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“Pentecost is really a feast set out by God for His Jewish people in the Torah”

SHAVUOT: A TIME OF UNITY

by Jeffrey D. Miller

What is Pentecost Anyway?

God told His chosen of Israel (written down by Moses in the Book of Leviticus, Chapter 23) to celebrate a harvest feast seven weeks and a day after the Sunday during Passover. Now what happened in Jerusalem 2000 years ago on the Sunday during Passover? Messiah was raised from the dead! That day of resurrection was also on the Hebrew calendar as *Bikkurim*, the Feast of Firstfruits.

But it was fifty days later the Lord commanded the next feast to be held, from which we derive the feast's Greek name, "Pentecost." The Hebrew name for this feast (remember it was ordained by God some 1400 years



Shavuot is traditionally regarded as the day when Moses received the Commandments

before Messiah's life on the earth) is *Shavuot* (Shah-vo-OAT), meaning "weeks," based on the seven-week period. So Pentecost is really a feast set out by God

for His Jewish people in the Torah (the Books of Moses).

Now Check This Out

Acts 2:1, "Now when the Day of Pentecost had fully come," is clearly a reference to Shavuot. The following verses tell how God poured out His Holy Spirit on that day. Because the Lord had also commanded in the Torah that all men of the Children of Israel should

assemble at the place of His choosing (at the time of Acts that was the Holy Temple at Jerusalem) for Shavuot, there were Jewish people

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RABBI SIMON RECOVERING FROM HEART SURGERY

On Thursday, May 22nd, Messianic Minutes' Rabbi Ted Simon underwent a six-way heart bypass surgery.

Rabbi Simon's family and friends were shocked by the news that he needed this surgery. He has continually

been in excellent health, eating well and exercising regularly. No one was aware he had any heart problems.

Thankfully, that same excellent health has also helped Rabbi Simon make a speedy recovery, along with

the many prayers of friends and family. He is home from the hospital, and taking a rest until he fully recovers. He will be taking a short break from the Messianic Minutes radio show, but Karen Miller will fill in along with husband Jeffrey D.

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relies on support
from friends like
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SHAVUOT

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from many foreign lands in Jerusalem. So when the Jewish followers of Messiah Yeshua (Jesus) started speaking in other languages, those who made the pilgrimage for the feast heard them speaking in their own language.

Furthermore, Jewish tradition holds that God gave the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai on this very day, Shavuot. In fact, the feast is often referred to as "The Day of the Giving of our Law." Of course there is no Scriptural evidence to back this up, but consider this: What if God gave the Law on the same day He gave His Holy Spirit? It does seem to fit.

Why does the Church Celebrate Shavuot?

As Acts 2 proceeds, we see there was a great revival and three thousand were added to the ranks of believers in Messiah on that day. The thing is, they were all Jews. Nevertheless,

many Biblical scholars believe that is when the Lord started the Christian Church.

Interesting isn't it? On a day celebrated by the Jewish people, when God poured out His Spirit upon them, and thousands of them became followers of the Jewish Messiah, many believe the Christian Church was started.

Wow, have we messed this up. The Christian Church has all but forsaken its Jewish roots, and the Jewish people have denied their Messiah.

God Knew this would Happen, so He had a Plan

The High Priest of the nation of Israel was to make a grain offering before the Lord on Shavuot. He was required to bring two loaves baked with leaven. Leaven represents sin. God does not allow sin to be part of an offering (Lev 2:11), except for this one time. I believe that's because the two loaves baked with leaven represented the two spiritual types of sinful man of that day - the Jews and the Gentiles. Gentiles were not Christians; they were idol worshipers. And the Jewish people wanted nothing to do them (there is much Scripture about this).

As the Priest stood before the altar of God, He waved the two loaves *together*, representing spiritual reconciliation. The only way that reconciliation could occur was through Jesus, the Jewish Messiah. And once He paid the price, He

sent the Holy Spirit to give us the ability. Look at Ephesians 2:11-18 for a powerfully clear understanding about this.

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Shavuot Stands for Unity

The outpouring of God's Holy Spirit took place on Shavuot, I believe, because it was God's call to unify the Jews and the Gentiles in Messiah. When religious Jews celebrate Shavuot, they read from the Book of Ruth. Get it! Ruth, the Gentile woman who said to her Jewish mother-in-law, "Your God will be my God." The same woman who is in the line of both King David and Jesus the Messiah. Without knowing it, Jewish people are celebrating that unity at Shavuot. And the Church, generally equally unknowing, is doing it too. Our job is to help make both sides aware of this truth so the power of the Holy Spirit can do its work, unifying Jews and Gentiles in Yeshua!



Jews all over the world observe Shavuot as a feast celebrating the harvest season

HEARTS

By Rabbi Ted Simon

I have been thinking about hearts a lot lately. Not surprising, in that just ten days ago, all the arteries bringing blood (and therefore life – “the life of the flesh is in the blood”) to my heart were repaired. I didn’t know anything was wrong – one day I’m eating Tofu and the next day I’m in having major bypass surgery. The interesting thing about this surgery is that by the end of summer I will be better than I was before. The only thing that hurts as I recover now is the incision. Seems that my skin has been superglued back together – no sutures, and the breastbone has stainless steel twist-ties holding it in place.

