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Shavuot, Yeshua's Pentecost

Most modern-day Christians are familiar with Pentecost, but when confronted with Shavuot, most modern-day Christians seem to be somewhat lost to say the least. The truth is that Shavuot was around long before Pentecost was ever even heard of. To get a better idea of what I'm talking about, I'd like us to take a look at a couple different versus from a couple different English translated Bibles. Let's turn to Acts chapter 2 verse one:

Act 2:1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.

Notice here in the English standard version, the word Pentecost is used in Acts chapter 2 verse one. But I want us to see what happens when we turn to the Complete Jewish Bible, and Go to the Exact Same Verse in Acts Chapter 2 Verse One:

Act 2:1 The festival of Shavu'ot arrived, and the believers all gathered together in one place.

If we run a parallel on this exact same verse we'll find that the King James version uses the word Pentecost, and so does the English standard version. But... the Hebrew roots version, and the complete Jewish Bible, and the Orthodox Jewish Bible all use the word "Shavuot" in place of "Pentecost". This is another one of those times when the translators simply got it wrong. There was no such thing as "Pentecost" until after the Ruach Hakodesh (also known as the Holy Spirit) was given in the upper room. The truth is, that people were not all gathered around Jerusalem waiting for the Holy Spirit of God to descend upon the apostles.

On this very day the Jewish people would gather for what was always known as "Shavuot". This is the very day that the Jewish people believe that Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the law of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. You see the apostles themselves would have well understood the significance of this particular day. It was the day that the Jewish people believed that God gave his commandments to Moses. This was the reason that there were thousands of people in Jerusalem that day.

Most modern-day Christians think that Pentecost was simply the day that our Father in Heaven gave his Holy Spirit to the apostles. But the truth is, that there is much more to it than that. On that very day the apostles gathered together the upper room, there was a huge festival going on in the streets of Jerusalem down below them. Pentecost is also known as the feast of weeks, and it is the second of three solemn feasts that all Jewish males were required to travel to Jerusalem to present themselves before our Father in Heaven every year. Exodus chapter 23 versus 14

through 17:

Exo 23:14 “Three times in the year you shall keep a feast to me.

Exo 23:15 You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread. As I commanded you, you shall eat unleavened bread for seven days at the appointed time in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt. None shall appear before me empty-handed.

Exo 23:16 You shall keep the Feast of Harvest, of the firstfruits of your labor, of what you sow in the field. You shall keep the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in from the field the fruit of your labor.

Exo 23:17 Three times in the year shall all your males appear before the Lord GOD.

In order to better understand our Fathers feast days, let’s take a look at a couple of charts.



Here are the seven main appointments that our Father in Heaven is given to us to keep. The first thing that I want us to notice is that not all of these appointments are technically feast days. There are really only three of these moedim that are truly feast days.

THE MOEDIM:

Feast Days In Red

Spring Moedim:

Appointed Times

Passover (Pesach)

Unleavened Bread (Chag HaMatzot)

First Fruits (Reishit Katzir)

Pentecost (Shavuot)

Fall Moedim:

Appointed Times

Trumpets (Yom Teruah)

Atonement (Yom Kippur)

Tabernacles (Sukkot)

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Unleavened bread, Pentecost (which is also known as Shavuot), and Tabernacles (which is also known as Sukkot) are the only true these days found within these seven appointments. These are the three appointed times that all males are required to travel to Jerusalem to meet with our Father in Heaven. Deuteronomy chapter 16 verses 16 and 17:

*Deu 16:16 “Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God at the place that he will choose: at **the Feast of Unleavened Bread**, at **the Feast of Weeks**, and **at the Feast of Booths**. They shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed.*

Deu 16:17 Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you.

Notice that at each of these appointed times, a feast is implemented. And so, the apostles were not just inadvertently sitting around the upper Room in Jerusalem for no reason on what was known as Shavuot. This can be confusing because of the different names that were all used for the same day. Shavuot, Pentecost, and the Feast of Weeks, is all the same day. It was a day that our Father in Heaven commanded all males of the house of Israel to come to Jerusalem and to stand before him, and so I don't want us to be confused about why there were so many people in Jerusalem when the Ruach Hakodesh was given to the apostles. Our Father in Heaven planned it that way. He wanted every person from around the land, from both far and near to be there when he gave his spirit to his apostles, and he wanted them to hear his apostles speaking in each of their languages. He wanted them to experience the gift that he was giving to mankind, and he wanted them to understand why it was that he was giving it to them.

