

Pentecost Parallels

Theme	Old Pentecost (Shavuot / Feast of Weeks)	New Pentecost (Acts 2)	Symbolism / Fulfillment
Timing	50 days after Passover	50 days after Jesus' resurrection	God's plan takes on deeper meaning
Origin	Commanded in Leviticus 23:15–16	Promised by Jesus (Acts 1:8) and fulfilled in Acts 2	God keeps His promises across covenants
Purpose	Celebrate firstfruits of the grain harvest (barley → wheat)	Celebrate firstfruits of the <i>Spirit</i> —3,000 souls added	Firstfruits shift from grain to people
Focus	God's physical provision (harvest)	God's spiritual provision (Holy Spirit)	God provides life to both body and soul
Community Impact	Unified Jews from many regions who returned to Jerusalem	Unified people from "every nation under heaven"	Reversal of Babel; global family formed
Historical Layer (by Jesus' day)	Celebration of the giving of the Law at Sinai written on stone	Giving of the Spirit—the Law written on hearts	Stone tablets → human hearts (2 Cor. 3:3)
God's Presence	God descends on Sinai in fire, wind, and voice	God descends on believers in fire, wind, and speech	Sinai → Upper Room; God now dwells in people
Recipients	One nation (Israel)	All who repent and are baptized	Covenant expands to all nations
Sign of God's Voice	Thunder, fire, and Moses speaking God's words	Tongues of fire and believers speaking God's wonders in many languages	God's voice now speaks through His people
Covenant Identity	Israel becomes God's chosen people	The Church becomes God's chosen people (Eph. 1:4–5; 1 Pet. 2:9)	Adoption into God's family
Temple	God dwells in the Holy of Holies	God dwells in Believers (1 Cor. 3:16–17)	God's presence moves from a room to a people
Holiness	Obedience to the Law, including chukim (decrees that didn't always make sense)	Obedience through faith—repent, be baptized, live holy lives	Baptism as the first act of faith-filled obedience
Fruit	Grain harvest	Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22–23)	External harvest → internal transformation
Outcome	A nation shaped by God's Word	A global Church empowered by God's Spirit	Law of sin → Law of Spirit (Rom. 8:2)

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