

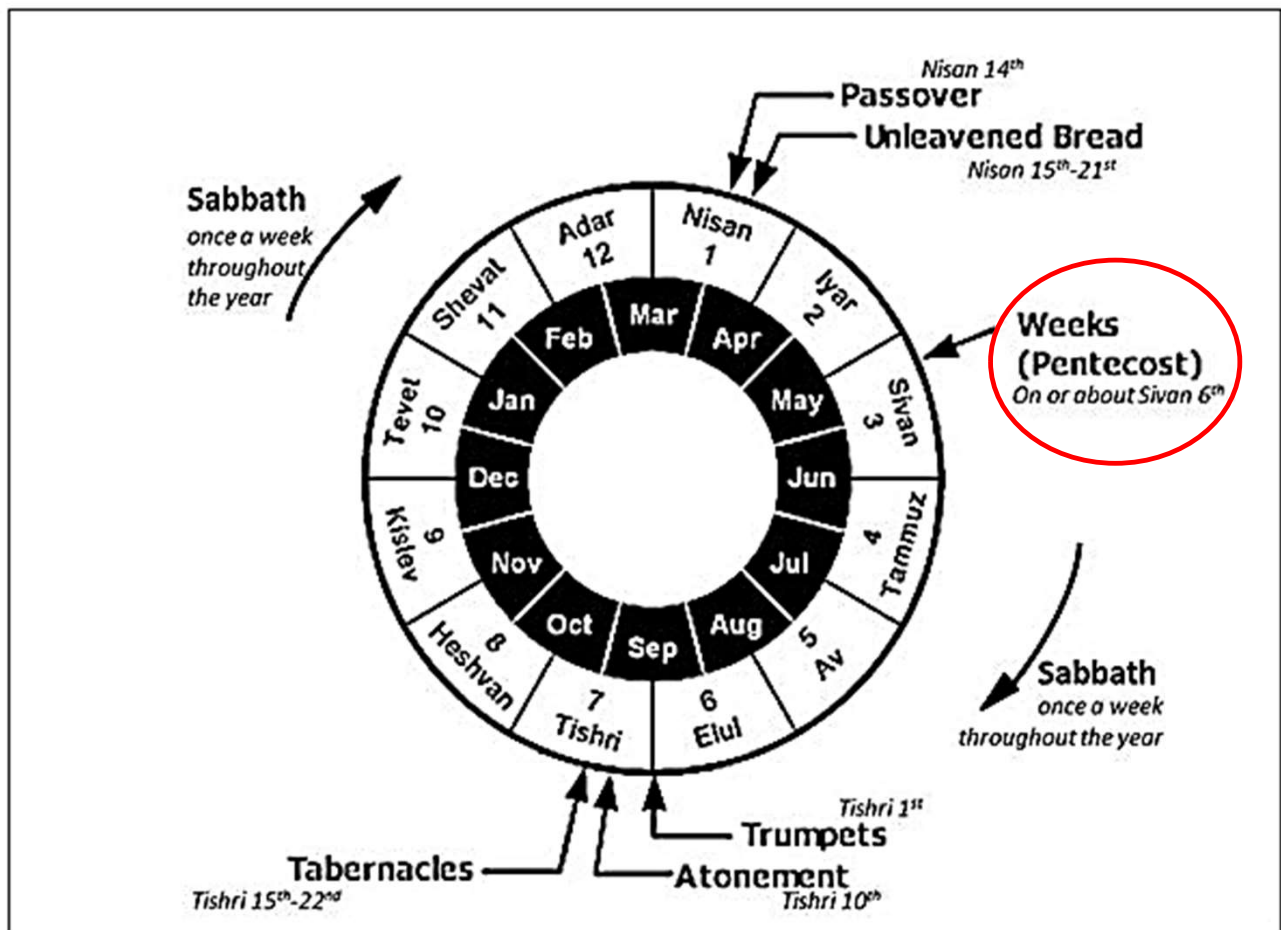
The Festivals of the Lord

Commonly known as the "Feasts" of the Lord

Not really banquets, but days allocated for sacred gatherings.

These events were holidays,
i.e. "holy days" – days set apart from regular days.
No regular work permitted.

Leviticus 23:1-44
Exodus 23:14-17
Exodus 34:18-23
Numbers 28:16-29:39
Deuteronomy 16:1-17



Weekly Festival, observed throughout the year: Sabbath			
Spring Festivals: Passover Unleavened Bread Weeks (Pentecost)	Almost 4 months between Spring and Autumn Feasts.	Autumn Festivals: Trumpets Atonement Tabernacles	6 months until festive calendar begins again.

