

Pentecost

The Feast of First-Fruits

The Feast of Weeks

The Last Day

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Scriptures from the KJV

Today I want to speak about the feast of "Pentecost". Now the feast of "Pentecost" is our feast (the "churches" feast) it's called the "Feast of First-Fruits" & the "Feast of Weeks" and it's also referred to numerous time by Christ Himself, as: "The Last Day." (I hope we will see this by the end of today's message.)

Now in order to better understand the feast of Pentecost, we need to better understand the "count" to Pentecost, the count that commences during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is also called the Passover.

Pentecost is connected to the harvest of the barley and the wheat (the early crop referred to in the Scriptures as the "first fruits") The harvest of the wheat (the first fruits) begins immediately after the "wave sheaf" offering, which is offered the day after the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

What we want to take note of here is that the count to Pentecost (our feast) starts at the beginning of the feast of Unleavened Bread. The count to Pentecost pertains to the time allotted to (us) the ecclesia, the members of God's church, to become "ready" for the marriage of the Lamb.

As soon as our Lord and Savior (the first of the first fruits) was crucified and died, the doors were now open, for others to follow in Christ's footsteps. The vale in the Temple tour open from top to bottom.

And immediately after the First Day of Unleavened Bread, a sheaf of barley was picked, processed and waved (know as the "wave sheaf offering") to be accepted (meaning acceptable or capable) for us, thus beginning the harvest of the Wheat.

Then the wheat continued to be harvested for a period of seven weeks; and it is important for us to realize, that the harvesting of the wheat is to be complete the day before the offering of the "wave loaves".

The vale was now torn, and the door was now open for others to follow in Christ's footsteps, so the work involved in harvesting the first-fruit crop, began, and it began the day after the first High Holy Day Sabbath, and ends the day before the High Holy Day Sabbath of Pentecost.

(Nothing new there, God always starts work after the Sabbath, and always ends work before the Sabbath.

Now the offering of the "wave loaves" takes place on day fifty, the day after the wheat harvest is complete. We can very clearly see this in Leviticus 23:15-16. (And it is important for all in God's church to understand this.)

Because the counting and this harvesting has to do with our calling; it has to do with coming out of sin; with being cleaned up and scrubbed down, purified and made white, unblemished and unspotted, just like our Chief Corner Stone (Yeshua Hamashia) Jesus The Christ.

Leviticus 23:

15 *“And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the Sabbath (High Holy day Sabbath, 1st day of Unleavened Bread) from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths (seven weeks – seven churches its talking about) shall be complete.*

16 *Even unto the morrow after the seventh Sabbath (seventh week) shall ye number fifty days.*

Now the completion of the wheat harvest and the offering of the “wave loaves” is very important to us, **because we are the wheat which is planted from the very seed of God the Father Himself.**

Now let’s understand something, our God is a creator, and He is good at it! Just look at the night sky, with all of its beautiful twinkling stars, magnificent planets, the constellations, the moon..... How awesome a sight....

But you know, as magnificent, as majestic, as superb and breathtaking as the heavens are, there not God’s masterpiece. His masterpiece is man. Yes, God’s masterpiece, His most important and treasured creation, is man, whom He created in His very own image.

Like it says in the book of Genesis; *“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them.”*

Now it didn’t take God very long to “physically” create man. He formed Adam out of the dust of the ground (red clay or dirt to be precise.) And He formed man on the sixth day, right after creating the beasts of the earth, the animals.

And God is so good at creating (and so powerful) that He’s quite quick at creating things, even the entire universe was created by Him very quickly, by just speaking a Word.

But it is important for us to realize something, it is important for us to realize that God’s masterpiece, His gem His jewel, His master creation (man) was not completed back in Eden.

Our Creator is still in the process of completing what He started back then, He’s still in the process of completing the creation of man whom He created in His very own image & likeness.

O, we’re complete physically, we have fully developed arms & legs, lungs to breathe, physical eyes to see, and physical ears to hear... But our nature, our mind, our character, was not fully developed, when He formed man back in Eden.

On the contrary, the mind that our creator wants to form and develop in each and every one of us, the character that He wants all of us to have and to cherish for eternity, is His character, His “Holy Righteous Character”.....

