

Pentecost 2023

The Feast of Weeks

Lev 23:15 'And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed.

Lev 23:16 Count **fifty days** to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD.

Lev 23:17 You shall bring from your dwellings **two wave loaves**** of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be **baked with leaven**. They are the firstfruits to the LORD.

*** **From the CGI Bible Course Lesson 11 - Pentecost** - The two loaves we read about in Leviticus 23:17 cover the two periods of the Old Testament and the New Testament Church. "Church" has been translated from the Greek word ecclesia, which means the "called-out ones." Therefore, Pentecost, or the Feast of Firstfruits, portrays to us the first part of the spiritual harvest of souls: the calling out of God's Church, a small group of people and a small first harvest. It is quite apparent that God is not dealing with the vast majority of the world today. He is only calling a few now to whom to reveal His wonderful truths. Remember that in Leviticus 23:17 the two loaves were baked with leaven. The apostle John reminds us that we cannot say "we have no sin" (1 John 1:8).*

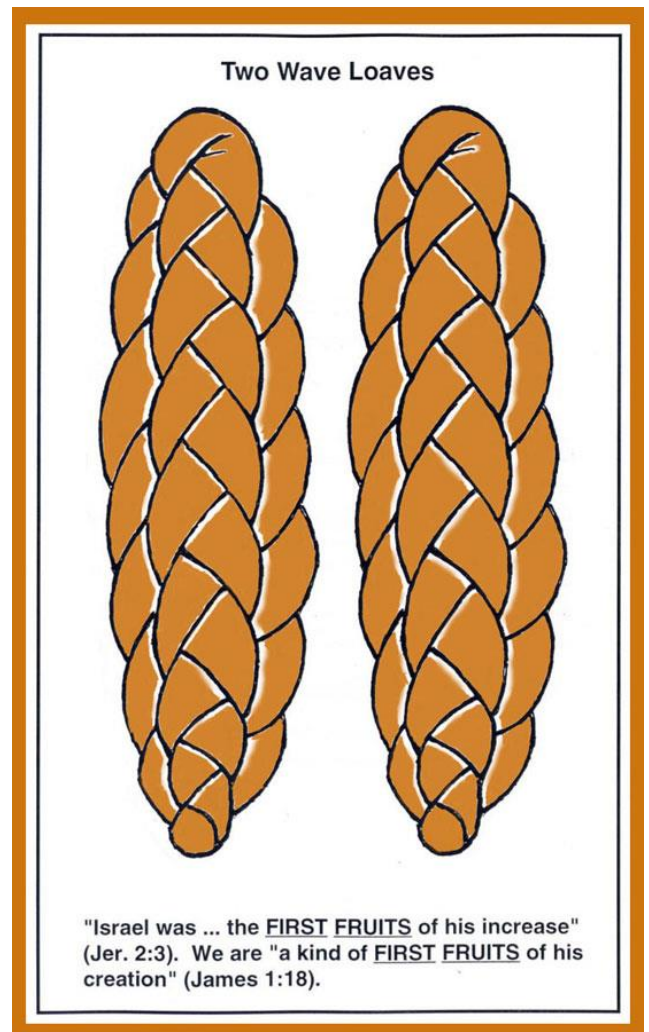
Lev 23:18 And you shall offer with the bread seven lambs of the first year, without blemish, one young bull, and two rams. They shall be as a burnt offering to the LORD, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma to the LORD.

Lev 23:19 Then you shall sacrifice one kid of the goats as a sin offering, and two male lambs of the first year as a sacrifice of a peace offering.

Lev 23:20 The priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits as a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs. They shall be holy to the LORD for the priest.

Lev 23:21 And you shall proclaim on the same day that it is a holy convocation to you. You shall do no customary work on it. It shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

Lev 23:22 'When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field when you reap, nor shall you gather any gleaning from your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the stranger: I am the LORD your God.' "



The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Act 2:1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Act 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Act 2:3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

Act 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Act 2:5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.

Act 2:6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.

Act 2:7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?"

Act 2:8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?"

