

OT Feasts: Part 5 of 8; Leviticus 23:15-22; Acts 2:1-4 NIV

How Did the 4th OT Feast of Pentecost Point Ahead to Jesus' First Coming?

The Day of Pentecost – 2014

Sunday, June 8 at 9:00 AM + Monday, June 9 at 7 PM

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: We are continuing our series on the OT Feasts. With each spring feast, God called the people to look back to a blessing and ahead to the coming Messiah!

1. **Review:** *The first three OT Feasts:*

- a. Passover: Back to God's rescue from physical death *through lamb blood*; ahead to God's rescue from spiritual death *through Jesus' blood!*
- b. Unleavened Bread: Back to God's rescue from *physical slavery*; ahead to God's rescue from *spiritual slavery through Jesus!*
- c. Firstfruits: Back to God's *temporal provision through the barley harvest*; ahead to God's *eternal provision through Jesus!*

2. **Some Things Related to Pentecost:**

- a. Instruction: To guide the people in how to be His covenant people, the LORD gave the Ten Commandments. They were given to bless the people ([Deut. 6:24](#)), *but they also showed their sin* ([Rom. 3:20](#)) *and reminded them of the Promised Savior!*
 - i. Pentecost looked back to the Law—*which brings death* ([Rom. 6:23](#)), but forward to the Spirit—*who brings life* (Nicene Creed)!

- ii. The OT Pentecost was the birthday celebration of God's covenant nation; the NT Pentecost is the birthday of the Church!
 - b. Name: *Pentecost* (*Sha-vu-ot* in Hebrew) is also called the *Feast of Weeks!* *Pentecost* (πεντήκοντα, Lk. 7:41) means 50 in Greek.
 - c. Timing: The *first three feasts* took place during eight days; Pentecost took place *fifty days after Firstfruits*.
 - d. Pilgrimage: It is the *second of three feasts* (also Unleavened Bread and Booths) in which all men were required to appear before the LORD (Deut. 16:16).
 - e. Ruth: That book was often read on Pentecost.
3. **Leviticus Chapter 23**: The chapter where all seven OT Feasts are summarized. This is the section on Pentecost:
- a. The timing of the feast: ¹⁵ “From the day after the Sabbath [thus on the Sunday which falls during the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread], the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering [thus on the Feast of Firstfruits, which celebrated God's blessing of the barley harvest], count off seven full weeks. ¹⁶ Count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath [so the seventh Sabbath would be the 49th day, while “the day after the seventh Sabbath” would be the 50th day], and then present an offering of new grain to the LORD.” // The Feast of Firstfruits was in connection with the *barley* harvest, while the Feast of Pentecost was in connection with the *wheat* harvest.
 - b. The sacrifices of the feast:
 - i. Wheat bread: ¹⁷ “From wherever you live, bring two loaves made of two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour, baked with yeast, as a wave offering of firstfruits to the LORD.” // So, from your own wheat harvest, make two

loaves of bread and wave them to the LORD – to *acknowledge Him as the Giver!* But why two? This is a possibility: The “two” could represent Jews and Gentiles (*believers and non-believers*) who were brought together as one by the Spirit through Jesus (Eph. 2:11-22).

ii. Animals: ¹⁸ Present with this bread seven male lambs, each a year old and without defect [*seven, male, lambs w/o blemish* – all those words point to Jesus]... They will be a burnt offering to the LORD...an aroma pleasing to the LORD [*“Indicates God’s acceptance of the offering and, therefore, acceptance of the offerer.” (TLSB, 166)*]. ¹⁹ Then sacrifice one male goat for a sin offering... // Regarding the “sin offering,” according to Dr. Kretzmann, it was meant to stimulate “*consciousness of sin...that, [while] eating their daily leavened bread, they might not serve the leaven of their old nature, but seek...from the Lord...the forgiveness and cleansing away of their sin.*” (OT I:226)

c. The sacredness of the feast: ²¹ “On that same day [*the day you offer the sacrifices*] you are to proclaim a sacred assembly and do no regular work...” // God’s command of doing “no regular work,” thus not doing your occupation, gave all the people opportunity to participate. Even today most are off on Sundays, so most CAN gather and receive God’s blessings!

4. **Acts Chapter 2**: Since we cannot keep God’s instruction, God sent His Son; then, *after Jesus’ sinless living and sacrificial dying*, the Holy Spirit was sent to bless us in many ways! The Bible tells us what happened fifty days after Jesus rose: ² “Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they [*Jesus’ disciples*] were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues

of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”

- a. “filled with the Holy Spirit” – The Greek word for “filled” is in the *aorist* tense, *which indicates a single event*; the disciples were empowered by the Spirit! We who know Jesus have also received the Spirit! Later, *in Acts chapter 2*, Peter said these words to those who were sorry for their sins: “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Act 2:38 NIV)
- b. “speak in other tongues” – That is how the Holy Spirit used the disciples: *To speak the good news of God’s salvation in languages they had not learned* (a reversal of the Tower of Babel incident; [Gen. 11:1-9](#))! So how does God desire to use us? Let us pay attention to the Spirit as He speaks to us through the Word!

Conclusion: In connection with God’s giving of the Law ([Exodus 32:25-29](#); OT Pentecost), 3,000 people physically died, while in connection with God’s giving of the **Spirit** ([Acts 2:41](#); NT Pentecost), **3,000 people were given spiritual life through Jesus!**

Finally, note how the entire Godhead was involved in fulfilling the spring feasts: “The **Son**...fulfilled the Passover by His death. The **Father**... fulfilled... Firstfruits by raising [the Son] from death... The **Holy Spirit**...fulfilled [Pentecost] by His descent fifty days after the resurrection of Christ. Now we, in response..., can truly serve the Lord in all power and truth!”¹ And all God’s people said: **Amen!**

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¹ Michael Norten, Unlocking the Secrets of the Feasts (Bloomington, IN: West Bow Press, 2012), 52.