

**HOPE OF
ISRAEL
MINISTRIES**

BIBLE

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE



Mount Sinai in Midian -- Modern-Day Saudi Arabia

Day of Pentecost -- The Church in YEHOVAH's Master Plan

Lesson 14

An Open Letter from the Staff...

Did you know that unless the Messiah's disciples had been KEEPING the Day of Pentecost THEY WOULDN'T HAVE RECEIVED YEHOVAH GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT?

Without YEHOVAH's spirit NO ONE could ever inherit eternal life! Without YEHOVAH God's spirit you can't even WORSHIP YEHOVAH as you should! John said, "God is a spirit: and they that worship Him MUST WORSHIP HIM IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH!" (John 4:24.)

Absolutely no one can worship YEHOVAH God in spirit if he has not the spirit of YEHOVAH God!

YEHOVAH's holy spirit came to the disciples for the FIRST TIME on the Day of Pentecost, 31 A.D. It changed their lives. IT CAN CHANGE YOURS!

You need to thoroughly understand the importance of the Day of Pentecost -- the day on which Yeshua the Messiah founded the New Testament Church or *Ekklesia*. Pentecost pictures the little-understood THIRD VITAL STEP in YEHOVAH God's Master Plan!

Instructions regarding this Feast are given in **Leviticus 23:15-16**, which says: "And ye shall count unto you from the MORROW AFTER THE SABBATH, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave-offering; SEVEN SABBATHS shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number FIFTY DAYS; and ye shall offer a new meat-offering unto the LORD."

The early disciples in Acts were obediently keeping this special day. It was on this very day of Pentecost in **Acts 2** that the holy spirit was sent: "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place" (**verse 1**). The disciples were all gathered in Jerusalem, awaiting the promise of YEHOVAH, when they were all endued with power from on High (**Acts 2:2-21**). This day of Pentecost was the BIRTH or beginning of the New Testament *Ekklesia* -- the CALLED-OUT ONES.



HOPE OF ISRAEL MINISTRIES BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE LESSON 14

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About Our Cover...

Before Mount Sinai in Midian over 3 million Israelites gathered to receive the Words of YEHOVAH God -- the Ten Commandments -- on the Day of Pentecost or Firstfruits. Today YEHOVAH promises to write His Laws in the hearts and minds of those who OBEY Him by His holy spirit.

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Day of Pentecost -- The Church in YEHOVAH's Master Plan

Lesson 14

Steps in YEHOVAH's Plan Reviewed

YEHOVAH God's seven annual festivals outline His Master Plan. Because the world rejects these Holy Days, it has lost the KNOWLEDGE of the PURPOSE for human life. These holy periods of time are not "Jewish" -- they belong to ALL mankind!

The PASSOVER is to remind us that YESHUA THE MESSIAH paid a tremendous price for our sins. He offered something more valuable than anything we could offer -- the sacrifice of HIS PERFECT HUMAN LIFE!

Because we broke YEHOVAH's law and earned the wages of sin, which is death (**Romans 6:23**), Yeshua had to DIE IN OUR STEAD. We need the cleansing blood of the Messiah to pay for our sins. The Passover was given to us as an ANNUAL MEMORIAL SO WE WOULD NEVER FORGET IT. The Passover service or Seder is the FIRST STEP in YEHOVAH God's Master Plan of salvation!

Next, YEHOVAH reminds us to QUIT SINNING! The DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD picture putting the LEAVEN OF SIN (**I Corinthians 5:7-8**) out of our lives, and beginning to live in complete submission and obedience to YEHOVAH's laws. When we begin to obey YEHOVAH God and totally surrender to Him, we take the SECOND STEP in YEHOVAH's plan. But that is not enough! We need the holy spirit of YEHOVAH God if we are to really obey YEHOVAH and inherit eternal life.

This THIRD STEP in YEHOVAH's plan is pictured for us by the DAY OF PENTECOST, or Feast of Firstfruits.

Let's begin LESSON 14...

The Messiah Promised Spiritual Help

1. Did Yeshua the Messiah promise spiritual help to his disciples? **John 14:16**. What was the "Comforter" that the Messiah promised? **Verse 26**. What else is the holy spirit called besides "Comforter"? **Verse 17**. Was the holy spirit dwelling WITH the disciples in the person of the Messiah? **Same verse**. But had the disciples received the holy spirit dwelling WITHIN them as yet? **Same verse**.

COMMENT: The holy spirit had been WITH the disciples in the person of the Messiah. But now he was to ascend into Heaven. He promised to send the holy spirit to be WITHIN them as it had been in Him! The word, "comforter" is translated from the Greek word, "parakletos" which means, "one who goes alongside to help."

2. Was Yeshua's promise to send the holy spirit repeated AFTER he had been crucified and resurrected from the dead? **Acts 1:8-9**.

3. Did the Messiah tell the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received YEHOVAH's spirit? **Luke 24:49**.

Unleavened Matzos represent putting sin out of our lives as well as the brutal treatment the Messiah received.



COMMENT: The word, “tarry” does not refer to an ecstatic, emotional, pseudo-religious meeting held in Jerusalem as some deluded people believe, but merely means “wait.” It is an archaic English word which was used in 1611, when the King James Bible was translated, to mean “wait.”

4. When did the disciples actually receive the gift of YEHOVAH’s holy spirit? **Acts 2:1-4**. On what DAY did the holy spirit come? **Same verses**.

5. Was there a meeting going on in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost? **Acts 2:5-13**. Who were these people who had gathered in Jerusalem from all over the Roman Empire? **Same verses**, especially **verse 5**.

COMMENT: These Judeans were called “devout” men because although they were not yet disciples of the Messiah, they lived according to YEHOVAH’s laws revealed in the Old Testament. Remember, at this time the only Bible people had was what we call the Old Testament. The New Testament had not as yet been written.



Harvest sheaves in a field. The spring barley harvest began with the symbolic wave-sheaf offering.

6. Why were the Messiah’s disciples gathered together with “devout” Judeans from all over the Roman Empire? Had everyone gathered together at a specific time and in a specific place for the Day of Pentecost? What was significant about the Day of Pentecost? **Acts 2:1**.

COMMENT: The Day of Pentecost was observed LONG BEFORE the holy spirit came

in A.D. 31 as recorded in the Book of Acts!

Pentecost was called the “Feast of Firstfruits” in the Old Testament and was observed by “devout” people (including the Messiah’s disciples) for many generations (**Leviticus 23:15-21**).

The Messiah’s disciples waited in Jerusalem as Yeshua had commanded until the Feast of Pentecost or Firstfruits when they were all together in one place on one of YEHOVAH God’s ANNUAL HOLY DAYS. It was then that Yeshua the Messiah sent the holy spirit and began the New Testament Church or *Ekklesia*!

If the Messiah’s disciples had not obeyed him -- if they had not been KEEPING THE DAY OF PENTECOST, or Firstfruits -- they WOULD NOT HAVE RECEIVED YEHOVAH’S HOLY SPIRIT! YEHOVAH God gives His spirit only to those who OBEY HIM! (**Acts 5:32**.)

The 144,000 -- the Wave Sheaf

YEHOVAH God Almighty knows man is best reminded by what he repeats YEAR AFTER YEAR! YEHOVAH established His Holy Days -- memorials of the PLAN of YEHOVAH God -- in conjunction with the two ANNUAL HARVESTS. YEHOVAH uses the physical harvest seasons as a pattern of the two SPIRITUAL HARVESTS.

In Palestine there are two annual harvest seasons. The first one is a small spring harvest following the winter rains. It begins on the day of the Wave-Sheaf offering, and ends at the Day of Pentecost. In the late summer and early autumn the second harvest season occurred. It followed the late spring or latter rains in Palestine. It ended with the Feast of INGATHERING, which is called in your Bible THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES. This fall harvest is the much greater harvest. You will learn all about it in future lessons of this Correspondence Course.