Act 2:9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

Act 2:10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Act 2:11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

Act 2:12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

Act 2:13 Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

Peter's Sermon at Pentecost

Act 2:14 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.

Act 2:15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

Act 2:16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

Act 2:17 'AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE LAST DAYS, SAYS GOD, THAT I WILL POUR OUT OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH; YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS.

Act 2:18 AND ON MY MENSERVANTS AND ON MY MAIDSERVANTS I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT IN THOSE DAYS; AND THEY SHALL PROPHECY.

Act 2:19 I WILL SHOW WONDERS IN HEAVEN ABOVE AND SIGNS IN THE EARTH BENEATH: BLOOD AND FIRE AND VAPOR OF SMOKE.



Why Pentecost? What are the Themes we need to Learn & Know of THIS day?

1. Outpouring of the Holy Spirit: Pentecost marks the coming of the Holy Spirit in a powerful and transformative way, empowering and equipping believers for their mission. The Holy Spirit is often referred to using various titles and descriptions such as..

the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, the Comforter, the Advocate, and the Helper

- **John 14:16-17:** "& I will ask the Father, & he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you & will be in you."
- **Acts 1:8:** "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (ESV)
- **Romans 8:26:** "Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." (ESV)



SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Paul wrote four lists of spiritual gifts:

Romans, 12: 6-8	1 Corinthians, 12: 8-10	1 Corinthians, 12: 28-30	Ephesians, 4: 11-12
Prophecy	Wisdom	Apostles	Apostles
Serving	Knowledge	Prophecy	Prophecy
Teaching	Faith	Teaching	Evangelists
Exhortation	Healing	Miracles	Pastors
Giving	Miracles	Healing	Teaching
Leadership	Prophecy	Helping	
Mercy	Discerning of spirits	Administration	
	Tongues	Tongues	
	Interpretation of tongues		

Definition of Christian Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does **not** have the Spirit of Christ, he is **not His**.

Last time Casting Lots ... Because Spirit is (now) in us! Act 1:24, 26 And they **prayed** and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, **show** which of these two You have chosen ... **Act 1:26** And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias.

How to Receive the Holy Spirit? Act 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "**Repent**, and let every one of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the **gift** of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who **ask** Him!" **Acts 5:32 & obey!**

2. Unity & Oneness: Pentecost celebrates the **unity of believers** as they were gathered together in **one place** and received the Holy Spirit, symbolizing the bond among Christians (the Covenant community)

3. Renewal & Revival: Pentecost is often associated with spiritual renewal, revival, and the revitalization of faith. It serves as a reminder of the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers. The ebb & flow of the Spirit is **not constant** in our lives & it can be cut off!

1Th_5:19 Do not **quench** the Spirit.

Psa 51:10-11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And **renew** a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, & **do not take Your Holy Spirit** from me

4. Proclamation & Evangelism: The outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost enabled the disciples to boldly proclaim the Gospel, resulting in the conversion of thousands. This event underscores the call for Christians to **share their faith with others**. **Harvest** now!



Joh_4:35 Do you not say, "There are still four months and **then** comes the harvest"? Behold, I say to you, **lift up your eyes and look** at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!

Mat 28:19-20 **Go** therefore & **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit, **teaching** them to observe all things that I have commanded you; & lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

5. Languages - Reversal of Babel: Mankind - without the Holy Spirit - is increasingly evil. God HAD to split up mankind by confusing the language...

Gen 11:6 And the LORD said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.

Pentecost gives us a *foretaste* of God's intent for ALL mankind to communicate effectively with people from diverse backgrounds ... This will reach its complete fulfilment in the Kingdom of God.

Zep 3:9 "For then I will restore to the peoples **a pure language**, That they **all** may call on the name of the LORD, To serve Him with one accord.

6. Mankind with just the "spirit in man" was created "incomplete" (We **need** the Holy Spirit) Pentecost is the time in God's Holy Day "plan of salvation" where this is addressed.

1Co 2:11-16 For what man knows the things of a man except the **spirit of the man** which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the **Spirit of God**.

