

**Yahweh, the Almighty God of Israel, is with us**  
"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet,  
and shew my people their transgression,  
and the house of Jacob their sins." Isaiah 58:1

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## **Jehovah's Feast Days**

### **Study Prayerfully & Study Carefully**

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## **Counting to Pentecost**

**A Voice In The Wilderness - Canada** observes Pentecost on the 50th day after the Passover Sabbath; counting - as do the Jews - from the morrow after the first day of unleavened bread.

As is well known, Pentecost occurs seven complete weeks after the consecration of the harvest by the offering of the wave sheaf of first ripe barley. This sheaf was waved on "*the morrow after the Sabbath*"

Leviticus 23: 11: "*And he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.*"

Note the words "*on the morrow after the Sabbath.*" Several opinions are held as to which Sabbath is meant here, so I will begin by quoting the **Westminster Dictionary of the Bible** on this subject and then go on to give a few scriptural verses which have influenced us to count as we do. Article **Feast of Weeks** (page 633)

1. *The Boethusians (associated with the Sadducees) interpreted this Sabbath as meaning the **weekly Sabbath** which occurred during the festival of unleavened bread; and some modern scholars have adopted this view.*
2. *The opinion has even been held that it denotes merely the weekly **Sabbath which fell immediately before the harvest.***
3. *"The older and better opinion is that it denotes the **1st day of the festival of unleavened bread.** The Greek translators understood it so. (Lev. 23:7,11 LXX) as did those who directed the services of the 2nd Temple (Jos. Antiq. iii, 10, 5); this 1st day was kept as a Sabbath: no work was done on it and there was a holy convocation; and such rest days, no less than the 7th day of the week, were called Sabbath. (Lev.23:32, 25:2) on the morrow after the Passover the new grain was used, which could not be eaten until the sheaf had been waved before the Lord (Lev.23:14, Josh.5:10,-11,R.V.) The festival fell on the 50th day after the waving of the sheaf, which gave rise to its name Pentecost or 50th day (Acts 2:1)."*

The critical question now is, "*which of these three opinions is the correct one?*" for though **A Voice In The Wilderness - Canada**, like the Jews and the Westminster Dictionary, favours the third alternative, that does not necessarily mean that it is the correct one. In this letter, therefore, I will give you scriptural reasons why I count to Pentecost **from the morrow after the first day of unleavened bread** - the method mentioned at point 3 above. I will do this because I fully realize that even the best authorities can be wrong. Besides, we should base our opinions on the Scriptures alone. On this subject we find that (Leviticus 23: 11-14) states that the harvest was not to be eaten till after the wave sheaf and the food and drink offerings had been presented to God.

Leviticus 23: 11: *“And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.*  
 12: *And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the LORD.*  
 13: *And the meat offering thereof shall be two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD for a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof shall be of wine, the fourth part of an hin.*  
 14: *And ye shall eat **neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears**, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.”*

The statutory progression of events was as follows:

1. First came the Sabbath. (the one we are trying to identify)
2. Then on the next day the wave sheaf and the meat and drink offerings were presented to God.
3. **And AFTER that Israel was allowed to eat bread, parched corn or green ears.**

It is this third point, **the eating of the bread, parched corn or green ears**, that gives us the clue as to which Sabbath triggers the 50th day count to Pentecost. We read further in the book of Joshua that the children of Israel, in obedience to the regulations laid down in (Leviticus 23: 11-14) ate the corn of the land **“on the morrow after the Passover.”** Note the words **“on the morrow after the Passover.”**

Joshua 5: 10: *“And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho.*  
 11: *And they did eat of the old corn of the land **on the morrow after the passover, unleavened cakes**, and parched corn in the selfsame day.*  
 12: *And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.”*

Looking at this passage closely and comparing it with the one in (Leviticus 23), we cannot help but conclude that Joshua (a type of Christ) was here faithfully carrying out the instructions given in (Leviticus 23), and **that “the morrow after the Sabbath”** in (Leviticus 23) **and “the morrow after the Passover”** in (Joshua 5) were in fact referring to the same day. And so, though, we still haven't identified the Sabbath of (Leviticus 23: 11), we now know that in the book of Joshua that same Sabbath was called **“the Passover,”** “The inevitable question now becomes: and what day is the Passover held on - **which in (Leviticus 23: 11) is simply called “the Sabbath?”**

The answer is, the Passover is held on the first day of unleavened bread, which is also a Sabbath day. Yes, the Passover is held on the first day of unleavened bread (15th Abib) Here is the proof.

