

Shavuoth – Pentecost Service

(Preface)

Blow the Shofar.

Count the 50th day of the Omer.

Chag Hashavuoith, which means “Festival of Weeks,” is themed in scripture as a commanded harvest gathering. In fact, another scriptural name for it is Chag Haqaztir – the Festival of the Harvest. Whereas the first festival of the year is Chag Hamatzoth and the very first fruit of the barley crop, Shavuoith is the next crop in order of maturation – wheat, and very much like barley in its type.

It is the first true spiritual harvest of all Yisrael, the Qedoshim (Saints), as Yehoshua our Messiah says:

“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months, and the harvest comes’? See, I say to you, lift up your eyes and see the fields, for they are already white for harvest!”

And,

*“After this the Master appointed seventy others,
and sent them two by two ahead of Him into
every city and place where He Himself was about
to go. Then He said to them, ‘The harvest indeed
is great, but the workers are few, therefore pray
the Master of the harvest to send out workers into
His harvest.’”*

We speak of Shavuoth as the concluding festival to Passover, for they are forever linked by the seven week 50-day counting of the Omer. Yisrael went quickly from a nation of slaves at Passover to the betrothed of the Great King on Shavuoth. For the deliverance from bondage was not an end in itself; it was the prelude to Mount Sinai,

where Yisrael crowned the freedom obtained on Passover with the vow of self-consecration to become a Kingdom of priests and a Holy nation under the law of YHWH.

The solemn reading of the Ten commandments in the Assemblies constitutes the central part of the Shavuoth Service. No religious document in history has exercised a greater influence on the moral and social life of man than these words.

These brief commands—only 120 Hebrew words in all—lay down in simple, unforgettable form, the foundations of Religion and of Right for all time and for all men. The Ten Words are for all people; and they will be, during all centuries, the commandments of the Most-High.

In addition to the events at Sinai, the festival also commemorates the giving of the Ruach Haqodesh, the Holy Spirit of YHWH,

to all of the Qedoshim (Saints) of Yehoshua in Acts chapter two. Whereas the Ten Commandments are the “Kethuvah,” the bridal contract between YHWH and His people for all time, the Spirit is the earnest payment, or bridal gift, to His people in advance of their final wedding date in the future.

The scriptural readings for the festival are:
Exodus 19 and 20; Numbers 28.26-31; Haftorah,
Ezekiel 1, Acts 2, and the book of Ruth.