

God's Plan - The Day of Pentecost

Introduction:

By Lonnie Fritz – May 20, 2018

Please note, I am making this available because of several requests - The following is the fruit of my study on subject. I researched from several websites and did not note all sources because it was not intended to be a published work.

- The day after my lesson on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus – Resurrection Sunday – I wrote on my calendar – On this Sunday – Preach on the Day of Pentecost.
- Our theme for the year – God's Plan. In this lesson I believe we will clearly see God's plan unfolding – In fact we might say that Acts 2 – That Pentecost is the focal point of the whole Bible up to that point.
- For Christians, Pentecost is a day on which we recognize as the beginning of the church. From a historical perspective, **Christianity didn't start with Jesus' birth, his death or even his ascension to heaven. It started with Pentecost** — the day the "Holy Spirit" entered a room holding Jesus' apostles and entered each of them, an event which "makes the church the church." This is also true from a spiritual perspective, since the Spirit brings the church into existence and enlivens it. Thus Pentecost is the church's birthday.
-
- I certainly have preached from Acts 2 and taught it in Bible class many times. This time however, I decided I would research some of the background of the Jewish Pentecost to see if there were connections to the beginning of the church.
- Wow! Did I find out some things I never knew, nor have I ever heard mentioned in terms of the connection between the Jewish celebration of Pentecost. I love learning new stuff and hope sharing it with you is helpful to your faith as well.
- **God's Plan -**
- Gal 4:4-6 "But **when the set time had fully come**, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."
- Eph 1:3-6 "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him **before the creation of the world** to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will to the praise of the glory of His grace...."
-

"**On the day of Pentecost** all the believers were meeting together in one place." Acts 2:1

- **What was The Day of Pentecost? – Feast of Weeks – Shavuot!**
-
- **Greek-speaking Jews who used the phrase to refer to a Jewish holiday.**

- This holiday was known as the Festival of Weeks, or, more simply, Weeks -*Shavuot* in Hebrew. This name comes from an expression in Leviticus 23:16, which instructs people to count seven weeks or “fifty days” from the end of Passover to the beginning of the next holiday
- The English word “Pentecost” is a transliteration of the Greek word *pentekostos*, which means “fifty” or “fiftieth day.”
-
- *Shavuot* was the second great feast in Israel’s yearly cycle of holy days.
 - It was originally a **harvest festival** (Exod 23:16), when they would bring in the firstfruits of the crops. but, in time, turned into a day to
 - commemorate the giving of the law on Mt. Sinai.

How Did they Celebrate Shavuot?

- The Torah's Commandment
- "You shall count seven full weeks from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf (omer) of the wave offering. You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath. Then you shall present a grain offering of new grain to the LORD" (Lev. 23:15-16).
- Every evening, from the second night of Passover to the night before Shavuot, the following blessing is recited before stating the count of the omer:
- **Counting the Omer** - derives from the Torah commandment to count forty-nine days beginning from the day on which the Omer, a sacrifice containing an omer-measure of barley, was offered in the Temple in Jerusalem, up until the day before an offering of wheat was brought to the Temple on **Shavuot**.
- There is some disagreement to when the counting begins and thus ends. My conclusion would be that the counting began the day after the weekly Sabbath and therefore the Shavuot (Pentecost) would always fall on the first day after the 49th day – which would always be the first day of the week – Sunday. – LF.
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shavuot>
- “The Torah states that the Omer offering (i.e., the first day of counting the Omer) is the first day of the barley harvest (Deut. 16:9). It should begin "on the morrow after the Shabbat", and continue to be counted for seven Sabbaths. (Lev. 23:11).
- The Talmudic Sages determined that "Shabbat" here means a day of rest and refers to the first day of Passover. Thus, the counting of the Omer begins on the second day of Passover and continues for the next 49 days, or seven complete weeks, ending on the day before Shavuot. According to this calculation, Shavuot will fall on the day of the week after that of the first day of Passover (e.g., if Passover starts on a Thursday, Shavuot will begin on a Friday).
- Karaites differ in their understanding of "morrow after the Sabbath". Karaites interpret the Sabbath to be the first weekly Sabbath that falls during Passover. As a result, the Karaite Shavuot is always on a Sunday, although the actual Hebrew date varies (which compliments the fact that a specific date is never given for Shavuot in the Torah, the only holiday for which this is the case).[51] Other non-Rabbinical religious leaders such as Anan ben David (founder of the Ananites); Benjamin al-

Nahawandi (founder of the Benjaminites); Ismail al-Ukbari (founder of a 9th-century messianic Jewish movement in Babylon); Musa of Tiflis (founder of a 9th-century Jewish movement in Babylon); and Malik al Ramli (founder of a 9th-century Jewish movement in the Land of Israel) additionally recognized that Shavuot should fall out on a Sunday.[51]

- Most secular scholarship, as well as Catholics[52] and the historical Sadducees and Boethusians, dispute the Rabbinic interpretation. They infer the "Shabbat" referenced is the weekly Shabbat. Accordingly, the counting of the Omer always begins on the Sunday of Passover, and continues for 49 days, so that Shavuot would always fall on a Sunday as well."

