

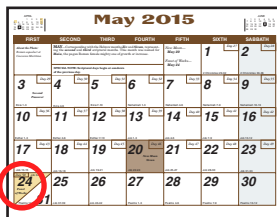


THE
SACRED NAME
BROADCASTER

4/2015

April 2015
 Volume XLVII, Number 1

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Founder and Author: Elder Jacob O. Meyer



Our Cover:

The cover this month shows an old road in Galilee from Rosh Pina to Safed. We wonder if this road was in existence during the time of Yahshua the Messiah. Perhaps it was!

It is, however, what roads would have looked like during Yahshua's ministry, when He walked the land of Israel, bringing the Good News of the Kingdom of Yahweh to His fellow Israelites.

"...Leaving you an example, that you should follow his steps." (1 Peter 2:21b). Which pathway have you chosen to follow, the Narrow Way to life, or the broad way to destruction?

"He that says he remains in him ought himself also to walk even as he walked." (1 John 2:6).

Once more, the set time of the second major feast of Yahweh is approaching. This is the sacred appointment which is called Pentecost by most people. Sometimes, it is called *The Feast of Weeks*, or, as one passage of Hebrew Scripture has it, *Chag Shavuoth*.

Count

MARCH

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2015

MAY

			1	2
3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	

FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	FIFTH	SIXTH	SABBATH
About the Photo:		Passover-April 4 Feast of Unleavened Bread First High Day-April 5 Last High Day-April 11 New Moon-April 20	1	2	3	4 <small>Passover</small>
	7	8	9	10	11	11 <small>Second High Sabbath</small>
	14	15	16	17	18	
	22	23	24	25		

APRIL

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30		

May 2015

JUNE

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30

FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	FIFTH	SIXTH	SABBATH
About the Photo: Roman aqueduct at Caesarea Maritima.	MAY—Corresponding with the Hebrew months <i>Ziv</i> and <i>Sivan</i> , representing the <i>second</i> and <i>third</i> scriptural months. This month was named for <i>Mata</i> , the pagan Roman female mighty one of growth or increase.			New Moon— May 20	1	2
	SPECIAL NOTE: Scriptural days begin at sundown of the previous day.			Feast of Weeks— May 24	29	30
3 <small>Second Passover</small>	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 <small>New Moon Sivan</small>	21	22	23
24 <small>Feast of Weeks</small>	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

50

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

Today, the term *Pentecost* is on the lips of many religious people, but few of them understand the significance of the feast, although the New Testament Assembly was conceived on that very feast day commanded by Almighty Yahweh. When we come to perceive the big picture that is presented by the sacred Scriptures, a truly magnificent portrayal of the

plan of salvation emerges through comprehending and keeping all of the feasts of Yahweh.

When the author began his serious study of the Bible, he very quickly learned of various groups who observed the Feasts of Yahweh who were worshipping on different days as they kept Pentecost. Certainly, the Body of the Messiah is not

divided in observing Yahweh's holy days, and it should be our sincere desire to obey the Word of Yahweh as it has been handed down to us.

However, the differences of opinion were personally stimulating to the author, since they demanded that he study and research the Scriptures to discover who was being truly obedient to the Truth.

Diligently, the task of learning which day should be kept for the holy day of the Feast of Weeks was undertaken and proven from the sacred scriptural texts. You may have already read some of our research which was published in previous issues of the **Sacred Name Broadcaster** magazine. If you do not have these articles on the Feast of Weeks in your possession as yet, write to us here at the offices of the Assemblies of Yahweh immediately and request them. They are free for the asking.

However, over the intervening years since the aforementioned publication of these articles, questions have been asked concerning the reasons why the Jews keep a different day than the Assemblies of Yahweh. Do we not have the same Scriptures to read and study? It is a truism that some of the people who believe in the New Testament merely follow the Jews, simply because the Messiah was of the Jewish, Israelite—Hebrew, culture. This should not be the case with the True Worshiper who follows the Word of Yahweh exclusively and allows it to direct him. Let us always fix this concept firmly in our minds. Consequently, this article will explore the reasons for the difference between the Jewish way of counting for the Feast of Weeks and what the Bible teaches on the subject.

The Difference in Counting

The basic directive relative to the method of establishing the correct day for the observance of Feast of Weeks is found in Leviticus 23:10-21. At the time when the book of Leviticus was written, Israel was on their journey toward the Holy Land. Inasmuch as they did not sow or reap during their wilderness travel (Yahweh fed them supernaturally each day with manna), it was impossible for them to offer a wave sheaf to Yahweh Elohim of first ripe grain. It is our opinion that Israel did indeed keep the Feast of Weeks

in the wilderness, since it is a statute to be kept forever, but not with the sacrificial offerings which were to be presented on that day.