The Day of Pentecost pictures the VERY

SMALL early harvest.

The Days of Unleavened Bread occur about THE BEGINNING OF THE SMALL SPRING HARVEST SEASON (**Leviticus 23:10-11**). The shoots of grain, planted earlier, have grown to maturity. They are now fruit-bearing stalks -- ready to be harvested.

This first harvest began in the following manner: On the morning of the 16th of Nisan, following the weekly Sabbath and the first day of Unleavened Bread (which ALWAYS fell on the same day), a small handful of newly sickled stems and heads of barley was brought to the priest to be accepted by YEHOVAH God. This was called the "Wave-Sheaf Offering," or the "first of the firstfruits."



The Messiah's tomb beneath Pater Noster Church on the Mount of Olives. After the Messiah's resurrection he ascended into heaven to "wave" the wave sheaf of the firstfruits of YEHOVAH's spiritual harvest before YEHOVAH's throne.

1. Why did YEHOVAH God instruct the Israelites to cut a small handful of grain and wave it to be accepted by Him during the Days of Unleavened Bread? **Leviticus 23:10**. What does the Wave Sheaf symbolize? **I Corinthians 15:20-23** and **Revelation 14:4**. Who was the FIRST of the firstfruits of YEHOVAH's spiritual harvest? **I Corinthians 15:20**.

COMMENT: There are many who ASSUME that Yeshua the Messiah was the fulfillment of the "wave sheaf offering" of **Leviticus 23**. They ASSUME that he was the "firstfruits" from the dead, and therefore comparable to the "firstfruits" of the harvest.

However, the fact is that the LITERAL translation of I Corinthians 15:20 is, "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the FIRST FRUIT [singular noun -- not plural!] of them that slept." The Messiah is ONE PERSON -- not two, three, four, 500, 1,000, or 3,000, or 100,000 -- just ONE person!

To fully understand the "wave sheaf" offering we need to be aware that the original Hebrew word translated "sheaf" is OMER. This

word means "a heap" -- or "sheaf" -- a dry measure. A sheaf of barley consists of 5.1 pints of flour after it is ground down. How many individual "grains" of barley would that be? There are multiple thousands of barley grains in one omer. The "OMER" then was not one grain, or the grain from one plant, but many barley plants -- MANY grains!

2. Read **Amos 9:9**. What does a "grain" symbolize?

COMMENT: The "grain" represents ISRAEL! This "omer" represents the firstfruits (PLURAL) of ISRAEL -- that is, the "Israel of God" (**Galatians 6:16**) -- the 144,000 of **Revelation 14:4**. For more information send for our article, *The SECRET of the "Wave Sheaf."*

3. After the Messiah was crucified, buried and resurrected, did HE need to be ACCEPTED as the firstfruits of the spiritual harvest? **John 20:17**. Were his disciples permitted to touch him? **Same verse**.

COMMENT: Once again, many people ASSUME that the Messiah had to ascend to heaven immediately after his resurrection to be accepted by YEHOVAH God. The Messiah's sacrifice for our sins was accepted

IMMEDIATELY upon his death -- NOT three days later! The awesome events that occurred at his death -- the splitting of the Temple curtain, the rising of many dead saints from their graves (Matthew 27:50-54) -- indicate that the Messiah's greatest sacrifice of all time was accepted IMMEDIATELY when he died!

Many ASSUME that the reason the risen Messiah told Mary in **John 20:17** not to touch him was because he had not yet ascended to YEHOVAH God the Father to be "accepted" of Him as our "wave sheaf offering." This simply is NOT true!

4. What does **Hebrews 8:1** say the Messiah is?

COMMENT: The above verse in Hebrews shows that Yeshua the Messiah is OUR High Priest. As such, it was his duty to wave the sheaf (or omer) before YEHOVAH's throne in heaven so that the first-century Christians -- the 144,000 -- would be ACCEPTED by YEHOVAH God.

5. Before the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies (symbolic of YEHOVAH's heavenly throne) he had to do what? **Exodus 29:4, Exodus 30:17-21** and **Leviticus 16:4**.

COMMENT: The High Priest had to WASH himself before entering the Holy of Holies so that he would be RITUALLY CLEAN. This action took place at the entrance of the sanctuary to prepare the priest for entry.

6. Notice **Revelation 21:27**.

COMMENT: The reason for the washing was that it made the High Priest ritually clean before entering into the presence of YEHOVAH God. When Mary met the Messiah in the garden, she was told NOT to touch him because he had NOT YET appeared before YEHOVAH God in heaven -- on the early Christians' behalf -- to have them accepted by YEHOVAH God.

While the Messiah himself was ritually CLEAN at his resurrection, he would have BECOME ritually impure or unclean if Mary had touched him. Mary, as all the others, was still "dead in her sins" and had not yet received

the holy spirit. ANY human being touching the Messiah at that time would have made him, as High Priest, ritually "unclean" to appear before YEHOVAH God in heaven.

7. After the omer, representing the first-century Christians or the 144,000, was ACCEPTED by YEHOVAH God and the Messiah had returned to earth, could his disciples THEN touch him? Compare **Matthew 28:9** with **John 20:-28**.

8. What day was it when Mary saw the Messiah in the garden? **John 20:19**.

9. What day was this following? **John 19:31**.

COMMENT: This was the day following the weekly Sabbath AND the first day of Unleavened Bread -- BOTH days fell on Nisan 15. When Mary saw the Messiah in the garden, it was the VERY SAME DAY THAT THE WAVE SHEAF WAS OFFERED! It was on this very day that Yeshua the Messiah, the FIRST of the firstfruits of YEHOVAH's spiritual harvest, was IMMEDIATELY accepted at his resurrection and the first-century Christians (the 144,000) were accepted as the Wave Sheaf Offering in heaven!

10. After the Messiah completed his task in heaven and returned to earth, what day was it when the disciples were permitted to touch him? **John 20:19**. Clearly, the Messiah went to heaven as the FIRST RESURRECTED Son of YEHOVAH God and High Priest of those to follow -- the first harvested product of YEHOVAH's Master Plan -- and returned to his disciples ALL IN THE SAME DAY!

Pentecost in the New Testament

Once the Wave Sheaf was offered, the spring harvest began. The spring harvest ended with the annual Sabbath of the Feast of Firstfruits, when all the people gathered to give thanks for the produce YEHOVAH God had given them. Another name for the Feast of Firstfruits was the Feast of Weeks (**Deuteronomy 16:9-12**). Among Greek-

speaking peoples it was called "Pentecost."

The word "pentecost" refers specifically to counting the fifty days that elapsed from the day of the Wave-Sheaf Offering, up to and including the Feast of Firstfruits or Weeks. (Leviticus 23:15-16.)

1. How long is the Feast of Firstfruits -- Pentecost -- to continue to be KEPT among YEHOVAH's people? **Leviticus 23:14, 21.**

2. Should YEHOVAH's people still be KEEPING PENTECOST TODAY? **Same verses.**

3. Did the Messiah's disciples know they must appear before YEHOVAH God on the Day of Firstfruits -- Pentecost? **Acts 2:1-4.** Did they think that YEHOVAH's ANNUAL HOLY DAYS WERE DONE AWAY BY THE DEATH OF YESHUA THE MESSIAH? **Same verses.**

4. Did the apostles continue to KEEP Pentecost after the crucifixion? **Acts 20:16** and **I Corinthians 16:8.**

COMMENT: The last part of **Acts 20:16** can be translated, "...if it were possible for him TO CELEBRATE at Jerusalem, the Day of Pentecost." Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, was HURRYING to KEEP PENTECOST at Jerusalem, 25 years after the Messiah's crucifixion and ascension into heaven!