•

						
<p>בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר</p>						
a-she-r	ha-'o-lam	me-lekh	elo-hei-nu	Adonai	at-tah	ba-ruk-h
<i>who</i>	<i>the universe</i>	<i>king (of)</i>	<i>our God</i>	<i>Lord</i>	<i>are you</i>	<i>Blessed</i>
<p>קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סִפְרֵת הָעֹמֶר.</p>						
ha-o-mer	se-firat	'al	vet-si-va-nu	be-mits-vo-tav	kid-de-sha-nu	
<i>of the Omer</i>	<i>the counting</i>	<i>and commanded us</i>	<i>about</i>	<i>with his</i>	<i>sanctified us</i>	

The way we would say this:

Blessed are you Lord our God, Master of the Universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to count the Omer!

- After reciting the blessing (above), we then declare the count of the Omer in both days and weeks. For example, on the first day we say,
- "Today is one day of the omer).
- On the eighth day we **today is eight days, which is one week and one day of the Omer.**
- **The people were so eager for this revelation that after their deliverance they began counting the days: "Now we have one day less to wait for the giving of the Torah!"**
- This continues, day by day, until we reach the 49th day, when we say, today is forty-nine days, which are seven weeks of the Omer
- After the blessing is recited and the count has been declared, it is customary to say this short prayer: **"O Compassionate One! May He return for us the Service of the Temple to its Place Amen; Selah. Speedily and in our time. Amen; Selah"**
- **The idea of counting each day represents spiritual preparation and anticipation for the giving of the Torah. Thus the Counting of the Omer demonstrates how much a Hebrew desires to accept the Torah in his own life.**

This is from a Jewish website:

- Following Pesach (Passover)— the Festival of Our Liberation — comes Shavuot — the Festival of the Receiving of Our Torah. The days of Sefirah (Counting of the Omer), beginning immediately

on the morrow of the first day of Pesach and ending on the eve of Shavuot, connect these two great festivals.

- Many significant lessons can be learned from this, of which I will point out but one:
- Our Sages tell us that when Moshe (Moses) was about to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt, he told them of G-d's promise to give the Torah to His beloved people following their liberation from bondage. At once they asked when would that happy day be, and Moshe replied that it **would be fifty days later**. Every day the children of Israel counted: One day is gone, two days, three, and so on, and eagerly looked forward to the fiftieth day.

•
Some things associated with the Jewish Celebration of Pentecost:

- Psalm 67 is often recited because it is composed of 49 Hebrew words which correspond to the 49 Days of the Count Down –
- ¹ May God be merciful and bless us.
- May his face smile with favor on us.
- ² May your ways be known throughout the earth,
- your saving power among people everywhere.
- ³ May the nations praise you, O God.
- Yes, may all the nations praise you.
- ⁴ Let the whole world sing for joy,
- because you govern the nations with justice
- and guide the people of the whole world.
- ⁵ May the nations praise you, O God.
- Yes, may all the nations praise you.
- ⁶ Then the earth will yield its harvests,
- and God, our God, will richly bless us.
- ⁷ Yes, God will bless us,
- and people all over the world will fear him.
-
- **The Book of Ruth is read on Shavuot because:**
 - King David, Ruth's great grandson, was believed to have been born and died on Shavuot - Pentecost
 - Feast of Weeks – Pentecost celebrates the Early Harvest - Book of Ruth occur at harvest time;
- Ruth's conversion to Judaism is representative of all the people becoming the Israelite nation at Sinai.

There is an old American spiritual, “Bringing in the Sheaves.” (56 in the green book) The jubilant chorus of the song—“We shall go rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves!”—is inspired by a rather obscure verse from the Book of Psalms: “He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him” ([Psalm 126:6](#)). The psalmist may be referring to Shavuot, which was a time for reaping the harvest to the glory of the Lord. Shavuot was a day of rejoicing when the ancient Israelites gave to God what was rightfully His: the firstfruits of the harvest.

- The traditional festival of Pentecost as the birthday of the Torah "the time our Law was given" when Israel became a constitutional body and "a distinguished people."
- **All Night Torah Study is practiced on Pentecost** - Though this tradition probably developed many years after the Pentecost in Acts 2, it shows the connection to the giving of the first covenant.
 - In Jerusalem, tens of thousands of people finish off the nighttime study session by walking to the Western Wall before dawn and joining the sunrise. This practice began in 1967. One week before Shavuot of that year, the Israeli army recaptured the Old City in the Six-Day War, and on Shavuot day, the army opened the Western Wall to visitors. Over 200,000 Jews came to see and pray at the site that had been off-limits to them since 1948. The custom of walking to the Western Wall on Shavuot has continued every year since.

