long for the salvation of Israel (**Romans 11:26**) until we are all one new man in Christ, Jew and Gentile together (**Ephesians 2:14-16**).
- **Thanksgiving and praise** for the outpouring of God's Spirit (**Joel 2:28-32, Acts 2:17-21**). Thank the Lord for sending the Holy Spirit that we may walk in boldness as witnesses of Jesus Christ (**Acts 1:8**).
- **Worship** God the Holy Spirit, for being the one who guides us into all truth (**John 16:13**), our helper and comforter (**John 14:26**), who reveals that we are sons of God (**Romans 8:15**), who is the seal of our inheritance in Christ Jesus (**Ephesians 1:13**).
- **Intercede** for all nations, including Israel to encounter the revelation of Jesus Christ and the Gospel through the Holy Spirit as the nations gathered on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2). Intercede for fresh encounters with the Holy Spirit that will increase zeal to preach the Gospel among unreached nations.
- **Intercede** for a harvest of souls among Jews and Gentiles that leads to **Acts 2:38,41** "Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the [a]remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" Then those who [m]gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to *them*.

