***Shavuot and Pentecost - Part 2***

Amazingly, in modern times, Shavuot was adopted by the kibbutz movement as its “holy day” (the early kibbutzim were mostly anti-religious).

Now it has become a national Israeli holiday with parades, celebrating “first fruits” of agriculture produce, family dining, folk dancing, and even new commercial inventions.

In the biblical narrative, there is a three-stage development of the שכינה, shekinah – indwelling presence of the glory of God.

The first stage is represented by Sinai.

The pillar of cloud and fire followed the people into different places.

The second stage is the Temple of Solomon, where we read that the glory of God filled the Temple at its dedication. (II Kings 8:10, II Chronicles 5:13; 7:1)

The third stage is the Shavuot-Pentecost outpouring on the disciples. This also happened in Jerusalem. The three stages therefore would be:

1. Pillar of cloud and fire in exile
2. Cloud and fire in Temple in Jerusalem
3. Fire of Holy Spirit in disciples in Jerusalem.

From here the New Covenant goes on to develop the metaphor that we, as the Body of Messiah, are a spiritual temple made up of living stones. Ephesians 2:21-22; 1 Peter 2:5

It is debatable whether the outpouring of the Holy Spirit happened in the upper room or in the Temple itself. The Scriptures are not clear on that point. The disciples are described as “continually” being in the “upper room” in Acts 1:13-14, and in the Temple in Acts 2:46. They were described as being in a “house” in Acts 2:2 – in Greek that is oikos, which might indicate the upper room; yet in Hebrew the word for house is bayit, בית which can mean either house or temple.

In any case, the upper room on Mount Zion and the Temple on Mount Moriah are only a few hundred meters one from another, so it does not make much difference. The symbolic meanings of Zion or Moriah would both be fitting. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit goes from wilderness pillar to Solomon’s Temple to the hearts of the disciples.

Of course, there is yet another stage, a future stage, in which the Holy Spirit is to be poured out on “all flesh” as promised in Acts 2:17. As Paul desired “urgently” to be in Jerusalem on Shavuot-Pentecost (Acts 20:16), so we also dedicate this holy day every year to pray “urgently” for that global, end times’ outpouring.

“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And he that heareth, let him say, Come. And he that is athirst, let him come: he that will, let him take the water of life freely.”  
Revelation 22:17 ASV

Holy Spirit in unity with the bride will create a cry so powerfully loud in the days now coming. Hear the Maranatha cry in its fiercest sound yet heard.