

# A look at the first century church 7-01

## SUBJECTS 1st Century Church study Series

### ■ Series subjects:

- ◆ 1. The importance of God's Word, and "words" (Heb 4:12).
- ◆ 2. The sources used by Jesus and the disciples
- ◆ 3. The 1st century churches had NO New Testament, only the Hebrew Scriptures.
- ◆ 4. First Century church "services", Constantine - Roman Emperor, introduced the recognition of buildings as churches. Why anything Jewish was removed from the church. Syncretism defined. Church councils still fighting Jewish influences seven hundred years later.
- ◆ 5. The Scriptural definitions of 3 words: Righteousness, Covenant, and Holiness.
- ◆ 6. Passover, Unleavened Bread, Day of Firstfruits, 3 "connected" feasts.
- ◆ **7. Shavuot or Pentecost.**
- ◆ 8. Rosh HaShannah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot or Feast of Tabernacles.

# A look at the first century church 7-02

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- Shavuot, Pentecost is one of the 7 Festivals and is a God ordained form of worship.
- This Church Holiday most of us know only as "a remembrance of Acts chapter two".
- Pentecost (Shavuot) is still remembered in Christianity.
- The rest of the Biblical Festivals have long ago been discarded.

# A look at the first century church 7-03

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- **Pesach, Rosh HaShanna, Yom Kippur and Sukkot all disappeared from Christian observance within three hundred years.**
- **Instead, observances with pagan roots were introduced, in particular around the time of Constantine. (A.D. 325)**

# A look at the first century church 7-04

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- One reason the Church still remembers Pentecost is the narrative of Acts chapter 2.
- Everyone remembers the story of the mighty wind, the tongues fire, the Holy Spirit and the speaking in every language.
- But most of us are unaware of the **Torah background behind the story.**
- **Pentecost is actually a Biblical appointment filled with a wealth of meaning and symbolism.**

# A look at the first century church 7-05

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- The Festival of Shavuot begins with a countdown.
- The Countdown is known as the Counting of The Omer.
- The Torah commands us to count the days to Shavuot.
- **On the Day after the Sabbath during the week of Unleavened Bread**, that is on the day on which the First Fruits of the Barley were harvested and offered up in the Temple, we are commanded to begin a countdown to the next festival (Leviticus 23:9-12).

# A look at the first century church 7-06

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- We are commanded to count off 49 days.
- After the 49 days are completed, the 50th day is the appointed time of the Festival of Pentecost.
- Both the English and Hebrew names for the festival reflect the counting.
- The English name is Pentecost. It is from the Greek for "Fiftieth Day."

# A look at the first century church 7-07

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- The Hebrew name for the festival is Shavuot.
- Shavuot means "weeks" and is so named because of the seven full weeks (49 days) of the counting.
- The counting is a chain that links Shavuot to the Festival of Unleavened Bread.
- In this sense, Shavuot concludes the festival season begun with Passover.

# A look at the first century church 7-08

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- Shavuot is referred to as the **Atzeret (conclusion)** of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
- Just as the **Eighth Day** of The Feast of Tabernacles is the **Atzeret (conclusion)** of that festival,
- In that sense, Shavuot is a sort of **8th day festival** concluding the 7 holy days of Unleavened Bread.

# A look at the first century church 7-09

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- From Harvest to Harvest
- Shavuot is a harvest festival. During the week of Unleavened Bread celebrated ripening First Fruits of the Barley crop
- In a similar way Shavuot celebrates the ripening of the wheat crop. The first fruits of the wheat harvest were brought to the Temple and baked into **two loaves of leavened bread**.
- The 49 days of counting are called **the counting of the Omer**
- It was begun with the harvest of **a single barley sheaf (omer)** and concludes with the harvest of the **wheat sheaves**.

# A look at the first century church 7-10

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- In addition to the wheat, the pilgrims celebrating Shavuot brought with them the First Fruits of all their crops and offered them before the altar. (Deuteronomy 26:1-11).

