

# The Biblical Spring Feasts

Parashat Emor ([V'yikra/Leviticus 21-24](#))

**Are you familiar with the  
springtime Biblical feasts?**

[Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of First Fruits, and the Feast of Weeks](#) are special days outlined in the Bible.

Each of the Biblical Spring Feasts can also be called by its Hebrew term:

The Feast of Passover = Pesach

The Feast of Unleavened Bread = Chag HaMatzot

The Feast of First Fruits = Yom HaBikkurim

The Feast of Weeks = Shavu'ot

Messiah Yeshua (Jesus Christ) fulfilled the prophetic meaning of each of these Biblical spring feasts (*moedim*).



to be “Jewish” in order to celebrate the “Jewish” feasts.

**Followers of Messiah, whether native Israeli or grafted-in, are now part of Israel.**

Together, truly a nation under God. Israel’s history is our history. We do not compete with Israel, we do not supersede or replace Israel: we *are* Israel. We have been united by the blood of the Lamb and saved by His unfailing grace.

**More and more Christians are learning about our Father’s established feasts!**

He has prepared a banquet before you and you don’t have to wait until you get to heaven to feast and celebrate with Him.

# The Feast of Unleavened Bread

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# The Feast of Firstfruits

The Feast of First Fruits is about harvest. The LORD established it so that the people would bring the first and the best of their harvest. It was a feast day for this expression of worship. [\(Leviticus 23:9-14\)](#)

So what does this mean for us today? Most of us are not farmers. It seems a bit challenging to fully understand agriculturally-centric feasts, but we can understand the simple Gospel teaching that spiritually-speaking, the fields are white and ready for harvest ([John 4:35](#)).

**This Biblical feast illustrates the victory of the Gospel in the most powerful and marvelous way possible.**

You see, Passover is about freedom from death and bondage. The Feast of Unleavened Bread reminds us that He was buried and in that tomb. The Feast of Firstfruits is about the **Resurrection!**

**["But now Messiah has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."](#)**  
**[1 Corinthians 15:20](#)**





Messiah Yeshua was the **first of the harvest** – raised into His glorified, resurrected body. If you read about what was involved with the celebration of First Fruits, you will learn that a sheaf had to be waved before the LORD back and forth.

Waving the sheaf surely seems to represent the **movement of the wind through the crops.**

**A mighty rushing wind.**

The power of the Holy Spirit (Ruach haKodesh) breathing new life!

The Spirit of the LORD stirring up salvation!

We know that in the last days, the harvest will include people from the east and west, north and south.

**So back and forth the wave offering was made: prophesying the harvest of the latter days and prophesying the Truth of Resurrection Day!**

The Feast of Firstfruits is the Celebration of Resurrection Day!



The One whom God has sent  
speaks the words of God,  
for God gives the Ruach  
without limit.

JOHN 3:34



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“The One whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Ruach (Holy Spirit) without limit.” John 3:34

## The Feast of Weeks

Speaking of the awesome power of the Holy Spirit, [Acts 2:1](#) begins “When the Day of Pentecost had fully come . . . .”

The Day of Pentecost as a holy day *wasn't* something new.

Bible translators chose to translate the Hebraic term, “Shavu’ot,” with the Greek term “Pentecost.”

## **Ironically, there are language barriers**

It is debatable as to whether those who translated were legitimately trying to help readers understand the Hebrew here

or whether they were trying to obstruct it (sadly, it is plausible). Preference for Greek terms in translation led to a loss of the original meanings and intent and propelled the wide separation between the early Messianic movements and later church movements.

Before you start thinking I'm anti-Pentecost, hold it right there.

I love Pentecost. I am an ordained Pentecostal pastor. Yet, using solely the term "Pentecost" actually obscures the fullness of the meaning of the Scriptures here!

We need to become more aware of the deficiencies caused by language. (This is nothing new to us Spirit-filled believers. We know language barriers have been overcome by the amazing infilling power of the Holy Spirit!). The limitations of our vocabulary lead to *slight* discrepancies in doctrine and practice which *over time* can become *huge* discrepancies.

