

A Word from The Rabbi & The Rebbetzin

Dear Beloved in Moshiach (Body of the Messiah),

Our hearts and prayers are with our brothers and sisters in Israel who are being attacked. Imagine living in a society with barrages of rockets flying overhead. What to do!? Here are a few thoughts:

1. Stand tall and proud with Israel!

We salute the many of you who put the message of “Standing with ISRAEL” on your social media and personal profiles. It’s at times like this that we need to remind ourselves and others that Israel is the one being attacked, not the aggressor.

The media tends to equal out both sides, at times even putting the blame on Israel. When in fact what is simple: Israel was attacked, so it’s defending its citizens. The way any sovereign nation would. The BDS movement is the big lie of our generation. The goal here isn’t to achieve rights for Palestinians. It’s the annihilation of Israel.

Israel is the only real democracy in that entire region. Her citizens of all faiths are free to practice the religion of their choice; they can vote and hold elected office. Yet Israel is deemed the bad guy. Can you even imagine a Jew holding elected office in one of the other hostile nations in the region?

It’s time we stopped apologizing and began telling the plain truth. You know the story of the Emperor’s New Clothes? All it took to dispel the lie was for one little child to say the truth: But... he has nothing on!

Jews are experts at taking guilt! We somehow think of guilt as the 11th commandment. As the joke goes: “My mother was dismissed from the jury because she insisted that she was guilty...” It’s time to stand up and tell the truth of the extraordinary role Israel plays on the world stage. Moderate Arab states are happily embracing this truth. We Jews should embrace it as well, and share it proudly with our children.

2. Celebrate Judaism above our differences! (We’re not victims)

When Israel and Jews are being attacked, it becomes doubly important to remind ourselves and our children that Judaism is not just about victimhood. How excited do we expect our children to be to be part of a nation that is constantly hated and attacked. If all they hear about in terms of Jewish identity is slogans of survival like “Never Again” you can be sure they’ll lose interest and do their best to get as far away from it as possible.

Let’s tell them the real story. That we are Hashem’s chosen nation charged with the mission of charting the course of humanity in terms of faith, morality, and kindness. Let’s tell our children and grandchildren how Judaism infuses meaning into every real life activity.

This Monday is Shavuot, the 3334th Anniversary of our people receiving the Torah (His Word) at Mt. Sinai and the receiving of the Ruach (His Spirit) for us as Jews in Moshiach Yeshua.

In light of everything that’s going on, [please join us on Shavuot](#), we have planned many ways for you to join us and be at His presence starting on [Sunday the 16th of May at 5.00PM with our Cooking Seminar, Shavuot Havurot & Minyanim, Shavuot Evening Sermon and Torah Study\(A Night of Torah Study\) continuing on Monday the 17th May 2021, with our Shavuot Morning Service at 11am to celebrate the Holiday of Shavuot and hear the 10 commandments being read followed by a lunch party\(detail\)](#).

Shabbat Shalom and hope to see you on [Shabbat/Shavuot](#).
Rabbi Harel Frye & Rebbetzin Gavriela Frye

Newsletter Special Edition

Shavuot 5781

Dear Beloved in Moshiach (Body of the Messiah),

The Festival of Shavuot has the unique distinction of being the only holiday celebrated in both Jewish and Christian traditions. The Gentile church may call it “Pentecost” and their celebration may have a different focus, but Shavuot commemorates the birth of these two religions; at Sinai for the Jews and in Jerusalem for the church.

But despite its importance, compared to other Jewish holidays there aren't many customs connected with Shavuot. Aside from a few traditions like eating dairy and studying Torah all night, the main mitzvot connected to Shavuot are reading the book of Ruth and hearing the Ten Commandments.

Shavuot/Pentecost should be one of the biggest holidays in the world, but it seems to me that it's not given the prominence that it deserves. And I believe this is a result of both Judaism and the Gentiles (Christianity) missing big pieces of what Shavuot is all about.

In early Judaism, Shavuot was primarily a harvest festival and pilgrimage. The Feast of Weeks marks the time when the wheat fields in Israel were harvested and brought to the temple in Jerusalem. But if you're not an ancient Judean farmer these ideas aren't very concrete, and this abstraction coupled with the lack of observances has led to Shavuot being the least known holiday amongst secular Jews, many not even knowing that it exists.

