

YAIY NEWS



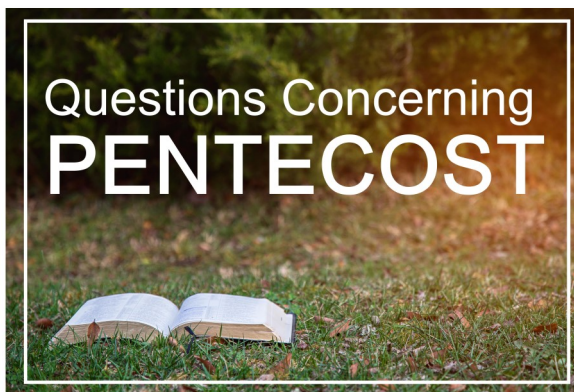
Questions Concerning Pentecost

Pentecost (a.k.a., Feast of Weeks, Firstfruits, *Shavuoth*) this year is May 23rd. Would you have the answers to people's questions concerning Pentecost? Maybe they know you're attending this year's Sojourning Feast (Exod. 23:14-17; Deut. 16:16) and they want to know more? Maybe they have questions about when it should be kept or even why it is being kept today. Some might question why some keep Pentecost during the weekday, while they know we're keeping it on Sunday. Can we answer them from Scripture why that is? Can we answer their other questions from the same Biblical source? The answer is, "Yes, we can."

How does one count to Pentecost?

Leviticus 23:15-16 (NASB used throughout), *You shall also count for yourselves from the day after the sabbath, from the day when you brought in the sheaf of the wave offering; there shall be seven complete sabbaths. You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to Yahweh.*

Also known as "counting the *omer*" in many synagogues today, the Scriptural command is to count out to 50 days from the day after the weekly Sabbath within the seven Days of Unleavened Bread. Some question the 14th or 15th for Passover, but Passover is the 14th, while the 15th through the 21st are the seven days of Unleavened Bread (Exod. 12:18-19; Num. 28:17).

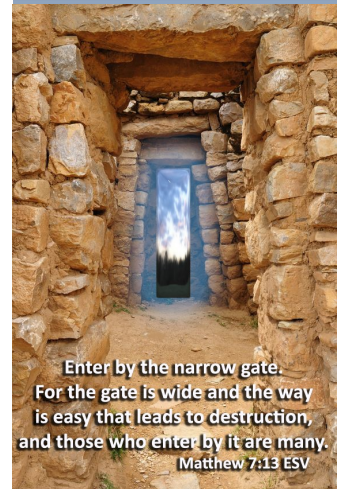


Yahweh makes the count of 50 for Pentecost (Greek, meaning fifty) clear by stating, "seven complete sabbaths" (7x7) and "the day after the seventh sabbath" (+1) = 50. We actually see a similar pattern in the Sabbaticals and Jubilee years.

Arthur Spier's *The Comprehensive Hebrew Calendar* gives dates out to 2100, but according to this calendar, with postponements by Hillel II, Pentecost occurs within the middle of the week certain years. Yahweh's Word, however, has Pentecost always falling on the 1st day of the week, after seven complete weekly Sabbaths.

This is one of the major problems for a few that are observing a weekly count from each new moon, claiming the new moon is the "beginning of weeks." A complete week for them can be 2 or 3 days in length as it falls to-

Now all has been heard;
here is the conclusion
of the matter:
Fear Elohim and keep His
Commandments, for this is
the duty of all mankind.
Ecclesiastes 12:13 NIV



Enter by the narrow gate.
For the gate is wide and the way
is easy that leads to destruction,
and those who enter by it are many.
Matthew 7:13 ESV

In This Issue

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Questions Concerning ... | 1 |
| Timeline for Israel's 430 ... | 3 |
| Salvation Found | 4 |
| Don't Dig the Hole Deeper | 4 |

Questions Concerning Pentecost...,cont.

ward the end of the month, so counting to 50 while maintaining the 7-day complete weeks is an impossibility.

They'll end up with a number that is short of the commanded 50-day count. If they try to claim 7 complete (as in 7 day) weeks along with one week that is only a couple days, then they'll end up not only over the 50-day count, they'll also be in it for a total of 8 of their weeks, which is something Yahweh did NOT command.

What does the Apostle Paul say about Pentecost?

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 in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.*

It seems quite possible that he was teaching about this day to those in Asia. His mind was certainly thinking about this Holy Day (High Sabbath, one of seven of the annual High Sabbaths).

He may have faced some of the questions we do today, from those that are just starting to learn about this Appointed Time.

