



## The Feast of First Fruits to Feast of Pentecost

### Counting of the Omer, How to Recognize the Seasons & Time of God's Harvest?

(First-fruits April 23rd, 2016 – Pentecost June 11rd, 2016)

Lev 23:15 **From the day after the Sabbath, the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, count off seven full weeks.**

Questions answered by the study of the Omer and Pentecost known as Feast of Weeks:

For What Purpose did God set me Free?  
Is there Life after Death and a Heaven?  
What does God's Seasons and Time Periods mean?  
What is a Wave Offering?  
Why give tithes, the first part of my income?  
God's promise and guarantee to us about resurrection and harvest!  
Is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit optional?

God has an order to all that He does and reveals. He is the MASTER Organizer! Fifteen hundred years before the birth of Jesus Christ the seven (7) feasts of the Lord physically laid out the salvation plan of Jesus' life and work, plus the prophetic events yet to come.

#### **SPRING FEASTS - The first four feasts reveal the following:**

**Passover:** reveals the death of Jesus, **Unleavened Bread:** His sinless Life; **Firstfruits/Omer:** His resurrection from the dead, (proof of Life after Death called Eternal Life), and proof of Heaven. **Pentecost/Weeks:** reveals **God's Seal on His people**, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, brings Power and Purpose. All four feasts deal with the first coming of Jesus, the beginning of the church, joining both Jew and Gentile, God's acceptance seal of the Holy Spirit.

#### **FALL FEASTS - The last three feasts deal with Jesus' second coming.**

**Trumpets:** reveal a Shofar Call to Repentance, to repair relationships, a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit & future catching away (rapture) of the church. **Day of Atonement:** reveals cleansing of the sanctuary worldwide, creating a church body without spot or wrinkle. **Tabernacles:** reveals the ultimate return of Jesus to rule, reign, and tabernacle among us. He will wipe away every tear, be our God, and bring about a new heaven and earth.

**The 7 feasts are divided into three great feasts:** Passover, Pentecost, & Tabernacles. They mark **three points of time or seasons for every believer to KNOW.** Each season reveals a person. Passover: Jesus; Pentecost: The Holy Spirit; Tabernacles: Father God! Each Season points to harvest time of fruits of the earth, both spiritual & physical. Second, each Season mark actual periods of time in Israel's past and future. Third; each Season points to three grand prophetic events of the gospel kingdom, which two are fulfilled, Passover in Jesus, Pentecost giving of the Holy Spirit and one is yet to come.

The study of God's feasts helps us *to know how to please* God, what to expect from Him, and when certain events take place. Understanding of God's specifications for these festivals can help one **to partake of their benefits and prepare for the future.**

#### **We are in the time period of the Omer!**

Lev 23:10-12 **"Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'When you enter the land I am going to give you and you reap its harvest, bring to the priest a sheaf of the first grain you harvest. He is to wave the sheaf before the LORD so it will be accepted on your behalf; the priest is to wave it on the day after the Sabbath.'"**



Lev 23:14 (NIV) **“You must not eat any bread, or roasted or new grain, until the very day you bring this offering to your God. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live!”**

### What is a Sheaf/Omer of First Grain?

“The Omer” in Hebrew means literally “a measure.” This small “Omer” or “sheaf” of the first ripe harvest was taken from the field and brought to the priest in the temple in Jerusalem to be dedicated to God, known as Sheaf of the First-fruits. It was a raw produce (usually barley) and commanded by God to be offered in the ***New Promised Land!*** Omer offerings can only be given after we are delivered by the Blood of Jesus and we are in the Kingdom of God.



The Priest would then “wave” the Sheaf called Omer before the Lord in His house. This was done on the **“morrow after Sabbath”** meaning Sunday. It is from the time of the offering of the Omer, the Bible commands that seven weeks (7Sabbaths/Saturdays) be counted, then (the day after 7<sup>th</sup> Sabbath) they were to celebrate the Feast of Shavuot (Hebrew meaning Weeks), known as “Pentecost”, which is the 50<sup>th</sup> Day. This **period of counting days from Firstfruit to Pentecost** (Greek word for 50) is called **The Omer!**

### Interpretation of the Feast of First-Fruits

#### What is a Wave Offering?

The offering of the first Omer expressed a voluntary special thanksgiving to God for the produce, land, and His provision. The presenter would give a basket of produce to the priest, who would “wave” it up and down before the altar and the person declared the following: “I profess this day unto the Lord thy God that I am come unto the country which the Lord swore unto our fathers to give us. A Syrian (Jacob) ready to perish was my father, and he went down into Egypt, and became a great nation, etc.” This declaration remembers the Birth of the Nation Israel, combined with the Birth of **First New Harvest from the Promise Land**, which each man’s existence is dependent on.

#### Why is it important?

The Lord accepting the wave offering of the Sheaf/Omer indicated that the rest of the harvest would be consecrated and come in with the help of God. **God was now involved in Harvest and His Word was Trustworthy!** Jewish Tradition states that no one was to eat of the grain (barley) harvest, use it for baking, or eat any bread until the wave offering (Omer/First-Fruit) was complete and accepted by God.

#### Why we give our “tithes” first and offer it to God!

Today, we give the first of our own harvest to God (income, time, & works) as a first-fruits offering – to thank God, to not partake from the reaping of them ourselves until we “wave it” before the Lord – to sanctify it to Him, and to ask His blessings in us and bringing in God’s continued harvest! **God is now committed in our growth, harvest & finances!** (This is why the offering in church, is picked up in baskets is our Omer/firstfruit offering.)

#### In the Bible, a sheaf generally was used to typify a person or persons.

Joseph in his dream saw 11 sheaves bow down to his sheaf.