For example: I don't know any Christians who say, "Happy Shavu'ot Sunday!"

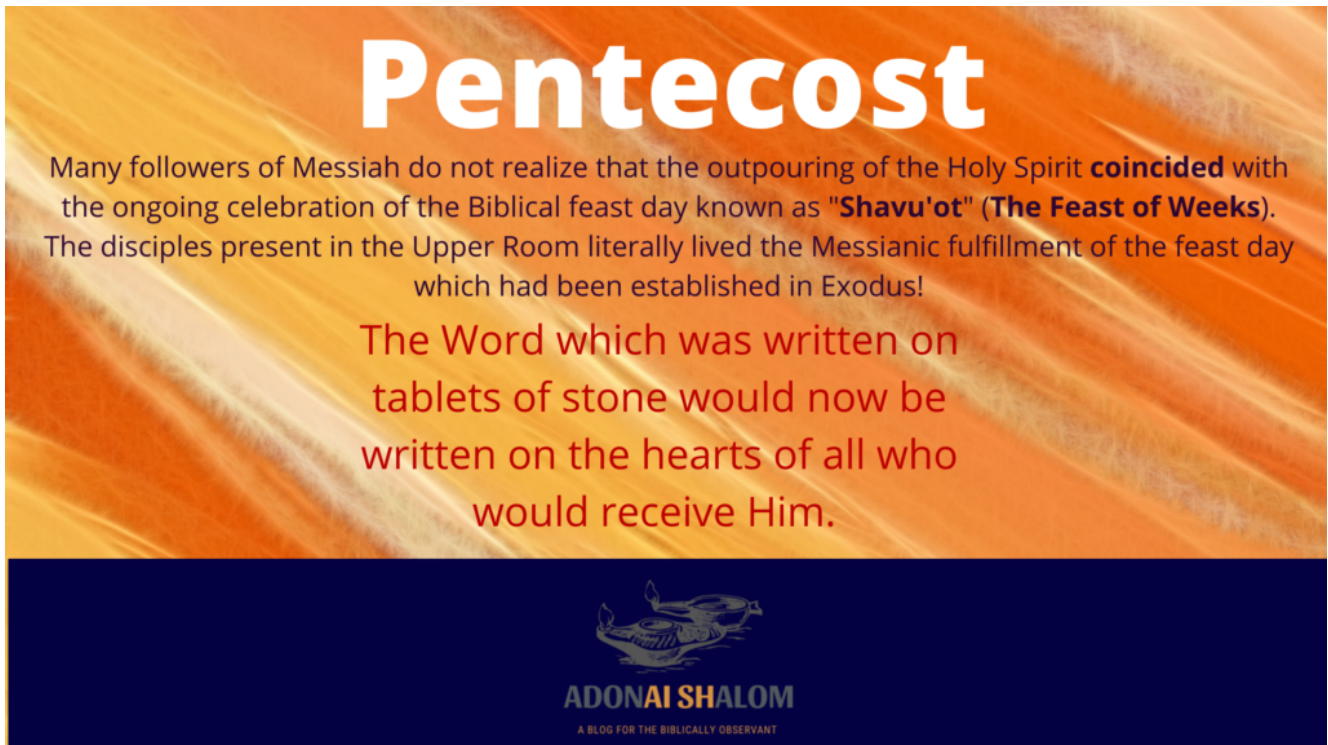
It's always "Pentecost Sunday" in our vocabulary! And that is ok, in the sense that this is how we understand a word in *our language*.

**But, we are missing half of the meaning!**

We know the Holy Spirit came down. However, many do not realize that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit *coincided* with the ongoing celebration of the Biblical feast day. The disciples present in the Upper Room literally lived the Messianic fulfillment of the feast day.

**The reality is, Shavu'ot (i.e. Pentecost)**


has been celebrated since the days of Exodus!