# A look at the first century church 7-11

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- The Mishnah (Bikkurim 3:1-8) vividly describes a pilgrimage of Israelites bringing their First Fruits to the Temple.
- They converged on Jerusalem from all over the land of Israel.
- It is a time of thanksgiving for the first fruits of the year's harvest.

# A look at the first century church 7-12

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- For the disciples of Yeshua in Acts chapter 2, **the Shavuot festival** already carried extra significance.
- For them Shavuot came exactly 50 days after the Master was resurrected.
- **He was the First Fruits of the Resurrection.**
- In fact, the disciples and followers of Yeshua were themselves the First Fruits of Messiah's ministry.
- On Shavuot, 3,000 were added to their number and the great **harvest of souls was begun.**

# A look at the first century church 7-13

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- **“A Remembrance of Mount Sinai”**
- **Just as Passover is a memorial of the Exodus from Egypt,**
- **So too Shavuot memorializes an Exodus event.**
- **According to Jewish tradition, Shavuot is the anniversary of God's descent onto Mount Sinai.**
- **Therefore Shavuot is celebrated as the anniversary of the giving of the Torah.**

# A look at the first century church 7-14

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- For that reason, Shavuot is called the festival of **Mattan Torah, the "Giving of the Torah."**
- **Exodus 19 and 20, the story of the giving of the Ten Commandments and the covenant at Sinai, are the principal Torah readings in the Synagogue on Shavuot.**

# A look at the first century church 7-15

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- **As the disciples of the risen Messiah gathered to celebrate Shavuot in Jerusalem,**
- **they were gathering to celebrate the anniversary of the Giving of the Torah.**

# A look at the first century church 7-16

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- **Midrash and Mystery** (Midrash = a form of Rabbinic literature)
- Great miracles, signs and wonders accompanied the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. (Exodus 19).
- **Smoke, fire and cloud** on the mountain.
- The mountain trembled and the blast of a shofar sounded louder and louder.
- The voice of God was audibly heard by the entire nation.
- According to Midrash, **the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai was accompanied by additional wonders, two of which are significant to our reading of Acts chapter two.**

# A look at the first century church 7-17

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- **The Midrash speaks of flames of fire which came to each individual at Sinai: "On the occasion of the giving of the Torah, the Children of Israel not only heard the LORD's Voice, but actually saw the sound waves as they emerged from the LORD's mouth.**
- **They visualized them as a fiery substance.**
- **Each commandment that left the LORD's mouth traveled around the entire camp and then came back to every Jew individually.**

# A look at the first century church 7-18

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- **The second miracle the Midrash preserves is the voice of God speaking in every language known to man.**
- In Rabbinic lore, there are 70 mother languages. "It says, "And all the people witnessed the thunderings." (Exodus 20:15)
- Note that it does not say "the thunder," but "**the thunderings**";
- wherefore R. Yochanan said that God's voice, as it was uttered, split up into seventy voices, in seventy languages, so that all the nations should understand." (Shemot Midrash Rabbah 5:9)

# A look at the first century church 7-19

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- **The tongues of fire and the speaking in every tongue were both direct allusions to the Mount Sinai experience and the receiving of the Torah.**
- **God was underscoring a connection between his Holy Spirit and His Holy Torah!**

# A look at the first century church 7-20

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- The Spirit and the Torah
- Shavuot draws a line of connection between Exodus 19 and Acts chapter 2.
- The festival superimposes the giving of the Spirit in Jerusalem over the giving of the Torah at Sinai.
- The two events are forever inseparably linked.
- This link creates a profound theological implication for believers: The Torah and Holy Spirit are substantially of the same essence.

# A look at the first century church 7-21

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- Jeremiah the prophet foresaw this when God declared through him: "Behold, I will make a **New Covenant**. I will put **My Torah within them and on their heart I will write it, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**" (Jeremiah 31:31-33)
- **New** = H2319, from H2318 = chaḏash, *khaw-dash'*, causatively to *rebuild*: - renew, repair.
- More accurate translation: **I will renew, repair, the existing Covenant, .....**

# A look at the first century church 7-22

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- **Jeremiah 31:31-33** <sup>31</sup> Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a **new** (*renewed, repaired*), covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,
- <sup>32</sup> Not according to the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was their Husband, says the Lord.
- <sup>33</sup> But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel: After those days, says the Lord, I will put **My law within them**, and **on their hearts will I write it**; and I will be their God, and they will be My people.

