

Jewish Feast of Shavuot

The Jewish holiday of **Shavuot** will begin at sundown this coming Tuesday night June 3, 2014. Jews around the world welcome this time, which is also referred to as the *“Feast of weeks”; “Pentecost”; or “Season of the giving of the law”*. The name comes from the fact that Shavuot was to occur exactly 7 weeks from the Sabbath day after Passover. There are a lot of Believers who do not realize the tremendous significance and importance of this holiday. Even fewer understand its connection or correlation with the beginning of the body of Messiah as described in the second chapter of Acts (I don't like to use the name or the term church, so I'll be using in most cases the body of Messiah).

Acts chapter 2:1 states *” 2 When the day of (Shavuot) Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ”* A lot of Believers today read without a clue the significance of this day from a Jewish perspective or viewpoint. I am going to try and explain what this day Shavuot meant in the Torah and its importance in our lives as believers in Messiah Yeshua. Along with the crucifixion and the resurrection, this particular feast is also known as the day of **Pentecost**, which in Greek is the word for “fiftieth. It is another extremely important or pivotal day. On this particular day the promised messianic kingdom was revealed, and the **Ruach HaKodesh** or the **Holy Spirit** was poured out. This is and was truly an event of central importance Biblically. It was on this day that both Jews and Gentiles **SAW THE FULFILLMENT of** many prophecies.

Shavuot or Pentecost was the beginning of the body of Messiah.

When we begin to understand the connection of **Shavuot** - to an idea of a harvest celebration - it becomes obvious why God chose this historic day to be the feast of **Shavuot** on which to have of the beginning of the body of Messiah to take place. It was really by no coincidence that fifty days after our Messiah Yeshua's death on Passover another major event would happen. **Pentecost** is simply the Greek name that was given to this Jewish holiday of **Shavuot**, which is the Hebrew word for “weeks”.

On the Jewish calendar this was the central celebration of the springtime harvest. (**And man what a harvest!**) On this day 3,000 Jewish men accepted their long awaited Messiah and declared their faith by their repentance and baptism. This was the beginning of a movement that would soon grow and spread across and throughout the world. If you carefully read the entire chapter of Acts 2, it will unfold for you an amazing series of events that rocked the Jewish world. When we will look at **Shavuot** in the Torah (the 1st 5 books of Moses) and then look at it in the Jewish Tradition, we'll finally see its fulfilment in the New Testament.

Now looking back into the Torah in Leviticus chapter 23 it lists and discusses seven appointed times. **NOT ONLY** for the people of Israel, but for **ALL PEOPLE**. These were and are the times when Israel was to stop all that they were doing, and especially focus on God. The first appointed time was the **Sabbath**, which is a weekly reminder to all of us to cease from work and reflect upon God. Then comes the three Spring Feasts - **Passover** which includes the **Feast of Unleavened bread** and then the **feast of First Fruits** and the **Feast of Weeks** or **Shavuot**. The Hebrew for these names of these three celebrations are; *Pesach, Ha Bikkurim, and Shavuot*. After these three feasts in the spring comes the three **Fall Feasts**: *Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles)*. Whether you are Jewish or not, believers should be familiar with each of these feasts and not take them lightly, also the importance of them on the calendar. Each appointed time is filled with rich Messianic suggestions or implications.

Now I am going give an overview of the Jewish calendar. It was the evening of **Passover**, when Yeshua had a traditional Passover Seder with his disciples. Some people call it the "**Last Supper**". This was just before he was crucified.

Then we go on to the Feast of First Fruits which was when Yeshua rose from the dead, and it was on **Shavuot** that the **Ruach HaKodesh**, the **Holy Spirit** was given. These feasts were and are not merely Jewish holidays born out of this historic event.

These feast are and were foreshadows of future historic events that point to God's final and crucial redemption plan to be fulfilled in His Anointed One Yeshua HaMachiach our Lord and Saviour.

Passover celebrated Gods interventions when the Israelites in Egypt. It was where He commanded them to slay a spotless lamb and put the blood of the lamb on the doorposts of their homes. When the angel of death passed over their homes, their first-born males would be spared because of the blood on the door posts --- this is found in (Exodus 12:12-14). Fourteen hundred years later, Yeshua, while celebrating the Seder meal, took the traditional elements of that Passover meal for the remembrance of God's deliverance and made the connection with His sacrifice. He was about to give up his life like the Passover lamb. **HIS** blood would provide **FOR OUR REDEMPTION**. This is in fulfilment of Exodus 12 and Isaiah 53. Yeshua died as "**The Human Lamb**" of God who took away the sins of the world. **Coincidentally** it was on Passover?

