

Pentecost 2018: The End of the Age?

May 20 or May 27?

I am fully persuaded that Pentecost 2018, which follows Israel's 70th year in "the glory of all lands"¹, may complete the Age of Pentecost. It may well be the day that Paul described as the "fullness of the Gentiles".²

As a result of this, I searched the Scriptures with a view to calculate the day of Pentecost 2018. Among a number of calendars, there seems to be agreement that Pentecost will fall on Sunday, May 20. Let's check it out using the Scriptures as our guide. We are told to "prove all things".³

Introduction

Our guide is found in Leviticus 23 and Deuteronomy 16. These two chapters set out the festivals of the Lord. They are His festivals. Four are appointed times or "mow'ed" and three are holy convocations or "chag". The Spring festivals are: Passover, Unleavened Bread and First Fruits. The Fall festivals are Trumpets, Atonement and Tabernacles. Pentecost is wedged between the Spring and Fall festivals.

The Spring festivals are prophetic types of Christ's First Advent and the Fall festivals are prophetic types of the Second Advent of Christ. The Feast of Pentecost is a prophetic type of the mystery of the Kingdom of God, Christ indwelt and the Second Order of the First Resurrection⁴. The three pilgrimage feasts are: Unleavened Bread, Pentecost and Tabernacles.

The three pilgrimage feasts are prophetic types of the first resurrection, the resurrection of righteousness, in Christ. These are the Lord's Feasts of the Resurrection of Righteousness.

The First Resurrection

The first resurrection has three distinct phases. It is the resurrection of righteousness based exclusively on Christ's atoning works. Christ, the first fruits of the resurrection to everlasting life, was raised on the festival of First Fruits during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. He was the first order of Paul's three orders set out in 1 Corinthians 15:23-24.

Next, the second order, will be "they that are Christ's at His appearing". This is the Resurrection/Rapture/Harpazo of 1 Corinthians 15:52 and 1 Thessalonians 4:17. This will occur on a future Pentecost day.

¹ Ezekiel 20:6

² Romans 11:25

³ 1 Thessalonians 5:21

⁴ 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Last, the third order, will be the "tribulation saints" which will be resurrected after the Second Advent, at the end.⁵ This will occur on a future Feast of Tabernacles. This third order completes the first resurrection.⁶ The Millennial reign ensues.

Pentecost and Prophetic Fulfillment

Pentecost was not fulfilled with the gift of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost in 30 A.D. Pentecost was initiated. It has not ended. Pentecost was not an event fulfilled on a single day. It represents the Kingdom of God in mystery form.⁷ It is a day in eternity. Jesus gave away the Kingdom of God to a people who would produce fruit.⁸ Paul was the minister of the Kingdom of God which was given away to the Gentiles. Christ's own are the fruit.⁹

Gift of the Law: The Ministry of Death

Now, many assert that Pentecost was fulfilled in the giving of the law and the giving of the Holy Spirit. Nothing could be further from Scriptural truth. The giving of the law at Sinai and the gift of the Holy Spirit are complete opposites.

Paul describes the law as the "ministration of death"¹⁰ and the "ministration of condemnation".¹¹ The law mandated works in the flesh. So, then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.¹²

Gift of the Holy Spirit: The Ministry of Righteousness

Conversely, Paul describes Christ's own, those indwelt with the Holy Spirit and in full expectation of the hope of glory¹³ as the ministration of righteousness¹⁴. Righteousness mandates works in the Spirit.¹⁵

The law given at Sinai, at best, is the school master leading to Christ.¹⁶

About 3,000 Killed at Sinai, About 3,000 Saved

About 3,000 men perished for idol worship at Sinai.¹⁷ About 3,000 were saved and baptized at the first Pentecost.¹⁸ Clearly, these two fact patterns are distinguished contrasting death with salvation. Likening the Sinai deaths and gift of Holy Spirit as Pentecostal fulfillment is folly.

⁵ 1 Corinthians 15:24; Revelation 20:4

⁶ Revelation 20:5

⁷ Colossians 1:27

⁸ Matthew 21:43

⁹ Romans 8:23

¹⁰ Isaiah 28:15

¹¹ 2 Corinthians 3:7, 9

¹² Romans 8:8

¹³ Colossians 1:27

¹⁴ 2 Corinthians 3:9

¹⁵ Romans 8:4

¹⁶ Galatians 3:24-25

Pentecost Not Observed in Sinai

Moses did not associate any Sinai activity with Pentecost. He commanded the Hebrews to commence its observance when they "came into the land which God was to give them".¹⁹ An observance of Pentecost during the Sinai wilderness period would contradict Scripture. Therefore, any assertion of its observance, as the "giving of the law" must be rejected.