The day was known to Israel in the wilderness, just as were the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. It was included in the Covenant Law of Exodus 23:16 and 34:22, which makes it a part of Yahweh's eternal Covenant. Therefore, Israel kept the holy day much as True Worshipers do today, with a remembrance of the physical commandments and the purposes for which Yahweh inaugurated them.

The wave sheaf offering was to be offered on the MORROW AFTER THE SABBATH, verses 10 and 11. The Hebrew term here (*Sabbath*) is exactly (the very same) term used throughout the Bible for the weekly rest day, *Sabbath*, with the definite

Almighty Yahweh to be offered ON THE MORROW AFTER (the day after) THE WEEKLY SABBATH.

It was the Pharisees who originated the idea that the Feast of Weeks should be counted from the day after the first holy day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. They defined the word *Sabbath* to mean the high day (Abib 15), the first holy day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when no work is to be done and a holy convocation is to be observed. The Sadducees and, later, the Karaites viewed this concept as erroneous. They argued that, if such were the case, THERE WOULD BE NO NEED TO COUNT THE DAYS. Pentecost would always fall on Sivan 6. They argued that the word *Sabbath* did not mean the ANNUAL holy day, but the WEEKLY Sabbath which is located within the

And you shall count from the day after the sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave-offering; seven sabbaths shall there be complete: even to the day after the seventh sabbath shall you number fifty days; and you shall offer a new meal-offering to Yahweh.

article attached, *the Sabbath*. There is no difference of opinion among Bible students about which is THE scriptural Sabbath. It is the seventh day of the week. The root of the word means *to cease, or to rest*, and it is only by extension that it means a week, since the Sabbath completes the week of seven days. The morrow after the Sabbath is the first day of the week and begins the new weekly cycle. It is the beginning of our count toward another period of seven days, ending with the rest day, or the weekly Sabbath. On the first day of the week, then, is the day when the wave sheaf was offered, since it was directed by

week of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. According to the reference works (especially the **Encyclopedia Britannica**, Eleventh Edition), there was considerable controversy evident over this subject among the Jews themselves. Apparently, this doctrinal leaven of the Pharisees has infiltrated some of the groups who are keeping the feasts today (Matthew 16:6).

Count Until When?

If we follow the teaching of the sacred Scriptures exclusively, there can be no question regarding on which day we must begin our count,

and the day on which we must end it! Let us notice verses 15 and 16 of Leviticus 23. **“And you shall count from the day after the sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave-offering; seven sabbaths shall there be complete [weeks]: even to the day after the seventh sabbath [on the first day of the week] shall you number fifty days; and you shall offer a new meal-offering to Yahweh.”**

The foregoing is a literal translation taken directly from the Hebrew. If you will notice verse 16 especially, **“... until the morrow of THE SEVENTH SABBATH you shall count fifty days.”** First, we must count seven sabbaths (weekly rest days). Then, we are told to count 50 days (*Pentecost* in the Greek means *the 50th day*, or *count 50*). Consequently, the Hebrew text makes it perfectly plain and simple, so that even a child can understand, if we do not begin to cloud the issue with erroneous human interpretations.

We must begin to number 50 days with the day after the weekly Sabbath (on the first day of the week), and we must end with the weekly Sabbath 49 days later. The day after a weekly Sabbath begins the count, and we must end the count with the weekly Sabbath 49 days later. The day after a weekly Sabbath (the 50th day) is Yahweh’s annual holy day. Let us remind you that the word *Sabbath* does not mean weeks, it means *the rest day*, the seventh day of the week, the day each week when we shall cease from our labor and worship Yahweh. It is the rest day that ends each week, ending the old cycle so that a new cycle of days can begin. It is only by extension that it means week, since the Sabbath completes a week of seven days.

This, then, is the meaning of the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost). It ends an old cycle and begins a new cycle! Were we in the Holy Land, it is at the beginning of the days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread that we would still be eating old grain

for our unleavened bread, while at the end of the Feast, following the wave sheaf offering, we would be eating new grain.

Yahweh wished to teach Israel a spiritual lesson by using the harvest season of the land of Canaan as a type of the plan of salvation. The scriptural new year begins with the first new moon crescent seen after fully developed green ears of barley have appeared (Deuteronomy 16:1). Passover was to be conducted on the 14th day of the month, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread began on the 15th day of the month. By that time, the barley grain should be ripe enough to thresh and grind into flour. The Law of Yahweh even allowed that grain, which was still slightly pasty, or damp, could be dried by parching so that it could be milled into flour. There could be a variable here of some days, allowing not quite ripe grain to be dried artificially so that Israel would not need to delay offering the first fruits of the harvest to Yahweh during the days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Exodus 22:29). Please read this instruction in Leviticus 2:14-16.

