

I. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE JEWISH FEASTS

- A. The Jewish feasts in the Old Testament carry deep significance for Christians because they reveal God's redemptive plan and point prophetically to Jesus Christ and His Kingdom.
- B. The feasts were given by God to Israel in Leviticus 23, but they also serve as "shadows" that find their fulfillment in Christ.
- C. Paul described this truth well.
 - 1. ***16 Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. 17 These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. -Colo 2:16-17***
- D. There are seven feasts all mentioned in Leviticus 23. Four in the spring and three in the fall. They start in the spring with Passover, Feast of Unleavened bread, Feast of first fruits, Feast of weeks (pentecost), and conclude in fall season with the Feast of Trumpets, Yon Kimpurr, and Tabernacles.

II. WHY THE BIBLICAL FEASTS MATTER TO CHRISTIANS

1. THEY REVEAL JESUS AND THE GOSPEL

- a) The feasts point to Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, His return, Israel's national salvation, and His future Kingdom reign.

2. THEY REVEAL GOD'S PROPHETIC TIMELINE

- a) Just as Jesus fulfilled the Spring Feasts precisely and on their appointed days, the Fall Feasts point to future events connected to His return that He will likewise fulfill in perfect timing

3. THEY DEEPEN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF GOD

- a) The feasts help us better understand the gospel, the work of the Holy Spirit, worship, thanksgiving, and God's covenant purposes.

4. THEY SERVE AS REMINDERS

- a) They call believers to worship, repentance, thanksgiving, consecration, and hope in Jesus' return.

5. THEY ALLOW SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL

- a) The feasts remind us of God's covenant relationship and unfolding plan through the Jewish people.

III. THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A BALANCED UNDERSTANDING

- A. The New Testament makes it clear that salvation comes through faith in Christ alone, not by observing feasts. We must avoid legalism while still recognizing the feasts as important historical and prophetic markers in God's redemptive plan.
- B. The New Testament does not give a direct command for Christians to keep the seven Jewish feasts in the same covenantal way Israel was commanded to under the Law of Moses.
- C. Instead, the New Testament emphasizes salvation and righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ rather than through observing feast days or ceremonial laws.

IV. FEAST OF PENTECOST

- A. Pentecost, the last of the Spring Feasts, comes from the Greek word *Pentēkostē*, meaning "fiftieth," because it takes place 50 days after Passover. It is also called the Feast of Weeks (*Shavuot* in Hebrew), celebrating the wheat harvest and first fruits.

- B. Many Bible teachers throughout church history viewed Pentecost in Acts 2 as a divinely appointed moment in God's redemptive plan—the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church.

V. CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND OF ACTS 2:1-13

- A. After His resurrection, Jesus spent 40 days with His disciples teaching them about the Kingdom of God (Acts 1). Before ascending, He instructed them, along with the 120 gathered believers to wait in Jerusalem until they were clothed with power from on high.
- B. After 10 days of prayer and unity in the upper room, the Holy Spirit suddenly came with the sound of a mighty rushing wind, so powerful that those outside heard it. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered to speak in other languages, supernaturally declaring the works of God to the nations gathered in Jerusalem.
- C. Out of the overflow of this divine outpouring, Peter the Apostle stood up in the temple courts, filled with the Holy Spirit, and boldly preached the gospel, resulting in the conversion of 3,000 religious Jews.

VI. ACTS 2:1-13

1. ***2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues^[a] as the Spirit enabled them. 5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in***

our own tongues!"¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

VII. WHY THE ACTS 2 PENTECOST WAS SO SIGNIFICANT

- A. At Pentecost, God empowered the first disciples, birthed the Church, brought in a great harvest through the salvation of 3,000 Jewish believers, and initiated the global mission of the Great Commission.
- B. Pentecost, known as the Feast of Firstfruits, became the prophetic setting for the first great ingathering of souls under the New Covenant. The nations represented in Jerusalem that day carried the gospel back to their regions, marking the beginning of God's redemptive message going forth to the ends of the earth.
 - 1. ***¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."***-Mt 28:19-20
 - 2. ***⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem, God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. -Acts 2:5***

VIII. ANOTHER IMPORTANT DAY OF PENTECOST IN ISRAEL'S HISTORY

- A. One of the strongest Jewish traditions connected to Pentecost is that it commemorates God giving the Law to Israel at Mount Sinai following the Exodus (Exodus 19).
- B. At Sinai, God descended in fire, the mountain trembled under His presence, and He established Israel as a kingdom of priests—a people set apart unto Himself among the nations. This divine encounter marked the birth of Israel's covenant identity and calling before God.

IX. INTERESTING PARALLELS WITH EXODUS 19 AND ACTS 2

- A. In Exodus 19 God descended in fire, thunder, and glory and the mountain shook violently. God formed Israel into a consecrated covenant nation of a

kingdom of priests, and Moses received God's word the ten commandments.

- B. In Acts 2 God once again descended with a violent rushing wind and fire, birthing a new covenant people called the church that became a new expression of a Kingdom of Priests and His own special people.
- C. God gave the Spirit in Acts 2 not to write His word on tablets of stone but on the hearts and minds of people. (See Jeremiah 31)
- D. The Two Loaves Offering. During the Feast of Weeks, Israel presented two leavened loaves before the Lord (Leviticus 23:17). Many teachers see this prophetically pointing to Jew and Gentile becoming one new man in Christ and the unity of the nations in the Church
- E. In Exodus 32 3000 Jews were judged and killed by God because of their worship of the golden calf, but in Acts 2 God brought redemption from that event by saving 3000 Jews.

X. THE THREE BAPTISMS OF ACTS 2 PENTECOST

- A. In the Acts 2 account of that historic Pentecost, we can observe three important baptisms that are essential to the life of every follower of Jesus:
 - 1. **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit** – empowerment from God for witness, ministry, and spiritual life.
 - a) ⁴ ***All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.-Acts 3:4***
 - 2. **The Baptism of Fire** – the purifying and refining work of God that produces holiness and deeper devotion. (see Acts 15:9)
 - a) ³ ***They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them-Acts 3:3***
 - 3. **Water Baptism** – the outward declaration of repentance, cleansing from sin and faith in Christ, and identification with His death and resurrection.

- a) ⁴¹ ***Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.-Acts 2:41***

XI. MY PERSONAL STORY ON THIS DAY 28 YEARS AGO

- A. I received all three baptisms 28 years ago today on May 24, 1998 profoundly and altering the way I would live the rest of my life.