

Creation-tide Bible Study • Week 4

Sunday 31 October – (Harvest)

Preacher – Canon Dr Bob Derrenbacker

Reading: Deut 8.7-18; Ps 126; 1 Tim 6.6-10; Mat 6.25-33

In the process of revealing His plan of salvation for mankind, God established His annual Holy Days around the harvest seasons (Leviticus 23:9-16; Exodus 23:14-16). Just as His people harvested their crops around these three festival seasons, God's Holy Days show us how He is harvesting people for eternal life in His Kingdom. The Holy Days have meanings that build upon each other. Together they progressively reveal how God works with humanity.

This festival is known by several names that derive from its meaning and timing. Also known as the Feast of Harvest (Exodus 23:16), it represents the firstfruits (Numbers 28:26) gathered as the result of the labour of those who completed the spring grain harvests in ancient Israel (Exodus 23:16).

It is also called the Feast of Weeks (Exodus 34:22), with this name coming from the seven weeks plus one day (50 days in all) that are counted to determine when to celebrate this festival (Leviticus 23:16). Similarly, in the New Testament, which was written in Greek, this festival is known as Pentecost.¹

Among Jews the most popular name for this festival is the Feast of Weeks, or *Shavuot*, in Hebrew. When celebrating this festival, many Jewish people recall one of the greatest events in history, God's revealing of the law at Mount Sinai.

1. Read Deuteronomy 8:7-18.

- What are the facts of history in this passage?
- What are the promises given in this passage?
- What are the warnings given in this passage?
- What attitude should Israel have towards the abundance of the land?
- How does this result in their attitude towards God?
- What lessons can we learn in this passage?

2. Read Matthew 6:25-33

- What are some of the things we worry about? Why do we worry about these things?
- Why shouldn't we worry? What should we do instead?
- What is Jesus' cure for our anxiety?
- What does it mean to seek first His kingdom? (verse 33) How can we do this?
- What principle can we learn from verse 34? Should we care about or plan about tomorrow?

¹ *Pentekostos* in the original, which means "fiftieth" (W.E. Vine, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, 1985, "Pentecost").