Summary of the Day of Pentecost

The festival of Pentecost / Weeks was one of two harvest festivals in Israel's festive year. The other was the festival of Tabernacles.

Pentecost	Tabernacles
At Pentecost, the firstfruits of the harvest were offered.	At Tabernacles, a greater amount of produce was offered - these were not necessarily the firstfruits.
<p>The events on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 describe the firstfruits of the harvest of a regenerated Israel.</p> <p>This was not the total yield of the harvest, but a foretaste of that greater harvest which is still yet to come when the Lord returns.</p>	<p>In the future, there will be a fulfilment of the later harvest festival, the feast of Tabernacles, also known as the feast of ingathering. When the Lord establishes His kingdom on earth, His people Israel will be blessed with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. That future event is likened in prophecy to a harvest, when Israel are gathered into the land to be His people.</p>
The day of Pentecost in Acts 2 represented the beginning of the harvest – the firstfruits. In Acts 2, those first 3000 Israelites who came to a belief in the Lord Jesus Christ and were blessed with the Holy Spirit.	Pentecost in Acts 2 prefigured what will happen in the future when Christ's kingdom comes to the earth. The Spirit will be poured out upon a rejuvenated Israel in an overt display of God's ownership of that kingdom and of those people.

The Day of Pentecost in Acts 2 did not mark the beginning (or "birthday") of the Church of today, as is commonly taught.

God was still dealing with Israel, no Gentiles were present, and no new church was instituted on that occasion.

A quote from Charles Welch (Alphabetical Analysis part 8 p.232) ...

Following Pentecost, there is a lull [in Israel's festive calendar]. No further feasts of the Lord were observed in Israel for several months. Leviticus 23 :22 makes reference to the gleanings that were to be left "for the stranger", the only occurrence of the Hebrew word ger ("stranger") in the chapter. This interval and its association with the stranger is suggestive of what actually occurred in history. The anticipatory blessings enjoyed at Pentecost did not mature. The nation still awaits the sunteleia or harvest at the end of the age, and while no hint is given in Leviticus 23 :22 of the dispensation of the Mystery, the gap is there, waiting to be filled in God's own time.

ACTS 2 – Several different events and teachings are covered in this one chapter.

Some of the main ideas

v.1-4 - The 12 apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in tongues.

v.5-13 - The sound attracted the attention of many gathered for the festival of Pentecost, and some suggested that it was the sound of drunken revelry.

v.14-36 - Peter's speech

(Paraphrased summary: "This outpouring of the Holy Spirit came from Jesus the Messiah, and is like what will happen just before the Messiah comes to establish the Kingdom on earth.")

v.37 - The people ask, "What shall we do?"

v.38-40 - Peter responds, "Repent, be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ, and you shall

- (a) also receive the Holy Spirit, and
- (b) be saved from the wrath that comes with the kingdom's arrival.

v.41-47 - Those who believed Peter were baptised and began meeting together and sharing all things, under the guidance of the Twelve apostles.

What does this have to do with Pentecost (The Feast of Weeks)?

- Pentecost was a harvest festival, with an emphasis on firstfruits.
- Symbolically, those 3000 people in Acts 2 who believed in the risen Messiah were results of the harvest, but not the full harvest – not the whole nation. These were the "firstfruits", a small fraction of those compared to the greater harvest still to come.
- The Holy Spirit did not fall upon the whole nation on that day, but upon only a small fraction.
- That future complete harvest will be the fulfilment of the later festival of Tabernacles.

Peter's speech Acts 2:14-36

Summary:

This outpouring of the Holy Spirit came from Jesus the Messiah, and is like what will happen just before the Messiah comes to establish the Kingdom on earth.

Peter's speech is in two main sections:

- v.14-21 - Peter said that the speaking in different languages was the working of the Holy Spirit, and that such works of the Spirit will be evident just before the Messiah comes to establish the Kingdom on earth. This agrees with what the prophet Joel wrote (Joel 2:28-32).
- v.22-36 - Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Messiah (i.e. Jesus the Christ), who poured out the Spirit and the phenomena you are seeing and hearing today. You (Israel) put Him to death; nevertheless, He has been raised from the dead, now sits at God's right hand, and could return soon to establish the Kingdom on earth.

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