But there is a greater significance to Shavuot. Shavuot takes place fifty days after Passover, and in those fifty days the Israelites who had been freed from slavery in Egypt made their way through the wilderness and traveled to Mt. Sinai.

One of the great themes of Passover is freedom, but our tradition teaches us the Jews were not really free when Pharaoh let them leave. They may have been physically free, but in their hearts they were still slaves, unable to come to grips with their newfound freedom.

The Jewish people did not experience true liberation of mind, body, and soul until they came to Mt. Sinai, heard the voice of Hashem (God), and received the Torah. On Shavuot we celebrate not just being given some laws; we celebrate being given our freedom, our identity, and our soul.

As for the Gentiles (Christianity), Shavuot, or Pentecost as they call it, commemorates the events described in the second chapter of Acts. During the festival of Shavuot, when thousands of Jews were gathered in Yerushalayim (Jerusalem) to bring their wheat harvest offerings to the temple, a mighty wind from Heaven rushed down and tongues of fire rested on the assembled followers of Yeshua. They began to speak in all the languages of the world, each one of them proclaiming the gospel and the mighty acts of Hashem (God).

The crowds were amazed, and when Peter stood up to tell the people about the death and resurrection of Messiah Yeshua, it's said that over 3,000 Jews came to faith that day. From that time on everything was different, and still is to this day. No longer confined to Jerusalem, the gospel spread throughout Israel and into the nations. Empowered by the Ruach HaKodesh, the followers of Yeshua were able to perform miracles, heal the sick, raise the dead. Thousands and thousands of people came to faith, Jew and Gentile, and the gospel was preached in every nation and tongue.

The giving of the Ruach (Spirit of God) was an occasion as momentous as the giving of the Torah. If the first Shavuot was the birth of the Jewish people, this Shavuot marked the birth of the Yeshua movement. What had once been a small, insular group spread and became a worldwide phenomenon that continues to grow to this day and beyond.

On the first Shavuot, Hashem (God) gave us the gift of his Torah (His Word). On the second great Shavuot, HaShem (God) gave the gift of his Ruach (His Spirit). We have much to celebrate, yet the world doesn't seem to pay all that much attention to Shavuot. For both Jews and Gentiles (Christians), Shavuot is at best often treated like a minor holiday, at worst like something that we forget about altogether. Why is that?

The problem is that both sides are only getting half the story. For Jews, we celebrate the giving of the Torah, but the story ends there. This was a one-time gift, never to be repeated. And the church celebrates the giving of the Ruach (Spirit), but there's no context involved. For the average Gentile (Christian), the Ruach Hakodesh (Spirit) was given on just some random day in history.

It's only when you put the two stories together that you see something greater emerge. Both stories, Sinai and Jerusalem, are amazing on their own and each day changed the world forever. However, when we read these stories together, we see not just some one-off miracles but a story of progressive revelation and a Hashem (God) who gives and continues to give more and greater gifts to the world.

Yes, we celebrate the giving of the Torah for itself. But we also understand that there is even more cause for celebration because Hashem (God) has sent Messiah Yeshua, the Word made flesh, to fulfill the Torah.

And we can celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit in the full context of Hashem (God)'s revelation to us. First, God sends his Word so that we know his will for us. Then he sends his Son, so that he can dwell with us and love us face to face, and finally he sends his Spirit so that nothing can separate us from his love ever again.

On the first great Shavuot Hashem (God) gave us the gift of the Torah. On the second great Shavuot he gave us the gift of the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit). No one can know the hour or the day of Moshiach's return, but perhaps Yeshua will come on a third great Shavuot. How fitting would it be for Hashem (God) to give us the greatest gift of all on a day such as this?

Chag Shavuot Sameach!

Rabbi Harel Frye & Rebbetzin Gavriela Frye

Please check out our: [Shavuot Events](#)

Please be a Partner in supporting the People of Israel: [Your Donation to Hashem on Shavuot 5781](#)

[Please join us on Shavuot 5781](#)
[We were born to be testimonies of His Faith for such a time as this!](#)