

Shavuot

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# Shavuot

**Host:** A little more than seven weeks ago, we celebrated the Feast of Pesach, or Passover, together. We remembered how YHWH freed the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt, and we celebrated how YHWH freed us from our slavery to sin through the sacrifice of our Messiah Yeshua.

**Reader 1:** Immediately after Passover, we celebrated the Feast of Unleavened Bread, during which we remembered how Messiah Yeshua took all our sin, symbolized by leaven or yeast, into His own body, and was buried outside the city to forever remove that sin from YHWH’s sight.

**Reader 2:** During the Feast of Unleavened Bread, we also celebrated the Feast of Firstfruits, remembering how the Israelites brought the firstfruits of their barley harvest and presented it as an offering to YHWH, both thanking Him for His provision and expressing trust that He would provide the rest of the harvest.

**Reader 3:** We believe that Messiah Yeshua was raised from the dead and presented Himself to His Father YHWH on that feast day as the Firstfruits of a great harvest of all of us who belong to Him and will be resurrected.

**Reader 4:** The next feast we have been given by YHWH is the Feast of Shavuot, which is also called the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Pentecost.

**Reader 5:** YHWH’s people were commanded to count off fifty days from the Feast of Firstfruits up to the day after the seventh Sabbath and then celebrate a second feast of firstfruits by presenting an offering of the firstfruits of their wheat harvest to Him.

**Reader 6:** YHWH’s people were commanded to rejoice before Him at Shavuot at the place He chose as a dwelling for His Name.

**Reader 7:** While the Tabernacle and then the Temple held the Ark of the Covenant, this necessitated all Israelite men make a journey to that place to rejoice and make their offerings.

**Reader 8:** Now that YHWH has chosen us to be the place where He dwells — the Temple of His Holy Spirit — we are able to celebrate this feast wherever we are in the world!

**Reader 9:** As we gather for this sacred celebration in the presence of friends and loved ones, let us remember that we are rejoicing with the whole house of Israel, both young and old, natural-born and grafted in.

**Reader 10:** We are able to celebrate this feast because we have been adopted into the family of YHWH because of what our Messiah Yeshua did for us. We who once were far off have now been brought near through the blood of our Messiah.

**Reader 11:** YHWH’s people were commanded to celebrate this feast by bringing a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings YHWH had given them.

**Reader 12:** In addition to a number of animal sacrifices for burnt offerings, sin offerings, and peace offerings, they were also commanded to bring two loaves of leavened bread and present them as a wave offering to YHWH.

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**Reader 10:** We are committed to seeing Your Kingdom come on earth in all its fullness and willing to do whatever You lead us to do in order to see that happen.

**Reader 11:** Abba Father, please fill us continually with Your Holy Spirit and help us to walk in Your ways with joy and to share the good news about You with everyone we meet!

**Host:** In the Name of Yeshua Your Son, our Messiah and our Salvation, we pray, Amen.

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**Reader 10:** We pray for the nations, that You would continue the work You have begun in each place and that Your church would grow in number and in strength.

**Reader 11:** We pray that Your people around the world would recommit themselves to following You in true obedience, that they would turn from their idols and demonstrate their love for You by keeping Your commands and Your feasts.

**Reader 12:** We pray that the world would recognize Your set-apart people by the way we love each other as You have loved us.

**Reader 13:** Psalm 67 has been recited by Jews for centuries on this feast day because it is composed of 49 words in Hebrew — the number of days we count between the first and second feasts of firstfruits.

**Reader 14:** Those words could not be more appropriate to express YHWH’s desires and the meaning of this Feast of Shavuot!

**Reader 15: “**May God be merciful to us, bless us, and cause His face to shine on us.

**Reader 16: “**That Your way may be known on earth, and Your salvation among all nations,

**Reader 1:** “Let the peoples praise You, God. Let all the peoples praise You.

**Reader 2: “**Oh let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You will judge the peoples with equity, and govern the nations on earth.

**Reader 3:** “Let the peoples praise You, God. Let all the peoples praise You.

**Reader 4:** “The earth has yielded its increase. God, even our own God, will bless us.

**Reader 5:** “God will bless us. All the ends of the earth shall fear Him.”

**Host:** Abba YHWH, we thank You so much for sharing Your heart with us in Your Word, through Your Appointed Times, and specifically tonight through this Feast of Shavuot.

**Reader 6:** You have given Your very best to us, and we want to do the same to You by offering You the firstfruits of our labor, of our time, of our energy, and of our passion.

**Reader 7:** We were nothing but slaves but You have delivered us and brought us to a place of freedom and abundance.

**Reader 8:** We declare our complete dependence on You, and we commit ourselves to You.

**Reader 9:** Father, You commanded that Your people give out of their abundance to the needy around them. Help us to give materially to the fatherless, the widows, and the poor, and help us to give spiritually to everyone You bring into our lives.

**Reader 13:** Centuries before it came to pass, the two loaves of this wave offering symbolized that the Body of Messiah would be made up of both Jewish and Gentile believers.

**Reader 14:** Though the loaves were made of fine wheat flour, they contained leaven, a symbol of sin, prophetically speaking of the fact that His Body of believers, though cleansed by the blood of His sacrificial death, would still retain the human sin nature until the day we are presented as His Bride without spot or wrinkle.

