



# Shavuot

**Celebrating the Word and the Spirit –  
From Sinai to the Upper Room  
A Biblical Holiday**

**What the Church Needs  
to Know  
Jewish Roots 101**



## The Coming of the Holy Spirit

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed..

Acts 2:1-12

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**Shavuot, or the Feast of Weeks, celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai and marks the completion of the seven-week count from Passover.**

**The giving of the Torah is commemorated during the Feast of Weeks (Shavuot) through several traditions that reflect Israel's encounter with God at Mount Sinai:**

- **Reading the Ten Commandments:**

**In synagogues, the Ten Commandments (Exodus 19–20) are read aloud to recall the dramatic revelation at Mount Sinai when God gave the Torah to Israel. This reading helps the community relive the awe and holiness of that moment.**



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- Staying Up All Night to Study Torah

Many observe the custom of studying Torah all night on the eve of Shavuot as a sign of devotion and eagerness to receive God's Word. This tradition reflects the idea of preparing our hearts just as Israel prepared themselves at Sinai.

- **Decorating with Greenery and Flowers:**

Homes and synagogues are often decorated with plants and flowers, symbolizing Mount Sinai in bloom, as Jewish tradition teaches the mountain miraculously blossomed when the Torah was given.



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It also commemorates the outpouring of the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) in Acts 2, which occurred on Shavuot and empowered the early Jewish believers in Yeshua.

Shavuot beautifully unites the giving of God's Word and His Spirit—both essential to the life of a follower of the Messiah.



# How to Observe Shavuot

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## 1. Reading the Book of Ruth and the Ten Commandments:

On Shavuot, the Book of Ruth is traditionally read because its events take place during the harvest season and Ruth's acceptance of the God of Israel mirrors Israel's acceptance of the Torah.

Ruth's story also highlights the inclusion of the Gentiles into God's covenant family through faith—foreshadowing the unity of Jew and Gentile in the Messiah.

## 2. Staying up all night to study Torah (Tikkun Leil Shavuot):

Many Jews stay up the night of Shavuot to study the Torah, symbolizing a deep love and readiness to receive God's Word as Israel did at Sinai.

Messianic believers may also study passages from the New Covenant (Brit Chadasha), celebrating the giving of the Holy Spirit and the fullness of God's revelation through Yeshua.



### 3. Eating dairy foods:

It is customary to eat dairy on Shavuot, with explanations ranging from the Torah being compared to “milk and honey” to the idea that the Israelites had no kosher meat laws yet when they received the Torah.

Enjoy this tradition while reflecting on the nourishment of both the written Torah and the living Torah—Yeshua, the Bread of Life.



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