

Acts 2 is one of the best known chapters in that book but perhaps the least understood.

Here is the opening verse from the chapter which says that Pentecost was fulfilled on that day so long ago;

[Act 2:1](#) And in the fulfilling of the day of Pentecost, they were all with one accord in one place. MKJV

Just as Passover and Unleavened Bread were both fulfilled, so Pentecost was fulfilled, there will be no other Pentecost. But what was Pentecost and what does it represent?

The majority of Christians are taught that Pentecost was the birthday of the "Church". Israel was put aside and gifts were given to edify the body of Christ. These theories continue to hold sway because little is understood about Pentecost in its original setting.

Most of us realise that Passover and Unleavened Bread were shown to us in type or shadow way back in Exodus, but do we know where in the Old Testament Pentecost was shown forth in type and shadow? Do we know what happened when Pentecost was experienced for the first time? If we can not answer these questions then how can we fully understand what Pentecost was and represents in fulfilment? How will we be in any position to understand what happened in Acts 2 and beyond if we do not understand these Old Testament things? Next lesson we shall look at the first Pentecost.

Pentecost was more than just a holy day fulfilled, more than gifts being given, its effect lasted way past the actual date because Pentecost was an anticipation, it pointed to the next group of Feasts like a huge signpost of hope. Acts was the power of Pentecost from beginning to end and Pentecost encapsulated and confirmed the hope of all believers at that time.

Pentecost is one of the Feasts given to Israel as outlined in Leviticus 23. It is found towards the middle of the annual Festive cycle not at the beginning. Pentecost was never the beginning of anything in its original setting but it was a preparation.

Here is a review of the Feasts in Leviticus 23; they were given specifically to Israel who celebrated them every year. You can follow the Feasts with a more comprehensive chart at this link:

[www.bibleunderstanding.com/feasts.htm](http://www.bibleunderstanding.com/feasts.htm)

First of all The Lord reminds Moses and Israel about the weekly Sabbath.

[Lev 23:1](#) And Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,

[Lev 23:2](#) Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, The feasts of Jehovah, which you shall proclaim, holy convocations, even these are My appointed feasts.

[Lev 23:3](#) Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, a holy convocation. You shall not do any work. It is a sabbath to Jehovah in all your dwellings.

The weekly Sabbath was part of the 10 Commandments, it was in the Law given to Israel (Ex.20:8). Not only so, the weekly Sabbath was a covenant to be observed and a sign between God and the children of Israel (Ex.31:13-17). Here it is again when the annual Feasts were given, perhaps as a mini feast that Israel celebrated every week "in their dwellings". The weekly Sabbath looked back to creation and on to a "rest to the people of God", Hebrews 4:9.

After speaking about the weekly Sabbath the Lord declares the annual Feasts for Israel to observe, and if we want to understand them we must at least recognise they could have something to do with Israel.

The Feast of Passover:

[Lev 23:5](#) In the fourteenth day of the first month, between the evenings, is Jehovah's Passover,

Passover was observed on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Israel's first month, called Abib which falls in and around our March/April.

### The Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Lev 23:6 and on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the Feast of Unleavened *Bread* to Jehovah. You must eat unleavened *bread* seven days.

Unleavened Bread was observed from the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the first month for 7 days. The first and last days were Sabbaths. This Feast contained a first fruit, see Lev.23:10 and being unleavened typified Christ in resurrection (1 Cor.15:20).

### The Feast of Pentecost or Weeks.

Lev 23:15 And you shall count to you from the next day after the sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete.

Lev 23:16 To the next day after the seventh sabbath you shall number fifty days. And you shall offer a new food offering to Jehovah.

Lev 23:17 You shall bring out of your homes two wave loaves of two-tenth parts. They shall be of fine flour. They shall be baked with leaven, firstfruits to Jehovah.

Israel had to count 7 Sabbaths after the first day of Unleavened Bread, and after these 49 days had passed, the next day was celebrated as the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost and Pentecost means fiftieth. This feast day was another Sabbath. Notice this Feast also contained a first fruit, see verse 17, but this first fruit was of leaven so did not represent Christ or His works. It looked to something else which we shall see next lesson. Please note that 50 is a significant number in understanding this Feast because it looked onto the 50<sup>th</sup> year which was Jubilee. In the fiftieth year all debts were cancelled and captives set at liberty. You can read about this in Lev.25, a very important passage if we are to ever understand Acts 2:42-45 and 4:34-35.

Between Pentecost or Weeks and the next Feast, Trumpets, there was a gap of some months. During this time Israel were hard at work in their fields vineyards and orchards. You can read about this in verse 22. The Lord warns Israel not to completely harvest their fields making provision for the poor Israelites and the Gentiles who lived among them.

### The Feast of Trumpets.

Lev 23:24 Speak to the sons of Israel saying: In the seventh month, in the first *day* of the month, you shall have a sabbath, a memorial summons, a holy convocation.

Trumpets fell on the first day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month. This Feast day was also a Sabbath, Notice the MKJV says a memorial summons because trumpets were used to gather Israel but the Trumpet was also blown on the day of Jubilee when all debts were cancelled and captives set free. See Lev.25 above. Please carefully note this Feast of Trumpets is not the Feast of Trumpet.

### The Feast of the Day of Atonement.

Lev 23:27 Also, on the tenth of this seventh month, this is a day of atonement. *It shall be* a holy convocation to you. And you shall afflict your souls and offer a fire offering to Jehovah.

This fell on the 10th day of the 7th month. This was also a Sabbath and a very serious one at that; they were to "afflict their souls". This was a day of great solemnity, no dancing, no rejoicing, no feasting but introspection and reflection. If you want to understand a little about this Feast read, Zachariah 12.

Lev 23:28 And you shall do no work in that same day, for it *is* a day of atonement, in order to make an atonement for you before Jehovah your God.

Lev 23:29 For any soul who is not humbled in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people.

Lev 23:30 And any soul who does any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.

### The Feast of Tabernacles, Booths.

Lev 23:34 Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month *shall be* the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to Jehovah.

Lev 23:35 On the first day *shall be* a holy convocation. You shall do no work of labor.

Lev 23:36 Seven days you shall offer a fire offering to Jehovah. On the eighth day shall be a holy convocation to you. And you shall offer a fire offering to Jehovah. It *is* a solemn assembly. And you shall do no work of labor.

This Feast fell in the 7<sup>th</sup> month as well. It also doubled as the Feast of Booths when Israel built booths made of branches and large leaves. This was a Feast of great rejoicing, all the harvests of trees and

fields and vines were gathered in and Israel was called upon to dance. The disciples asked about the fulfilment of this Feast in Matthew 24:3.

Apart from the weekly Sabbath, Israel's Feasts were divided into two groups of three falling in the first and second half of their festive year.

The early Feasts;

Passover, Unleavened Bread, and Pentecost.

The later Feasts;

Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles/Booths.

Pentecost is the last of the early Feasts and is not the beginning of anything; it anticipates the last group of Feasts. When Pentecost was fulfilled on that day in Acts 2, all believers were very excited about the imminent fulfilment of that last group beginning with Trumpets.

Before arriving at any understanding of Pentecost we must remember this original instruction of God:

[Lev 23:1](#) And Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,

[Lev 23:2](#) Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, The feasts of Jehovah, which you shall proclaim, holy convocations, even these are My appointed feasts

My dear readers, the Feasts were given to Israel; perhaps Pentecost has something to do with that nation and her destiny rather than the Church which is His Body.