Seven Weeks

Let us concentrate now on verse 15, **“... seven sabbaths shall there be complete [weeks]...”** The Hebrew word for complete is *temimoth*. The **Holladay Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon** defines this word as *whole, entire, intact*. Therefore, we have the thought in these four Hebrew words, **“seven Sabbaths shall there be complete (whole, entire, intact).”** Again, allow me to remind the reader that the word which has been translated weeks in the **King James Version** is the plural of the term for Sabbath in the Hebrew. Significantly, the **Holladay Hebrew Lexicon** defines this word as *“plural—weeks (i.e., from one Sabbath to next).”* This is how the word is used throughout the Scriptures. Once more, scholarship supports the fact that a full week is the intended meaning of this passage from the Hebrew. It must be

a full week, beginning with the day after the Sabbath (the first day of the week) and ending with Sabbath (the seventh day of that week). **YOU CANNOT HAVE A FULL, WHOLE, INTACT, OR COMPLETE WEEK IF YOU BEGIN TO COUNT WITH ANY OTHER DAY THAN THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK!** No matter from which angle you examine this commandment, beginning the count on a first day of a week is always indicated! No other valid interpretation can be derived from the original Hebrew text!

Deuteronomy 16:9

We have further directions regarding how to begin to count toward the Feast of Weeks appearing in Deuteronomy 16:9. **“Seven weeks shall you number to yourself; from the time you begin to put the sickle to the standing grain shall you begin to number seven weeks.”** If we translate this passage as literally as possible, we would have to render the Hebrew term—*shivah shavuoth*—as *seven sevens*. Here, then, is the reference to the word *weeks*. However, again it takes us back to the essential concept of the seven-day week. A week begins with the first day and ends with the seventh-day Sabbath—invariably. This passage is in perfect harmony with the original directive in Leviticus 23:15–16. We are instructed to count seven sevens (seven weeks) and, as we have seen previously, they must be whole or complete weeks, beginning with the day after the weekly Sabbath and ending with the weekly Sabbath (49 days), seven Sabbaths are to be counted, and then the 50th day is the Feast of Weeks, the day after the seventh Sabbath. How perfectly plain and clear, with no misunderstanding possible!

The Standing Grain

Yahshua the Messiah predicted that the only sign proving His authentic Messiahship would be the three days and three nights He would spend in the tomb. See Mat-

thew 12:40. All of the early apostolic writers accepted this fact. Furthermore, a very penetrating thought is that Paul recognized Yahshua as the firstfruits offering and referred to Him as such in Romans 11:16 and 26 and 1 Corinthians 15:20–23. Yahshua the Messiah, the offering of the first fruits to Yahweh, had to be presented in the Temple of Yahweh on the first day of the week, and He fulfilled this commandment (Exodus 23:19). Yahshua did not allow Miriam to touch Him on the first day of the week in the early morning dawn when she mistook Him to be the gardener (John 20:14–17). Possibly the reason for this mistaken identity is that He was carrying the last wave sheaf of literal grain which He had cut to offer to Almighty Yahweh. Furthermore, we must consider the term *ascended* (went up) to mean that He presented Himself to Yahweh. Later that day, Yahshua allowed the disciples to touch Him on His feet. See Matthew 28:9.

The term *standing grain* bears a great deal of significance! Do you know that if we do not begin to count toward Pentecost with the first day of the week, we will not be recognizing the resurrection of Yahshua

the Messiah? Yahshua the Messiah was raised from the dead in the end of the Sabbath, three full days and three full nights (72 hours), to the very minute, from the time He was placed in the tomb. He was not standing on His feet on the day following the first holy day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. He was dead, lying in the grave, awaiting the resurrection. In other words, keeping Pentecost as did the Pharisees is denying the resurrection of the Messiah and His first-fruit offering, which was brought to the heavenly Temple of Yahweh. This is indeed a very sobering thought.

Reason for Pharisaic Method of Counting

Let us consider this thought for just a moment and scrutinize it in the light of modern-day Judaism. Rabbinical Judaism of our contemporary age is a product of Orthodox Judaism, which was built around a rejection of the New Testament Messiah. At the time the Messianic Assembly began, many of the priests became obedient to the Messianic doctrine. See Acts 6:7. The Jewish rabbinic authorities chose to reject the Messianic claims of Yahshua.