Two days later, we come to the celebration of **First Fruits**. On this day as described in Leviticus 23:9-14, the Israelites were to go out and pick the first of the harvest of the year, which most likely would be a barley sheaf (A sheaf being a bundle or cluster). They would then take the sheaf to the priest to wave before the Lord. The meaning behind this was they were acknowledging that the Lord had given them the harvest that was before them and so the very first bit of the harvest they brought to him would be an indication of what was to come. It was on this day, that Yeshua rose from dead, "**the first fruits from the dead**" as Paul says in (I Corinthians 15:20). It was the very first of the Harvest, and a promise for the rest of the harvest to come and of the resurrection **OF ALL** of God's people. Paul says; "because God raised Yeshua from the dead, we know He will raise us up also". Some say it might have been or was merely a coincidence that His resurrection happen together with the first fruit holiday? **I Don't Think So!**

So, now we come to the central holiday focused on this coming Tuesday evening --- **Shavuot**. Let's turn to Leviticus 23:15-21, it says;

¹⁵ *You shall also count for yourselves from the day after the sabbath, from the day when you brought in the sheaf of the wave offering; there shall be seven complete sabbaths.* ¹⁶ *You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to the LORD.* ¹⁷ *You shall bring in from your dwelling places two loaves of bread for a wave offering, made of two-tenths of an ephah; they shall be of a fine flour, baked with leaven as first fruits to the LORD.* ¹⁸ *Along with the bread you shall present seven one year old male lambs without defect, and a bull of the herd and two rams; they are to be a burnt offering to the LORD, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering by fire of a soothing aroma to the LORD.* ¹⁹ *You shall also offer one male goat for a sin offering and two male lambs one year old for a sacrifice of peace offerings.* ²⁰ *The priest shall then wave them with the bread of the first fruits for a wave offering with two lambs before the LORD; they are to be holy to the LORD for the priest.* ²¹ *On this same day you shall make a proclamation as well; you are to have a holy convocation. You shall do no laborious work. It is to be a perpetual statute in all your dwelling places throughout your generations.*

Now the Torah commanded the Israelites to remember this day by counting. On the Day after the Sabbath during the week of Unleavened Bread, it was on this day on which the First Fruits of the Barley were to be harvested and offered up in the Temple. This is the day they were commanded to begin a countdown to the next festival --- they were to count off 49 days. After the 49 days are completed, the 50th day was to be the appointed time of the Festival of **Pentecost**. Both the English and Hebrew names for the festival **reflects the counting**.

The English name is Pentecost. In Greek it means "Fiftieth Day." The Hebrew name for the festival is **Shavuot** which means "**weeks**" and is named because of the seven full weeks (49 days) of the counting. The counting is a chain that links **Shavuot** to the Festival of Unleavened Bread.

In this sense, **Shavuot** closes the festival season which began with **Passover**. It was impossible to think about **Shavuot** without first thinking about Passover. According to Torah **Shavuot** was a harvest festival. The First Fruits of the Barley, which occurred during the week of unleavened bread, celebrated the ripening of the barley crop. In a same way **Shavuot** celebrates the ripening of the wheat crop. At **Shavuot**, the first fruits of the wheat harvest were brought into the Temple and baked into two loaves of leavened bread. The 49 days of counting are called the counting of the Omer because it was the beginning of the harvest of a single barley sheaf (omer) and finished with the harvest of the wheat sheaves.

Also with the wheat, the Israelites celebrating **Shavuot** brought with them the First Fruits of **all their** crops and offered them before the altar. There were early Jewish writings describing a pilgrimage of Israelites bringing their first fruits to the Temple. They came to Jerusalem from all over the land of Israel. In their hands they carried baskets of the first fruits of their produce. The wealthy people came and carried baskets over laid with silver and gold while the poor carried wicker baskets made from peeled willow branches. Those who lived near Jerusalem brought fresh figs and grapes; those from a distance brought dried figs and raisins instead. Turtle doves, destined for the altar, and were tied to the baskets. A sacrificial ox with its horns bedecked with gold and its head crowned with olive leaves led the procession to the Temple. Walking in front of the ox, a flute player played the melodies of the psalms while the pilgrims sang along. This research is all found on the "Hebrew 4 Christians" website.