The Jewish people believe that it was on this very day that God gave his law to Moses to bring down from Mount Sinai. And this would make perfect sense, because it was on the day of Pentecost that he gave his law through his Holy Spirit to come down and once again write his laws on the hearts and in the minds of men. Just like Moses brought down the law at Sinai, he himself reached down from heaven and took his finger and wrote his laws on the fleshly hearts of his people. The first time, he wrote his laws on tablets of stone. The second time, he wrote his laws on the fleshly hearts of men.

What is totally astonishing, is the fact that very few Christians even understand this concept. Once again, to properly understand this event, we must turn back to Jeremiah chapter 31 versus 31 through 33:

Jer 31:31 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,

Jer 31:32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.

Jer 31:33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

This indwelling of the Holy Spirit was the final step of our Father in Heaven writing his laws in our hearts and in our minds. Too many modern day would be professing Christians today have been wrongly taught that God’s laws are all nailed to some tree somewhere because God’s laws were nothing but a curse. Too many modern day would be professing Christians today have no clue as to why thousands of people from all over the land, that spoke all kinds of different languages just happened to be standing around in Jerusalem when the Ruach Hakodesh was given. They don’t even question why all these people were in Jerusalem at that point in time, and it’s beyond sad to know and to understand the false narrative that they’ve been fed through the wisdom of men, and their so-called “early church fathers” and their denominational charters of men, and their brick-and-mortar institutions of higher learning.

I would submit to you my friends that Pentecost (also known as Shavuot, or the feast of weeks) is much more important to the Christian than the Christian even knows. Let’s turn to the New Testament, and let’s look at Hebrews chapter 10 versus 15 through 17:

Heb 10:15 And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

Heb 10:16 “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,”

Heb 10:17 then he adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

What we see here in the book of Hebrews is a direct reflection of what we see in Jeremiah chapter 31. In both the old, and the New Testaments, it is written that our Father in Heaven

would write his laws in our hearts and put them in our minds, and yet today's modern-day Christian will oftentimes foolishly proclaim that God's laws are a curse, and that they are bondage, and that we need to stay away from our Father's laws like the black plague, because if we keep our Father's laws we are then being what they call "legalistic". But I would submit to you my friends, that it is they who are being "legalistic". They are following after their own man-made, man instituted, man concocted legalistic traditions, rituals, and myths. They have not picked up the cross of their Messiah. They have picked up handfuls of dirt, and decided to follow after a man dressed in pagan investments, who sits upon a golden throne, and demands that they bow down to kiss his golden pagan ring. They teach their children to forsake the new covenant that our Messiah's blood brought them. They teach their children to turn their backs on the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob and the word that was made flesh for their sakes.

The Pentecostals believe that the feast of Shavuot is all about jumping up and down and screaming in the aisles in an unknown language. Their houses are in complete disarray. They completely disregard the biblical instruction, and toss their Scripture to the wind concerning the gift of tongues as they run around the building jumping up and down and standing on chairs and tables and howling at the wind, never understanding the true purpose, or the true God given message that was sent down from heaven on that very special day. Instead of worshiping our Father and what his only begotten Son has done for them... they worship the tongue. Instead of understanding how the law was written on their hearts, they concern themselves with the tongue. Instead of educating themselves concerning the new covenant that our Messiah's blood brought them at the cross, they celebrate the tongue.

You see this newfound charismatic movement is all about how you feel. It's all about your unhinged emotions, it's all about doing whatever you feel like doing. But what does the Scripture tell us about the human heart? Jeremiah chapter 17 verses 9 to 15:

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

Jer 17:10 "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

Jer 17:11 Like the partridge that gathers a brood that she did not hatch, so is he who gets riches but not by justice; in the midst of his days they will leave him, and at his end he will be a fool.

Jer 17:12 A glorious throne set on high from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary.

Jer 17:13 O LORD, the hope of Israel, all who forsake you shall be put to shame; those who turn away from you shall be written in the earth, for they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living water.

Jer 17:14 Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise.

Jer 17:15 Behold, they say to me, "Where is the word of the LORD? Let it come!"