5. By what other name does the Old Testament refer to the Feast of Firstfruits (Pentecost)? **Deuteronomy 16:9-12.**

6. What do **Acts 13:14** and **16:13** tell us?

COMMENT: In **Acts 13:14**, the "Sabbath day Paul kept in Antioch of Pisidia should properly be translated, "day of WEEKS"!

In **Acts 16:13**, the Sabbath meeting held by the river in Macedonia was actually the ANNUAL SABBATH OF PENTECOST! Again, the word, "Sabbath" should be translated "WEEKS" from the Greek word, "sabbaton," which means either "sabbaths" or "weeks."

The apostle Paul KEPT PENTECOST, or the Feast of Weeks, with Gentile (Israelite) Christians in Asia Minor and Northern Greece years after YEHOVAH God sent His holy spirit

to the New Testament Church! Until 300 years after the death of Yeshua the Messiah the Day of Pentecost was commonly called the Day of Firstfruits.

Counting Fifty Days

What day of the week does the Day of Pentecost fall on? Let's be sure we understand how Pentecost was to be counted.

1. What day was it that Israel began their early spring harvest? **Leviticus 23:10-11, 14.**

COMMENT: The Wave-Sheaf Offering was to be made by the Levitical Priesthood. Since there is no Levitical Priesthood today (it has been replaced by the Melchisedec Priesthood of Yeshua the Messiah -- **Hebrews 7:12, 17**) this ritual is not continued today.

2. What day of the week was the Wave Sheaf offered? **Leviticus 23:11.**

COMMENT: The day of the Wave-Sheaf Offering -- the day AFTER the weekly Sabbath AND the first day of Unleavened Bread (Nisan 15) -- is the day after the Sabbath, that is, the First Day of the Week. It should be noted here that the planetary names for the week -- as we use today -- were NOT used by the Old Testament Judeans or by the early New Testament Judeans. They simply numbered the days of the week -- 1st day, 2nd day, 3rd day, etc.

The Sabbath mentioned in this verse does refer to BOTH the FIRST annual Sabbath of the Days of Unleavened Bread AND the weekly Sabbath. This is because time was kept according to the LUNAR calendar -- NOT according to the solar calendar we use today! BOTH the weekly Sabbaths AND the annual High Days were calculated according to the MOON'S PHASES.

Since the Biblical weeks are LUNAR in nature, Pentecost can fall on different DAYS during the planetary week we observe today. It will, however, ALWAYS FALL ON THE SAME DAY OF THE LUNAR MONTH -- as do the Feast Days of YEHOVAH God!

3. How many days were the Levites to

count? **Leviticus 23:15-16**.

COMMENT: The English translators of the Old Testament outline a method of counting which is, to say the least, a little unclear. Since most people (including the so-called Jews) think the weekly Sabbath falls on what we call Saturday in the pagan solar calendar we keep today, and the festival High days are determined according to the Hebrew lunar month, the confusion becomes even greater! **Leviticus 23:15** tells us to count from the “morrow after the sabbath,” however it doesn’t seem to clearly indicate WHICH sabbath (weekly or High Day) it’s talking about. As a result of NOT understanding YEHOVAH’s TRUE calendar, there has been a controversy among scholars and religious groups as to WHICH “day after the sabbath” to begin the omer count from! This controversy has raged for millennia!

The various theories that have been promulgated include counting from the day after the first day of Unleavened Bread (Nisan 16), counting from the day after the LAST high Sabbath of that festival (Nisan 21), to counting from the day after the weekly Sabbath, based on our solar calendar of today, that supposedly falls sometime within the days of Unleavened Bread. This, of course, can create numerous problems depending on WHEN this solar sabbath ends up falling!

But when we realize that the weekly Sabbaths of YEHOVAH God are determined by the LUNAR calendar just like the Feast days, then the problem is EASILY solved! With YEHOVAH’s calendar the WEEKLY Sabbath ALWAYS falls on the first day of Unleavened Bread -- year in and year out!

The instructions for determining Pentecost are found in **Leviticus 23:15-21**, **Numbers 28:26-31** and **Deuteronomy 16:9-12**. Much of the confusion has been caused by these three passages because people DO NOT understand YEHOVAH’s calendar!

4. Read **Leviticus 23:15-16** again. How many SABBATHS “shall be complete” in the count to Pentecost? How many DAYS shall we

number “unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath”? **Same verse**.

5. Now turn to **Numbers 28:26**. Here you find the expression “after your WEEKS be out.” The Hebrew word here can mean only weeks, not Sabbaths.

6. Read, now, **Deuteronomy 16:9**. How many WEEKS do we number from cutting the Wave Sheaf?

COMMENT: You should now be able to see where all the confusion comes from! We have “Sabbaths,” “days” and “weeks” to determine Pentecost with! But this problem EVAPORATES when we use the CORRECT calendar!

7. On what day was the Feast of Pentecost to be kept? See comment.

COMMENT: YEHOVAH’s church is to count from the day after the weekly Sabbath -- which is also the day after the FIRST DAY of Unleavened Bread -- that is from the first day of the week (Nisan 16).

The simplicity of YEHOVAH’s calendar becomes evident when we realize that the weekly Sabbaths fall in the QUARTERS OF THE MOON. When we follow **Leviticus 23:15** and count SEVEN SABBATHS toward Pentecost, we are actually counting the the fourth Sabbath of the lunar month, from the 29th day through the 30th or 1st day of the next lunar month (depending on the length of the month) as ONE UNIT. Otherwise, we are not counting Sabbaths but only SOLAR DAYS and would, therefore, fall short of the seventh Sabbath commanded in Leviticus.

The ultimate proof of this point -- and perhaps the very KEY -- is found in **verse 16 of Leviticus 23**. Notice how it says, “**even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days**” (Hebrew -- “*yowm*”). There is absolutely NO WAY you could arrive at the MORROW AFTER the seventh Sabbath if you just counted seven times seven and then ADD one to get FIFTY!

To give a clearer understanding, in the course of the Biblical directions you will pass

April 2006						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 Nisan 3
2 Nisan 4	3 Nisan 5	4 Nisan 6	5 Nisan 7	6 Sabbath Nisan 8	7 Nisan 9	8 Nisan 10
9 Nisan 11	10 Nisan 12	11 Nisan 13	12 Nisan 14	13 Sabbath 1st Holy Day UB	14 Waving of Omer Nisan 16	15 Nisan 17
16 Nisan 18	17 Nisan 19	18 Nisan 20	19 2nd Holy Day UB	20 Sabbath Nisan 22	21 Nisan 23	22 Nisan 24
23 Nisan 25	24 Nisan 26	25 Nisan 27	26 Nisan 28	27 Sabbath Nisan 29	28 New Moon Iyar 1	29 Iyar 2
30 Iyar 3						

May 2006						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 Iyar 4	2 Iyar 5	3 Iyar 6	4 Iyar 7	5 Sabbath Iyar 8	6 Iyar 9
7 Iyar 10	8 Iyar 11	9 Iyar 12	10 Iyar 13	11 Iyar 14	12 Sabbath Iyar 15	13 Iyar 16
14 Iyar 17	15 Iyar 18	16 Iyar 19	17 Iyar 20	18 Iyar 21	19 Sabbath Iyar 22	20 Iyar 23
21 Iyar 24	22 Iyar 25	23 Iyar 26	24 Iyar 27	25 Iyar 28	26 Sabbath Iyar 29	27 Dark Moon Iyar 30
28 New Moon Sivan 1	29 Sivan 2	30 Sivan 3	31 Sivan 4			

June 2006						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Sivan 5	2 Sivan 6	3 Sivan 7
4 Sabbath Sivan 8	5 Pentecost Sivan 9	6 Sivan 10	7 Sivan 11	8 Sivan 12	9 Sivan 13	10 Sivan 14
11 Sabbath Sivan 15	12 Sivan 16	13 Sivan 17	14 Sivan 18	15 Sivan 19	16 Sivan 20	17 Sivan 21
18 Sabbath Sivan 22	19 Sivan 23	20 Sivan 24	21 Sivan 25	22 Sivan 26	23 Sivan 27	24 Sivan 28
25 Sabbath Sivan 29	26 New Moon Tammuz 1	27 Tammuz 2	28 Tammuz 3	29 Tammuz 4	30 Tammuz 5	

through SEVEN SABBATHS -- beginning on the day after the first day of Unleavened Bread (Nisan 16):

1st Sabbath...=...3rd quarter (Nisan 22, April 20);

2nd Sabbath...=...4th quarter (**2 days** -- Nisan 29-Iyar 1, April 27-28);

3rd Sabbath...=...1st quarter (Iyar 8, May 5);

4th Sabbath...=...2nd quarter (Iyar 15, May 12);

5th Sabbath...=...3rd quarter (Iyar 22, May 19);

6th Sabbath...=...4th quarter (**3 days** -- Iyar 29 - Sivan 1, May 26-28);

7th Sabbath...=...1st quarter (Sivan 8, June 4).