The Bible has a lot to say about hearts. In fact the words “heart” and “hearts” are written over 1000 times in The Word. During this Pentecost season we read in the Book of Ruth that Boaz, the Kinsman Redeemer, ate and drank, and “his heart was

cheerful” (Ruth 3:7). While he probably didn’t eat Tofu, Boaz was rejoicing at the harvest when Ruth came to him by night.

“So she answered, ‘I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative.’

Then he said, ‘Blessed are you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich. And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman. Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I.’”

It was when Boaz’s heart was cheerful that Ruth approached him! Not only was the good harvest a source of joy and cheer, but Boaz righteous behavior in following Torah and allowing gleaners was a mitzvah that made for a glad heart. While there was a closer relative than Boaz, there

was not one more righteous. I believe that Boaz represents the Jewish nation as we embrace our destiny to bring righteousness and Truth to all the nations. I also sense that the closer relative was pharisaic and self-centered: “I will not be the redeemer,” he said, because “it will damage my own inheritance” (Ruth 4:6).

Having a right heart is a matter of destiny. Zephaniah 3:4 records our future in Messiah – if we stay on course and don’t “lose heart”:

“Sing, O daughter of Zion!

Shout, O Israel!

Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,

O daughter of Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away your judgments,

He has cast out your enemy.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;

You shall see disaster no more.”

Our goal is to see the Church fulfill her destiny and Jewish people fulfill theirs. This will happen only as Boaz and Ruth – Jew and Gentile – come together and work His purposes.

As for Tofu, I’ll go back to eating some, but more than that I will be giving thanks, rejoicing, praying and casting my cares upon Him:

Paul said it this way in Phillipians 4:

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

RABBI SIMON

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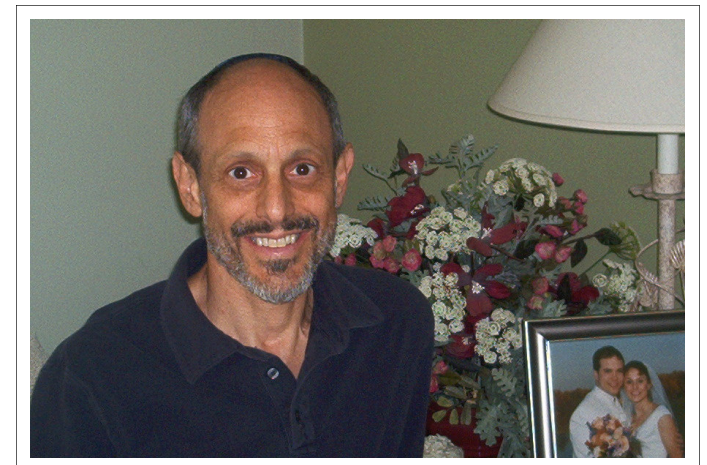
Miller in his absence.

We are all very blessed, along with Rabbi Simon, that the Lord found a way to reveal that he needed the bypass before it became a life-threatening problem. On a routine check-up after recovering from a cold, Rabbi Simon complained of a tightness in his chest. The

doctor immediately referred him to a cardiologist, who discovered the problem.

Rabbi Simon was surrounded by friends and loved ones during his stay in the hospital. Their prayers and help were, and continue to be, a blessing, strengthening his spirit while his body recovers.

We at Messianic Minutes wish to express our heart-felt thanks to the many



It takes more than a few clogged arteries to keep the Rabbi down!

radio stations, their listeners, and supporters who have offered their prayers for the Rabbi in his time of need. As it is written in James 5:16,

“... and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

Messianic Minutes

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Visit our Website at
www.messianicminutes.com



Messianic Minutes is a five minute daily radio program (with seasonal half-hour specials) aimed at bringing the Gospel to the Jewish people through Bible believing Christian listeners. The good news is that the Kingdom is available to you now! The program is hosted by Jeffrey D. Miller and Rabbi Ted Simon, two Jewish men who love Yeshua (Jesus), the Jewish Messiah.



THANK YOU!

We here at Messianic Minutes would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to this ministry. Without your support, Messianic Minutes could not continue to reach out to unsaved Jewish men and women with the love of the Messiah.

We are indeed blessed to have such wonderful listeners. Your prayers, donations, questions, suggestions, or whatever form of

support you send keep this ministry alive and thriving. In these last few months, our resources have begun to grow, allowing us to reach out to His chosen people. We continually thank the Lord for each of you, and His divine provision.

We especially want to thank those of you who the Lord has moved to contribute regularly to Messianic Minutes. Though we appreciate all donations, those of

you who give on a monthly basis are a true blessing. Your faithfulness is continually rewarded as the Kingdom of Heaven is increased.

We believe that this is a time of new beginning for Messianic Minutes. Your prayers strengthen this ministry just as much as monetary donations. Thank you for continuing to pray and give according to what the Lord provides and moves you to give.