

Preface:

God set in motion days times and seasons for man to rest and worship.

Deut 16:9 **"You shall count seven weeks for yourself;** begin to count the seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the grain.

10 "Then you shall **keep the Feast of Weeks** to the LORD your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the LORD your God blesses you.

11 "You shall **rejoice before the LORD your God, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, the Levite who is within your gates, the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who are among you,** at the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide.

God makes the following statement about the males which we all understand is symbolic of the family or household:

Deut 16:16 "Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed. **These three broad seasons are composed of the Passover plus seven special days, set aside by our creator.**

We count 50 days from the day after the Sabbath during the Days of Unleavened Bread and from the day the wave sheaf offering was lifted up to be accepted by God in the temple. This was an offering of the very first (& the best) of the first harvest in the year, the barley harvest. Once you understand the correct chronology of Christ death and resurrection the meaning embodied in this offering is PERFECT!

Lev 23:11 'He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. Lev 23:15 ¶ 'And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. 16 'Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD. *The resurrected Christ being offered to our Father God was pictured by the first fruits of grain which the Jews believe was probably picked after sunset Saturday night, to prepare in advanced for the special temple ceremony, the next day. It is also believed that the grain offering pictures those called through Jesus Christ and we all understand that male lamb without blemish represented Christ's sacrifice.*

Lev 23:12 'And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the LORD.

13 'Its grain offering shall be two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the LORD, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin.

Jump almost 1500 years further to that famous verse.

John 20:15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

16 Jesus said to her, "**Mary!**" She turned and said to Him, "**Rabboni!**" (which is to say, Teacher).

17 Jesus said to her, "**Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father;** but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"

1Cor 15:20 ¶ But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the **firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep. *I have often wondered why the plural word **firstfruits** was used, however, it is now clear to me as in this ceremony, 1500 years earlier a sheaf of grain was offered not one grain. Ponder how many grains is in a healthy sheaf of barley. Does this hint at the incredible magnitude of that wonderful single offering, made by Christ?*

1Cor 15:23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

We were discussing last Sabbath, how for harmony and unity we utilise the Jewish calendar. One thing we are can be sure of, the first Christian believers new exactly what day Pentecost was.

It makes me a little sad that the only Biblical Holy day acknowledged by the mainstream Christian church is this day, whereas most other Christian celebrations are man made and have very dubious and mostly pagan origins.

AIM:

As I mentioned earlier in the year and for the people who believe that the Holy Days were not observed in New Testament times, the apostles used them to mark the seasons as our secular society does with Christmas and Easter etc. There is not one thread of evidence in the entire New Testament that the Apostles questioned worship on the Holy Days. Compare this to the rites, ceremonies and sacrifices that are clearly superseded and replaced by Christ. Read all of Hebrews 9:

Heb 9:1 ¶ Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary.

Heb 9:8 ¶ the **Holy Spirit indicating** this, that the **way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing.**

9 It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience--

10 concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation. *There is no mention of the Holy Days or Commandments in this chapter.*

11 But **Christ came as High Priest** of the good things to come, with the **greater and more perfect tabernacle** not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

Heb 9:28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. (NKJV)

Heb 10:9 then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." **He takes away the first that He may establish the second.**

10 By that will we have been **sanctified** through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same **sacrifices, which can never take away sins.**

12 But this Man, after **He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever**, sat down at the right hand of God,

Paul was keeping the Holy Days

Acts 20:16 For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for **he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem**, if possible, **on the Day of Pentecost**.

1Cor 16:8 But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost.

BODY:

What is so special about this day of Pentecost?

It was essential that Christ depart and return to the Father.

John 14:16 "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever--

17 "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

18 ¶ "I will **not leave you orphans**; I will come to you.

John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

27 "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 16:7 ¶ "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go **away, the Helper will not come to you**; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

After His resurrection, Christ spent 40 days teaching, instructing and working miracles, leaving indelible and irrefutable proof of His life, death and resurrection. Remember this was a very frantic, busy time as people from all nations had travelled to Jerusalem to keep the Passover-Days of Unleavened Bread season which led up to Pentecost in 50 days.

1Cor 15:6 After that He was seen **by over five hundred brethren at once**, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.

7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. * *Paul saw Jesus in vision as Christ taught him.*

NB. Imagine over 500 witnesses testifying in a court case and most having seen the crucifixion of Christ and His subsequent death and now see Him alive, eternally and taken up to the Father.

Acts 1:3 to whom He also **presented Himself alive** after His suffering **by many infallible proofs**, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

4 And being assembled together with them, **He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem**, but to **wait for the Promise of the Father**, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;

5 "for John truly baptized with water, but **you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now."

6 ¶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ** in hindsight we realise that Christ did not come to restore the kingdom of Israel at least not yet.*

7 And He said to them, "**It is not for you to know times or seasons** which the Father has put in His own authority.

8 "But **you shall receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, **He was taken up**, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ** Christ immediately sent angels to encourage them.*

10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,

11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

As Cleopas and wife or friend were travelling 7 miles from Jerusalem to a village called Emmaus this remarkable statement was made by Christ, which we read on the last Sabbath:

Luke 24:45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

46 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,

47 "and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 "And you are witnesses of these things.

49 "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

50 ¶ And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them.

51 Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that **He was parted from them and carried up into heaven.**

52 And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem **with great joy,**

53 and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen. (NKJV)

Christ Spoke of Living Waters. How did the Samaritan Woman Get Involved?

John 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, "**If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.**"

11 The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water?

12 "Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"

13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again,

14 "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

19 The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.

20 "Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship."

