

The Fifty Day Count to Pentecost 2020

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During the Feast of Unleavened Bread, we begin preparing for the next festival, the Feast of Weeks, known in The New Testament as Pentecost. We have not yet finished one festival, before we begin preparing for the next one.

Of all the festivals mentioned in Leviticus 23 and Deuteronomy 16, this is the only one that doesn't have a specific calendar date. Pentecost is determined by counting a certain number of days, with the last day being the festival. We begin this count on the Sunday, "the day after the Sabbath" (Leviticus 23:9-16) that falls within the week of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The most popular name for this festival in the Bible is the "Feast of Weeks," (Exodus 34:22; Deuteronomy 16:10, 16; Numbers 28:26; 2 Chronicles 8:12-13), because calculating the date of the festival involves counting seven weeks or Sabbaths, from the day of the wave sheaf offering.

The exact date on the calendar may vary from year to year, but the feast day is always a Sunday. Although the old covenant sacrificial system has ceased, as Christians we continue to observe the Feast of Weeks. Still determining the count from the day of

the wave sheaf offering by ancient Israel.

The following is a list of readings from the *Acts of the Apostles* to be read during the fifty-day count to Pentecost. This year the readings focus on the Sermons and Messages given by the Apostles, and other Christians in the early Church. Over the coming seven weeks, meditate on what the Apostles and other teachers like Stephen, Philip, Priscilla, Aquila, and Apollos, taught believers and unbelievers. And how we can apply this information to our lives.

Counting to Pentecost

1st Day - April 12, Wave Sheaf Sunday

On the Sunday occurring during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Israelites made a special offering called the wave sheaf. On this day, the high priest would wave a sheaf of the firstfruits of the barley harvest before God. This was the first sheaf of grain harvested during the spring harvest season (Leviticus 23:9-14).

On the morning of the wave sheaf offering, the Sunday following Jesus' death, during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Mary Magdalene came to Jesus' tomb and found it empty (John 20:1-2). Jesus had already risen and left his tomb before the close of the weekly Sabbath.

Sometime later on Sunday, Jesus appears to Mary who was the first individual Jesus showed himself to after his resurrection (Mark 16:9). In her

excitement at seeing Jesus, Mary reaches out to hug him. But, Jesus tells her not to touch him because he hadn't yet ascended to the Father in heaven (John 20:11-18). After Jesus' meeting with Mary Magdalene, he appears to the other women who had gone to the tomb with her (Mark 16:1-2; Luke 23:55-24:1), allowing them to touch him (Matthew 28:5, 8-9).

This shows that sometime between Jesus' meeting with Mary (John 20:17) and the meeting with the other women (Matthew 28:9), he ascended to the Father in heaven. All this happened on the day of the wave sheaf offering, during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. On the same day, the High Priest waved a sheaf of firstfruits before God. The risen Jesus, ascended to heaven as the first person resurrected to eternal life. Jesus is the firstfruits of those resurrected from the dead, with those belonging to him resurrected at his second coming (1 Corinthians 15:20-23; Acts 26:22-23; Colossians 1:18).

As the Passover lamb represents the slain Jesus. The wave sheaf offering represents the resurrected Jesus rising to heaven, as the firstfruits of many more that will one day also rise from the dead. Wave Sheaf Sunday doesn't picture Jesus' resurrection, but his ascension to heaven.

The fifty day or seven-week count to Pentecost begins on this day, the day after the Sabbath (which is Sunday) that

falls during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

2nd Day - April 13

Acts 1:11-26

3rd Day - April 14

Acts 2:1-13

4th Day - April 15

Acts 2:14-41

5th Day - April 16

Acts 2:42-3:10

6th Day - April 17

Acts 3:11-4:4

7th Day - April 18 First Sabbath

Acts 4:5-22

8th Day - April 19

Acts 4:23-37

9th Day - April 20

Acts 5:1-16

10th Day - April 21

Acts 5:17-42

11th Day - April 22

Acts 6:1-15

12th Day - April 23

Acts 7:1-16

13th Day - April 24

Acts 7:17-41

14th Day - April 25 Second Sabbath

Acts 7:42-60

15th Day - April 26

Acts 8:1-25

16th Day - April 27

Acts 8:26-9:9

17th Day - April 28

Acts 9:10-31

18th Day - April 29

Acts 9:31-10:8

19th Day - April 30

Acts 10:9-33

20th Day - May 1

Acts 10:34-48

21st Day - May 2 Third Sabbath

Acts 11:1-18

22nd Day - May 3

Acts 11:19-12:4

23rd Day - May 4

Acts 12:5-25

24th Day - May 5

Acts 13:1-12

25th Day - May 6

Acts 13:13-41

26th Day - May 7

Acts 13:42-52

27th Day - May 8

Acts 14:1-28

28th Day - May 9 Fourth Sabbath

Acts 15:1-21

29th Day - May 10

Acts 15:22-41

30th Day - May 11

Acts 16:1-24

31st Day - May 12

Acts 16:25-40

32nd Day - May 13

Acts 17:1-21

33rd Day - May 14

Acts 17:22-34

34th Day - May 15

Acts 18:1-28

35th Day - May 16 Fifth Sabbath

Acts 19:1-20

36th Day - May 17

Acts 19:21-41

37th Day - May 18

Acts 20:1-16

38th Day - May 19

Acts 20:17-38

39th Day - May 20

Acts 21:1-26

40th Day - May 21

Acts 21:27-22:2

41st Day - May 22

Acts 22:3-21

42nd Day - May 23 Sixth Sabbath

Acts 22:22-23:11

43rd Day - May 24

Acts 23:12-35

44th Day - May 25

Acts 24:1-21

45th Day - May 26

Acts 24:22-25:12

46th Day - May 27

Acts 25:13-26:11

47th Day - May 28

Acts 26:12-32

48th Day - May 29

Acts 27:1-20

49th Day - May 30 Seventh Sabbath

Acts 27:21-44

50th Day - May 31 Pentecost

Acts 28:1-31

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