

Shavuot

By Ray DeLea

Shavuot or the Feast of Weeks, Latter First Fruits, or Pentecost is the last of the spring feasts of Israel. It is celebrated 50 days after the Feast of Early Firstfruits and is considered to be the closing festival of the Passover season. This is one of the Feasts of the LORD in which every Jewish male must go to Jerusalem if possible. It is often referred to as the wedding between God and the Jewish people or the season of the giving of God's Holy Torah. Traditionally Ezekiel's vision of God from Ezekiel 1:4-28 is read.

Shavuot represents the 2nd major encounter the Believer can have with God, the first being salvation. Shavuot commemorates the giving of the Ruach HaKodesh or the Holy Spirit in accordance with Jeremiah 31:33, Acts 1:4 and Acts 2:1-4. Traditionally two very large leavened loaves of bread are waved before the LORD on this day. The loaves of bread are symbolic of the Jews and gentiles – both with leaven in their lives. But, now they are able to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit because of the unleavened work of Messiah (Acts 1:3-9). Each loaf of bread is made from fine flour (perfect righteousness) because there is no coarse matter (sin) in Messiah.

Imagine yourself on the first Shavuot after Yeshua's resurrection. Suddenly Yeshua's disciples are filled with the Holy Spirit and preach miraculously in other tongues on the steps of Herod's temple and 3000 people accept Yeshua as Messiah. God was once again revealing His Shekinah glory for the 1st time in nearly 600 years since its departure from Solomon's temple.

The feast should be observed with great joy because Jeremiah 31:33 has been fulfilled. It is customary to conduct a NIGHT WATCH from 8:00PM – 8:00AM in accordance with Psalm 19:148 and Luke 6:12. The book of Ruth is read, because it is harvest time, and portions of each book of the Torah are read and discussed. It is also customary to eat dairy products along with honey type snacks – baklava, cheese blintzes and cheesecake. Praise the LORD for a sweet feast commemorating the joyous giving of the Holy Spirit!



God, You and Ministry (continued)

would also love Him back. It was a mutual thing, a blessed communication of hearts. God got pleasure out of fellowshiping with Adam and Eve. God longs for us personally. God created us to be full of praise, full of joy, and full of thanksgiving. We are created to be worshippers of God.

Jesus prayed in Matthew 6:10 - "Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven". Well, in heaven there is constant praise and worship. That is God's will for us. Peace is one benefit of praise according to Isaiah 26:3 - "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee; because he trusts in thee." In praise there is strength according to Psalm 8:2 - "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou might still the enemy and the avenger." Jesus changed this when he quoted it in Matthew 21:16 - "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou has perfected praise. Praise is strength. Nehemiah 8:10 says the same thing: "The joy of the Lord is your strength."

Praise is the greatest weapon in your arsenal against the enemy of your soul. It makes Satan flee in terror. Praise is spiritual warfare. When you are too exhausted to pray, start worshipping and you'll find that not only are you refreshed spiritually, but physically invigorated and it will cause the enemies attacks against your mind to stop. Do as the Apostle Paul did, he had terrible adversity come against him, but he never blamed anyone else. He took responsibility for his emotions, and he chose to praise God. The enemy has devised elaborate systems to justify lack of praise among God's people. However, God has made it clear that in every situation we have a choice. Deuteronomy 30:19 says: "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore, choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live." The devil does not make the choice for you, but he makes every effort to stop you from praising God! So, worship the Lion of the tribe of Judah, and be blessed as you are choosing LIFE!

In closing, I would like to recommend two books if you wish to pursue this subject more deeply.

Ministering to the Lord by Roxanne Brant
The Effects of Praise by Andrew Wommack



Praise Reports

I asked Rivers in the Desert to pray for my daughter, Erin. She had many tumors in her throat area near/around her thyroid. They had biopsied the largest two and were waiting for the results. Praise God, the largest were drained and all was found to be normal.

Thank you to all the RDM prayer partners for their prayers. Praising God for these great results. G.N.

I am a friend and supporter of Rivers in the Desert Ministries, so I requested prayer for God's wisdom about where and when or if, I should move from my home of many years. God did a miracle for me. My eldest son and his wife decided to come here from out of state to live with me and care for me! They are also ministers and the Lord clearly spoke to them and they obeyed His instructions. I am overwhelmed and thrilled. I cannot thank the Lord enough! He moves through prayer and obedience. Thank you RDM. N.R.

I went shopping with my relatives and the very next day my leg was in pain. This symptom has been going on and off for a long time. I asked at Bible Study for prayer and I believed that I received. Before prayer I couldn't just get up and walk, I had to stand up and move around a bit before I could go. After prayer I went home and my leg didn't hurt. I got up the next morning and there was no problem. I feel like my leg was 95 percent better and I'm trusting God for the remaining 5 percent. I just thank God. Mark 11:23-24; Mark 16:17-18 SD

Last Tuesday we were bringing our biggest prayer request before the group to pray over them. Mine was regarding my relationship with my granddaughter. I never thought an answer to prayer would come so fast. The next day I was alone because my wife had gone out with our daughter when there was a ring on the doorbell. Who should it be, but my granddaughter. What a surprise. We went out and picked up some food and had a great conversation. Your prayers worked faster than I could ever have imagined. AS

Hello Everyone, I got healed from facial pain and headaches that persisted for days. God is so faithful. Let the redeemed of the lord say so. MM

Thought I would let you in on my praise report. NO GLAUCOMA!! After being told 6 months ago it is irreversible and I would have to put drops in my eyes for the rest of my life (drops which I could not tolerate) the test I had last week shows only a pin dot in my right eye. I asked RDM to pray and did what I needed to do which is believe the Word. All the glory goes to Him. Nothing is impossible with our God! KP