

1. *Shavuot*/Pentecost associated with God delivering Torah on Mount Sinai:

- Exodus 19:1 – is the beginning of the third month.

2. God's Localized Presence:

Smoke or Fire	Verse
Torch/Smoking Fire Pot	Genesis 15:17
Burning bush	Exodus 3:2
Pilar of fire	Exodus 13:21
Pilar of Smoke	Exodus 13:21
Fire on Mount Sinai	Exodus 19:18
Smoke on Mount Sinai	Exodus 19:18
<b>Torches</b> (Lightning) as God's Voice	Exodus 20:18

3. God's Voice Like Torch/Fire/Lightning:

All the people perceived the **thunderings** (Hb: *qolot/voices*), the lightnings (**torches**), the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking. Exodus 20:18 NHEB

- Psalm 29:7 – "The **voice** of the LORD strikes with flashes of lightning (flames/fire)"

4. God Dwelling in his House:

- **Redemption:** the presence of God, the people of God, the place of God.
- **Exodus 40:34-35** – The glory of the LORD dwells in the Tabernacle.
- **2 Chron. 5:13-14**

"then the **house** (*bayit*) was filled with a cloud, even the **house** (*bayit*) of the LORD, so that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD filled God's **house** (*bayit*)." NHEB

- **Ezekiel 43:2 & 4-5**

2. "Look, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and **his voice** was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shined with his glory...4. The glory of the LORD came into **the house** by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east. 5. The Spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and look, the glory of the LORD filled **the house**." NHEB

### 5. Acts 2:1-3:

- Where is the location of Acts 2? We interpret Acts 2 out of the context of the geography of Jerusalem and the customs of first-century Judaism.
- Luke 24:53 – "and were **continually** at the temple (house) praising God."
- Pentecost is one of the (3) pilgrim festivals (Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles).
- 9 AM is the morning sacrifice (see Acts 2:15).
- Where do you baptize 3000 people?
  - On the southern steps of the Temple Mount, archaeologists have found over fifty **Mikveh** (ritual baths).

### 5. God moves into his new Temple – a Temple made of Living Stones!

- 1 Cor. 3:16 NIV

**16** Don't you know that **you yourselves** are God's Temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

- 1 Peter 2:4-5 NIV

4. As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— **5** you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house

### 6. Jewish Context to the events of Pentecost:

- Targum Neofiti to Exodus 20:3 – a first-century Aramaic translation of the Hebrew Bible.

The second word, when it went out from the mouth of the Holy One, may his Name be blessed, (was) like shooting stars and like **lightnings** and like **torches of fire**, a **torch of fire** on the right and a **torch of flame** to the left.<sup>1</sup>

- Exodus Rabbah 5:9<sup>2</sup>

"It says: And all the people perceived the thunderings (Ex. 20:18). Note that it does not say 'the thunder,' but 'the thunderings:' wherefore Rabbi Johanan said that God's voice, as it was uttered, **split up into seventy voices**, in **seventy languages**, so that all the nations should understand. When each nation heard the voice in their **own vernacular**, their souls departed, save Israel who heard but who were not hurt."

<sup>1</sup> Kevin Cathcart, Michael Maher, and Martin McNamara, eds., *The Aramaic Bible: Targum Neofiti 1: Exodus and Targum Pseudo-Jonathan: Exodus*, trans. Martin McNamara, Michael Maher, and Robert Hayward, vol. 2 (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1994), Ex 20:3.

<sup>2</sup> <https://archive.org/details/midrashrabbah0003unse/page/86/mode/2up>