And His “Holy Righteous Character” is something so awesome, so dynamic, so spectacular, that even God Himself could not create it instantaneously in us.

Holy Righteous Character, His Character, is something that was going to have to be developed in mankind, man was going to have to go through a process. A process of growing, changing and overcoming, and it was going to take time for that process to be completed.

Now that process is shown to us by His Holy days. Yes, the process of His plan for mankind to develop His Holy Righteous Character is pictured by His Holy Days, starting with the Passover.

Because first, man would have to be redeemed, because man got off on the wrong foot. As we read in Romans 5:12 *“As by one man, sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”*

Now sin kept us captive, just like ancient Israel was held captive in Egypt, until the lamb, the lamb Without Blemish that is, was sacrificed, and had his blood, applied to the doorposts of the houses.

We know that story quite well, the unspotted, unblemished lamb, was selected on the 10 day of the first Month, and sacrificed on the 14th day of that same Month, at evening, when the sun was going down.

That unblemished, unspotted, perfect lamb, represented Christ, our Lord & Savior, who would be sacrificed for all of us (for all of mankind for that matter.)

And He would be sacrificed on the same exact day, and at the same exact time as the lamb was back in Goshen, on the 14th of the first Month, as the sun was going down.

Now the Israelites obeyed their Creators instructions, and applied the lamb’s blood to the doorposts of their houses, and roasted that lamb with fire (as they were instructed) and they ate it that same night (as they were instructed) with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

And the Lord passed through the land of Egypt that night, and smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt (And there were many) He executed judgment.

But the houses of Israel that were bearing the lambs blood upon their doorposts (as a token) He passed over, and the plague did not enter in, nor destroy them.

The Israelites were freed that night, and they began their journey out of Egypt as they followed the pillar of cloud by day, and the pillar of fire by night. They were being led by God Himself, they were now on their way to the Promised Land.....

They baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they brought forth out of Egypt, for it was not leavened; Why? Because they were thrust out of Egypt, and could not tarry. The Egyptians feared themselves, that they would all be dead men.

That journey out of Egypt, when they ate unleavened bread, is pictured by the “Feast of Unleavened Bread” and lasts seven day, as we are told in Exodus 12:18

“In the first Month, on the fourteenth day of the Month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the Month at even. Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses.”

Yes, God’s plan for us and for all of mankind is pictured in His Holy Days, and the lessons taught by the keeping of God’s Holy days are there for us to heed.

Now at the end of the seven day “Feast of Unleavened Bread” (which is also called the Passover) we can go back to eating “leavened” bread.... But we cannot go back to sinning, brethren.

From Genesis to Revelation, we are told to stop sinning, that the soul that sinneth shall surely die; (once saved always saved is a false belief) the unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Those who continue to practice sin shall not inherit the Kingdom of God. We have to stop sinning and put it out of our lives, just like we put leaven out during the Feast of UB.

Now of and by ourselves, we cannot stop sinning. (Of and by ourselves we can do nothing.) But we are not by ourselves, if the Spirit of God dwelleth in us.

Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread teaches us not only to put sin out of our lives, but it also teaches us to put Christ into our lives; that why we are commanded not only to put out leaven (which represents sin) but also to put in unleavened bread (which represents Christ).

Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and those seven days brethren represent the entire time that we have been allotted to come out of sin (completely out of sin) and to become like Christ, our "Chief Corner Stone" Yeshua, Jesus the Christ of Nazareth.

One place we can see this, is in Leviticus 23:15 (Lets turn there please) it's a very important verse for all of us to comprehend.

Leviticus 23:15 *"And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the Sabbath (High Holy Day Sabbath – First Day of Unleavened Bread) from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be complete."*

Now there are a few things that need to be understood here. One is that the Hebrew word translated "complete" in this verse, usually refers to "Christ" Like it does in Exodus 12:5 *"Your lamb shall be **without blemish**."* And in Numbers 19:2 *"A red heifer **without spot** wherein is **no blemish**."*

But here, in Leviticus 23:15, That word "complete" which means unspotted and unblemished, is referring to us, God's church, and its telling us that we have to be unspotted, unblemished, and pure (how pure) as pure as our Chief Corner Stone, and that we have to be that pure Before day 50, before the "last day" before the day of Pentecost.