If we add together the actual SOLAR DAYS from the sequence above, we arrive at 52 -- but have only passed through SEVEN Sabbaths! But, as Leviticus 23:16 prescribes,

“unto the morrow AFTER THE SEVENTH SABBATH ye shall number FIFTY DAYS” (Hebrew -- “*yowm*”). From this it becomes obvious that the “fifty days” include the NEW MOON PERIODS with two or three SOLAR days -- which, by necessity, are counted as ONE DAY! When the “day” (Hebrew -- “*yowm*”) of the omer count falls on the second or sixth Sabbath of the cycle in counting the Sabbaths to Pentecost or the Feast of Weeks, it becomes the SABBATH SPACE OF TIME because it can cover TWO OR THREE DAYS.

8. Did the disciples of the Messiah understand how to count Pentecost? **Acts 2:1.**

COMMENT: If they did not understand how to count Pentecost, they wouldn't have been able to be “in one accord” and “in one place” on the EXACT DAY of Pentecost, and wouldn't have received the holy spirit from YEHOVAH God!

Too many people have felt merely because YEHOVAH records the method by which Pentecost is counted, they are qualified to come to INDEPENDENT CONCLUSIONS about when Pentecost should be kept! They are

WRONG! They have attempted to take to themselves a responsibility that YEHOVAH god placed ONLY in the hands of His CALLED AND CHOSEN MINISTERS!

Notice that the instructions for counting Pentecost are given in the book of Leviticus -- the book for the Levites. The Levites were YEHOVAH God's priests doing the work of the ministry in the Old Testament. Leviticus is written, not so the common lay-members of the church could "second guess" YEHOVAH's ministry, but so His ministers could know how Pentecost is to be properly counted. The ministers then were to pass this information on to the whole congregation.

YEHOVAH God Almighty is NOT THE AUTHOR OF CONFUSION! (**I Corinthians 14:33**.) He has placed specific offices in His True Church today to determine just such things as how to count Pentecost (**Ephesians 4:11-13**). Pentecost ALWAYS FALLS ON THE DAY AFTER THE SABBATH (first day of the week) on the LUNAR calendar, there is NO OTHER DAY ACCEPTABLE IN YEHOVAH'S SIGHT!

YEHOVAH God Calls a Few Today

1. When the Eternal brought Israel out of the bondage of Egypt, did He tell them plainly this was not the time for them to be able to understand His Master Plan completely? **Deuteronomy 29:2-4**.

2. Why did YEHOVAH God blind these people? **Romans 11:32**.

COMMENT: Ancient Israel isn't lost forever. Their time of understanding and



Synagogue in Capernaum sits on site of synagogue where the Messiah spoke. New Testament Christians always kept the Feast of Pentecost on the first day of the week following the weekly Sabbath.

participating in YEHOVAH's plan has not yet come. (**Romans 11:26**, **II Peter 3:9, 10**, and **I Timothy 2:3-4**.)

3. Were the vast majority in the Messiah's day receptive to the witness he gave them? **John 5:18** and **10:31**.

COMMENT: The Judeans of Yeshua's day tried several times to kill him for what he was saying. Finally they succeeded in murdering the saviour of mankind.

4. Did Yeshua the Messiah disturb the blindness of the Israelites of his time? **Mark 4:11-12**. Do you catch the SIGNIFICANCE of this verse? Why did Yeshua the Messiah speak in parables? Was it, as you may have heard, to make his meaning CLEARER? **Verse 12**. Isn't this merely a fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah? **Isaiah 28:11-13**. Did YEHOVAH God want them to understand with their hearts? **Same verse**.

COMMENT: A man's heart in biblical symbolism is the seat of intellect -- the mind.

5. Is it possible for any person with a carnal, natural mind to fully understand the things of YEHOVAH God? **I Corinthians 2:14**. How are SPIRITUAL THINGS known and understood? **Same verse**, see also **Romans**

8:7-8, and Ephesians 4:18.

6. Are people in our modern twenty-first century able to understand YEHOUVAH's plan, or are they, too, blinded to it? Will it be the great majority, or only the few, who understand YEHOUVAH's plan today? **Matthew 7:13-14.**

A Parable Tells

Today the keys that unlock the secrets of YEHOUVAH's Plan are available. Because of YEHOUVAH's mercy you don't have to remain blinded, but now you **TOO CAN UNDERSTAND THE DEEP THINGS OF YEHOUVAH GOD.** These are **TRUTHS** that men have wanted to know for thousands of years!

Now understand the most important parable Yeshua ever uttered. It's found in **Matthew 13.**

1. What happens to the "seed" of spiritual truth when it falls by the wayside? **Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23.** Notice especially **verses 4 and 19.** Did these people ever understand their part in YEHOUVAH God's Master Plan? **Verse 19.**

COMMENT: These people hear the warning message of YEHOUVAH God's ministers but never comprehend the implications of what they hear. The message of YEHOUVAH God's coming Kingdom and YEHOUVAH's Master Plan makes no impression on them.

2. What happens to the seed as it falls on stony ground? **Verses 5-6 and 20-21.** Did these people originally begin on YEHOUVAH's plan happily? **Verse 20.** But when the going became difficult, were they able by their own human power to continue? **Verses 6 and 21.**

COMMENT: These people gratefully receive the Messiah's Passover sacrifice as payment for their past sins. They begin to try to obey YEHOUVAH God -- unleavening their lives -- but they don't seek the help of His powerful holy spirit. Therefore they have no depth! Soon the spiritual life -- a germ of strength -- dies. They have failed to **CONTINUE** in the purpose for which they have been born.

3. What of the seed as it falls among the thorns? **Verses 7 and 22.** Does this group bring forth fruit -- obedience to YEHOUVAH's commands -- or are they too busy with the selfish cares of this degenerating world? **Verse 22.**

4. Who is it then that brings forth spiritual fruit? **Verses 8 and 23.** Do these people really understand YEHOUVAH's Master Plan? **Verse 23.** Have they allowed YEHOUVAH God to work in their lives -- helping them to overcome their human nature? **Same verse.** Do they **BEGIN TO GROW SPIRITUALLY** -- imbibing of YEHOUVAH's own character by **SUBMITTING TO HIS HOLY SPIRIT, and OBEYING HIS COMMANDMENTS** -- until they become mature, fruit-bearing Christians? **Same verse, see also Luke 8:15.**

COMMENT: These people become a part of the **HARVEST OF FIRSTFRUITS.** All of the other seed of the parable never **BROUGHT FORTH FRUIT OF OBEDIENCE** in YEHOUVAH's harvest plan.