The article, “Pentecost,” in the **Encyclopedia Britannica**, Eleventh Edition, indicates that it was at a later date than the Messianic era that this present Jewish method of counting toward Pentecost became widespread. “*The orthodox later Jews reckoned the 50 days from the 16th of Nisan, but on this there has been considerable controversy among the Jews themselves. The orthodox later Jews assumed that the Sabbath in Leviticus 23:11, 15, is the 15th of Nisan or the first day of the Feast of Matsoth.... The later Jews also extended the one day of the Feast to two.*” So, here we find a very important clue to assist in pinpointing the time when this change occurred. It was during the Diaspora that a second day was added so that it would be certain that the correct day was kept holy. The article virtually admits that the ORIGINAL interpretation of the commandment was to set the Feast of Weeks always on the first day of the week.

Yahshua Chapter 5

The book of Yahshua (Joshua) in the Old Testament serves as a type of Yahshua the Messiah and how He will someday lead the spiritual Israel of Yahweh into the Kingdom age. The Israelite general Yahshua took fleshly Israel from the wilderness to the Holy Land following the death of Moses. Similarly, Yahshua the Messiah will lead the Israel of Yahweh from an Egypt of sin into the Promised Land, symbolizing the Kingdom of Yahweh. The first section of Yahshua chapter 5 is devoted to a description of the circumcision that was given Israel before they could enter into the Holy Land. Apparently, this was one of the passages of scriptural precedent that was used by the Apostles in the Council of Acts 15 as they set aside fleshly circumcision of the Gentile believers who were determined to enter the Apostolic Assemblies of Yahweh. First, like Abraham, who was called a righteous man from about 15 years to his circumcision,



Almighty Yahweh expects His people to bring forth good fruits in lieu of physical circumcision.

Beginning in verse 10, we note that Israel kept the Passover on the 14th day of the first month at evening in the plains of Jericho. Verse 11 indicates that they ate of the unleavened bread made from the new grain of the land on the day after the Passover and parched grain on the SELFSAME DAY. Please note this same term in Leviticus 23:14. Here we encounter a very interesting and significant passage of Scripture. The 14th day of the month (the month of Abib) is the Passover. The 15th is specified as the Feast. Please refer to Leviticus 23:5-6 and Numbers 28:16-17. Do you realize that THOSE ISRAELITES, who had just spent 40 years in the wilderness to learn sound doctrine, DID NOT OFFER THE WAVE SHEAF ON THE DAY AFTER THE FIRST HIGH DAY OF THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD, but ON THE VERY HIGH DAY ITSELF? Apparently, the Passover fell on the weekly Sabbath in that year, since they set their months by the appearance of the visible new moon. Even though the following day was the annual high day, it was undoubtedly the first day of the week, and Israel presented the wave sheaf offering of the new grain of Canaan to Yahweh. As shown previously, this was the Law of the first fruits offering, and the grain was dried over a fire by parching so that it could be eaten in this manner, or ground into flour for offering to Yahweh upon the altar.

As a consequence, we can note that Moses had transmitted the Covenant Law of Yahweh just as we have been explaining it—directly from the Word. There was no misunderstanding then, and there should be none now. When Israel entered into the Promised Land, the wave sheaf offering and Pentecost were observed on the first day of the week, and this sound doctrine has never changed.

(Several years ago, a display in Israel Museum featured parched

barley that had been discovered in an archaeological excavation at Gilgal. What a great inspiration this was to the author who wondered whether this was a preserved memorial of the first offering of the wave sheaf upon Israel's entry into the Promised Land! Perhaps!)

What About Josephus?

Occasionally, people will point to Josephus and quote from his history to support the keeping of the holy days of Leviticus 23 as do the Jews today. It is an established fact (if we wish to harmonize the teaching of the Bible and allow it to direct us with no human interpretation) that the Passover must be observed on the 14th day of the first scriptural month just after sundown. The Jews today observe it on the 15th day of the month, and Josephus gives the hours of the *paschal* slaughter as from the 9th to the 11th hour (late afternoon on the 14th), Wars, vi-ix-3. We must reject his reference as being unscriptural, since it does not harmonize with the teachings of the Bible, so why appeal to him for a date to keep Pentecost?

In reality, the writings of Josephus contradict themselves. In **Antiquities of the Jews**, Book iii, chapter x, paragraph 6, we find this quote: “*When a week of weeks has passed over this sacrifice (which weeks contain forty-nine days), on the 50th day, which is Pentecost, but is called by the Hebrews Asartha, which signifies Pentecost, they bring to [Yahweh] a loaf....*” It is in paragraph 5 of the above-mentioned passage that we read, “*But on the second day of Unleavened Bread, which is the sixteenth day of the month, they first partake of the fruits of the earth, for before that day they do not touch them.*” A week of weeks begins with the first day of the week (Sunday) and ends with the seventh day (the scriptural Sabbath). The 50th day, another first day of the week, is, therefore, Pentecost. As we have shown previously in this article, Yahshua chapter 5 contradicts the Pharisaical method of counting

Pentecost, since the Israelites cut their first wave sheaf offering in the Holy Land on the 15th day of the month of Abib, the day AFTER the 14th day, which is Passover day. Let us make the correct choice at this crucial point in our journey toward the Kingdom of Yahweh. Let us choose the inspired Scriptures as our exclusive guide to salvation and reject the traditions of uninspired men (Matthew 15:3).