My friends you can dance around like a circus clown, and you can have tears, and yes, you can

even cry out “Lord Lord”, but I’m telling you right here and right now, that none of that will gain you entrance into his coming kingdom. None of your antics, none of your tongues, none of your whaling, none of your showmanship can gain you access into his coming kingdom. Matthew chapter 7 versus 21 through 29:

Mat 7:21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Mat 7:22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’

Mat 7:23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

Mat 7:24 “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Mat 7:25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

Mat 7:26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

Mat 7:27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

Mat 7:28 And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching,

Mat 7:29 for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

What I want us to notice in this Scripture is the fact that not everybody who calls him “Lord” is going to gain entrance into his coming kingdom. Not everyone who shouts in tongues, not everyone who jumps off chairs, not everyone who rolls around on the floor will enter the kingdom of heaven. Not everyone who puts on a heartfelt tearful show, is going to enter the kingdom of heaven. Notice the red-letter words of our Messiah. Our Messiah says, and I quote... “*But only the one who does the will of my father who is in heaven... Is getting into heaven.*” And I also want us to make a clear distinction between what we see in verse 24 and what we see in verse 26. Verse 24 tells us about those who “do” his word. And I want us to make the clear distinction between those who “hear” his word, and those who “do” his word. It’s not just about hearing his word, it’s about “doing” his word. In verse 26 he tells us very clearly what happens to those who do not “do” his word.

All of this my friends leads us into what we know today as “Pentecost”. The Ruach Hakodesh was not given simply so that we could dance around like circus clowns worshipping our tongues! The Ruach Hakodesh was given in order to write his laws in our hearts and in our minds so that we would do them, and so that we would know that they are not a curse, but a blessing for us and our children. I’d like us to pay close attention to what David said about our Father’s laws. Psalms 19 verses seven through 11:

Psa 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

Psa 19:8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

Psa 19:9 the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

Psa 19:10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Psa 19:11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Our Scripture tells us that the law of our Father is perfect... and yet the evil twisted wisdom of men tells us that our Father's law is a curse, and that it's bondage. Our Scripture tells us that the testimony of our Father is sure, and that it makes wise the simple. And yet the evil twisted wisdom of men tells us not to trust the testimony of our Father, but rather to trust them their interpretation of it. Our God breathed Scriptures tell us that the precepts of our Father are right rejoicing the heart, and yet the evil twisted wisdom of man tells us that "do as thou wilt is the whole of the law" is now the law of the land. Our God breathed Scriptures tell us that the commandment of our Father is pure, enlightening the eyes... and yet the evil twisted wisdom of man tells us that we are once saved always saved and that the commandment of our Father is nothing more than legalism. Who is it that stands among us, that cannot see the stark difference? Who is it that stands among us that drinks from the demonically inspired cup of the wisdom of men? Psalms chapter 37 versus 31 through 40:

Psa 37:31 The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip.

Psa 37:32 The wicked watches for the righteous and seeks to put him to death.

Psa 37:33 The LORD will not abandon him to his power or let him be condemned when he is brought to trial.

Psa 37:34 Wait for the LORD and keep his way, and he will exalt you to inherit the land; you will look on when the wicked are cut off.

Psa 37:35 I have seen a wicked, ruthless man, spreading himself like a green laurel tree.

Psa 37:36 But he passed away, and behold, he was no more; though I sought him, he could not be found.

Psa 37:37 Mark the blameless and behold the upright, for there is a future for the man of peace.

Psa 37:38 But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed; the future of the wicked shall be cut off.

Psa 37:39 The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble.

Psa 37:40 The LORD helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

The law of God is in his heart, and his steps do not slip. This my friends, is what it's all about. This is the gospel message in a nutshell. If the law of God is in our hearts, then our steps will not slip. Our Father will not abandon us to the power of the wicked one, nor will he abandon us to the power of his deception. As we wait for our Father, and the return of his only begotten Son

if we keep his ways... he will exalt us to inherit the land and the wicked will indeed be cut off. There is a future for the man who seeks peace, but peace can only come through the word of God. Peace can only come when man agrees to obey the words of his Father. Peace can only come when every knee bends and when every head bows and when every tongue confesses that he is the King of Kings, the Lord of lords, the master masters, the beginning and the end, the way, the truth, and the life. Peace cannot comment any other way. Peace will never come until every knee bends, and every head bows, and every tongue confesses. This is the day that we long for. This is the goal that we chase after. This is the crown that we seek.

And so, as we remember the importance of this coming Pentecost day... let us remember the true biblical significance of this precious day according to our God breathed Scriptures, and not according to somebody's early church father.

So, with all of that being said... how are we to calculate the feast of Pentecost? We can find that in the book of Leviticus chapter 23 versus 15 and 16:

Lev 23:15 "You shall count seven full weeks from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering.

Lev 23:16 You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath. Then you shall present a grain offering of new grain to the LORD.