# Pentecost

Many followers of Messiah do not realize that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit **coincided** with the ongoing celebration of the Biblical feast day known as "**Shavu'ot**" (**The Feast of Weeks**). The disciples present in the Upper Room literally lived the Messianic fulfillment of the feast day which had been established in Exodus!

The Word which was written on tablets of stone would now be written on the hearts of all who would receive Him.

  
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[Exodus 34:22](#) says "You are to observe the Feast of *Shavuot*, which is the firstfruits of the wheat harvest, as well as the Feast of Ingathering at the turn of the year."

It became traditional to celebrate the giving of the *Torah* on Shavu'ot. As you can see, **the Word which was written on tablets of stone would now be written on the hearts** of all who would receive Him. Now we also celebrate the giving of the *Holy Spirit* on Shavu'ot! The LORD never leaves us without instruction and never leaves us comfortless.

## The Messianic significance of the omer count

Beginning at the Feast of First Fruits, a special omer count was to begin every year. This was a measurement used for dry goods. Each day, for 50 consecutive days after First Fruits, the day's omer was to be counted. This had gone on for generations prior to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day we know as Pentecost.



The word, "Pentecost," is highly appropriate here because it was exactly 50 days after the Feast of First Fruits (Resurrection Day) when the Holy Spirit fell upon the gathered, praying believers and endued them with power from on high.

When the LORD Yeshua (Jesus) walked on this earth, He came to fulfill the prophecies, not to abolish them. He promised that He would send another Comforter ([John 14:16, KJV](#)) and that is exactly what He did. Every single action He took and Word He spoke correlated with His mission and He never contradicted Himself.

All of the Biblical Feast Days were established *before* God sent His Son. Today we are just focusing on the spring feasts, but each Biblical feast day is a part of the divinely orchestrated plan to show us the way of salvation. (If you are interested in the fall feasts, those include what is known as [Yom Teruah \(aka Rosh Hashanah\)](#), [Yom Kippur](#), and [Sukkot \(the Feast of Tabernacles\)](#)).

## What shall we do?

On that same Shavu'ot day, Peter preached a Spirit-empowered sermon that resulted in 3,000 immersion baptisms.

When people felt convicted of their need for repentance, they asked, ["Fellow brethren, what shall we do?" Acts 2:37](#) (*emphasis added*)

["Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be immersed in the name of Messiah Yeshua for the removal of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Ruach ha-Kodesh. For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far away—as many as ADONAI our God calls to Himself."](#)

[With many other words he warned them and kept urging them, saying, "Save yourselves from this twisted generation!" Acts](#)

## [2:38-40](#)

The question posed by the crowd should be the same question we still ask.

What shall we do?

And the exhortation of Peter continues to direct us:

1. Repent
2. Be immersed (baptized) in water
3. Receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit
4. Be saved from this twisted generation

Our journey of faith doesn't end when we are baptized in water. We must seek the infilling of the Holy Spirit, who empowers us for the task of ministry.

How can we be saved from this "twisted" (some translations read, "perverted") generation?

By doing things God's way, not our way.

That includes surrendering our manmade traditions.

THE BIBLICAL SPRING FEASTS ARE ABOUT DOING THINGS  
GOD'S WAY, NOT OUR WAY.

Learn about why you might consider  
trading in man's holidays for God's holy days.



The Biblical Spring Feasts are about doing things God's way,

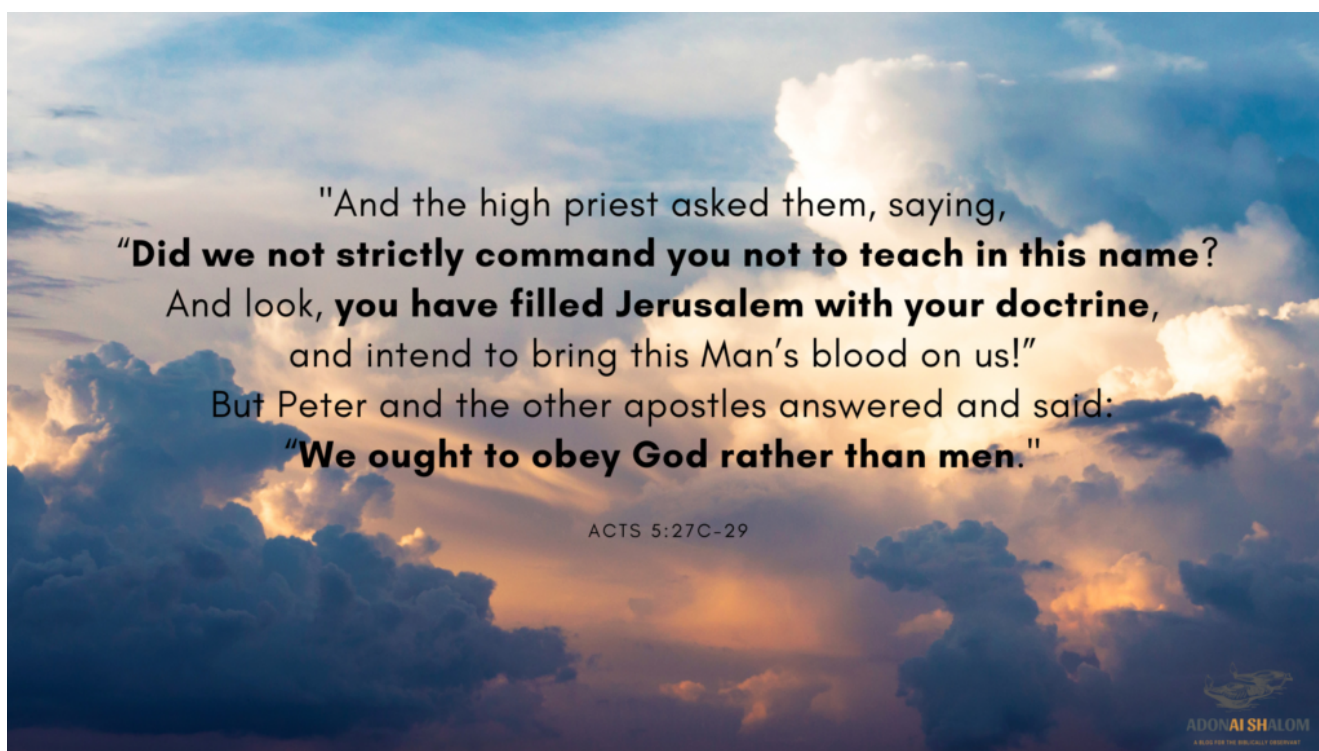
not our way. Learn about why you might consider trading in man's holidays for God's holy days.

By [Acts chapter 5](#), there was so much going on in the way of outreach and missions that the Jewish authorities became very upset. Miraculous healings, supernatural deliverances, prison doors being opened . . .

["And the high priest asked them, saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name?"](#)

[And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!"](#)

[But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5:27c-29 \(emphases added\)](#)



## Obey God rather than men

This verse isn't a license to stop listening to the wise people that God has placed in your path. Heed godly counsel. Submit to righteous authority.

But carefully *discern* what is truly godly.

If we are to obey God rather than men, let me ask you this question today.

**Why continue with manmade festivities?**

**Why not celebrate the LORD in the way the LORD established?**

**Why allow the world to creep in to our faith practices?**

## **What do the Springtime Biblical Feasts represent?**



What do the Springtime  
Biblical Feasts represent?



### **Passover & the Feast of Unleavened Bread**

*Messiah Yeshua was mocked, beaten, wounded, crucified, died and was buried in the grave for us*

### **The Feast of First Fruits**

*Messiah Yeshua defeated death and was resurrected in power and victory so that we, too, may live*

### **The Feast of Weeks**

*The Holy Spirit of Messiah Yeshua has empowered believers for ministry. The Torah given at Sinai is now written on our hearts rather than on tablets of stone*



## **Easter, Eostre, and Ishtar**

It is no secret that the word Easter has been derived from several pagan sources. Do we really need to “Christianize” these false gods?

Look at the linguistics.

**We get the term, “Easter” from Eostre, an English goddess, who is likely the same personage as Ishtar, the Babylonian**



**fertility goddess. It is no surprise then, that we see the reappropriation of fertility symbols such as eggs and rabbits in Easter celebrations.**

What, then, shall we do?

**Obey God rather than men!**

Our Messiah Yeshua (Jesus Christ) died to **free us from idolatry** and sin.

We need to reject the pagan practices that have managed to invade our celebrations of our Savior's Resurrection.

Resurrection Day exists in Scripture as the Fulfillment of the Feast of First Fruits. **We should celebration Resurrection Day!** But we really don't need "Easter."

Consider celebrating each of the Biblical spring feasts. Consider trading in man's Lent for God's *teshuvah* (time of repentance). Trade in man's Easter for *Yom HaBikkurim* (the Feast of First Fruits). In the fall and winter, (I know this one will be controversial) trade in man's Christmas for the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot), the most amazing celebration of the Word being made flesh and coming to dwell with us! If you decide to truly follow **what Scripture says** rather than what the majority of tradition has **invented**, you will gain so much!

**If following the LORD at His Word is important to you, please comment below! If you have questions about the Biblical spring Feasts we would love to help you! And most importantly, if you have questions about the Messiah, please let us know and we would love to share the Good News with you. Please subscribe so you don't miss any new posts! Shalom!**

## Related items you may enjoy:

# Hoshiana!

You may recognize the word, "Hoshana."  
We get the term "Hosanna" from this,  
a pleading for the Holy One to "please save."  
It has an emphatic tone in Hebrew: "Save now!"

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# **Biblical Feast Days and significant dates: FREE Printable!**

## **Rethinking holidays and the resistance we got from pastoral colleagues**

When our children were born (they are close in age), my husband and I started really thinking about the Biblical feast days. We thought through the types of holidays and traditions we would want them to grow up with. We were familiar with the Jewish holidays and had participated in Passover seders and church-sponsored Feast of Tabernacles events, but we still celebrated Christmas and Easter. We were good about keeping the celebrations as focused on the LORD as possible – never incorporating santa claus or Easter eggs, but we definitely enjoyed the Christmas Eve candlelight services and the Easter sunrise services. We are both pastors, so of course we loved these events! We were *trained* to lead them!

Sometimes we were met with resistance from our colleagues. They wondered why we always refused to host Easter egg hunts. Pastors in the community would invite us to host joint activities of this type and we would never participate. Many would ask questions like, “Why would you turn down an opportunity to get extra visitors into your church?” They’d move from questioning us to judging us: “This is a great church growth model, and you are not taking advantage of it.” *Sorry, but we have always cared much more about Truth than numbers.* And we’ve been blessed because of it.

Sadly, when we tried to share what we knew about the Biblical

Feast Days, most of our pastoral colleagues made it clear they'd rather just keep the status quo. Today, few church leaders want to embrace anything that might mess with the Sunday morning offerings.

So, we decided to be different. And it has been an awesome adventure!



Biblical Feast Dates: Free Printable available!

## **Choosing to celebrate Biblical feasts rather than Christmas/Easter**

Colored eggs inspired by the Ishtar or Eostre's fertility cults never seemed to make sense to us as a positive testimony of the Resurrection victory of our Savior. (For consistency,



let me inform you we do not use the boiled egg on our seder plate as is also customary in Jewish tradition). If the Messiah, the Son of God, rose from the dead in victory, is that not enough of a powerful message? Why do we need the help of rabbits to tell the Good News in a compelling way? The Resurrection really doesn't need embellishment.

Similarly, "everybody" knows that Jesus wasn't born on December 25. So [why continue to perpetuate this day as Jesus' birthday](#)? Instead of giving the world ammunition to accuse Christians of being delusional and embracing idolatry, why not learn how Jesus' (Yeshua's) birth fits into the holy-days given by God Himself? Christmas trees have nothing to do with a baby in a manger. Bunnies don't lay eggs nor do they rise from the dead. My question has become a simple one: Why, my dear Christian brothers and sisters, why do you participate in these traditions?

**We decided that our children should be raised with the holidays given to us by the LORD and described in detail in the Bible.** We began to realize there are so many of them that they wouldn't be missing out on anything! The LORD has given us so many wonderful feast days that help us see His handiwork in our lives throughout the year.



Christian testimony would be stronger without some of these traditions

## **2022 list of Biblical Feast Days, traditional Jewish holidays and other dates of interest for the year**

Here is a list of the Biblical holidays, traditional Jewish holidays, and other notable dates for 2022. The appointed times described in [Leviticus 23](#) have exact specifications as to their dates so some people attempt to more closely align the dates using lunar calculations. I respect this attempt since the Gregorian calendar does not perfectly match, but our

family uses the commonly accepted dates of the Jewish calendar.

Each of them has major significance to any believer who recognizes that they are part of Israel. The appointed times (*moedim*) are, of course, set feasts that our LORD established as “appointments” with us. He wants us to gather, to assemble, and He wants to meet with us and celebrate with us! He wants us to understand the fullness of the salvation reality – that our Passover Lamb has come, has been sacrificed, and has been raised again as the Firstfruits of the Resurrection harvest!

Some believers choose not to celebrate Purim or Hanukkah. I find there is great value in both, and will write about that another time. Similarly, one might wonder if you are not living in Israel, why care about Yom HaShoah or Israel’s independence day? But remember, whether you were born ethnically Jewish or have been grafted into the community of Israel, **Israel’s victories are your victories, just as Israel’s sorrows are our collective sorrows. We weep with those who weep and we rejoice with those who rejoice.**







2022

# BIBLICAL FEAST DAYS

Appointed times & traditional holidays (*begin at sundown*)

**March 16** Purim

**April 15** Passover/Pesach

**April 16-23** Unleavened Bread

**April 17** Firstfruits/Yom HaBikkurim/Resurrection

**April 27** Holocaust Remembrance Day/Yom HaShoah

**May 3** Israeli Memorial Day/Yom HaZikaron

**May 4** Israel's Independence Day

**May 28** Jerusalem Day (Yom Yerushalayim)

**June 4** Shavu'ot

**September 25** Yom Teruah/Feast of Trumpets/Rosh HaShanah

**October 4** Yom Kippur

**October 9-16** Feast of Tabernacles/Sukkot

**December 18-26** Hanukkah



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2022 Biblical feast days

## Dates for your calendar

Here is a listing of the Biblical feast days. If you would like a FREE downloadable PDF, subscribe to our newsletter, and you will receive it straight to your inbox!

**March 16** Purim

**April 15** Passover/Pesach

**April 16-23** Unleavened Bread

**April 17** Firstfruits/Yom HaBikkurim/Resurrection

**April 27** Holocaust Remembrance Day/Yom HaShoah

**May 3** Israeli Memorial Day/Yom HaZikaron

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**October 4** Yom Kippur

**October 9-16** Feast of Tabernacles/Sukkot

**December 18-26** Hanukkah

May your year be most especially blessed!

***If you are new to celebrating the Biblical feast days and need some help or encouragement, please don't hesitate to reach out. It can be a lot of information to take in when you are new to it all! We'd be happy to guide you or give you some pointers! Shalom!***

## **Looking for a gift or home decor?**

Here are some ideas. I remember when I was given the Bible Hebraic Stuttgartensia by a congregation I served as a student pastor when I was in undergrad. I still use it today, one of the most thoughtful and useful gifts I have ever been given! I am an Amazon affiliate so I do earn a little when you purchase something, but it won't cost you anything extra.