Now this is nothing new, it's been in the Fathers plan from the get-go, for His Temple to be perfect and pure, without a flaw. We can see this very clearly in 1 Kings 6:7 (Let's go there please.)

God always gives us the physical (which we understand quite well) so we can better understand the spiritual (which we don't understand all that well.)

1 Kings 6:7 *"And the house (God's house that is, His Spiritual Temple, His church) when it was in building, was built of stone (that's us) made ready (complete – perfect – whole) When? Before it was brought thither (to the other side.)"*

When Solomon's temple was built, all the stones were cut, shaped, and perfected, down at the quarry. Then they were brought thither to be erected.

The stones were cut and shaped so perfectly down at the quarry, that when they were brought over to the other side to be erected, there was no need for any mortar, because the stones fit perfectly into place with one another.

We can read about the “spiritual” side of this in numerous places, like John 14:2 where it says: *“In my Father’s house are many mansions, I go to prepare a place for you.”* (And He’s not just preparing a place for us He’s also preparing us for that place) (Like we read in Romans, concerning the potter and His clay.)

Now God’s spiritual Temple will also be erected “thither” (on the other side) (That hasn’t taken place yet).

It’s important for us to realize that The Kingdom of God that is soon to come to this earth, has not been established yet.

What? That’s right, the Kingdom of God that is soon to come to this earth (and take full charge of this earth) has not yet been established, or set up.

But it’s going to be established soon up in heaven, not down here on this earth, but up in Heaven. And the setting up (or establishing) of that Kingdom, cannot even begin, until after the day of Pentecost.

We can see this very clearly in the book of Daniel. But before we turn there, let us understand something concerning the “wave sheaf” and the “wave loaves” offering.

If you had been there at the Temple on the 16th day of the first month and witnessed with your own eyes the “wave sheaf” offering, you would have seen the priest **raise up** that “sheaf” high over his head as he waved it.

The reason the Priest **raised it up** and waved it high over his head, is because it represented something that would take place up in heaven, at the very Throne of God. (Not down here on this earth.)

The “wave sheaf” represents the “first fruits” that God the Father Himself has placing directly into the hands of Christ, to build, to embolden, to clean up and to scrub down, to purify, to sanctify. Yes, to make ready.

The “Wave-Sheaf” was an omer, a “sheaf” that was pre selected from a field of grain, and put through a rather lengthy process of beating & sifting, until a portion yes, only a portion (an important fact to comprehend) of the grain was purified to a point where all of its lumps & all of its imperfections were removed.

Although one ephah, or ten omers of barley was originally cut down, only ONE omer “qualified” and was “chosen” (if you will) to be offered as the wave sheaf offering.

Now let’s address one more thing here concerning Christ’s resurrection, and Him telling Mary Madeline “Touch me not” early that morning of the 1st day of the week.

We’ve been falsely taught that Mary wasn’t allowed to touch Christ that morning, because He hadn’t yet ascended to the Father’s Throne to have His sacrifice accepted. (This is used to support that Christ was the “wave sheaf” offering.)

But under careful examination of the Scriptures, we come to a different conclusion. For one thing, the Greek word used here doesn’t merely mean “touch” it means: “to attach one self”. Mary was already touching Him, fact is, she was clinging to Him. (Christ was saying “Let me go”

Fact is, many were touching Him and embracing Him, and clinging to Him at that time. Let's look at same account in another Gospel. (Let's go to Mathew 28:9-10)

"Touch me not" was the account in John 20:17 (which is the one normally used to support that Christ couldn't be touched that morning.)

But Mathew 28:9 says this about the same account:

9 *"And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, all hail, and they came and held him by the feet, and worshiped Him. (Held here means = to use strength, seize or retain, hold). (Just like Mary, the others grabbed hold of Him, and held Him.*

10 *Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go and tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me."*

(Consider this) If Christ couldn't be touched by anyone until He ascended to the Father, then what happened here, did the plan of God slip up, and now Christ accidentally touched and defiled or something?

(I think not, our God is a "perfectionist" if Christ wasn't to be touched at that time, He wouldn't have been touched.)

Barnes notes on the Bible says this:

Touch me not ... - This passage has given rise to a variety of interpretations. Jesus required Thomas to touch him John 20:27, and it has been difficult to ascertain why he forbade this now to Mary. The reason why he directed Thomas to do this was, that he doubted whether he had been restored to life.