5. Is YEHOUVAH God concerned with **HOW MUCH** we do? **Verses 8 and 23.**

COMMENT: YEHOUVAH God knows how much each of us can do in bringing forth good fruit in his Master Plan. By allowing YEHOUVAH's spirit to work within us we will produce thirty, sixty or one hundred fold of good fruit, or **WORKS,** in our changed lives.

6. Just **HOW MUCH** does YEHOUVAH expect us to do? **Luke 17:7-10.** Did the master of this servant **GIVE COMMANDS** which were to be obeyed? **Verses 7 and 8.**

7. For merely obeying instructions, doing no more than was **REQUIRED** of him, did the servant deserve thanks? **Verse 9.** Doesn't Yeshua the Messiah say that when we have done only what is required of us in YEHOUVAH's plan and **NO MORE,** we are **STILL UN-PROFITABLE?** **Verse 10.** Does he expect us to do **MORE** than the minimum requirement of the Ten Commandments? To go above and beyond the call of our duties? **Same verse.**

What It Means to Be the Firstfruits in YEHOUAH's Plan!

Fifty days after Yeshua the Messiah "waved" the omer before YEHOUAH GOD in heaven, the holy spirit came according to the promises Yeshua had made (**Acts 2:1**).

1. What was the special offering made on the Day of Pentecost in the Old Testament? **Leviticus 23:17**. What does the Bible say these loaves symbolized? **Same verse**. What are these firstfruits called in New Testament times? **James 1:18**.

COMMENT: Notice there are TWO loaves, covering the two periods of the Old Testament and the New Testament Church.

The word "church" has been translated from the Greek word, "ecclesia" which means the "called out ones."

Pentecost, or Firstfruits pictures to us the first part of the spiritual harvest, the calling out of YEHOUAH God's True first-century Church -- a FEW PEOPLE and a SMALL FIRST HARVEST. YEHOUAH has not been dealing with the vast majority of the world, but He has made these wonderful truths plain to the few that He is calling.

2. Why do we find leaven put into these loaves of the firstfruit offering? **I Corinthians 5:7**. Since the Bible uses leaven as a type of sin, does this mean that there was still sin in the first-century Church of YEHOUAH God? **I John 1:8**. Does this mean that sin SHOULD REMAIN in the New Testament Church? **I John 1:9**. Of course not! Sin is to be put out whenever found. But only the Messiah was without sin.

3. Does the Bible plainly state that converted Christians in early New Testament times were considered "firstfruits" in YEHOUAH's plan? **James 1:18**.

4. Is the term "firstfruits" applied to specific Christians living in the first century and after the coming of the holy spirit in 31 A.D.? **Romans 16:5**.

COMMENT: After the early Christians were accepted as the Wave Sheaf, the general

harvest of firstfruits could begin. Still only a SMALL HARVEST OF PEOPLE DURING THAT AGE WAS TO BE REAPED at the second coming of Christ!

5. What are those who stand before the Messiah called at his second coming? **Revelation 14:1-4**. How are they described? **Same verse**. Did they have to come out of the world and separate themselves from the God-rejecting majority of mankind? **Verse 4**. What is the outstanding characteristic of those who are called the "firstfruits" of YEHOUAH's people? **Revelation 14:12**.

6. Are these "firstfruits" mentioned in the plan of resurrections? **I Corinthians 15:20-23** and **I Thessalonians 4:13-18**.

COMMENT: First Yeshua the Messiah was resurrected, and became the first of the firstfruits of YEHOUAH's Master Plan (**Colossians 1:18**). After a period of time, symbolized by the fifty-day period ending with Pentecost, those who are the Messiah's first-century called-out ones (the Wave Sheaf), and have the holy spirit, are to be resurrected as the completed firstfruits harvest in YEHOUAH's plan. These are known as the 144,000 -- see **Revelation 14:1**. (For more information send for our articles *The 144,000 -- Future? or Fulfilled?* And also, *The Secret of the "Wave Sheaf"*).

7. Notice what the Messiah wants us to learn about the spiritual harvests. It is found in **Matthew 13:24-30 and 37-43**. What happens when the Messiah sows the seed of truth among the people of the earth? **Verses 24-25** explained by **verses 37-38**.

8. How did the Messiah know the wheat, the good grain, from the tares, or worthless weeds? **Verse 26**. Although some people try to hide their wicked works, is the fruit of their disobedience easily recognizable to YEHOUAH God? **Verses 26 and 38**. What is the final end of those who do not produce the fruit of YEHOUAH's holy spirit in their lives? **Verses 30 and 41-42**.

9. What happens to those who produce

righteousness, obedience and the other fruits of YEHOVAH's Spirit? **Verse 30 and 41, 43.**

10. When is the harvest? **Verses 30 and 39.**

COMMENT: The phrase "end of the world" should be translated "END OF THE AGE" indicating the final days of man's rule over the earth and the time of the second coming of Yeshua the Messiah. This is the time of the harvest of firstfruits. The fifty-day period between the Wave-Sheaf offering and Pentecost symbolizes those who received the Word between the coming of the holy spirit in 31 A.D. and almost the rest of the first century -- probably up to 81 A.D. During that time YEHOVAH God called out an "elect" or chosen people as "firstfruits" of His Master Plan. These "firstfruits" will be reaped at the second coming of Yeshua the Messiah -- ONLY A VERY FEW SHORT YEARS FROM NOW!

11. Who is it that does the reaping of YEHOVAH's firstfruit harvest? **Verses 30 and 39.** Compare **I Thessalonians 4:16-17** and **Matthew 24:31.**

COMMENT: When Yeshua the Messiah returns to this earth, he will send forth his angels to gather those who are the elect and chosen -- the good grain -- into his father's Kingdom.

The Holy Spirit Prepared YEHOVAH's Firstfruits

Now let's understand why the holy spirit came on the day that symbolizes the harvest of firstfruits.

1. Did Yeshua the Messiah promise his disciples POWER and supernatural help? **Luke 24:49** and **Acts 1:4.**

2. With YEHOVAH God's holy spirit were the first-century Christians able to do the same works Yeshua did? **John 14:12.** Were true Christians able to do even greater works than the Messiah did by the POWER of YEHOVAH's spirit? **Same verse.**

3. Could Yeshua the Messiah do

anything with just his human power? **John 5:20, 30. John 8:28.** Where did Yeshua get the power he needed to do the works he did? **John 14:10** last part. Notice the words, "but the Father THAT DWELLETH IN ME, He doeth the works."

4. Will YEHOVAH's spirit be the same in true Christians as it was in Yeshua the Messiah? Does it come from the Father? **John 14:11, John 14:16.**

5. Is it necessary to obey YEHOVAH God to receive the gift of the holy spirit? **Acts 5:32.** Did Yeshua also have to OBEY YEHOVAH GOD to use YEHOVAH's holy spirit? Does he expect Christians to OBEY TODAY? **John 15:10.** Isn't the same holy spirit Yeshua the Messiah had from YEHOVAH God the Father available to Christians today? Is YEHOVAH God a respecter of persons **Romans 2:11.**

6. By the power of YEHOVAH's spirit was Yeshua the Messiah able to overcome? **John 16:33** and **Revelation 3:21.** Does the Messiah intend for Christians to overcome? **Revelation 3:21.**

7. What will happen when you allow YEHOVAH's spirit to lead you? **John 16:13.**

COMMENT: The pronoun "he" sometimes used to refer to YEHOVAH's spirit in the King James Version should properly be translated "it." The King James translators, blinded by the false doctrines of Babylon, inserted this flagrant error into our Bible. The holy spirit is NOT A PART OF A PAGAN TRINITY! The holy spirit is the POWER of YEHOVAH God. It is the very seed of eternal life which the Father implants in every son of His.