If we research the life of Josephus, we find that he was of the priestly family. He was a good student and had a curious mind, which led him to be adventuresome. He investigated the three major sects of Judaism and, finally, settled upon the Pharisees as his choice.

Please notice the following quote from the Whiston translation, **Vita**, paragraph 2. “*And when I was about sixteen years old, I had a mind to make trial of the several sects that were among us. These sects are three: The first is that of the Pharisees (the common Israelites), the second that of the Sadducees (the party of priests and royalty), and the third that of the Essenes.... So when I had accomplished my desires, I returned back to the city, being now nineteen years old, and began to conduct myself according to the rules of the sect of the Pharisees, which is akin to the sect of the Stoics, as the Greeks call them.*”

Here, then, is the answer to some of the reasons why Josephus' writings contradict the plain Scriptures. He was a member of, and adhered to, the teachings of the Rabbinical Pharisees. Throughout the history of Josephus, we can see that he chose the course of expediency. He sought for popularity, even to the point of betraying his fellow countrymen to the Roman armies. He would naturally slant his writings toward the viewpoint of the Pharisees, because they were the largest sect and offered the most prestige. However, we have already proved some of the teachings of the Pharisees to be unscriptural.

Josephus Was Biased

The writings of Josephus indicate that he was not always as objective in his accounts as a good historian must be. In **Antiquities of the Jews**, xiii-x-6, the reason become obvious. *“What I would now explain is this, that the Pharisees have delivered to the people a great many observances by succession from their fathers WHICH ARE NOT WRITTEN IN THE LAW OF MOSES: and for that reason it is that the Sadducees reject them, and say that we are to esteem those observances to be obligatory which are in the written word, but ARE NOT to observe what are derived from the tradition of our forefathers; and concerning these things it is that great disputes and differences have arisen among them, while the Sadducees are able to persuade none but the rich, and have not the populace obsequious to them, but the Pharisees had the multitude on their side....”* We would surmise that the reason that the Pharisees had the multitude on their side was because the Sadducees rejected the concept of the resurrection, while the Pharisees taught it. The rich did not need the Kingdom to come—they have their kingdom now. The poor of the masses live in poverty, and, so, they hope one day to have a better life, if not in their human existence, then in the age to come.

The Bible does indeed teach the concept of a resurrection, but it does not support a Feast of Weeks which is counted from the 16th of Abib and always falls on Sivan 6. Therefore, those traditions of the Fathers must be rejected as being unscriptural.

Consequently, we must conclude that the history of Josephus is in error in some of his statements, since he defended the contemporary rabbinical, Pharisaic traditions rather than adhering strictly to the inspired Scriptures, although he

freely acknowledged their errors. The Pharisees controlled the masses, and they rejected the Messiah. This is the reason rabbinical Judaism today keeps the Passover on the 15th day of the first month and Shavuoth on the 6th of Sivan. Both of these observances reject the New

Yahshua the Messiah fulfilled the wave sheaf offering. He fulfilled the offering of the wave sheaf to become the human first fruits of salvation, the first of the human harvest of the earth.

Testament Messiah, while, when we correctly observe them, they point to Yahshua as the Messiah and proves His truthfulness.

In the New Testament

As we have shown in previous articles and in this one also, Yahshua the Messiah fulfilled the wave sheaf offering. He fulfilled the offering of the wave sheaf to become the human first fruits of salvation, the first of the human harvest of the earth. Almighty Yahweh has shown us His plan of salvation in His feasts. The wave sheaf is significant of the very first of the human harvest of the earth which is brought to the House of Yahweh. Yahshua was the first born from the dead, the first born among many brethren. He rose in the end of the Sabbath and was presented to Almighty Yahweh before the throne on the first day of the week.

The type of this first harvest, the out-from-the-dead resurrection, the 144,000, those who will be following the Lamb wherever He goes and will be in the first resurrection (Revelation 14:1-5), is the thanksgiving

of the early harvest, the Feast of Weeks, Pentecost. This is the time wherein thanksgiving was offered to Almighty Yahweh for the early barley harvest and also the first fruits of the wheat harvest would be offered at that time (Exodus 34:22).