**Reader 15:** The book of Hebrews tells us that Yeshua has fulfilled all of our sacrificial requirements with His death as our Messiah and continues to serve in the Holy Place of the Heavenly Tabernacle as our High Priest.

**Reader 16:** So we can rest assured that He has and is keeping this Feast perfectly on our behalf.

**Reader 1:** We celebrate today with the hope that each one of us have experienced and will continue to experience YHWH’s Holy Spirit dwelling within us, filling us continually, and writing YHWH’s Torah on our hearts.

**Host:** Blessed are You, YHWH our God, Ruler of the universe, who has chosen us among all peoples and sanctified us with Your love! With an everlasting love, You have given us feasts, holidays, and seasons for rejoicing.

**Reader 2:** On this day of the Feast of Shavuot, we celebrate Your bountiful provisions for us as well as the gifts of Your Torah and Your Holy Spirit.

**All: YHWH is the same yesterday, today, and forever. HalleluYah!**

**Reader 3:** According to tradition, it took the Israelites fifty days after the first Passover to walk to the Red Sea and then on to Mt. Sinai where YHWH gave the Torah.

**Reader 4:** For this reason, Jews have traditionally remembered and celebrated the giving of the Torah by reading The Ten Commandments aloud on the Feast of Shavuot.

**Reader 5:** Let’s read them together from Exodus chapter 20 as YHWH’s people have done for centuries during this feast!

**Reader 6**: “I am YHWH your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

**Reader 7:** “You shall have no other gods before me.

**Reader 8**: “You shall not make for yourselves an idol, nor any image of anything that is in the heavens above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth

**Reader 9:** “You shall not bow yourself down to them, nor serve them,

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**Reader 13:** Instead of writing it on tablets of stone, He would write it on their hearts.

**Reader 14:** This prophecy was fulfilled on the Feast of Shavuot after Yeshua’s death and resurrection with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and it continues to be fulfilled in us as He writes His Torah on each of our hearts by filling us with His Holy Spirit!

**Reader 15**: Acts 2 says, “Now when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all with one accord in one place. Suddenly there came from the sky, a sound like the rushing of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

**Reader 16**: “Tongues like fire appeared and were distributed to them, and one sat on each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak.

**Reader 1**: “Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under the sky. When this sound was heard, the multitude came together and were bewildered, because everyone heard them speaking in his own language.”

**Host:** Father, we thank you for the gift of the Feast of Shavuot and how You fulfilled and continue to fulfill the promise you made to Abraham and his Seed to bless all the nations.

**Reader 2:** You have blessed us beyond measure by pouring out Your Spirit on those of us who believe in Messiah Yeshua from all nations!

**Reader 3:** Please grant us the grace to be continually filled with the power and presence of Your Spirit and to keep in step with Him, following closely in Your ways! Amen.

**Reader 4:** As we celebrate this Feast of Shavuot, we are, in fact, celebrating You!

**Reader 5:** We are in awe of the incredible lengths to which You have gone to reveal Yourself to us, to be in relationship with us, and to show us the path of life!

**Reader 6:** We dedicate ourselves to seek to know You more intimately and to follow Your ways more diligently.

**Reader 7:** As we celebrate this feast, we are reminded of the many people in this world who have not yet heard Your Word, of those who do not have Your Word in their own language, and of those who have no way to hear it unless You supernaturally reveal Yourself to them.

**Reader 8:** We know You are able to do that, Father, and we ask that You send laborers into Your harvest field and enable them to speak Your Truth in languages the people can understand.

**Reader 9:** As we celebrate this second feast of firstfruits, we know and believe that You will have a full harvest from every nation, tribe, and language, and we recommit ourselves to the commission our Messiah gave us to proclaim this Good News to the ends of the earth.

**Reader 10**: “for I, YHWH your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and on the fourth generation of those who hate me,

**Reader 11:** “and showing loving kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

**Reader 12**: “You shall not misuse the name of YHWH your God, for YHWH will not hold him guiltless who misuses his name.

**Reader 13**: “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

**Reader 14: “**You shall labor six days, and do all your work,

**Reader 15:** “but the seventh day is a Sabbath to YHWH your God.

**Reader 16:** “You shall not do any work in it, you, nor your son, nor your daughter, your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your livestock, nor your stranger who is within your gates;

**Reader 1**: “for in six days YHWH made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day;

**Reader 2:** “Therefore YHWH blessed the Sabbath day, and made it holy.

**Reader 3**: “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which YHWH your God gives you.

**Reader 4**: “You shall not murder.

**Reader 5**: “You shall not commit adultery.

**Reader 6**: “You shall not steal.

**Reader 7**: “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

**Reader 8**: “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.

**Reader 9:** “You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.”

**Reader 10**: Verse 18 of Exodus 20 goes on to say that “All the people perceived the thunderings, the lightnings, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking. When the people saw it, they trembled, and stayed at a distance.”

**Reader 11**: When we realize how the Feast of Shavuot was traditionally celebrated and understood in Yeshua’s day, it becomes especially meaningful that after Yeshua, the perfect Passover lamb, was sacrificed and then raised again, YHWH chose this feast, during which His people were coming from all over the world to Jerusalem to celebrate the giving of the Torah, to give the outpouring of His Holy Spirit.

**Reader 12**: YHWH had prophesied through His prophets Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Isaiah that He would bring about a new covenant with His people in which He would put His Torah within them.

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