8. To what is the holy spirit compared? **John 7:37-39.** Had YEHOVAH's spirit been available before the Day of Pentecost? **Same verses.** Once Christians have received the holy spirit, won't it flow out from them just as it did from Yeshua the Messiah? **Same verses.**

9. What kind of works will YEHOVAH's spirit do in the lives of true

Christians? **Romans 5:5**. What is the love of YEHOVAH God? **I John 5:3**.

10. What are the other fruits of YEHOVAH's holy spirit? **Galatians 5:22-23**.

11. What is the result of being ruled by human nature man's carnal mind? **Galatians 5:16-17** and **Romans 8:7**. Is man's human nature contrary to the ways of YEHOVAH's spirit? **Same verses**. What is the result of being ruled by your carnal human mind -- of being "set" in the ways of human nature? **Romans 8:6**. But if you allow YEHOVAH God to guide you through His holy spirit, what is the result? **Romans 8:1-4**.

12. Did the apostle Paul recognize the battle between YEHOVAH's spirit and his carnal mind? **Romans 7:23**. Who would deliver Paul? Can we deliver ourselves from the grip of our human nature, or must we rely on supernatural help from YEHOVAH'S HOLY SPIRIT? **Verses 24 and 25**. What would Paul do when he was delivered from sin? Would he continue to serve -- obey -- sin? Or would he serve -- obey -- YEHOVAH God's law? **Same verses**.

COMMENT: The Passover pictures our repentance from sin, and acknowledging that we need Yeshua the Messiah's sacrifice to PAY FOR OUR SINS.

Next, you must make up your mind to QUIT SINNING. You show your willingness to obey by being BAPTIZED and beginning to SUBMIT TO YEHOVAH'S PERFECT LAWS. This step is pictured by the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Thirdly, you must receive SUPER-NATURAL HELP from YEHOVAH God! YEHOVAH will give true Christians His powerful holy spirit to help them OVERCOME. YEHOVAH God first sent His spirit on the Day of Pentecost!

Yeshua the Messiah overcame, Paul the apostle overcame, and you can overcome your own selfishness, your carnal human mind, if you yield yourself to YEHOVAH God Almighty and receive the help of His holy spirit. When you do,

you will become one of the few TRUE CHRISTIANS that follow in the footsteps of those who became the firstfruits of YEHOVAH's harvest, and be a part of YEHOVAH God's Master Plan of salvation.

Who Are the "ELECT"?

1. Can you be "Christ's" -- can you belong to Yeshua the Messiah -- if you don't have YEHOVAH's holy spirit? **Romans 8:9-11**.

2. Is everything in creation waiting for the time when the FIRSTFRUITS of YEHOVAH's spiritual harvest will be reaped? **Romans 8:23**. Do the firstfruits themselves eagerly yearn for the time when they will be able to complete their part in YEHOVAH's plan and become members of YEHOVAH's own Family? **Same verse**.

COMMENT: The word "adoption" in the eighth chapter of Romans is a woeful mistranslation! Those who translated the King James version of the Bible couldn't understand that YEHOVAH GOD INTENDS human beings TO BECOME MEMBERS OF YEHOVAH'S OWN FAMILY -- VERY SONS OF YEHOVAH GOD! They mistranslated the Greek word "sonship" as "adoption" BECAUSE THE VITAL TRUTHS YOU ARE NOW LEARNING WERE HIDDEN FROM THEM!

3. What other term does YEHOVAH use to refer to the Christians He chose to receive the firstfruits of His spirit? **Romans 8:33**. Aren't the elect the same people who were promised brotherhood with Yeshua the Messiah, and sonship in YEHOVAH's family? **Romans 8:29**.

4. These ELECT CHRISTIANS, the firstfruits of YEHOVAH God, are those who had YEHOVAH's spirit and understood His Master Plan. Could these people be deceived, misled, by Satan and his false ministers any longer? **Matthew 24:24**.

5. Because they were the firstfruits of YEHOVAH's harvest, did He go to special lengths to see that they were spared from the terrible things which occurred to the Judean

nation following the Messiah's death? **Matthew 24:21, 22.**

COMMENT: The firstfruits in YEHOUVAH's plan were sealed -- preserved -- by the holy spirit (**Ephesians 1:13**). The holy spirit which they received is called "the earnest of our inheritance" (**verse 14**). In business terms the "earnest" refers to a VERY SMALL down payment of money that is given to show GOOD FAITH in a business deal. It is the guarantee that the full payment will be made LATER. YEHOUVAH God gave the "earnest" of His spirit to those called to be firstfruits. It was YEHOUVAH's GUARANTEE to the early Christians that they will receive the FULLNESS of His spirit, and SONSHIP IN HIS FAMILY WHEN YESHUA THE MESSIAH (AND YEHOUVAH GOD HIMSELF) RETURN TO THIS EARTH!

Those consecrated people -- as well as those which followed -- now compose the ONLY TRUE CHURCH OF YEHOUVAH GOD!

YEHOUVAH's Law in Your Heart!

1. Did the Messiah's death -- the shedding of his blood in our stead -- provide not only remission of sins but also a promise of eternal inheritance to those YEHOUVAH is calling? **Hebrews 9:15-17.**

2. Did Yeshua the Messiah -- our Passover sacrifice and High Priest -- become the mediator of a NEW COVENANT? **Hebrews 9:15.**

COMMENT: The Greek word "diatheke", translated "testament," means covenant or AGREEMENT, as well as a TESTAMENT or a WILL.

3. Is the everlasting NEW COVENANT called "better" than the old? **Hebrews 8:6.** Why is it better? **Verse 7.** Who was at fault in the Old Covenant? Did YEHOUVAH God fail to keep His part of the covenant, or did the people fail to keep their promise to OBEY HIS LAW? **Verse 8.**

4. What sort of covenant will YEHOUVAH

God make with Christians who are born again? **Hebrews 8:10-12.** Are those with whom YEHOUVAH will make His NEW covenant also called "ISRAEL"? **Verse 10.** Is YEHOUVAH's New Testament Church called "Israel"? Compare **Galatians 6:16** with **Romans 11:17-18.**

COMMENT: YEHOUVAH God is yet to make His New Covenant with Israel and Judah. Not carnal Israel and Judah, but a SPIRITUALLY CONVERTED Israel and Judah. YEHOUVAH is calling people out of this evil world. Whether "Gentile" or Israelite by birth, they become "the Israel of God" -- they are HIS TRUE CHURCH!

5. What are the conditions of the new covenant or agreement YEHOUVAH God will make with all those who become spiritual Israelites? **Hebrews 8:10-12.** Does YEHOUVAH God agree to forget your past sins and PUT HIS LAW IN YOUR HEART if you will OBEY Him? **Same verses.**

6. Does YEHOUVAH promise to put His LAW in your MIND? **Verse 10.**

7. How will YEHOUVAH put His law in your mind? **Philippians 2:5.** Did Yeshua the Messiah have YEHOUVAH's spirit in his mind? Wasn't he the first human being ever to have been begotten and actually born of YEHOUVAH God -- the firstfruits of the resurrection? **James 1:18** and **Colossians 1:18.** Did Yeshua OBEY COMPLETELY -- even suffering DEATH for us? **Philippians 2:8.**

COMMENT: YEHOUVAH God expects our COMPLETE OBEDIENCE. To obey YEHOUVAH God completely we need His holy spirit in our minds. It will give us the very same MIND Yeshua the Messiah had. We will see things from the Messiah's point of view, we will understand and know to obey YEHOUVAH's law. Only YEHOUVAH's holy spirit can give us the SUPERNATURAL POWER WE NEED TO BEGIN TO KEEP YEHOUVAH'S LAW IN ITS SPIRITUAL INTENT.

8. Without YEHOUVAH's spirit will you be able to really UNDERSTAND YEHOUVAH's

truth? **John 16:13**. Without YEHOVAH's spirit in your mind can you worship YEHOVAH God as you should? **John 4:24**.