In principle, the worship of bringing first fruits was an act of trust and promise for the harvest to come. Its main focus was to recognize **WHO BROUGHT** the harvest. It was giving God their Best! The people would bring the first and best of their crop before God. This should be a great example for all of us as believers today.

Now that we've seen the meaning and the emphasis of **Shavuot** in the Torah, let's look at it from a Jewish tradition.

Here we can and will find that it takes on a very different emphasis.

Shavuot was always traditionally the day of the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai as we read in Exodus 19. While it is not stated in the Bible anywhere, Exodus 19 did occur in the third month, so our timing would be off by only about a month according to several commentaries I read. The radical stress on the giving of the Law and the study of the Torah on **Shavuot** really took off after the destruction of the Temple and the final revolt in 132 C.E. with Rabbi Akiba and Bar Kochba. This was actually the last attempt to regain Jerusalem and then rebuild the Temple. So the Sanhedrin came together in 140 C.E., and moved the emphasis of **Shavuot** from the temple and agricultural offerings, to the historical event of the giving of the Law. So while **Shavuot** had already been the traditional day of the giving of the Law even at the time of Yeshua, much of this particular importance did not come until later.

There are a lot of Orthodox Jews today that celebrate the tradition, which began in the 16th Century of staying up all night to read Torah. They also took breaks for cheesecake, keeping with the tradition of eating dairy products on this holiday. We could compare this with the spiritual encouragement to **consume the milk of the Word (1 Peter 2:2 *like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation*)**. There is also the tradition, which we have done in the past in reading the book of Ruth, because the story of Ruth occurs in conjunction with the barely harvest.

As with Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, **Shavuot** is a memorial of an Exodus event. Passover is a remembrance of the slaying of the Passover Lamb, the first day of Unleavened Bread is a remembrance of the Exodus from Egypt. Traditionally Pentecost came to be seen as a remembrance of the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. Jewish Tradition sought to join together the Spring Festival dates that had similar significance to others. The seventh day of Passover, according to these traditions, remembers the crossing of the Red Sea.

Now, according to "**Hebrew 4 Christians website**" the Counting of the Omer was regarded as a remembrance of the intervening days between the Exodus from Egypt and the epiphany or the great event at Sinai.

Because of this **Shavuot**, became known as the anniversary of God's descent onto Mount Sinai. Therefore it is celebrated as the anniversary of the giving of the Torah. For this reason **Shavuot** is called the festival of **Mattan Torah**, the "*Giving of the Torah.*" Exodus 19 and 20, give us the story of the giving of the Ten Commandments and the covenant at Sinai, and are the principal Torah readings in the synagogue on **Shavuot**.

At the time of Yeshua, Jews were already scattered around the known world of that day. Since **Shavuot** was one of the three pilgrim festivals, Jewish people from around the world would come down on Jerusalem. The fields had been reaped; the harvest had been brought in. The people had finished their hard work and could celebrate and give thanks to God for all He had given them. They were **now ready** for this great festival of **Shavuot** that could be shared with their brothers making pilgrimage from around the world.

Then came about the special offering of that day, which was the **Shavuot offering**. According to the Mishnah, which are the Jewish Oral Traditions, there were 2 loaves which were brought forth with the addition of the sin and peace offerings. The priest would take these rather large loaves (they say that each loaf of bread would be about 10 inches wide, 18 inches long, and a 3 inches high, and weigh about 5 pounds each). He would wave these in all directions; after this high point of the ceremony, this special offering was offered up by the priest. Then people would offer their free will fellowship offerings to God. There were so many people offering so much that it is said there would be feasting for as much as a week afterwards.

Continuing in Acts 2 it says was about the third hour of the day. So it was probably after all these offerings. It says they were together in one place. So it was obviously a huge group Peter was preaching to. If not in the temple it was then very nearby.

Basking in God's abundant provision and all He had provided, feasting in a fellowship with God. The offerings of the day happened. Then here is what it says in Acts 2:2-12;

² And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

³ And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. ⁵ Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷ They were amazed and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and ¹¹ visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God." ¹² And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

Then, Peter stands up and says basically as God has promised, so He has done, He has poured out his spirit, He has fulfilled his promises, He has sent the Messiah. Peter even quotes Psalm 16, in which he says; Yeshua's resurrection is a fulfilment of what we know David **WAS NOT** speaking of himself, because he is dead and buried here in Jerusalem. An interesting suggestion is it was on a day traditionally held to be the anniversary of David's death.

Then 3,000 of the crowd respond. And in God's perfect timing, not only the 3,000, **but also ALL** who had witnessed the events in Jerusalem, all the pilgrims would then return to the nations they had come from bearing witness to all that they had seen.

You could not have picked a better time. It is clear that from the beginning God had chosen to pour out his **Ruach or Spirit** and birth the body of Messiah on this day.

In Exodus 19 and in the first verses of Acts chapter 2, it says there came from heaven, a noise, like a violent rushing wind and it filled the whole house. **I can actually feel like I am at the foot of Mt. Sinai, where there was thunder and lightning.**

Rather, than the Lord descending or coming down on the Mountain in fire, it says in Acts 2, that the fire appeared in tongues coming down on the heads of individuals as the **Ruach HaKodeash** was poured out onto them. But as powerful as the image is, there is also another picture presented if you think about it. Think of the harvest picture in Leviticus 23. On the day of Passover, Yeshua was crucified then at First Fruits; He was raised from the dead and as Paul says, "*first fruits from the dead*". This was the very first bit of the Harvest. **He**, Yeshua, was the hint of a harvest to come. Now with **Shavuot**, the harvest has just begun to come in.

Now if we go to verse 41 in Acts 2, it says on that day three thousand souls were added.

⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

The beginning of the harvest of souls was there, the early first fruit was Yeshua, but now the later first fruits of **Shavuot**, was the beginnings of the body of Messiah. It is as if Peter put in a sickle and 3,000 souls were harvested and were offered to God, a wave offering, and a promise of an even greater harvest to come.

Can you imagine the disciples and followers of Yeshua in Acts 2 joining in the midst of this First Fruits procession? The **Shavuot** festival already carried a big significance for them because it was exactly 50 days after the Messiah was resurrected. Yeshua was the First Fruits of the Resurrection. In fact; the disciples and followers of Yeshua were themselves the First Fruits of the Messiah's ministry. On **Shavuot** there were 3,000 that were added to their numbers and the great harvest of souls started.

Interestingly and we have brought this out in this past, at Mt. Sinai 3,000 people died as a result of their sin of idol worship at the time of the giving of the law. In comparison on this day of **Shavuot**, 3,000 are saved!

As disciples of Messiah gathered to celebrate **Shavuot** in Jerusalem, the Ruach HaKodesh, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the apostles in a way that gave them the ability to boldly proclaim God's word in foreign languages. Jerusalem was packed with Jews from all over the world. The fact that these uneducated Galilean men were able to speak of God in foreign languages was just amazing. The visitors to Jerusalem recognized something unusual, different and bizarre was taking place. Peter, the transformed impulsive fisherman, stood up as the spokesman of the apostles to explain the importance and significance of the moment. Remember and try to keep in mind! This is the same Peter who 50 days earlier had denied that he even knew Yeshua out of fear. This was before Yeshua's resurrection and before the Ruach or Spirit came to empower him. He now goes very boldly proclaiming the truth that Yeshua of Nazareth was without a doubt their promised Messiah in spite of their mistake of executing Him.

He also tells them that God made Him the Messiah --- rose Him from death --- sent Him to bless the Jewish people --- and was still reaching out to them in love. His bold and daring speech was so filled with references from the Hebrew prophets through the power of the Ruach, that Peter's preaching convicted the Jews listening to his message just as Yeshua had predicted in John 16:7-9;

⁷ But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for IF I do not go away, the helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me."

You can really see this clearly fulfilled on **Shavuot**, the day of Pentecost as described in the second chapter of Acts. The **Ruach HaKodesh/Holy Spirit** came and as predicted, the Kingdom came with power beginning in Jerusalem. In Acts 2:22-32 it says; ²² *"Men of Israel, listen to these words: Yeshua the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know ²³ this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by*

the hands of godless men and put Him to death. ²⁴ But, God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says of Him, 'I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE; FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN. ²⁶ 'THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXULTED; MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL LIVE IN HOPE; ²⁷ BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY. ²⁸ 'YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE; YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH YOUR PRESENCE.'

²⁹ "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT *one* OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE, ³¹ he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the (Messiah) Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY. ³² This Yeshua God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.

Then Peter quoting from **Psalms 16:10** *For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.*

Going on to Acts 2:36-41 Peter replies;

Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ this Yeshua whom you crucified."

³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" ³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Yeshua HaMachiach for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Ruach HaKodesh . ³⁹ For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." ⁴⁰ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this

perverse generation!”⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

Sometimes believers have heard or read this so often that they have taken for granted, the huge meaning of this event. The church or the body of Messiah began in Jerusalem with 3,000 Jews! The arranging of baptizing so many is really hard to imagine. But you can imagine, it must have been an unbelievable sight to witness. To see so many Jews accept their Messiah must have had a great effect on the city of Jerusalem.

As we continue Acts 2:42-47, we learn what happened to the believers after their baptism.

⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. ⁴⁶ Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

The unity and the harmony of so many Jews from so many countries sharing their common hope in the Messiah made for an exciting community. Later that same spirit of unity and faith would embrace Gentiles as well.

Ephesians 2:11-14 which has been one of Dee's favourite scriptures which she calls her valentine and is very, very important to the Gentiles says;
¹¹ Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" (Gentiles) by the so-called "Circumcision," (The Jews) which is performed in the flesh by human hands ¹² remember that you were at that time separate from Messiah, excluded from the

commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Messiah Yeshua you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Messiah. ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, ----

This is was the fulfilment of Isaiah 9:6;

⁶ For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace, El Gíbor.

SO, ultimately the movement that began on Shavuot would comprise both Jews and Gentiles worshiping together. This was an unheard of phenomenon in the first century. This community of believers was a realization of **all the Messianic promises**.

On this holiday of Shavuot, Jews around the world will meet together to celebrate **Shavuot**, not as a harvest festival, but as a memorial to the giving of the Ten Commandments. It really sad, that they will miss the more significant and important emphasis of a harvest celebration. Especially the spiritual one, which occurred two thousand years ago with the harvest of three thousand Jewish men and that points to an even bigger and greater harvest to come. As 1 Corinthians 15:20 says; ²⁰ *But now (Messiah) Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. To that end we strive to proclaim that Messiah has come, the first fruits of those raised from the dead.*

Now there are some who have trouble relating to all these agricultural feasts and why they were so important in the Bible. Consider just for a minute climbing into the mindset of a total harvest.

Think of your ability if your life that had to be based on whether grain came in or not. Think of it this way, if stuff went bad in your refrigerator and there were no supermarkets around the corner and that you had to totally

depend on God for the harvest to come in. You would be thinking "Will we be able to eat this year? Will I be able to feed my family? You would be willing to try anything, pray to anything, to make the crops come in or to have proper weather. You really had to appreciate and be strong from the temptation and idolatry and fertility worship.

The Elohim was always trying to show the Israelites that it was only **He** that provided. That is why the first fruits must be brought to Him. Today we are often deceived by the ease with which we can have materials and foods. We are deceived into thinking **WE ARE NOT** totally dependent on God.

God used the harvest and agricultural feasts to teach us the spiritual realities about Him. So it made and makes perfect sense that whenever there was a harvest, God specifically made sure that all came to give thanks and recognition to Him.

Shavuot has and is always connected to the time of Passover. It was called the **feast of weeks** because this is how we know when to celebrate it.

Unlike **Passover** and the **Feast of Tabernacles**, **Shavuot** was dateless. The Israelites were forced to always consider Passover on the calendar in order to figure out when **Shavuot** would be celebrated.

It was a constant reminder of their deliverance by God, their redemption by the blood of the Passover Lamb, Yeshua. Celebrating the happiness and joy of the harvest could not be separated from the remembrance of God's deliverance.

From a Messianic viewpoint every **Shavuot**, believers are equally obligated to remember Passover, and the Passover Lamb, Yeshua. Although Pentecost is the 'birthday of the body of Messiah and when the Ruach HaKodesh the Holy Spirit came, we **ARE TO NEVER** look to the body or the **Ruach** as the base or establishment of our faith. Our security is experienced **ONLY** when we look to Yeshua and realize that He is the foundation of our hope and confidence.

We must remember John 3:14-16. *¹⁴ As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;* I would like to stop and clarify something that is often missed and something some may not know in what this scripture meant; "*the Son of Man be lifted up;*" it meant

that Yeshua had to be lifted up on the cross and shed His blood(pause).¹⁵ *so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.* ¹⁶ *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

Our security is in God’s Anointed One **“Yeshua”**, the one who was anointed prophet, priest, and king **OVER ALL**. I hope this message has shed some light on this ancient Jewish holiday of **Shavuot**. It is so richly connected with the coming of Messiah’s Kingdom, I pray that you can fully appreciate its importance. I hope that this can help you share some of these insights with your friends. Certainly our God is an awesome God and His Word is incredible in the way it all fits together. Let us **ALL** continue to pray that we all can see these marvellous connections that points to the evidence that the Jewish Messiah has come and that all of God’s promises are **“Yes”** in Him.