Matthew 26: 17: *“Now the **first day of the feast of unleavened bread** the disciples came to Jesus saying unto him, where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to **eat the Passover**”*

Mark 14: 12: *“And the **first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the Passover.**”*

Luke 22: 7: *“Then came the **day of unleavened bread, when the Passover must be killed.**”*

These three texts prove that the preparations for the **Passover** took place just before the first day of unleavened bread - that is, at the end of the 14th Abib. This is in complete agreement with Yahweh's instructions as recorded in (Exodus 12) where we see how the **Passover Lamb** was slain towards the **evening or end of the 14th Abib** - the period which immediately preceded the **first day of unleavened bread**. (Exodus 12: 5-6) For further evidence see the leaflet entitled **The Passover** - When?

The inevitable conclusion, therefore, is: that **Joshua must have kept the Passover on the first day of unleavened bread** and then gone on to eat the corn of the land **on the morrow after it**. In other words, Joshua's 50 day count to **Pentecost** must have begun on **the morrow after the first day of unleavened bread, which is a Sabbath day.**

By way of summary I may say that in **A Voice In The Wilderness - Canada** I count to Pentecost from:

1. **“The morrow after the Sabbath,”** (Leviticus 23: 11) which elsewhere is referred to as
2. **“The morrow after the Passover,”** (Joshua 5: 11), which elsewhere is identified as
3. **“The first day of the feast of unleavened bread.”**>

Concerning the wording of (Leviticus 23: 15-16), Hebrew scholars admit that the words **“seven sabbaths”** and the **“seventh Sabbath”** in these verses do not necessarily mean seven Saturdays but rather **“seven weeks.”** Even the Greeks who translated this as Pentecost understood it to mean 7 weeks - not 7 Saturdays. Using a calendar which is not distorted by manmade regulations and traditions I count to Pentecost each year, **because it does not always fall on the 6th day of Sivan every year as some incorrectly suppose.** Because the first and second months **do not** have fixed lengths **Pentecost** must be counted to.

In the present Jewish calendar months have fixed lengths - **and this is not strictly scriptural.** Abib, for instance could be 30 days or 29 days in length. Likewise the second month, it may be 29 or 30 days in length. This affects the count - so Pentecost is counted to, because it does **NOT** always fall on the 6th day of Sivan.

**My method is by no means a new one;** it was used long, long ago and was used by the Pharisees and, as the Westminster Dictionary puts it, **“by those who directed the services of the 2nd Temple,”** the one the Saviour walked in. He recommended that we listen to the Pharisees in this matter (Matthew 23: 2-3).

Matthew 23: 2: *“Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:*

*3: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, **that observe and do;** but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.”*

The Boethusian way of counting 50 days from the Sunday during the week of unleavened bread is, nevertheless, worthy of consideration. You will need to contact other groups who use that method. We in Canada **also** keep a close watch for the **SIGNS in the sun, moon and stars** on the Sunday that is arrived at by that method of counting. As it is a non-working day in Canada, we have no trouble doing this. No doubt a **SIGN** in the sun or moon, as indicated in (Genesis 1: 14), would settle the matter as to which counting method is correct. Look for it, for it is sure to take place! The Scriptures cannot be broken!

There has been centuries of dispute over the **‘count to Pentecost’s** and no doubt this will continue till the Master returns. Meanwhile my advice to all is to **keep an open mind** on it and respect the opinions of other believers. Above all we cannot afford to pontificate on the subject, because it is not as clear cut as some think.

#### **INCORRECT CALENDAR**

By far the greater issue is the one about the distorted calendar that so many feast - keeping Christians are currently using. That error alone causes millions of believers to inadvertently keep **over half of Yahweh’s feasts on the wrong dates in two out of three years.** For further details see **Question 6 in the Sacred Calendar of the God of Israel**

**AMEN!**

**In the Son’s Name — For the Father’s glory.**

**Elder: Max W. Mader**

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