

Feast of Weeks/Pentecost

This festival is also called Shavuoth (Hebrew for weeks) or Pentecost (Greek for fiftieth day).

This festival celebrates the first fruits of the wheat harvest, 7 weeks after the first fruits of the barley harvest.

“You shall also count for yourselves from the day after the sabbath, from the day when you brought in the sheaf of the wave offering; there shall be seven complete sabbaths. You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to the Lord. You shall bring in from your dwelling places two loaves of bread for a wave offering, made of two-tenths of a bushel; they shall be of fine flour, baked with leaven as first fruits to the Lord.” (Leviticus 23:15-17)

Firstfruits Comparison

Firstfruits during Passover	Firstfruits during Pentecost
Spring barley harvest	Summer wheat harvest
Presented the day after the sabbath of Passover Week	Presented 50 days after Passover
Pictures Messiah as our firstfruits from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:21-23).	Pictures believers as the firstfruits of Messiah’s new creation, the “body” of Messiah (Acts 2).
Bread made without leaven	Two loaves made with leaven
Meaning: Jesus is the acceptable and perfect sacrifice.	Meaning: Believers are accepted by God because Jesus was accepted by his Father as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.

This festival has also come to be recognized as a memorial of God’s gift of the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai, on the fiftieth day after the Israelites were led out of Egypt (Exodus 19).

It has also become known as the spiritual birthday of the body of Messiah.

“When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:1-4)

How to Celebrate

Bake and pray.

Bake 2 loaves of bread, either from scratch or from store-bought dough. Let one loaf represent Jewish people and the other loaf represent Gentiles. Pray for those who have not yet come to know Jesus.

Prayer over bread: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the ground.

Read Scripture.

Giving of the Law and Spirit Comparison

Giving of the Law	Giving of the Spirit
Exodus 19:1-20:20; 32	Acts 2
Spiritual birthday of Israel	Spiritual birthday of the body of Messiah
Traditionally believed to have happened about 50 days after the Israelites left Egypt (Exodus 19:1)	Believers in Jesus were gathered together on the day of Pentecost 50 days after they celebrated Passover.
Fire and noise as God descended Mt. Sinai (Exodus 19:16-18)	A violent, rushing wind and tongues as fire descended upon the believers.
3,000 people died because of their idolatry (Ex. 32:28)	3,000 people were made spiritually alive because they believed in Jesus
Law given to instruct the Israelites.	Spirit given to empower and guide the body of Messiah-including both Jews and Gentiles

Resources

Celebrating Biblical Feasts. Martha Zimmerman.

Walk with Y'shua Through the Jewish Year. Janie-sue Wertheim and Kathy Shapiro.

Feasts of the Bible. Dr. Sam Nadler.