# A look at the first century church 7-23

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- **Ezekiel the prophet** foresaw this when God declared through him: "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances." (Ezekiel 36:27)
- <sup>26</sup> **A new heart will I give you and a new spirit will I put within you**, and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.
- <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you shall heed My ordinances **and do them**.
- <sup>28</sup> And you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and **you shall be My people, and I will be your God**.

# A look at the first century church 7-24

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- According to these prophets, the Holy Spirit was given in order to **place the Torah** within the believer's heart.
- If that is true, then **the Spirit within us and the Torah of God must agree.**
- Both are from the **same God**, and **God is One: The Spirit and the Torah must agree!!**

# A look at the first century church 7-25

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- According to these prophets:
- **Jeremiah 31:33** .....I will put **My law within them.....**
- **Ezekiel 36:27** ..... I will put my **Spirit within you** .....
- **There is no way around the fact that: “The Spirit and the Torah must agree”.**
- We can also find this same principle in the letters of the **Apostle Paul to Galations.**

# A look at the first century church 7-26

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- The Holy Spirit is within us in order to enable us to walk in the statutes and observe the ordinances. **The Spirit and the Torah are NOT, God forbid, opposed to each other!**
- Instead, as Paul says in Galatians, "Opposed to the fruit of the Spirit there is no Torah." (Galatians 5:23).
- Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, Gal 5:23 meekness, self-control. **Against such things there is not a law. (KJV).**
- Paraphrased: "Against such things (fruit of the Spirit), there is not a law" (Torah, Instructions).

# A look at the first century church 7-27

## The feasts of the Lord

- **Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost**
- The Holy Spirit is the **same essence** as the Torah: “The full expression of God, dwelling within, so that He might be our God, and we might be His people.
- That was the stated purpose of the “**first Pentecost**” at Mount Sinai.
- It was the **purpose of the Shavuot of Acts chapter 2**
- It is the purpose for which we have been re-created !!

# A look at the first century church 7-28

## The feasts of the Lord

- **CONCLUSIONS:** Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost
- On the day of the feast of Shavuot, feast of weeks, the giving of the Torah (Five books of Moses) was celebrated.
- On this day, the giving of the Torah, 3000 people died that day.
- On this Feast day the Disciples received the Ruach Ha Kodesh: The Holy Spirit.
- Also on this day of the giving of the Spirit, 3000 people/souls were saved.
- “The law killeth”, and the Spirit gives life:
  - ◆ 2Co 3:6 who also made us able ministers of a new (kainos G2537=new in quality), covenant, not of letter, but of Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit makes alive.
- **God wrote the law, the Torah, on the hearts of the believers.**

# A look at the first century church 7-29

## The feasts of the Lord

- **CONCLUSIONS:** Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost
- **The Spirit and the Torah are NOT opposed to each other.**
- **The Holy Spirit is within us in order to enable us to walk in the statutes and observe the ordinances.**
- **Gal 5:23b ... Against such things there is not a law. (KJV).**
- **Paraphrased: “Against the fruit of the Spirit, there is not a Torah.**
- **The Spirit and the Torah must agree.**
- **God the Creator also is God the Restorer of all things.**

# A look at the first century church 7-30

## The feasts of the Lord

- **CONCLUSIONS:** Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost
- On Pentecost the Gentiles were “grafted into” the Covenant the Jews had.
- This covenant was an **existing Covenant** God had made with Abraham.
- This existing Covenant was “**enlarged**” to include the Gentiles.
- Contrary to popular understanding, “the Church” was not something new that started on the day of Pentecost, but dates back **at least** as far as Abraham.
- The Gentile Fellowships have what the Jews have: The Jewish Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, God in the flesh.

# A look at the first century church 7-31

## The feasts of the Lord

- **END** "Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost"