

"Shavuot" - The Feast of Weeks

Ross Pettigrew and Others

Jewish Calendar Sivan - 50 days after Firstfruits.
 Gregorian Calendar May/June A Spring Feast
 Scriptures Exodus 34:22, Leviticus 23:15-16, Deuteronomy 16:10,16,
 II Chronicles 8:13

Significance Weeks (Shavuot), also known as Pentecost, speaks of origination. Symbolizes Jesus giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit which inaugurated the New Covenant and Church Age

The Feast of Weeks, also known as Harvest (Exodus 23:16), Shavuot (Hebrew), the Day of Firstfruits (Numbers 28:26), or Pentecost, was a festival of joy and thanksgiving celebrating the completion of the harvest season. It was the second major feast in which all able-bodied Jewish males were required to attend (the other two being Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles). It was celebrated as a sabbath with rest from ordinary labors and the calling of a holy convocation (Leviticus 23:21; Numbers 28:26).

Essentially a harvest celebration, the term weeks was used to describe the time period from the grain harvest to the barley harvest and finally to the wheat harvest. It is called the Feast of Weeks because God specifically told the sons of Jacob that they were to count seven sevens of weeks (seven complete weeks) from Firstfruits (Leviticus 23:15; Deuteronomy 16:9), and then on the "morrow" this fourth feast was to be observed (Leviticus 23:16). Seven sevens of weeks are forty-nine days. Add one additional day ("on the morrow"), and it brings the total number of days to fifty. This fourth feast was to occur precisely fifty days after Firstfruits (Christ's resurrection). Therefore, the feast was given the name "Pentecost" (Acts 2:1) which means "fifty."

On this occasion, the children of Israel were not to simply bring the firstfruits of the wheat to the Temple (as they brought the firstfruit of the barley at the Feast of Firstfruits), but rather two loaves of bread. These two loaves were specifically commanded to be made with fine flour and baked with leaven (Leviticus 23:17), and they were to be used as a "wave offering" for the people.

These two loaves, however, could not be eaten until after the ceremony was completed (Leviticus 23:14; Joshua 5:10-11) and could not be placed on the altar due to its leaven content. In addition to the wave offering, two lambs, one young bull, and two rams were to be offered as burnt offerings before the Lord (Leviticus 23:15-22; Numbers 28:26-31). The feast was concluded by the eating of communal meals to which the poor, the stranger, and the Levites were invited.

What Does It All Mean?

The Feast of Weeks is a symbolic festival which pointed to the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church. The Son of God arose from the grave on Firstfruits. He then spent forty days with His disciples in post-resurrection ministry (Acts 1:3).

Immediately after forty days, Jesus informed them that it was necessary that He leave them and ascend to His Father in Heaven (in order to apply the benefits of His once and for all sacrifice). However, He told His disciples that they would not be left abandoned and comfortless. He would then send them His Holy Spirit who would come alongside to help in His absence (John 14:16-17).

If you are new or visiting; a special warm welcome to you. We trust you enjoy your time with us.

Today we will be having communion. If it is your practice to participate in this we welcome you to join with us in celebrating the Lord's Supper. If this is not your custom or if you are unsure of what to do please just pass the emblems (bread and wine) to the person next to you.

This Morning Speaker Various

This Evening

- JCF 5.00pm
- Creation Evangelism 7.00pm

Next Sunday

7th June. Tony Hewson.
Romans 8:1-17

Thursday Kidz Club

6:30 - 8:00 pm
7 - 12 year olds
Ph: Allan Maguire - 4767197

Youth Group

Saturday 6th June
Long Beach Caves
Meet 6pm, Tea provided
Wray Street Youth Hall

Coming Up

Planning Meeting 8th June.

Please advise the elders of any items you wish to have added to the agenda.

Prayer Items

Please give prayerful consideration to the upcoming OAC outreach endeavour and thought to activities that our we can be involved in.

Vivienne, Fiji, writes: I have a great desire to visit the Fiji Deaf for a few weeks to help with the devotions and the Sunday school programme run for deaf children in hostels, if the Lord will. The doctors have said that it must be soon. But need someone to travel with me, going and returning. Please pray that the Lord will provide someone to go with me and that must be the right person too. Thank you for your prayers. They are powerful and effective.