In Acts 20:6-12, we find that Paul observed the offering of the wave sheaf first fruits, and that he remembered the resurrection. The translation, “first day of the week,” here in verse 7 is faulty. It should have been translated from the Greek as “first of the Sabbaths.” The first of the Sabbaths, the seven which are counted toward Pentecost, means the first day of our count toward the Feast of Weeks. Interestingly, a young man died at the meeting, falling from a third story window, put to sleep by Paul’s lengthy,

possibly somewhat dry, sermon. What a horrible experience! But the Holy Spirit of Yahweh gave witness to the resurrection, as Paul raised the young man from the dead. What a perfect way to illustrate the resurrection and prove that Yahweh will eventually raise us from the dead! This gave the Assembly in Troas much encouragement to remain steadfast in the Faith.

Almost the exact term is used in Matthew 28:1. Here we find that Yahshua’s resurrection occurred at the end of the “Sabbaths.” This meant the end of the weekly Sabbath, which, along with the High Day, was the second one during the week of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The following day began the count toward the Feast of Weeks, and this is the day when Yahshua was presented to Almighty Yahweh as the human wave sheaf offering.

If you are paying close attention, you will be able to perceive that a first day of the week “Pentecost” is proven at every turn in the Scriptures. Had the wave sheaf offering occurred on the 16th of

Continued on page 20.

BEWARE

of Imitations

Increasingly, as the end of this age approaches, erroneous assertions are being circulated by some who wish to claim an attachment to this dynamic ministry. Additionally, various groups, who do not live in harmony with Yahweh's Covenant and reverence for His Messiah, are confused with Assemblies of Yahweh. Let me explain.

The following are quotes from two letters received from our readers. These will help you understand what I mean. These quotes are merely two examples of numerous other instances of imitation that could be cited as evidence.

"Although I think they originally professed some affiliation with your organization, I can find no mention of that in their current publication. The hands are the hands of Jacob, but the voice is that of Esau." (Letter dated December 8, 1980.)

"This man says he was at one time in your organization...." (Letter dated December 8, 1980.)

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

Thus, it has become necessary to explain the policies of the Assemblies of Yahweh regarding those who represent the visible organization of Almighty Yahweh on the face of this earth today. At the outset, it becomes necessary to assert very firmly that Assemblies of Yahweh with Headquarters at Bethel, Pennsylvania, is NOT A MAN-MADE ORGANIZATION. When a correspondent uses the term *your organization*, it becomes immediately necessary to point out that this organization was founded by Almighty Yahweh, our Heavenly Father, at the very beginning of creation, continued on through the nation of Israel in the Old Testament (Acts 7:38 and Deuteronomy 23:1-8), revitalized in Acts 2 by the realization of the doctrine of the Messiah (Psalm 110:1 and Psalm 2:1, 2), and is being faithfully perpetuated today.

The modern-time Assemblies of

Yahweh is a latter-day resurrection of the Apostolic Assembly described in the book of Acts, Paul's Epistles, and the book of the Revelation, after the disintegration during the Dark Ages of the organization that Yahshua founded. It is the fulfillment of Yahshua's prophecy of Matthew 16:18. (The gates of *hades—sheol*—have indeed not prevailed against Yahshua's True Assembly.)

The Apostolic Assembly cannot be traced from man to man in an unbroken thread down through history, since it never was a huge body composed of numerous congregations. It was not well organized during the Dark Ages. Those who believed and obeyed Yahweh's Truth were frequently very few in number, Luke 12:32. They were always widely scattered.

When the author, himself, encountered those of relatively sound doctrine seeking to do the Will of Yahweh, it was frequently isolated

“For in one spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bond or free; and were all made to drink of one Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:13)

individuals who associated with other Sabbath keepers. Many True Worshipers adhered to the fringes of a Faith variously known as the Church of G-d, 7th Day.

When the author and his wife began sincerely searching for Yahweh’s Truth in the early 1960s, we located only a few individuals or families. It was extremely rare to find any families that worked together, or worshiped together, on a regular basis. Only one or two groups (and these were very small) were in existence that met regularly for worship using the Sacred Names—Yahweh and Yahshua the Messiah. Most of these individuals opposed organization of any kind. This was an obvious hindrance to cohesive forward progress. It requires a unified effort to accomplish the task before us.

The Assemblies of Yahweh, with International Headquarters at Bethel, Pennsylvania, came into existence in 1969 as an organization chartered and organized for the purpose of spreading the Truth of the Bible and spiritual holiness around the world. This organization was the outgrowth of the **Sacred Name Radio Broadcast**, began in 1966 (a Sabbatical year). The organization was chartered just three and-a-half years after the start of this ministry. This was exactly 100 nineteen-year time cycles after the Messianic Assembly departed from Jerusalem to go into the wilderness of Transjordan to avoid being swallowed up by the Roman armies sent to subjugate Jerusalem. The Roman armies finally destroyed Jerusalem in 70 C.E. Just as Yahshua had prophesied in Matthew 24, the Temple was torn down stone from

stone, with not one stone left standing upon another, as General Titus could not control his soldiers who coveted the precious metals in the Holy House.

