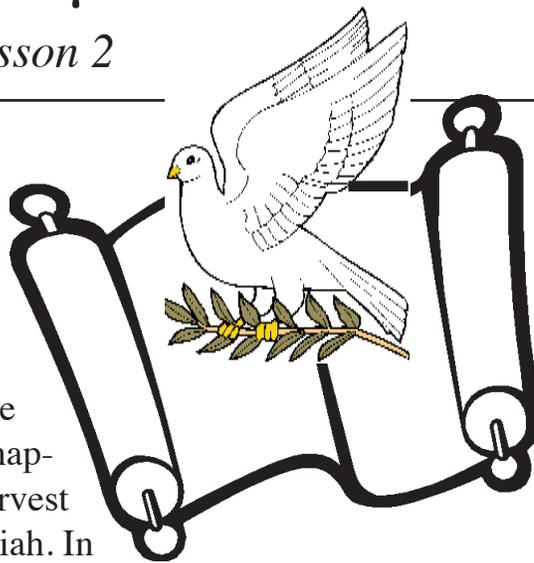


שבועות

Shavuot, lesson 2

Last week we noticed that Shavuot ends the barley harvest and begins the wheat harvest. To demonstrate thankfulness to God for all the food He has provided, we are commanded to leave some food so that the poor, widow and strangers have enough to eat. While the harvest of food is one of the harvests that happened at Shavuot, the second harvest was a harvest of people coming to know Yeshua as the Messiah. In fact, the promise that God made to Avraham that “all the nations of the earth would be blessed through him” would find its fulfillment in the world-wide harvest that began as the Ruach empowered the disciples of Yeshua to be witnesses, beginning in Jerusalem, going out to Judah and Samaria, and to all the world.



In Acts chapter two on the day the Jews celebrated Shavuot, the Ruach Ha-Kodesh (Holy Spirit) empowered those in Jerusalem so that they could spread the good news that Messiah had come and offered His life as a sacrifice for sinners. Never before had the truth of God come so directly to those who were not of the Jewish nation. Since Jerusalem was a place where people from every nation gathered, the Ruach allowed everyone to hear the truth of the Good News in their own language—no one needed a translator! Shavuot calls us to remember that there will one day be a great ingathering of all people who accept Yeshua as their Messiah.

One day those who believe that Yeshua is the Messiah, Son of God, will all be gathered together. Since Shavuot is connected to Pesach, we should use this festival to lift praise to God that He has purchased our redemption and now we can celebrate together as free men. Instead of harvesting the fields of Pharaoh, we can now harvest the fields of the world, bringing in the elect of every nation.

Shavuot is one of three “pilgrimage” festivals, meaning that every Jewish male was required to be in Jerusalem for the Festival, and was to bring a sacrifice. Since most of us cannot be in Jerusalem, let us lift our prayers for the Peace of Jerusalem—the return of Messiah.