At another time he referred to Pentecost, indicating that he would remain in Ephesus until Pentecost (1 Corinthians 16:8, *But I will remain in Ephesus until Pentecost.*) As far as we can tell, two different years are being referred to between Acts 20:16 and 2 Cor 16:8. The first being after Acts chapter 2 by at least one year.

Bible maps portray Paul having made three journeys covering 3,000 miles through what is present day Syria, Turkey and Greece.

What do the two loaves of Leviticus 23:17 represent?

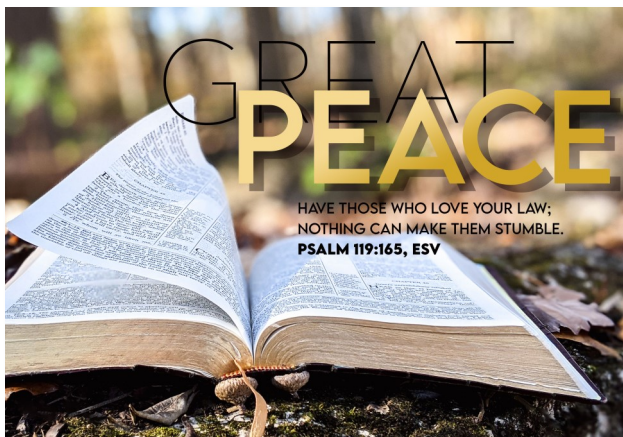
Leviticus 23:17, *You shall bring in from your dwelling places two loaves of bread for a wave offering, made of two-tenths of an ephah; they shall be of a fine flour, baked with leaven as first fruits to Yahweh.*

We find reference in the New Testament that there will be Firstfruits, speaking of the Saints, who overcome the world. We also find that we're told to be perfect, but who of us would claim that we are? Obviously, we are in a process of overcoming and growing. We are to strive for perfection. Yet, those in Messiah, are currently justified and are in the process of being perfected.

Matthew 16:6-12 gives a definition of leaven as imperfect teachings/doctrines. Do all the Assemblies believe and teach the same? Not exactly. So, we are told, in 2 Peter 3:18, *but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Master and Savior Yahshua Messiah. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

We are imperfect in our understanding, but we strive to grow in grace and the "true" knowledge. We are told, *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of Elohim is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.* Romans 12:2.

The renewing of the mind is done through study of the Bible, and by Yahweh's Spirit, which helps us to be conformed to the Word of Yahweh.



You've heard of the "Garbage in and garbage out" principle, right? Whatever you fill your mind and heart with is what you will be acting out. This is one reason we're told, "You'll know them by their fruits," which more easily identifies false teachers.

Titus 3:5 *He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.*

We become purified, cleansed, and are given a clean Spirit to help us think and act properly. We are told in 1 Corinthians 5:7-8, *Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened.*

For Messiah our Passover also has been sacrificed.

Since we are clear that Yahweh is not finished with Israel, it may be that the two loaves are representative of the two houses of Israel which are being saved out of the world. We know that prophecy in Ezekiel 37:19 tells us that the twelve tribes will be gathered together: *Say to them, "Thus says Yahweh Elohim, 'Behold, I will*

Questions Concerning Pentecost...cont.

take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will put them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand.” While we leave the possibilities open, we will no doubt see more clearly as the day approaches.

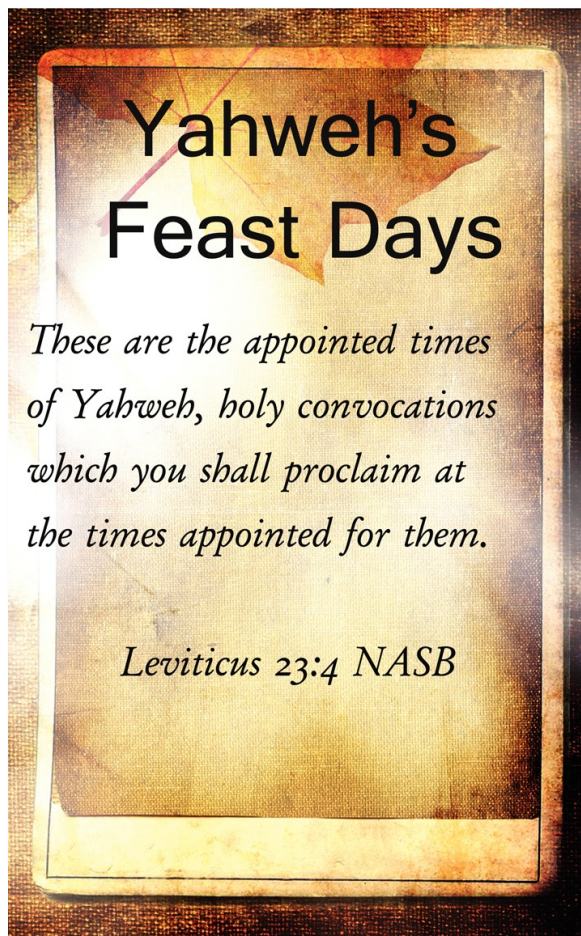
In Conclusion

Do we see the connection between the Old Testament and the New? Do we see who we are in Messiah? Can we really appreciate what Yahweh has done, is doing, and will do? Pentecost is a time of rejoicing as Yahweh's people have received not only of Yahweh's inspired Word (His Law), but also His Spirit.