There are specific reasons why various things appear in the Bible for our admonition. For example, the books of Corinthians were written to the Apostolic Assembly located in a pagan, cosmopolitan community. Paul had to exhort them constantly to be in unity—all speaking the same thing (1 Corinthians 1:10). He showed them that the Messiah is not divided (1 Corinthians 1:13). Speaking the same thing means that they could not be divided in doctrine, but all had to be in total doctrinal unity (1 Corinthians 12:12-13).

Even in Paul’s day, false brethren, false teachers, and preachers followed him around (see Acts 13:45, 50; Acts 17:13-14). They could see the obvious blessing of Yahweh’s Holy Spirit resting upon the True Body of Yahshua’s Apostolic Assembly. They wanted somehow to be connected with the True Assembly—but were unwilling to pay the price of true, complete loyalty, and dedication. They arrogantly wanted their own way rather than striving for unity of the spirit in the bond of peace in the sound doctrine, as Yahweh’s Messiah had taught while He was here on earth.

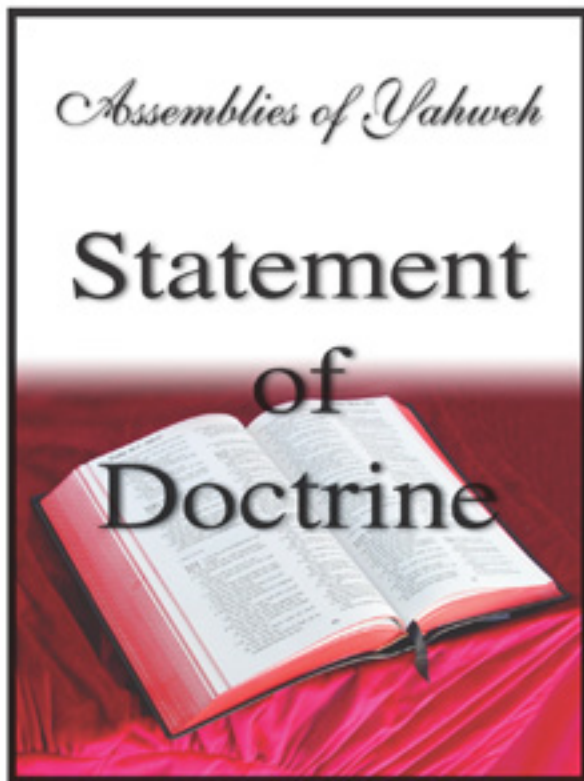
When the editor came into the knowledge of Yahweh’s Truth (many years ago), he discovered a wide diversity of doctrines that was believed and taught among those professing the Name of Yahweh and the Name of Yahshua the Messiah. Paul described it perfectly in 1 Corinthians 11:18, 19. ***“For first of all, when you come together in the***

assembly, I hear that divisions exist among you; and I partly believe it. For there must also be factions among you, that they that are approved may be made manifest among you.”

He said in addition, ***“What is it then, brethren? When you come together, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a language, has an interpretation. Let all things be done to edifying.”*** (1 Corinthians 14:26).

Some observers have rightly described this Sacred Name Movement as merely “a bunch of splintered, divided sects.” It was indeed RARE to find any two people believing the Sacred Name who would completely agree on doctrines and methods. When such people were found, they were held in high esteem by the seeker. It was discovered by the editor that, after the death of Elder C. O. Dodd (an early Sacred Name pioneer) in 1955, those using the Sacred Name became immediately more confused in doctrine, since the shepherd had disappeared.

The Assemblies of Yahweh, Bethel, Pennsylvania, came into existence in 1969 because of a sincere desire of the Directing Elder to maintain sound doctrine. Yahweh is not the author of confusion (Babylon), 1 Corinthians 14:33, but He is the author of peace (*shalom—completeness and perfection*). Therefore, it became our goal to provide an international organization where all who wish to be united in sound doctrine could affiliate. The Assemblies of Yahweh was designed as a medium for fulfilling the Great Commission. Those who did not wish to adhere to sound doctrine could continue as before (in confusion), outside the organization, without interference from the Assemblies of Yahweh. It is the opinion of the author (the Directing Elder of the Assemblies of Yahweh) that True Worship must fulfill the concept of ONE BODY. ***“For in one spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bond or free; and were all made to drink of one Spirit.”***



