

Pentecost: Then and Now

What is the meaning of Pentecost?

Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) means Fifty (50) day,” a word used to translate the Hebrew Shavuot.

Pentecost occurred 50 days after the Firstfruits festival and celebrated the end of the grain harvest (the Greek word *Pentecost* means “fiftieth”). The primary focus of the festival was gratitude to God for the harvest.

A moment at Sinai - **One Corporate People**

For the traditional Jewish community, Shavuot was first celebrated around the time of receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai, about fifty days after leaving Egypt (Exodus 19:1). Therefore, Shavuot is called “The Season of the Giving of the Law.” It is also considered the spiritual birthday of Israel since the Torah brought twelve tribes together into **one corporate people**.

Exodus 19:1-6 (NLT)

19 Exactly two months after the Israelites left Egypt,^[a] they arrived in the wilderness of Sinai.

2 After breaking camp at Rephidim, they came to the wilderness of Sinai and set up camp there at the base of Mount Sinai.

3 Then Moses climbed the mountain to appear before God. The Lord called to him from the mountain and said, “Give these instructions to the family of Jacob; announce it to the descendants of Israel:

4 ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.

5 Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me.

6 And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.’ This is the message you must give to the people of Israel.”

When the Law was given, there was fire and noise as God descended on Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:16-20).

16 On the morning of the third day, thunder roared and lightning flashed, and a dense cloud came down on the mountain. There was a long, loud blast from a ram's horn, and all the people trembled.

17 Moses led them out from the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

18 All of Mount Sinai was covered with smoke because the Lord had descended on it in the form of fire. The smoke billowed into the sky like smoke from a brick kiln, and the whole mountain shook violently.

19 As the blast of the ram's horn grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God thundered his reply.

20 The Lord came down on the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses climbed the mountain.

Point: God came down when the people gathered together at Mt. Sinai.

A **movement** in Jerusalem - The Church Is Activated

Acts 2:1-6 (NLT)

2 On the day of Pentecost^[a] all the believers were meeting together in one place.

2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting.

3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them.

4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages,^[b] as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

5 At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem.

6 When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

Acts 2:14-18 (NLT)

14 Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, “Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this.

15 These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o’clock in the morning is much too early for that.

16 No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:

17

‘In the last days,’ God says,

‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

Your young men will see visions,

and your old men will dream dreams.

18

In those days I will pour out my Spirit

even on my servants—men and women alike—

and they will prophesy.

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3 Lessons:

We need to gather together in unity - Ps 133: 1-3

God comes down powerfully when we come together with one accord - Acts 2:1-6, 4:31-35

The Holy Spirit has been given to activate everyone to accomplish the mission of Christ.
Acts 1:8