COMMENT: WHY the holy spirit? YEHOVAH's holy spirit will give you the SUPERNATURAL HELP to live the same life today that Yeshua the Messiah lived as a fleshly human being over 1900 years ago. Today Yeshua the Messiah has sent his Father's holy spirit to the members of his True Church. Through that spirit, the Messiah is LIVING IN THE FLESH AND BLOOD members of his Church. They are LIVING the very same kind of life Yeshua lived -- a life of OBEDIENCE, OVERCOMING and ENDURING TO THE END OF THIS AGE!

9. Should Christians rejoice knowing that YEHOVAH's spirit can help them to overcome this evil world as Yeshua the Messiah did? **I John 4:3 and 4**.

YEHOVAH's Law Given on Pentecost

It was on Pentecost that YEHOVAH God founded the New Testament Church. On that Holy Day in A.D. 31 the holy spirit was first made generally available.

But most people have never realized that the Day of Pentecost or Firstfruits also had to do with YEHOVAH God's Old Testament congregation -- the nation Israel. The so-called Jews today have never lost the historical tradition that on this annual Holy Day, YEHOVAH God Almighty gave the Israelites the Law from Mount Sinai!

Understand why both the Law of YEHOVAH God and the holy spirit were given on this day.

1. Where does YEHOVAH WANT His Law to be written? **Jeremiah 31:33**.

2. But where was it ORIGINALLY written? **Exodus 31:18**.

3. Are the carnal human hearts of men like the stone on which YEHOVAH God wrote the Law at Sinai? **II Corinthians 3:3**. Isn't it YEHOVAH's purpose to have the Ten

Commandments, originally written in stone, now written in human hearts by His holy spirit? **Ezekiel 36:26-27 and Ezekiel 11:19-20**.

Pentecost at Sinai!

To "Jewish" people today, the Feast of Pentecost or Firstfruits always brings to mind YEHOVAH's Law -- the Ten Commandments.

Let's go to the Bible and PROVE -- step by step -- that the ancient Judean tradition is valid. That on the Day of Pentecost YEHOVAH God Almighty Himself spoke the Ten Commandments from Mount Sinai.

1. After finally escaping Egypt, by crossing the Red Sea dry shod, when did Israel arrive in the wilderness of Sin? **Exodus 16:1**.

COMMENT: In just three days after Israel crossed the Red Sea from Piha-hiroth, they went from ecstasy to bitterness -- the bitter waters of Marah. After YEHOVAH God performed a miracle and made the water good to drink, the Israelites traveled on to Elim (**Exodus 15:27**) and then moved on to the wilderness of Sin. They arrived in the wilderness on the 15th DAY OF IYAR -- the day of the FULL MOON -- the fourth SABBATH after leaving Egypt.

2. On what DAY of the LUNAR MONTH did they camp in the wilderness of Sin? Again, **Exodus 16:1**. As we shall see, this was a SABBATH rest. Now a full four weeks of the seven weeks had elapsed between the Days of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost, hadn't they?

3. Did Moses have a message of obedience to proclaim to Israel on this Sabbath Day? **Exodus 16:4, 5**. Did that message ONLY announce that YEHOVAH God would provide them manna to eat? Or was it to set forth the proof that YEHOVAH God Almighty was the Creator and invisible Ruler and Lawgiver of Israel? Notice **verse 6** compared with **verses 2-3, 8**.

COMMENT: Notice also that it was against Moses and Aaron that Israel murmured when they said, "YE have brought us forth into this wilderness" They had not yet understood

that YEHOVAH God Almighty Himself was their Leader -- the One to whom they could look for physical sustenance.

The SABBATH DAY is a memorial of creation. It identifies YEHOVAH God as the One who has created everything. It is also a TEST COMMANDMENT. YEHOVAH is here testing Israel to see whether they would obey Him and keep His Law.

4. Did Moses and Aaron say there would be convincing proof after sundown? **Verse 6**. Why after sundown? Because that SABBATH ended at sundown.

COMMENT: Moses and Aaron explained how YEHOVAH God would perform the miracle of the manna in a Sabbath service. When the Sabbath was over YEHOVAH brought their words to pass.

5. Did the manna begin the next morning? **Verses 8, 13-15**. And did it continue uninterrupted for six days? **Verse 22**. Then was there another SABBATH? **Verse 23**.

6. What day of the LUNAR month Iyar was this?

COMMENT: Refer to the calendar on page 9. This was the 22ND DAY OF IYAR -- the day of the THIRD QUARTER OF THE MOON! The elapsed time as we follow Israel from encampment to encampment is firmly established, is it not? Both the fourth and fifth SABBATHS after the Days of Unleavened Bread were spent in the Wilderness of Sin.

7. But even after the miracle of the manna did the people perceive that it was really YEHOVAH God Almighty Himself who led them? **Exodus 17:2-4**.

COMMENT: Israel didn't "get the point" because they did not have YEHOVAH's holy spirit.

Things got worse and worse after they left the Wilderness of Sin. This was the most desolate part of the desert. They had to make extra stops during the week for rest and to allow the weaker members of the march to catch up. Therefore **Numbers 33:12 and 13** list their short journeys before the next regular SABBATH rest

-- the 29TH DAY OF THE LUNAR MONTH -- the FOURTH QUARTER OF THE MOON! This is mentioned in **Exodus 17:1**. Clearly, YEHOVAH God was showing the Israelites that His weekly Sabbath fell according to the phases of the moon and were thus determined by the LUNAR CALENDAR just like the Holy Days!

8. Did Amalek -- an ancient nation that dwelt in this desert area -- arrive for battle on this SIXTH Sabbath after Israel left Egypt? **Exodus 17:8**. And did the battle last all the next day, preventing any further movement of the children of Israel? **Verses 9-12**.

COMMENT: YEHOVAH wants us to learn an important lesson from this experience ancient Israel suffered. The attack of Amalek against Israel is typical of the attitude and accusations this world exhibits when it sees that you are beginning to keep YEHOVAH's true weekly Sabbath and Holy Days -- His Annual Sabbaths.

9. What happened on the next day? **Exodus 18:5-8**. And the following day after that? **Verse 13**.

COMMENT: By the time they broke camp again, it was the middle of the week. BUT THEY DID NOT NOW HAVE FAR TO GO! Notice that they were already camped at the foot of Mount Horeb, or Sinai in Midian -- modern-day Saudi Arabia. But they were not yet on the side of the mountain where they were to remain encamped for nearly the next whole year.

10. When did the Israelites come into the wilderness of Sinai, which stretched away from the other side of the mountain? **Exodus 19:1, 2**.

COMMENT: They arrived there in the THIRD MONTH -- otherwise known as Sivan. The expression "THE SAME DAY" needs to be looked at closely.

We have seen that Israel was already in the environs of Mount Sinai on the 29th of the second month (Iyar 29 -- the weekly Sabbath). This "same day" could not refer to the fifteenth day of the third month (Sivan) because that would be MORE than 50 days from the Wave Sheaf offering. The words the "same day" refer

to the THE SAME DAY THEY HAD LEFT REPHIDIM -- WHICH HAPPENED TO BE THE SIXTH DAY OF THE WEEK, as we shall see. On that Preparation Day -- the 7th day of the third month Sivan, they must have moved around the mountain to their new campsite!

Some modern translators who have misunderstood the entire context of Israel's trek through the wilderness, MISTRANSLATE the Hebrew expression in **Exodus 19:1, 2** as "the first day of the third month." This is NOT what YEHOVAH God intended!

Notice the significance of these careful records of Israel's journey.

11. On the same day, the day before the SABBATH DAY (6th day of the week), Moses went up the mountain (**verse 3**) and YEHOVAH gave him a message to relay to the people. Since the people were not in convocation on this day, Moses sent for and gathered the leaders of the people (**verse 7**).