Mary did not doubt that. The reason why he forbade her to touch him now is to be sought in the circumstances of the case. Mary, filled with joy and gratitude, was about to prostrate herself at his feet, disposed to remain with him, and offer him there her homage as her risen Lord.

This is probably included in the word touch in this place; and the language of Jesus may mean this: "Do not approach me now for this purpose. **Do not delay here. Other opportunities will yet be afforded to see me. I have not yet ascended - that is, I am not about to ascend immediately, but shall remain yet on earth to afford opportunity to my disciples to enjoy my presence.**"

(Now Gills Commentary)

Jesus saith unto her, touch me not,.... Not that his body could not be touched; the prohibition itself shows the contrary; she is forbid because he had an errand to send her on to his disciples, which required haste; no need for her to stay now to show her respect to him, since she would have opportunity enough to do that, before his ascension; **which though it was to be quickly, yet not directly and immediately**; and this seems to be the sense of our Lord's reason:

for I am not yet ascended to my Father; nor shall I immediately go to him; I shall make some stay upon earth; as he did, forty days before his ascension.

(Vincent's word study says this concerning "I ascend" :)

The present tense is used, not in the sense of the near future, but implying that He had already entered upon that new stage of being which the actual ascension formally inaugurated. The resurrection was really the beginning of the ascension.

Brethren, it's June 3rd 2014, a time when the way of truth is evil spoken of. We're living in a world where iniquity abounds, and the love of many has waxed cold. A world where men have become lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful & unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, powerless, fierce or savage, despisers of those who are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure, more than lovers of God, **having a form of Godliness, but denying the power there of.....**

Does any of the above describe any of us brethren? Let's hope not. Because the hour of our salvation draweth near. The man of sin is soon to be revealed, and those who take pleasure in unrighteousness (instead of having a love for Truth, and taking the time to studying the Scriptures and rightly dividing it Words, shall soon be given a strong potion of "*delusion*".

(Daniel 2:44 please)

King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, His head of gold was the first world ruling empire "Babylon" Its evil system of get & take is still in force today, fact is, the magnitude of its devilish ways, has not even reached its paramount yet, but soon will, when its ten toes are given power, for one hour with the Beast. (Like we read in Revelation 17:12)

That Beast is going to stand up for the last time (and more powerful then ever before) And this time, to take control of this entire world.

At the time (the time that is at the door) when this Beast Power will be in total charge of this earth, the God of Heaven will then establish His kingdom, up in Heaven. (Daniel 2:22 please.)

"And in the days of these Kings (the ten kings represented by the ten toes) shall the God of Heaven set up (the Hebrew means establish) a Kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; and the Kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these Kingdoms, and it shall stand forever."

The feast of Pentecost is the feast of the firstfruits, those who will have their part in the first resurrection.

But the events that this feast pictures will be transpiring on a **Global Stage** and during a time that many other events will be taking place **simultaneously** all around this World, events that will be directly affecting every person on the face of the entire earth.

We are approaching the time brethren when all the current forms of Government from around this world, all the Dictatorships and all the different Monarchies and Democracies and all the different Rulers around this world, are going to be replaced, yes, there going to be replaced by another form of Government.

They're going to be replaced by the Government or Kingdom of God.

We are approaching the time when all the false religions teachers and all the deceived and misguided rulers and instructors and administrators from around this World, are going to be replaced by others. Others who will be placed into positions of **leadership** and **ruler ship** all over this Earth, by Jesus Christ Himself.

We are approaching the time when Jesus the Christ, the One who was born to be a King, will be establishing His Kingdom up in heaven with His saints.

Yes, establishing, setting up His Kingdom up in heaven with His saints, His **called**, and **chosen**, and **faithful servants**, and He will be preparing them to return to this Earth with Him, to reign over this World and rule it with Him for a thousand years.

We are living at the very end of this age brethren, the time that the Scriptures refer to and speak about throughout both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, as the "**Latter Days**", sometimes referred to as the "**Latter Times**".

But make no mistake about it; we are living at that time. It's the time that our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ warned us over and over, to **watch** for, and to be **ready** and **prepared** for.