21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.

22 "You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.

23 "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

25 The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things."

26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

Once again, at the end of the Festival of Tabernacles on the Last Great Day of The Feast:

John 7:37 ¶ On the **last day, that great day of the feast**, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "**If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.**

38 "He **who believes in Me**, as the Scripture has said, **out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.**"

39 But this **He spoke concerning the Spirit**, whom those believing in Him would receive; for **the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.**

The Dramatic Events Day of Pentecost:

Fifty-Three days before Peter stole away from the limelight and denied Christ three times. He would never do that again and died a martyr. Peter preached a hard-hitting confronting sermon laying the blame on the people and elders. What was the special ingredient Peter now possessed?

Acts 2:1 ¶ When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 ¶ And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.

6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.

7 Then they were all amazed and marvelled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?"

8 "And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?"

9 "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

10 "Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,

11 "Cretans and Arabs--**we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.**"

12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

13 Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

14 ¶ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.

15 "For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

16 "But this is what **was spoken by the prophet Joel:**

17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.

18 And on My menservants and on My maid servants **I will pour out My Spirit in those days;** And they shall prophesy.

19 I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. ***Peter then espouses end time prophecies!**

20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

21 And it shall come to pass That *whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.*'

POWER

22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know--

23 "Him, being delivered by the **determined purpose and foreknowledge of God**, you **have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;**

24 "whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because **it was not possible that He should be held by it.**

25 "For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the LORD always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.

26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope.

27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'

29 "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

30 "Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, *** Line of David!**

31 "he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.

32 "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.

33 "Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and **having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.**

Acts 2:34 "**For David did not ascend into the heavens**, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, ***Note that David waits in the grave, along with the remainder of humanity, for the resurrection.**

35 Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'"

36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that **God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.**"

37 ¶ Now when they heard this, they **were cut to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

Peter and the other Apostles did not cease evangelising and went out with incredible boldness & power.

Acts 5:28 saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!"

29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "**We ought to obey God rather than men.**

30 "**The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.**

31 "Him **God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Saviour**, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

32 "And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him." * Note that there is a condition to receive the Holy Spirit.

33 When they heard this, **they were furious and plotted to kill them.**

Healing of the lame man

Acts 3:12 ¶ So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?"

13 "The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified **His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate**, when he was determined to let Him go.

14 "But **you denied the Holy One and the Just**, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,

15 "and **killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead**, of which we are witnesses.

16 "And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

17 "Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers.

18 "But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

19 "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, *Prophecy of the return of Christ.

20 "and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,

21 "whom heaven must receive until the **times of restoration of all things**, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

*God has and is using Satan's influence to teach mankind and earlier in our history, God used the temple (sacrifices & ordinances) system as a schoolmaster. He has worked with individuals (starting with Adam & Eve), families and nations. What has changed so dramatically! **God is now transforming us from the inside out.***

1Cor 10:1 ¶ Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,
2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,
3 all **ate the same spiritual food,**
4 and **all drank the same spiritual drink.** For they drank of **that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.**
5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.
6 ¶ Now these things became our examples, to the intent **that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.**

1Co 10:7 And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play."
8 Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell;
9 **nor let us tempt Christ,** as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents;
10 nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.
11 **Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.**
12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.
13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but **God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.**

Christ's revealed His real purpose

Almost 1,500 years after the Wave Sheaf offering Jesus Christ explained His real purpose to His followers.
John 12:23-24 But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.

24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.**

25 "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

26 "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

27 ¶ "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose, I came to this hour.

28 "Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again."

29 Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him."

30 Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake.

31 "Now is the judgment of this world; **now the ruler of this world will be cast out.**

This simple imagery of grain falling or being sown shows us how Jesus Christ's sacrifice is for the salvation of all mankind: Only if Jesus Christ gave His own life could sons and daughters of God be added to God's family.

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

29 ¶ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

31 ¶ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

10 ¶ For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, **in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.**

Jesus Christ the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep

This first sheaf of grain was called the "firstfruits" (Leviticus 23:10). It was the firstfruits of the barley harvest, the first part of the grain harvest. Thousands of years later, we find the same term used again in the Bible-describing Jesus Christ!

1Cor 15:20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the *firstfruits* of those who have fallen asleep.

Colossians 1:15-18.

in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

18 And He is the head of the body, the church, **who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead**, that in all things He may have the pre-eminence. **Once again, the rest of humanity wait for the glorious resurrection and Christ has the pre-eminence and has gone on before us.*

Col 1:19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,

20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

This understanding is tied in with the symbolism of the two harvests mentioned earlier and the Feast of Pentecost, observed at the conclusion of 50 days that began with the day of the wave-sheaf offering. On Pentecost, two loaves were offered from the firstfruits of the wheat harvest, which followed several weeks after the barley harvest. It is fascinating that the Law was given on Pentecost, at Sinai, and the Holy Spirit was also given on Pentecost, thousands of years later.

NB Remember that the large harvest is at Tabernacles which represents the salvation of entire humankind.

2Co 1:21 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God;
22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the **earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.**

Eph 1:12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were **sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,**

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

1John 3:1 ¶ Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that **we should be called children of God!** Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for **we shall see Him as He is.**

2Pet 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to **make your call and election sure,** for if you do these things you will never stumble;

11 for so an **entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.**

God looks into our hearts and sees His mighty spirit transforming our lives into the image of His Son Jesus Christ and He makes a profound statement!

1Pet 2:9 But you are a **chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people,** that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light;

10 who once were not a people **but are now the people of God,** who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

What a day to celebrate! Let us REJOICE.