**Gen 37: 7,8 We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it.” His brothers said to him, “Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?” And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said. NIV**

The fulfillment came when Joseph became Prime Minister of Egypt where his brothers came and bowed down to him due to drought and was saved.



## Jesus is our Omer/Sheaf of First-fruit and Reveals Life after Death!

Jesus is revealed as the First-fruits/Omer of conquered Death – the first person to rise from the dead and to never die again! Jesus died on Passover night and rose on Sunday, day after Sabbath, on the day of Feast of First-fruits/Omer. His resurrection promises us, who believe in Him, that we too, will rise to LIFE after death!



I Cor. 15:20-23 (NIV) **But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the Firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the First-fruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.**

**Jesus Ascended to our Father God in heaven to present Himself as Firstfruit Wave Offering** Jesus raised from the dead, then presented himself to God and 50 days later on Pentecost, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit came. This is why He told Mary by the tomb not to touch Him, for he had not gone to his father yet.

John 20:17 Morning after Sabbath

**17 Jesus said to her "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"**

## The Counting Begins; The Period of The Omer Shavuot to Pentecost!

Lev 23:15-17 **'From the day after the Sabbath, the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, count off seven full weeks. Count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath and then present an offering of new grain to the LORD. From wherever you live, bring two loaves, made of two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour, baked with yeast, as a wave offering of first-fruits to the LORD....**



### Why Count?

One counts things of value. One counts units of time till a desired goal; for a child, it might be, "How many days till school vacation?" Frequently, the items counted are units of time. In Jewish belief, "time" has great value; it is forbidden to waste it, or to "kill time". God commanded to count from offering the Omer to 49 days and give another Omer offering of 2 Loaves (usually Wheat) on Pentecost. (Pentecost was the Harvest of Wheat).

### Count our Days Before God!

The counting period of 49 days from Passover to Pentecost is a time of great anticipation. During counting of each day of the Omer, one is to count up to a New Freedom. We are to count our days, to make each day count, to fulfill God's plan by the Spirit! The Bible states, "the span of our life is 70 years" or symbolically seven weeks of 10! Each day we are to prepare and act for the day we will stand and speak face to face with God!

**Passover, without Pentecost, would have been incomplete,** and the Omer is the chain that links the two together! Pentecost, a celebration of giving of the Law, is considered the closing festival, an end to the first harvest of the Passover season. (Ex. 34:22; Lev.23:15; Deut. 16:9-10). Counting the Omer reminds us of the important connection between Passover and Pentecost: Passover freed Israel physically from bondage, but the giving of the Law on Pentecost delivered them spiritually from bondage of idolatry and immorality.

**A Transformation took place during the time from Passover to Pentecost!  
Slaves of Pharaoh of Egypt  
Transformed into Servants of the Most High God!**



Passover is the holiday to commemorate redemption from 400 years of slavery in Egypt, Israel's "Physical Redemption". But, physical redemption is not enough. A "free" people, with no purpose in their lives, ultimately return to bondage, as in the event of Moses.

It was on this day of Pentecost that Moses brought the people to Mount Sinai, where God gave the 10 commandments, the Tabernacle, and the Covenant Law to the New Nation of Israel. That evening, Moses went back to camp to deliver the law and found the people, who were without purpose, had gone back to their Egyptian gods. Result of this, 3,000 people died that day!

**Pentecost gives Purpose & Power:** Jesus rose on the day of First-fruits, spent 40 days with his disciples, and went to heaven. Ten days later, on Pentecost (50<sup>th</sup> day), the Holy Spirit baptized the disciples of Jesus in Jerusalem. At Mount Sinai, God wrote his Law on tablets, but the Holy Spirit Baptism, given to those who believe, wrote God's law on the hearts & minds of men & women. Now endued with great power & boldness, they spoke the gospel testimony of Jesus to the crowd and 3000 souls were saved that day!

At Passover, a Covenant was offered to the Hebrew nation through the Lamb Meal and Blood on the Door. On First-fruits, Israel Exodus from Egypt took place. At Pentecost, the covenant law was given, accepted and Sealed through faith, and the title of "A Kingdom of Priests and a Holy Nation" was given.

**The Holy Spirit is NOT Optional, Jesus commanded His Disciples to be Filled!**

500 people heard Jesus give this command to wait to be Baptized. Only 120 people were obedient. Fulfilling Passover, Jesus offers Salvation through a Blood Covenant with us, First-fruits; He offers Eternal Life, Life after death and Heaven. Pentecost, He Seals that Covenant through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with tongues and offers us the power to be called the "Sons of God". Without the Holy Spirit, our salvation would not be complete and have no meaning or power! This is why many live a frustrated Christian Life.

**Offerings:** On the 50<sup>th</sup> day, Pentecost, they were to offer another grain (wheat) offering, but this was to be baked into two loaves of bread first, and offered with two lambs in the temple. They were to wave it before the Lord and His acceptance assured a great harvest afterward.

**Pentecost also marks a New Beginning of a New Harvest yet to be fulfilled.**

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit ended one harvest and yet started another. The Church was born on Pentecost, full of both Jews and Gentiles, representing the two loaves. Jesus spoke of the multitudes, as sand of the sea, would come to faith in the future through the acts of His Church and the gates of Hell could not prevail against it. He said His disciples would perform greater miracles than He and you would know them by their fruit and unity.

The next feast speaks of the great harvest – larger than Passover and Pentecost together!  
We look forward to the fulfillment of this feast to come, The Feast of Tabernacles.

**Passover delivers us from Penalty of Sin,  
Pentecost (Weeks) delivers us from the Power of Sin,  
and Tabernacles will eventually deliver us from the Presence of Sin!**

We hope this teaching of The Omer will spur you on to study more of God's Word. May you count your days before God, Be filled with His Spirit, and fulfill your purpose!

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