

## Pentecost Count Fifty

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Almighty God has appointed specific festivals that are to be observed by mankind. These festivals keep those who observe them in remembrance of God's plan of salvation. In contrast, the Adversary (1Tm. 5:14; 1Pet. 5:8) has his own appointed times (1Kgs. 12:32; Dan. 7:25) that are contrary to God's law, and they focus on values that are important to him (Gal. 5:16-21). Unfortunately, the majority of mankind follows the appointed times of the Adversary (Rev. 12:9; Jn. 8:44; cf. 2Cor. 4:4).

One of God's appointed times is called the Day of Pentecost, which means "count fifty" (days). This Holy Day was observed by the Old Covenant and is to be kept in the New Covenant as it was by the early church following Christ's death and resurrection (Ac. 2:1, 20:16; 1Cor. 16:8). The count to Pentecost is to begin on the day following the weekly Sabbath during the Days of Unleavened Bread. Pentecost was referred to as the Feast of Weeks in the Old Covenant because seven full weeks (seven Sabbaths) were completed before the Day of Pentecost,

And you shall observe the Feast of Weeks... (Ex. 34:22a; *NKJV added throughout unless otherwise noted*).

And you shall count for yourself from the day after the Sabbath (weekly), from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering (during the Days of Unleavened Bread – Ex. 12:14-20, 13:6-7): seven Sabbaths shall be completed.<sup>16</sup> Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath... (Lev. 23:15-16, *Ed. note in parenthesis*).

Also on the day of the first-fruits, when you bring a new grain offering to the Lord at your Feast of Weeks, you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work (Num. 28:26).

Consequently, for anyone to correctly count to, and observe, the Day of Pentecost, they would have to know the correct timing of the Days of Unleavened Bread, which follow immediately after the Passover (refer to God's calendar on this website). As Pentecost follows the seventh Sabbath counting from the weekly Sabbath that occurred during the Days of Unleavened Bread, it will always fall on the first day of the week, known as Sunday in the current secular calendar.

The first century church of God was assembled at 9:00am for observance of this festival,

But Peter, standing up with the eleven (disciples of Christ), 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. <sup>15</sup> For these (people speaking in foreign languages) are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day (Ac. 2:14-15).

As the first hour of the day at this time in history was calculated from 6:00am, the third hour of the day would have been 9:00am.

The number fifty has great significance in God's plan of salvation, and is used to determine the year of Jubilee,

And you shall count seven Sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years; and the time of seven Sabbaths of years shall be to you forty-nine years. <sup>9</sup> Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement (another of God's appointed festivals) you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land. <sup>10</sup> And you shall consecrate (set apart) the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants... (Lev. 25:8-10; *Ed. note in parentheses*).

Almighty God uses the number fifty to denote freedom from all forms of oppression and in the case of a Jubilee year all debts are cancelled, land that was leased was returned to its owner, and Israelite slaves were set free (Lev. 25:10-17).

Therefore, true freedom has to be an aspect of the Day of Pentecost, which also utilizes the number fifty. This freedom from oppression is something that the Adversary does not offer in his counterfeit system of worship. Instead, he wants to keep all his followers ignorant about God's plan of salvation. Eventually he will give account for his crimes against humanity,

"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *How* you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! <sup>13</sup> For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars (angels) of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; <sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' <sup>15</sup> Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit. <sup>16</sup> "Those who see you will gaze at you, *And* consider you, [saying]: '[Is] this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, <sup>17</sup> who made the world as a wilderness And destroyed its cities, *who* did not open the house of **his prisoners**?' <sup>18</sup> "All the kings of the nations, all of them, sleep in glory, Everyone in his own house; <sup>19</sup> but you are cast out of your grave like an abominable branch, *like* the garment of those who are slain, Thrust through with a sword, who go down to the stones of the pit, like a corpse trodden underfoot. <sup>20</sup> You will not be joined with them in burial, because you have destroyed your land *and* slain your people. The brood of evildoers shall never be named (Isa. 14:12-20; *Ed. note in Parenthesis; emphasis added*).

As the number fifty is associated with freedom, it is important to identify how God associates freedom with the Day of Pentecost. The first Pentecost that was kept by an entire nation occurred fifty days after Israel was taken out of Egyptian captivity (\*\*see footnote on calculations). Although they were freed from slavery in Egypt, God wanted to show that their slavery to the Adversary would continue unless they changed their way of living, which was contrary to God's law. God then proceeded to teach His law to the nation of Israel (Ex. 20–23). Jesus Christ

explained that obedience to his Father's law was the way out of slavery because obedience would bring true freedom, happiness and prosperity,

...If you abide in my word, you are my disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (from the deceptive ways of the Adversary) (Jn. 8:31-32 cf. Ps. 119:160, 172, *Ed. note in parenthesis*).

Jesus Christ explained that living contrary to God's law keeps an individual in slavery to the Adversary,

Jesus answered them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin (1Jn. 3:4) is a slave to sin (Jn. 8:34).

Christ went on to make the connection that sinners are slaves of their father the devil,

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks **from his own resources**, for he is a liar and the father of it (Jn. 8: 44; emphasis added).

When the early church kept their first Pentecost following Christ's death and resurrection (Ac. 2:1), many were led to see they had been under the influence of the Adversary and recognized they had been slaves and wanted desperately to be freed,

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God (our Father) has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. <sup>37</sup> 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?' <sup>38</sup> Then Peter said to them, 'Repent (of your sins), and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the holy spirit (Ac. 2:36-38; *Ed. note in parentheses; emphasis added*).

So, the first national observance of Pentecost in the Old Covenant and the first international (Ac. 2:17) observance of Pentecost in the New Covenant involved understanding the consequences of living contrary to God's law. Those who repented during both covenant periods would enjoy the freedom of knowing the truth,

Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your law is truth (Ps. 119:142).

You are near, O Lord, and all Your commandments are truth (Ps. 119:151).

As Pentecost falls in the middle of God's Holy Day sequence, it means that it is progressive and what it pictures has not yet been completely fulfilled. This is confirmed by a prophecy in the book of Joel,

And it shall come to pass afterward that I will (in the future) pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your

young men shall see visions; <sup>29</sup> and also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days (Jl. 2:28-29, *Ed. note in parenthesis*).

God's Holy Spirit came in a dramatic manner during the first Pentecost following Christ's death and resurrection, and Peter noted this fact (Ac. 2:14-21). However, it is clearly evident by conditions around the world today that mankind as a whole does not possess God's Holy Spirit. This fact alone shows the prophecy in the book of Joel has begun but not reached completion yet.

Therefore, the fulfillment of Pentecost is an event that will occur at a future date and Jeremiah explains what this will be like,

But this is the covenant that I (God, our Father) will make with the house of Israel after those days (following Christ's return), says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts (instead of relying only upon written tablets of stone, God's will is written within us by His spirit; cf. Eze. 11:19; 36:26); and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>34</sup> No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity (sins), and their sin I will remember no more (Jer. 31:33-34, *Ed. note in parentheses*).

When this event occurs, the main lesson that Pentecost was pointing to will be fulfilled. The lesson is that mankind will not attain everlasting life while they walk contrary to God's law, and mankind needs to be guided from within through the action of God's Holy Spirit in order to live in harmony with both God and fellow human beings.

In Conclusion, the Day of Pentecost reminds God's people that life-long obedience to His law and commandments can only occur because of the action of God's Holy Spirit. This action is progressive and will eventually reach its fulfillment following Christ's return. Until then, there will be those who have repented of sin, been baptized, and received God's Holy Spirit. These few are to bear witness to the truth and pray that God's kingdom will return soon in order to replace the system of the Adversary with God's law,

Now it shall come to pass in the latter days *that* the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. <sup>3</sup> Many people shall come and say, "come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." **For out of Zion shall go forth the law**, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore (Isa. 2:2-4; *emphasis added*).

"Listen to Me, My people; and give ear to Me, O My nation: for law will proceed **from Me**, and I will make My justice rest as a light of the peoples. <sup>5</sup> My righteousness *is* near, My salvation has gone forth, and My arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands will wait upon Me, and on My arm they will trust. <sup>6</sup> Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look on the earth beneath. For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, the earth will grow old like a garment, and those who dwell in it will die in like manner; but My salvation will be forever,

and My righteousness will not be abolished. <sup>7</sup> "Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, you people in whose heart *is* My law: do not fear the reproach of men, nor be afraid of their insults. <sup>8</sup> For the moth will eat them up like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool; but My righteousness will be forever, and My salvation from generation to generation" (Isa. 51:4-8).

**\*\*Footnote:** The first national observance of Pentecost appears to have occurred 50 days after Israel left Egypt under Moses. Israel arrived in the wilderness of Sinai 45 days after leaving Egypt,

On the third New-Moon after the going out of the children of Israel from the land of Egypt, on that (very) day they came to the wilderness of Sinai (Ex. 19:1, *Schocken Bible: Vol. 1*).

They left Egypt on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the first month, and arrived at Mt. Sinai on the first day of the third month, which is a 45 day period.

On day 46, Moses went up to meet with the Angel of God (Ex. 19:3-6). It is important to note that no human being has seen or heard Almighty God. They have only seen or heard from His representatives (Jn. 1:18, 5:37; 6:46; 1Jn. 4:12).

On day 47, Moses came to the elders of Israel and reported all that he had received from the Angel of God and then relayed their response back to him (Ex. 19:7-9).

The people were then told to meet at the foot of Mt. Sinai on the third day (following from day 47), which would equal 50 days.

A second witness that the law of God was given to the nation of Israel at Mt. Sinai on the day of Pentecost is the symbolic association of fire with the power of God's Holy Spirit in Acts 2:2-3 and Exodus 19:18. Also, it is important to note that fire is associated with God's law in Deuteronomy 33:2,

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven (on the day of Pentecost), as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them **tongues as of fire**, distributed and resting on each of them (Ac. 2:2-3, *Ed. note in parenthesis, emphasis added*).

Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the Lord **descended upon it in fire** (Ex.19:18a, *emphasis added*).

The Lord came from Sinai, and dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints; from His right hand came **a fiery law for them** (Deut. 33:2, *emphasis added*).

Then the lord delivered to me two tablets of stone written with the finger of God, and on them were **all the words which the Lord had** spoken to you on the mountain **from the midst of the fire** when you were all gathered together (Dt. 9:10-11; *emphasis added*).

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor.11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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