



The Zion Letter

The Monthly Newsletter of For Zion's Sake Ministries, Inc.
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Pentecost is a Jewish Holiday

Have you ever wondered what all those “Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Pyhrgia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes (Gentile converts to Judaism)...” in Acts 2:9-10 were doing in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost?

They were there to celebrate the ancient Jewish Feast of Weeks, known in Hebrew as “**Shavuot**” (*The Feast of Weeks, Leviticus 23:15, 16*). **Shavuot is the Jewish way to say Pentecost.** It first was celebrated by the children of Israel 50 days after coming out of Egypt, then it was established as a Feast of the Lord, and celebrated off and on by the Jewish people for some 1400 years before the coming of Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah. Some interesting facts about Shavuot (Pentecost) in Acts 2 are:

- It was the first and greatest revival of believers that led to the spread of the Gospel worldwide!
- It was a Jewish holiday from the Torah/Law (See Leviticus 23:15, 16). **Yet it was celebrated by both Jew and non-Jew after the Resurrection!** Furthermore, Jesus commanded His disciples to celebrate the feast (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8).
- Many Christians are afraid of the word Pentecost because of its association with speaking in tongues and the “baptism of the Holy Spirit”, but the word “Pentecost” is really just the English translation for “Shavuot”. This historic event described in Acts Chapter 2 was marked with supernatural happenings just as it was at the first Shavuot when the Ten Commandments were given to Moses. (Exodus 19-20).
- Pentecost not only refers to the releasing of the Holy Spirit upon the congregation of Israel, but it also refers to the beginning of the harvesting of souls after the

resurrection of Yeshua, who was the “First Fruit” (1Cor15:20) offered to God. This initial harvest of 3000 new believers on the Feast of Pentecost described in Acts is called in church theology “The birth of the Church.” Thus this feast is not just about the Holy Spirit, rather it’s about God empowering His people to bring souls into the Kingdom.

Shavuot/Pentecost should be as celebrated and anticipated as Passover; but in my 15 years of shepherding, far fewer believers come out to Pentecost celebrations. That’s a fact. I think all believers should embrace Pentecost because it is about bringing the harvest of souls.

Getting Back to the Glory of Pentecost:

So how do we get back to the Glory of Pentecost in Acts 2? Haggai 2:9 says, **“The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former says the Lord of hosts...”** That means we will see a revival of God’s people one day far greater than

the glory of God’s house in earlier times. Notice He does not call it a “different” house. He says, “This house.” Same house, greater glory! **The Key to ushering in the greater glory of the house first depends on God’s Spirit, His timing and the place of His choosing.** After that, it depends on the pattern of prior glory when Moses constructed the Tabernacle ***“After the pattern... which was shown (him) on the mountain,” (EX 25:40, HEB 8:5).*** According to God’s word, when Moses completed the work of constructing the Tabernacle, ***“Then the Glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle. Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle,” EX 40:34-35.*** The same thing happened when Solomon completed the Temple according to God’s exact design given to his father King David (See 2Chronicles 5-7).

We who are believers in the Messiah Yeshua are living stones (Jew and Gentile) for God’s building, ***“Being fitted***

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together, (are) growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit," Eph 2:21-22. God has again given an exact design for His new temple built with the souls of men. Notice the word **"together"**. Throughout Acts and the Epistles of the New Covenant, we see God beginning to build Jew and Gentile together. **The power of the early Church was about togetherness of Jew and Gentile, one in the Messiah's love!** But because of Emperor Constantine and some early Bishops expelling the Jews from the Body of Messiah some 1700 years ago, **we have not been building the house "together" have we?** (For more information on Constantine expelling the Jews from the Church please contact our ministry and I'll send you a teaching about it.). Perhaps we have been building together sporadically, but not like it was in Acts 2. I have visions of Christians and Messianic Jews filling Bristol Motor Speedway for worship on the Lord's Feasts of Leviticus 23 such as Pentecost and Sukkot. Imagine 160,000 plus seats being filled to overflowing with God's people with Messianic Jewish Rabbis and worship leaders along with Christian worship artists and pastors. All preaching, teaching and worshiping their hearts out! Imagine what an outpouring of the Spirit there would be.

The Upper Room:

We mustn't forget the upper room. Upper room in Hebrew is "Aliyah," and it means "to go up" as in to reach a spiritual height or mountain top. The Psalms of Ascent (Psalm 120 – 134) were Psalms of "Aliyah." The pilgrims would sing those Psalms as they made their way up the Mountain of the Lord to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feasts of the Lord! It is interesting that the "The Last Supper" took place in an "Upper Room," or "Aliyah." It is also interesting that just after Yeshua made "Aliyah" (went up) to the Father (Acts 1), we find the Apostles together with 109 other people in an Upper Room/Aliyah, praying and fasting for ten days before the Ruach Ha Kodesh (Holy Spirit) fell and 3,000 were added in one day! So going to the "Upper Room," represents going to a higher place spiritually through corporate prayer and fasting. Corporate prayer and fasting are still the key activity we are to focus on "together" in walking out this feast and in bringing revival in our generation. **We must go to the Upper Room!**



Conclusion:

I have given you the pattern as I see it for the latter glory of the house to exceed the former glory of the house. I urge you to pray about what I have said. I invite you to come and celebrate Pentecost with us (Jew and Gentile

together) as we have a special concert with Ted Pearce on **Thursday, May 16th at 7:00 PM** (see flyer for details, or check out our web-site or FB page). In addition I invite you to our Shavuot Shabbat service on **Saturday, May 18th**.

Thursday May 16th at 7:00pm
Shavuot Celebration with Ted Pearce

Sat May 18th at 10:30 am:
Shavuot Shabbat Service

Lastly I invite you to join us in praying next week for three days before the Feast. [Fast if you are able.] Pray for an outpouring of God's Spirit in our services, in our region, and in the Body of Messiah!

In Yeshua's love,
Rabbi Joe ☆

Passover 2013 Report

We wish to report that For Zion's Sake Ministries held a wonderful Passover celebration at the Holiday Inn- Bristol VA on Saturday March 30th. There were some 300 people in attendance. There was a Drama Presentation by students from Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy as well as dance presentations from the Lion of Judah dance team and the Blue Ridge Mt. Church dance team. There was tremendous representation of folks from area churches, and we are very grateful to those who sponsored the event that night. We were able to raise over 13K that night, enough to purchase a fork lift for the Joseph Project in Israel. It was wonderful to have Rabbi Joe back teaching Passover again... healed of cancer and regaining his strength. A few weeks later *For Zion's Sake Ministries* brought world renowned violinist, Maurice Sklar to the area for a glorious concert.

God is doing great things through For Zion's Sake Ministries!

In Yeshua's Love,
Dawn Bell



Messianic Recording Artist

Ted Pearce

A Night of Praise and Worship



Thursday, May 16

7:00 pm

Event Location:

Tri Cities Messianic Center
1128 New Hampshire Ave.
Bristol, VA

To stay posted on event details

Visit:

www.forzionsake.org



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Lion of Judah *Messianic Congregation*



Meets weekly

Saturdays

10:30 AM

1128 New Hampshire Ave.

Shabbat School

For Children 3-12 years old