The Preamble to the original **Statement of Doctrine** of the Assemblies of Yahweh reads as follows: *“The brethren in the faith who have united in organization to form the Assemblies of Yahweh, present this document as their statement of doctrine. These dedicated brethren have become concerned with the widespread disorganization which has been rampant during the past several years in the Sacred Name movement. This concern has led to the conclusion that a statement of doctrine such as this is necessary to define for the interested inquirers after Truth, the sound doctrines which are contained in the inspired Scriptures, the Word of Almighty Yahweh. We hereby present this document as the articles of faith on which we all can stand, and on which we can base a unity of purpose. We believe that this statement of doctrine clearly and concisely presents the faith which was once and for all time delivered to the sanctified believers. We believe that this statement of doctrine will be instrumental in uniting as all under one banner as the Body of the Messiah, and will enable us to give a ready testimony of our faith to all who seek truth, I Peter 3:15.”*

In addition, the qualifications for membership in the Assemblies of Yahweh were clearly set forth as follows: *“Each member in good standing shall have been baptized in the Name of Yahshua the Messiah. Each member shall be living a life of total submission to our Heavenly Father and to His royal law. Each member shall be in agreement with this statement of doctrine and recognize it as the summation of the truth proclaimed by the Inspired Scriptures. It should be the aim of each member of the Assemblies of Yahweh to draw closer to those of like precious faith and to fellowship with them as spiritual brethren.”*

(1 Corinthians 12:13).

Over the years, Almighty Yahweh has greatly blessed His True Assembly. We have been able to witness the Truth of the inspired Scriptures on a broadening basis. Headquarters offices and printing plant have been established at Bethel, along with a school to educate ministers in the Word of Yahweh. In addition to the headquarters at Bethel, branch offices have been established in England, in the Philippines, in the Caribbean, and in Africa, to assist people in countries abroad. Today, the Assemblies of Yahweh publishes its own edition of the Bible (**The Sacred Scriptures**, Bethel Edition), and operates its own powerful international radio station—WMLK Radio.

As evidence of success in this ministry, as it became more widely known, Satan tried many ploys to undermine the ministry of Yahweh’s Word. Some people in scattered areas began to use the name “Assemblies of Yahweh” illegally. Others falsely professed to have been members of the Assemblies of Yahweh in order to give themselves credibility. Some, who were formerly members of the Assemblies of Yahweh but who became unwilling to submit to the government and doctrines of Almighty Yahweh, tried contacting people, professing to actually represent the Assemblies of Yahweh, and stating they were teaching the same doctrines we are. Other groups came into existence using the Sacred Name, but bringing a reproach upon Yahweh’s Name through wicked conduct.

Paul had similar problems in his time. One can almost sense the deep-rooted sadness he felt when he said, **“Take heed to yourselves, and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to feed the assembly of the Master, which he purchased with his own blood. For I know that AFTER MY DEPARTING GRIEVOUS WOLVES SHALL ENTER IN AMONG YOU, NOT SPARING THE FLOCK; AND FROM**

AMONG YOUR OWN SELVES SHALL MEN ARISE, SPEAKING PERVERSE THINGS, TO DRAW AWAY THE DISCIPLES AFTER THEM. Therefore watch, remembering that by the space of three years I ceased not to admonish every one night and day WITH TEARS.” (Acts 20:28-31).

To the Corinthian brethren Paul said, **“But what I do, that will I do, that I may cut off occasion from them that desire an occasion; that in what they glory, they may be found even as we. For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, fashioning themselves into apostles of the Messiah. And no marvel; for even Satan fashions himself into an angel of light. It is no great thing therefore if his ministers also fashion themselves as ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”** (2 Corinthians 11:12-15).

Paul warned against false brethren (in Greek—*pseudadelphos*). **“... and that because of the false brethren privately brought in, who came in privately to spy out our liberty which we have in the Messiah Yahshua, that they might bring us into bondage: to whom we gave place in the way of subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the good tidings might continue with you.”** (Galatians 2:4-5).

Almighty Yahweh wants sincere, dedicated, loyal people in His Assembly. He desires to find His True Assembly in total unity in doctrine, surrounded by an atmosphere of love and devotion for Almighty Yahweh and His Truth. The spiritual children striving to become like Yahshua the Messiah are educating themselves to be of service in the Kingdom of Yahweh. Therefore, the Assemblies of Yahweh is not like a worldly “church” which subserviently tolerates sin in its midst, but each member is required to strive at all times to live in perfection and righteousness as closely as we can live—without tolerating hypocrisy—

knowing that we are preparing for our adoption into the Elohim family.

The letters that the editor quoted at the beginning of this discussion are samples from among a number that have been received. