

Pentecost / Shavuot - The Law and the Spirit

HIGH-LEVEL STUDY GUIDE

Finding the Ancient Path

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PQWrgj1T_8

Teaching Summary

This teaching examines Pentecost (Shavuot) through Leviticus 23 and develops the relationship between the giving of Torah at Mount Sinai and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2. The counting of the Omer connects Passover redemption with Shavuot covenant and instruction. The teaching explores the two leavened wave loaves, Shavuot as a firstfruits festival, the offerings, holy convocation, generosity toward the poor and stranger, and Ruth's connection to Israel's redemptive history. It then compares Sinai and Acts 2: preparation, timing, assembly, divine sound and fire, instruction, covenant, multilingual proclamation, and the contrasting 3,000 who died after the golden calf with the roughly 3,000 added in Acts 2. A central emphasis is that believers are ministers of the new covenant: the law remains holy and instructive, while the Spirit gives life and enables faithful obedience. The final section explores, whether Shavuot could also mark a future covenantal empowering, sealing, or commissioning of the remnant during a proposed second-exodus/tribulation framework, possibly involving the 144,000 as firstfruits.

Key Scriptures

- **Leviticus 23:15-22** - Command for counting fifty days to Shavuot; two leavened wave loaves, offerings, holy convocation, and provision for the poor and stranger.
- **Exodus 19:1, 10-20** - Israel arrives at Sinai; the people prepare, YHWH descends with thunderings, lightning, cloud, trumpet, and fire.
- **Exodus 20:18-21** - The people experience the voices/thunderings, flashes, trumpet, and smoking mountain and stand at a distance.
- **Exodus 32:25-29** - After the golden calf, about 3,000 men fall; the teaching contrasts this with about 3,000 added in Acts 2.
- **Acts 1:4-5** - Yeshua tells the disciples to remain in Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Father and baptism with the Holy Spirit.
- **Acts 2:1-18, 37-41** - At Pentecost the believers are gathered, the Spirit comes with a mighty sound and tongues as of fire, languages are heard, and about 3,000 are added.
- **John 14:26** - The Holy Spirit is the Helper who teaches all things and brings Yeshua's words to remembrance.
- **2 Corinthians 3:5-6** - Believers are made sufficient as ministers of the new covenant; the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
- **Romans 3:31** - Faith does not nullify the law; Paul says the law is established/upheld.
- **Romans 6:23** - The wages of sin is death, while the gift of God is eternal life in Messiah.
- **1 John 3:4** - Sin is identified with lawlessness/transgression, supporting the teaching's explanation of why the letter condemns the guilty.
- **Deuteronomy 28** - The teaching points to Torah as good and life-giving when obeyed, while disobedience brings covenant consequences.
- **Ruth 2:2-3** - Ruth gleanes in Boaz's field, illustrating the Leviticus 23 provision for the poor and stranger.
- **Ephesians 2:11-19** - Those formerly among the nations are brought near and made fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's household.
- **Hebrews 10:24-25** - The teaching connects not forsaking assembly with the importance of holy convocations and encouraging one another.

- **Ezekiel 20:33-38** - A future wilderness gathering is described in which YHWH pleads face to face and brings His people into the bond of the covenant.
- **Ezekiel 36:26-27** - A new heart and Spirit are given so God's people walk in His statutes and keep His judgments.
- **Revelation 7:9** - A future multitude from all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues is connected typologically to worldwide ingathering.
- **Revelation 14:1-5** - The 144,000 are called firstfruits to God and the Lamb; the teaching proposes a possible future Shavuot connection.
- **James 1:18** - Believers are described as a kind of firstfruits of God's creatures.

Key Takeaways

- Shavuot is commanded in Leviticus 23 and is reached by counting seven Sabbaths and fifty days from the wave offering.
- The counting of the Omer is presented as a bridge from Passover redemption to Shavuot covenant, instruction, sanctification, and expectation.
- Sinai and Acts 2 share a pattern of preparation, gathered people, divine sound/fire, covenant, instruction, and proclamation.
- At Sinai Torah is given; in Acts 2 the Holy Spirit is poured out. The teaching presents both as covenantal moments centered on divine instruction.
- The two leavened wave loaves are interpreted in the teaching as representing the House of Israel and the House of Judah, accepted as firstfruits despite imperfection.
- Shavuot is also a firstfruits festival and a time of holiness, communal rejoicing, fellowship, and generosity toward the poor and stranger.
- Ruth illustrates the gleaning command and the inclusion of people from the nations within Israel's redemptive story.
- The contrast between roughly 3,000 deaths after the golden calf and roughly 3,000 people added in Acts 2 illustrates the teaching's theme: "the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."
- Believers are ministers of the new covenant. The teaching cautions against swinging to either extreme of law without Messiah/Spirit or grace language that dismisses God's instruction.
- The Old Testament and the Old Covenant are not treated as identical categories; the teaching says believers uphold God's law through the Spirit while ministering the new covenant.
- The teaching proposes that the miracle of tongues in Acts 2 centers on people hearing God's message in their own languages and explores a possible, but not explicit, parallel at Sinai.
- Within that framework, a future Shavuot could involve covenantal renewal, sealing, empowerment, or prophetic commissioning of the remnant, with the 144,000 proposed as firstfruits.

Study Outline

1. The Command for Shavuot

- Leviticus 23:15-22 establishes the fifty-day count, wave loaves, offerings, holy convocation, and gleaning provision.
- Shavuot is treated as both an appointed time and a firstfruits event.

2. Counting the Omer: Redemption to Covenant

- The count creates expectation and preparation.
- Passover represents redemption; Shavuot is connected with covenant and instruction.
- Moses prepares Israel for Sinai; Yeshua tells the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Father's promise.

3. Two Leavened Wave Loaves

- The teaching interprets the two loaves as the two houses/kingdoms of Israel.
- Their heaven is connected with an imperfect people being sanctified and accepted as firstfruits.

4. Offerings, Holiness, Fellowship, and Giving

- The burnt, grain, drink, sin, and peace offerings are presented as layers of relationship with YHWH.
- The gleaning command makes Shavuot a practical time to bless the poor and stranger.

5. Holy Convocation and the Covenant Community

- A holy convocation is presented as a divinely appointed assembly of the covenant community.
- The gatherings teach Torah, remember redemption, reinforce identity, and encourage one another.

6. Ruth and the Nations

- Ruth's gleaning illustrates Leviticus 23.
- Her place in David's and ultimately Yeshua's lineage is used to show that God's redemptive purpose included people from the nations.

7. Sinai and Acts 2: Parallel Pentecost Events

- Both occur in the Shavuot season with a gathered people and preparation.
- Sinai includes thunder/voice, flashes/fire, trumpet, and Torah; Acts 2 includes mighty sound, tongues as of fire, Spirit, languages, and proclamation.
- About 3,000 die after the golden calf; about 3,000 are added in Acts 2.

8. The Law and the Spirit

- The law is described as holy, good, and just, but it exposes guilt and the need for a Redeemer.
- The Spirit gives life and makes believers sufficient ministers of the new covenant.
- The teaching urges balance: uphold God's instruction through the Spirit without losing the centrality of Yeshua and the new covenant.

9. Tongues and the Hearing of God's Voice

- The teaching explores Hebrew wording around voices/thunderings and flashes at Sinai.
- It notes later Jewish traditions about Sinai being heard in many languages but clearly acknowledges that Scripture does not explicitly state this.
- Acts 2 is presented as a clear multilingual proclamation, with emphasis on hearers understanding in their own languages.

10. A Future Shavuot? - Application

- The teaching proposes a Passover/Unleavened Bread second-exodus framework for the opening of tribulation.
- Ezekiel 20 is considered as a possible future wilderness covenant encounter.
- A future Shavuot is proposed as a possible sealing, empowering, or prophetic commissioning event.
- The 144,000 of Revelation 14 are proposed as possible Shavuot firstfruits.

Discussion & Reflection

1. What is Shavuot (Pentecost), and where is it commanded in Scripture?

2. What is the counting of the Omer, and why are fifty days counted?

3. How does the counting of the Omer connect Passover with Shavuot?

4. What happened at Mount Sinai that connects it with Shavuot?

5. How does Acts 2 parallel the giving of Torah at Mount Sinai?

6. What is the relationship between the Law and the Holy Spirit?

7. What does “the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life” mean?

8. Does the new covenant mean believers should forget or reject God’s law?

9. What does it mean to be a minister of the new covenant?

10. What do the two leavened wave loaves of Shavuot represent in this teaching?

11. Why is Shavuot considered a firstfruits festival?

12. What do the Shavuot offerings teach about relationship with YHWH?

Personal Application

Prayer focus: Ask the Father to deepen your understanding of His appointed times, His instruction, and the work of His Spirit so that obedience flows from a faithful heart rather than mere outward routine.

Where have I tended to separate God’s instruction from the work of the Holy Spirit?

How can I prepare more intentionally for Shavuot and use the appointed time to encourage others, give generously, and remember YHWH’s covenant faithfulness?

Which prophetic portions of this teaching do I need to study further before reaching a conclusion?