1Co 2:12 Now we have received, not the **spirit of the world**, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

1Co 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

1Co 2:14 But the **natural man** does **not** receive the things of the **Spirit of God**, for they are foolishness to him; **nor can he know them**, because they are spiritually discerned.

1Co 2:15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.

1Co 2:16 For "WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD THAT HE MAY INSTRUCT HIM?" But we have the **mind of Christ**.

7. Commemoration of the Church's Birth: Pentecost is often considered the birthday of the Christian Church, as it marks the point when the early disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and began their mission of spreading the Gospel.

8. Harvest and Ingathering: Pentecost is associated with the harvest season and the concept of spiritual ingathering, highlighting the gathering of believers into the Kingdom of God... & the Church of God understands via God's Holy Day Plan ... this is not the **only** harvest!

Lev 23:2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: '**The feasts of the LORD**, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are **My feasts**."

9. ?? Anniversary of the Law Given ?? - The Jews (even today) have a **historical tradition** that God gave them the Law at Mount Sinai on the Day of Pentecost (Feast of Firstfruits). Some biblical writers and scholars have **speculated** that the Ten Commandments were given to Israel on Pentecost.

Exo 19:1 In the **third month after** the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, **on the same day**, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai.

Per Adam Clark's commentary ...

By the "**same day**", the first day of the month is intended.

The Jews celebrate the feast of Pentecost fifty days after the Passover: from the departure out of Egypt to the coming to Sinai were forty-five days; for they came out the fifteenth day of the first month, from which day to the first of the third month forty-five days are numbered. On the 2d day of this third month Moses went up into the mountain, when three days were given to the people to purify themselves; this gives the fourth day of the third month, or the forty-ninth from the departure out of Egypt. On the next day, which was the fiftieth from the celebration of the Passover, the glory of God appeared on the mount; in commemoration of which the Jews celebrate the feast of Pentecost. This is the opinion of St. Augustine and of several moderns, and is defended at large by Houbigant. As the word חודש chodesh, month, is put for new moon, which is with the Jews the first day of the month, this may be considered an additional confirmation of the above opinion.

GOD	MAN
1: Do not worship any other gods	5: Honour your father & mother
2: Do not make any idols	6: Do not murder
3: Do not misuse the name of God	7: Do not commit adultery
4: Keep the Sabbath holy	8: Do not steal
	9: Do not lie
	10: Do not covet

Mat 22:36- 40 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

10. New Covenant: Pentecost represents the fulfillment of the promise of the New Covenant spoken of by the prophet Joel and anticipated by Jesus. It signifies the inauguration of a new era of grace and spiritual empowerment.

Jer 31:31-33 "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But **this** is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: **I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts**; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

How?

Eze 37:13-14 **Then** you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have **opened your graves**, O My people, & brought you up from your graves. **I will put My Spirit in you**, & you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it," says the LORD.'

11. Reminder of God's Holy Day Planning! After His resurrection Jesus was around - & loved & welcomed by the disciples ... Who of course WANTED Him to stay ... but before His death - at the last supper - Jesus explained ...

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.

Jesus role & the events of Pentecost were planned by the Father & the Word "before the foundations of the world" (1 Peter 1:20) ... Jesus' Life & Sacrifice & resurrection enable the events of Pentecost to occur. Jesus was sent to do the will of His Father **according to plan**.

12. Jesus is Central to All the Holy Days!

Col 2:16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a **shadow of things to come**, but the **substance is of Christ**.



- **1Cor_12:3** Jesus is **Lord**
- **1Co 15:20-21** But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.
- Jesus is **returning!**
 - **Rev_3:11** Behold, I am coming quickly! **Hold fast** what you have, that no one may take your crown.
 - **Rev_22:12** "& behold, I am coming quickly, & My **reward** is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.
- **1Pe 2:21** For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example**, that you should follow His steps
- **Our goal ... Rev_14:4** ... These are **the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes**. These were redeemed from among men, **being firstfruits to God & to the Lamb**. *Happy Pentecost!*