On the the NEXT day, the Sabbath -- the SEVENTH DAY -- did YEHOVAH God give another message to Moses to speak to ALL the people? **Verse 10.**

COMMENT: Notice that this Sabbath

was the SEVENTH weekly Sabbath since Israel left Egypt. Also, YEHOVAH told Moses to have the people sanctify themselves THAT DAY (the Sabbath) and the NEXT DAY -- the first day of the week!

12. What was the message YEHOVAH God revealed to Moses on this seventh Sabbath? **Exodus 19:11.** Was it not that the people should make themselves ready for "the third day" -- when YEHOVAH GOD ALMIGHTY HIMSELF WOULD DO THE PREACHING? Same verse and **Exodus 20:1.**

COMMENT: What exactly does the phrase "the third day" mean? Those who advocate a "Monday" Pentecost claim that "the third day" is from the Sabbath that Moses was on Mount Sinai -- but is this true? If this was the case YEHOVAH would have told Moses to have the people sanctify themselves "for today, tomorrow and the next day"! But instead YEHOVAH said for them to sanctify themselves for TWO DAYS -- "TODAY [THE SABBATH] AND TOMORROW [THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK]"! Therefore, the "third day" had to refer to the time FROM WHEN THEY ARRIVED at the mountain -- the SIXTH

The peak of the Jabal Al Lawz mountain ridge -- Mount Sinai, the mountain of YEHOVAH God in Midian. In the upper left corner the plateau can be seen, and behind the plateau the campsite.



day of the week.

The word “sanctify” means the act or process of making holy, separating, or setting apart for the service or use of YEHOVAH God; the state of being holy, sanctified, or puried. The Israelites had to do this in order to meet YEHOVAH God. Notes the Bible dictionary *Insight On the Scriptures*, regarding **Exodus 19:10-11**, “God said to Moses: ‘Go to the people, and you must sanctify them TODAY AND TOMORROW, and they must wash their mantles....because on the third day Jehovah will come down before the eyes of all the people upon Mount Sinai.’ (Ex. 19:10,11) The word [sanctify] is used to mean *purifying* or *cleansing*, as at 2 Samuel 11:4, which reads: ‘She was sanctifying herself from her uncleanness.’”

The impact on Israel that morning (**Exodus 19:18, 19; and 20:18-21**) is a type of the impact of the holy spirit on the day of Pentecost in A.D. 31.

Notice carefully and copy into you notes **Hebrews 12:18-21** and meditate over the instruction the apostle Paul has written for our admonition upon whom the ENDS OF THIS AGE HAVE COME!

YEHOVAH’s True Church Founded on Pentecost

It is vitally important for you to understand where YEHOVAH God’s TRUE CHURCH IS TODAY!

On the Day of Pentecost, 31 A.D., YEHOVAH God Almighty founded the New Testament Church. This Church is not a stately building composed of wood, stone, and cement. It is a Church composed of God-called, SPIRIT-BEGOTTEN PEOPLE!

The word “church” originally never referred to the building where Christians gather. It is properly applied to the PEOPLE who gather together, who have been given YEHOVAH’s holy spirit. The word “church” is a UNI-PLURAL WORD like “family” and “team.” There is ONE CHURCH with MANY

MEMBERS.

YEHOVAH originally established His Church in the wilderness when He brought the Israelites out of Egypt. It was called the congregation of Israel (**Acts 7:38** and **Leviticus 8:3**). These people were the PHYSICAL TYPE of the spiritual Church YEHOVAH later built. Now He is calling people out of SIN. They are called His “Church” because the word “*ecclesia*” in the Greek which is translated “church” means “called-out ones.” (**I Corinthians 10:32.**)

1. Does the true Church have a foundation? **Ephesians 2:18-20.**

COMMENT: The writings of the apostles and the prophets encompass the whole Bible -- New and Old Testaments.

2. What -- who -- is the CORNER-STONE YEHOVAH’s true Church is built upon? **Verse 20.**

3. What is this “spiritual building” -- the Church of YEHOVAH God -- to grow into? **Verse 21.** What is the purpose for building such a temple? **Verse 22.**

COMMENT: YEHOVAH God Almighty dwells in His Church through His holy spirit.

4. Notice the comparison Paul makes to help us understand the difference between the Old Testament period and the Church of YEHOVAH God in the New Testament. **Hebrews 12:18-23.** What is the church of the New Testament called? **Verse 23.**

COMMENT: Those who are called, have their names written in heaven. Those who were being made perfect during the first century ARE THE FIRSTFRUITS. They are members of THE TRUE CHURCH OF YEHOVAH GOD -- as well as all those called during the centuries since!

COMMENT: You need to know and thoroughly PROVE where the TRUE CHURCH OF YEHOVAH GOD IS TODAY! You need to know WHICH CHURCH YESHUA THE MESSIAH PUT HIS FATHER’S HOLY SPIRIT IN ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST! IT

IS THROUGH THE WORK OF YEHOVAH'S ONLY TRUE CHURCH THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LEARN THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT YEHOVAH GOD'S MASTER PLAN FOR SALVATION.

Pentecost a Sign

The Day of Pentecost or Firstfruits is a SIGN. It identifies those who have YEHOVAH's holy spirit, those who are YEHOVAH's elect, those who will be resurrected when Yeshua the Messiah returns to this earth!

The Day of Pentecost identifies YEHOVAH's ONLY TRUE CHURCH! Only YEHOVAH's true Church keeps the day of Pentecost at the right time in the right way -- with the understanding of YEHOVAH God's plan. That is because ONLY YEHOVAH'S TRUE CHURCH RECEIVED HIS HOLY SPIRIT AND WAS FOUNDED BY YESHUA THE MESSIAH ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST IN 31 A.D.!

YEHOVAH God Almighty has made this wonderful knowledge available to you. Are YOU going to ACT ON IT?

Write for these articles --

The 144,000 -- Future? Or *Fulfilled*?
 The SECRET of the "Wave Sheaf"
 The Omer Count and YEHOVAH God's Weekly Cycle
 Why Do We *Count the Omer* from Passover to Pentecost?

Answers to Questions in Lesson 13

1. c. various ancestries 2. Culture 3. Pontus 4. Because he was born into a family of Judean culture 5. Pharisees 6. No 7. Yes 8. the Judeans 9. Babylon 10. Khazar Empire 11. mixed 12. carnally

Notes:

Check Your Progress...

Question 1: The third step in YEHOVAH God's plan is pictured for us by what?

Question 2: What was the Day of Pentecost called in the Old Testament?

Question 3: What did YEHOVAH God send on the Day of Pentecost in 31 A.D. to start the New Testament Church? _____

Question 4: The small handful of barley that was cut on Nisan 16 and brought to the priest to be accepted by YEHOVAH God was called what? _____

Question 5: This offering was also called the "first of the _____."

Question 6: The "grain" or omer of this offering represented the _____ of Revelation 14:4.

Question 7: The Wave-Sheaf Offering also represented what people or nation? _____

Question 8: In what modern-day country was the land of Midian located?

Question 9: On what day of the lunar month did the Israelites first camp in the wilderness of Sin (Exodus 16:1)? _____

Question 10: This was the _____ Sabbath after leaving Egypt?

Question 11: What happened at Mount Sinai on the Day of Firstfruits or Pentecost?

Question 12: Is the holy spirit part of the "Trinity" as many churches believe? _____

Question 13: How many Sabbaths must we pass through from Nisan 16 to arrive at the Day of Pentecost? _____

The answers will be found in the next lesson. Approximately 3 weeks after receiving Lessons 13 through 16, you will receive a mail-in test that covers these four lessons. The test will be returned to you after grading. Following the completion of the Hope of Israel Bible Correspondence Course you will receive a **Certificate of Completion**. If you complete the course with a grade of 75% or better you will also receive an **Outstanding Student Award**.