Are You Seeing the Planning of God in the timing of the start of the New Covenant?

- They Celebrated the Giving of the First of Covenant - What Happened on THAT Pentecost – The Beginning of the New Covenant!
- They Celebrated the First Fruits of the Harvest – What Happened on THAT Pentecost? – The First Fruits of the Harvest - The Fields are White to Harvest!
- Think about the Count Down from Passover to Pentecost – Acts 1:4-5 Stay in Jerusalem
 - "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."
 - **Acts 2:1** When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place
 - **Do you get the feeling that they were anticipating something big happening THAT Day? Verbally they have been counting since the Day of the Resurrection!**

From Shadow to Substance

- Col 2:16-17 ¹⁶ Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. ¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.
- Hebrews 8:5 Who serve to the example and **shadow of heavenly things**, as Moses ...
- Hebrews 9:9 Which was a **figure** for the time then present, in which were offered ...
- Hebrews 10:1 For the law having a **shadow of good things to come**, and not the very reality.
- When God delivered the Substance of which the festival of Shavuot was merely a "type and a shadow."
- Shavuot – Pentecost is the climax of God's plan for our deliverance through Yeshua – Jesus the Messiah, the true Lamb of God!
- The countdown to Pentecost represents the giving of the anticipated New Covenant to

mankind, since on this very day the Holy Spirit was given

- During the season that Jews from around the world gathered in Jerusalem to reaffirm their commitment to the covenant of Moses, the Holy Spirit descended upon Israel to offer the promise of the New Covenant to all who will believe (see [Acts 2:1-42](#)).

This Day was Prophesied!

- Isa 2:1-3 The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it. ³And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem....

Micah 4:1-2

- In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it.
- ² Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
- to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Jer 31:31-34

- ³¹ "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.
- ³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.
- ³³ "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.
- ³⁴ No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

The New Covenant

- Heb 8:9-10 ...⁹It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, because they did not abide by My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord. ¹⁰This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord. I will put My laws in their minds, and inscribe them on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they will be My people.
- Heb 10:15-17 ...¹⁵The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First He says: ¹⁶"This is the covenant I will make with them after those days, says the Lord. I will put My Laws in their hearts and inscribe them on their minds." ¹⁷Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will

remember no more.”...

The First Day of the New Covenant

- Spirit was poured out upon his first followers, thus empowering them for their mission and gathering them together as a church.

DAY 1!

- May I Say Shalom Shavuot! Happy Pentecost Today!
- Today we are on about day $(2018 \times 365.25) - 30\text{yrs} = 726,415$
- And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 2:47
- Every day since that first day – the plan has been the same.

God’s Plan – The Countdown to the Covenant – the First Fruits of the Harvest - **Acts 2 – That Pentecost!**

They must have known something big was coming!

The Spirit Came as Jesus said – Acts 1:3-5

- “He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Luke 24:49 "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Talk about starting with a Bang!

Accompanied by audible and visual signs...

- A sound as of a mighty rushing wind - **Acts 2:2**
- Divided tongues as of fire sitting upon each of them – **Acts 2:3**
- Enabling the apostles to speak in foreign languages - **Acts 2:4-11**
- Every man heard them speak in his own language - **Acts 2:6-12** -
- When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and

Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ^{d 10} Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

- A Foretaste of the multicultural nature of the Church!
- Remember Jesus said, Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the rest of the world.
- Remember the prophecy – All Nations!
 - Micah 4:2 “Many nations will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.” The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.”
- A fulfillment of Joel's prophecy - **Acts 2:16-21**
- Found in **Joel 2:28-32** ²⁸ “And afterward,
- I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. ²⁹ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. ³⁰ I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ³¹ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ³² And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.

Jesus Is the Deliverance we Have waited for: Acts 2:22-47

- ²² “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ; **and you**, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him
- The testimony of David - **Acts 2:25-31**
- Who prophesied of the resurrection of God's Anointed - Psalms 16:8-11
- **10 For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.**

The testimony of the Spirit's outpouring - Acts 2:33-41

- The outpouring of the Spirit was evidence of Christ's exaltation to the right hand of God. **Psalms 110:1 The Lord says to my Lord:" Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."**

The First Fruits - Acts 2:36-41

- 36 “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”
- 37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”
- 38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”
- 40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

3000 souls were "added" the Lord who was adding them to His church – [With this response to Peter's sermon, the Lord's church began in Jerusalem (cf. **Acts 2:42**). It was an amazing day, in which 3000 souls responded to the gospel of Christ. What can be gleaned from this example of conversion?]

- Those who are baptized were promised forgiveness of sins – and **"the gift of the Spirit"** -the Spirit Himself –
- **Acts 5:32- the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."**
- **Galatians 4:6**
- **6 Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, " Abba! Father!" NASU**
- 1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

What a Plan God Revealed on That Pentecost!