This year in 2018, firstfruits fell on the first of April. If we count seven weeks from that day, we arrive on May 20th which is a Sunday, which is the day after the seventh Sabbath. There's nothing too technical about calculating Shavuot, or Pentecost as long as we understand what day firstfruits fell on. You simply count seven weeks from firstfruits and you're at Pentecost, it is 50 days to the day after the seventh Sabbath. And of course, it's important for today's modern-day Christian to understand that our Messiah was the "first fruit" of the new harvest. Our Messiah was raised on firstfruits... NOT... And I repeat "NOT"... on a pagan Easter Sunday morning. Our Messiah is the firstfruit of the new harvest according to our God breathed Scripture. First Corinthians chapter 15 versus 22 and 23:

1Co 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

*1Co 15:23 But each in his own order: **Christ the firstfruits**, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.*

And I want us to understand spiritual implications of picking up our crosses and following after our Messiah who is the first fruit of the new harvest. What happens when we pick up our cross and follow him? What happens when we understand that the love of God is that we keep his commandments and his commandments are not burdensome to us? What happens when we begin to live in the spirit and put to death the deeds of the body? What happens when his Ruach Hakodesh dwells deeply within us? What happens when our Messiah and his Father make their home within our temples? Let's turn to Romans chapter 8 verses 13 to 17:

Rom 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Rom 8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Rom 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

Rom 8:16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Rom 8:17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

How tectonically important do you suppose that this Scripture is for today's modern-day Christian? The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit, that we are children of God, and if children of God... then heirs... heirs of God and fellow heirs with our Messiah. But I want us to zone in the second half of verse 17. "Provided"... "Provided"... we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him".

What does that mean, "suffer with him"? It means if we live according to the spirit and not according to the flesh and the deeds of the body. "For if you live according to the flesh you will die." We are like sheep led to slaughter all the day long. Our weapons of warfare are not made of earthly elements. People are always going to laugh, and to mock, and to jeer, and to whisper behind our backs. They're going to make fun of our children because we are zealous for God and his word. They will call us extremists, and legalists. They will say that we have no tolerance, and that we have no compassion on the wicked because we will not allow them to have their way. They will say that our children are evil because they won't share the bathroom with children of the opposite sex. We will be painted as intolerable, haters, bigots, homophobes, Islamophobes, and yes... even deplorables.

They will call us anything and everything in the book but holy. Most of us who have been walking with our Messiah for any length of time already know what it means to suffer with him in one form or another. Many of us suffer within our own households. Some of us suffer within our workplaces. And yes, some of us even suffer within our houses of worship. But this suffering is a badge of honor for us. It is a treasure that is being saved up for a time soon to come. Matthew chapter 5 versus 11 and 12:

Mat 5:11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Mat 5:12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

You see to us; the red-letter words of our Messiah mean much more than the worthless evil words of men. There will always be two voices calling us and our children. There will always be two voices calling us to come closer. There will always be two voices that will be leading us in two very different directions. But it is the red-letter words that are stained with the blood of our Messiah who signed the record of our debt that we hear. It is the words of our Father in

Heaven who sent his only begotten Son to shine the light before us, and to lead us down the narrow path that leads us back to the tree of life that we listen to.

The day of Pentecost (also known as Shavuot, or the feast of weeks) means much more to us than it does to those who will be rolling in the aisles and jumping off chairs and putting on a tearful heartfelt show for their neighbors. We stand with the law of God written in our hearts and firmly embedded in our minds have nothing to prove to our neighbors other than the love that we have for them and the light of truth that shines from within us. Let us be as wise as serpents and his kind as doves. Let us contend for the faith properly. Let us preach the word, and be ready in season and out of season. Let us reprove, rebuke, and exhort with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will turn to those who seek after their own passions, and they will turn away from listening to the truth... and they will wander off into myths.

Let the cloven tongues of fire rest upon us this coming Pentecost day. Let us have an extra measure of the Ruach Hakodesh be given to his people this year, and let our Fathers Ruach Hakodesh make himself at home within our temples and the temples of our children and the temples of our children's children as we teach them diligently the things of our Father in Heaven. And let us teach our children this Pentecost day that our Father in Heaven is one God. And that we are to love our Father in Heaven with all of our heart, with all of our soul, and with all of our might. Let us teach them that his words that he commands us to this very day shall be on their hearts. Let us teach our children diligently, and talk of these things when we sit in our house, and when we walk by the way, and when we lie down, and when we rise. Let us bind them as signs on our hands, and let them be as frontlets between our eyes, and let us write them on the doorpost of our houses and on our gates. And as we watch the theatrics and the mindless wanderings of a lost religion pass us by... let us stand fast on the rock upon which we have built our houses, and the God breathed Scriptures that we hold in our very hands. Fasten your seatbelts my friends... Because Pentecost is coming.