We have been brought into the family of Yahweh, through the Messiah (an Israelite). Pentecost opens the doors and allows us to rejoice for all the good that Yahweh has for us.

His Spirit is given to remain with us to help us keep His ways, to walk on His paths, and to keep the laws He has set forth on this Holy Day of *Shavuoth*. It allows us to look forward to a future with Yahweh and Yahshua in eternity.

Elder David Brett



Timeline for Israel's 430-Year Sojourning

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| Abram, 70, leaves Ur, dwells in Haran 5 years Gen. 11:31 | Abram, 100 Isaac born 30 years out from Ur Gen. 15:13, 21:5 | Isaac, 60, at Jacob's birth, Abraham, 160 Isaac, 60 Jacob born 90 years out from Ur Gen. 25:26 | Abraham, 175, dies 105 years after departing Ur Isaac, 75 Jacob, 15 105 years out from Ur Gen. 25:7-8 | Isaac, 139 Jacob, 79, dispatched to Laban - there, 20 years 169 years out from Ur Gen. 28:2 | Isaac, 153 Jacob, 93 Joseph born 183 years out from Ur Gen. 30:22 | Isaac, 170 Jacob, 110 Joseph, 17, sold to Ishmaelites 200 years out from Ur Gen. 37:2,27-28 |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|

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|---|--|---|---|
| Isaac, 180, dies Jacob, 120 Joseph, 27 210 years out from Ur Gen. 35:28-29 | Joseph, 30 presented to Pharaoh Jacob, 123 7 years of famine begins 213 years out from Ur Gen. 41:14-46 | Joseph, 37 Jacob 130 presented to Pharaoh Israel relocates from Canaan to Egypt - 220 years out from Ur Gen. 47:6-10 | Joseph, 110, dies 293 years out from Ur Gen. 50:26 |
|---|--|---|---|

All his brethren, and all that generation die. Israel resides in Goshen for 210 years, "were fruitful, and and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them" (Exod. 1:7)



Salvation Found

I Found Salvation in a Dark Place

Transgressed, stressed, depressed
Humbled by disgrace, embarrassed
Tired and restless
Hearing voices bound for death and destruction,
Seeking every cell door,
Victims, unfavorably weighed in the balance by Yah,
Fourteen days and nights, the smell of excrement
The body, in weakness, fear, loss of appetite
Demons speaking through flesh,
Proud, promoting the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah
The sound of rattling keys, clanging of iron doors
Even the quiet, unsettling, expecting more
Repentance, out of place
Like a deer in a lion's den
Hearing, seeing spiritual wickedness
I cried to Yah, He heard my cry
And showed me, Hell on Literal Earth
And found Salvation in a Dark, Dark Place

Brother Ryan C. Irving, Sr.

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Don't Dig The Hole Deeper

“You dug yourself into this hole. If you blame anybody but yourself, you’ll never climb out of it,”

The Virginian

Such is the dilemma of very many, who insist upon learning from ‘the school of hard knocks’ – though seldom, do they ever graduate. Yeah, they’ll insist upon having had the experience of making their own mistakes, over giving heed to counsel from them who’ve been there, done that, stayed longer than they’d intended and paid more than what they’d wanted!

Sure, it had been better had they learned that,

- in the multitude of counselors there is safety (Prov. 11:14);
- without counsel, purposes are disappointed; with counsel they are established (Prov. 15:22, 11:14);
- he that hearkens to counsel is wise (Prov. 12:15), and;
- men are set under tutors and governors, until the time appointed for their release (Gal. 4:2).

Nevertheless, will very many – even with the best of counsel – still, make excuse their ‘misfortune’ is attributable to another ... even to their counselors who are more frustrated than they, in having their advice set at nought (Prov. 1:25) but whom the other will assert, stood by, letting them fail without so much an offer to help extricate them from the hole they’d dug and into which they’ve fallen.

Well, in the Spiritual economies, a man is permitted to reap what he’s sown (Gal. 6:7-8) perchance he’ll acknowledge his error, and be helped to recover from what had so easily beset him.

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