How Do We Count the Days to Pentecost?

Moses tells us the method. He says in Leviticus 23:5-7:

⁵ In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD's passover.

⁶ And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.

⁷ In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

We must count from Abib 1 (Nisan 1) to day 14. Assuming the correct date is set for Abib 1 in 2018 we count forward 14 days to Passover. Passover 2018 was on sunset on Friday, March 30 to sunset March 31. Passover in 2018 was on the regular Sabbath day.

Next we count to the first day of Unleavened Bread. Moses says in Leviticus 23:6-8:

⁶ And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.

⁷ In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

⁸ But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

The count adds one day. Therefore, the Feast of Unleavened Bread began on sunset Saturday, March 31 to sunset April 1. Christian churches observed Sunday, April 1 as Resurrection Sunday.

Next we need to calculate the festival of First Fruits. Moses says in Leviticus 23:9-11

⁹ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

¹⁷ Exodus 32:28

¹⁸ Acts 2:41

¹⁹ Leviticus 23:10

¹⁰ Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:

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.

We count from the "morrow after the sabbath" to find the day of First Fruits. The next regular Sabbath following Unleavened Bread is sunset Friday, April 6 to sunset April 7. The Sunday following this Sabbath is the "morrow". This is April 8 and it is the proper day to observe First Fruits in 2018.

There is a controversy about the definition of the sabbath day in verse 11. The majority view is that the first day of Unleavened bread is the sabbath referred to in verse 11 instead of the regular weekly Sabbath. The feast of Unleavened Bread lasts seven days. The first and last day are termed "holy convocations". It is my view that the plain language of the passage refers to the regular weekly Sabbath and not the holy convocation.

Therefore, we need to count fifty (50) days from the day after the wave sheaf offering. Moses says in Leviticus 23:15-17:

¹⁵ And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete:

¹⁶ Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.

¹⁷ Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals; they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; they are the firstfruits unto the LORD.

Since Jesus was resurrected on a Sunday First Fruits, we must consider it a strong possibility that First Fruits and necessarily, Pentecost, based on the day counts, always fall on Sunday.

In 2018, a fifty day count results in a Pentecost commencing on sunset Saturday, May 26 to sunset May 27, 2018. This is one week later than the majority view which is Sunday, May 20, 2018 which directly contradicts the required Leviticus day counts.

Jesus as the Figure of the Wave Sheaf Offering

Jesus' resurrection occurred on the same day that the Temple priests were conducting the "wave sheaf offering" to God. How embarrassing. Do you think any of the priests made the connection of His resurrection as a type of grain which must die? Jesus, speaking figuratively of Himself, in John 12:24 said:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."

Jesus fulfilled the figurative type of "wave sheaf offering" as the grain seed which would die and produce much fruit. Many of the chief Jewish rulers believed in Jesus as Messiah.²⁰

Paul confirms this figurative symbolism. He says: "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept."²¹

In Christ's day, His resurrection occurred on Sunday, Abib 17.

Christ's Own as the Figure of the Two Loaf Wave Offering

Christ's own have the spirit of first fruits. The Age of Pentecost has continuously existed since the first Pentecost. It will continue until the end of the age, the fullness of the Gentiles.²² Then, on the day that God in Christ, in His wisdom, determines to be Pentecost, He will appear to His own and raise the dead in Christ and catch out the living in Christ, in the twinkling of an eye.²³

The figure of the two loaf wave offering is represented by the raised "dead in Christ" and the "catching out of the living in Christ". There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for all are one in Christ Jesus.²⁴

The two loaf wave offering completes the figurative symbolism of the Age of Pentecost, a day in eternity, the Kingdom of God in mystery form, departs planet Earth, for a little while.

Let us watch expectantly for the Pentecostal Day of Christ.

It will be a day in the Spring.²⁵ Very likely on a weekend. Perhaps in late May 2018.

²⁰ John 12:42

²¹ 1 Corinthians 15:20

²² Romans 11:25

²³ 1 Corinthians 15:52; 1 Thessalonians 4:17

²⁴ Galatians 3:28

²⁵ Song of Songs 2:10-13