Brethren, **Extraordinary** and **Gigantic** changes are approaching mankind. We are approaching the time that the most **Colossal** events in the history of man, are going to take place. This **evil** and **untoward** World is coming to a close.

This dying, suffering, and polluted evil age that we are presently living in, is coming to an end and about to be replaced by the coming **utopia** of **The Kingdom Of God**.

It's not this world that is coming to an end, but this age. **This evil age** of Satan's is coming to a close. And that is a good thing! All the suffering and heartache that the majority in this world are experiencing (and on a daily basis) will soon end.

The Glorification of the saints of God, and the time that Jesus Christ Himself, will be handing out their rewards, (which will be given to every man according as his works,) is rapidly approaching.

When Pilate asked Jesus If He was a King, He did not deny that He was a king; in fact He told Pilate: "**To this end He was born, To be a king.**"

But He also told Pilate something else concerning **His Kingdom**.

*John:18:36: Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: **but now is my kingdom not from hence.***

That word "hence" means = here, or of this side. The Hebrew equivalent is "hither". The opposite is "thither" or "The other side".

Jesus told Pilate that His Kingdom was **not** of this world. (KOSMOS) and that Greek word includes the entire physical universe. Jesus told Pilate that the Kingdom that He was born to be King over, was **not** of this world.

It's a little hard to establish something when the majority of those who will be placed into positions of leadership and ruler ship, are still asleep in their grave.

Brethren, we are still living in the church age. Jesus is still busy building His church, building His house.

The remainder of the stones (**us**) are still being cut and shaped and fashioned, down at the quarry, down here on this **earth**, "hither" **down here on this side**.

But that time is almost over, that work is almost completed. Are we ready for the return of our Lord & Savior? Will we be hearing Him say: “*Well done my good & faithful servant*”? Or are we worried that He might say “*I never knew you*”?

That choice is ours to make brethren. Are we doers of The Word, or hearers only? Are we amongst the “Wise” virgins? Or are we part of the “Foolish” virgins?

Is our calling on the front burner of our minds???? Or is our calling (our High Calling) Choked, by the way and cares of this world?

Brethren, we are **NOT** living at the time when Jesus began to build His church. We are living at the time when He is going to complete the building of His church. Day

49 of the count represent the completion of the building of the church of God.

The Kingdom of God is soon to come to this earth. Jesus Christ is going to reign on this earth for 1,000 years. We in the church know this quite well because His feast of Tabernacles, which we keep every year, pictures that time.

But Jesus will not be returning to this earth alone, He will be returning to take charge of this earth and to rule it with his saints.

The word “saint” means = Pure, blameless, unspotted. That’s who Jesus will be returning to this earth with, His saints.

Jude the Lords brother spoke in Jude 1:14 of how Enoch the seventh from Adam also knew this when he prophesied that the Lord would be coming with ten thousands of His saints.

Does that include all of us Brethren? Will we be there to meet Christ in the air, and to stand on that “Sea of Glass”?

Let’s go to Revelation 15 for a moment, and see just how very close we are to our change from physical to spirit.... Let us not think that the better resurrection of the firstfruits will not occur till the time that Christ’s feet set upon the Mount of Olives, as it is split in two.

(Our change comes way before that)

Revelation 15: 1 “And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them is filled the wrath of God.

2 *And I say as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and **them that had gotten the victory** (those six words come from only one Greek word – “Conquerer”) **over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.***

That’s His elect up there brethren, the ones who were “victorious” “Conquerors of sin. And there up there during the time that the wrath of God is being poured out... They are “raised up” there” to that “sea of glass” at the last day, the last day of the count, the day of Pentecost.

(Let’s see that, and conclude in John 6:37 – 54)

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

³⁸ For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

³⁹ *And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should **raise it up again** at the last day.*

(We were raised up the first time when we were pre-selected by the Father Himself, and given to Christ to be molded)

⁴⁰ And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up (When) at the last day.

⁴¹ The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.

⁴² And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?

⁴³ Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves.

⁴⁴ No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and **I will raise him up at the last day.**

⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

⁴⁶ Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father.

⁴⁷ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

⁴⁸ I am that bread of life.

⁴⁹ Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

⁵⁰ This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

⁵¹ I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

⁵² The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat?

⁵³ Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

⁵⁴ Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and **I will raise him up at the last day.**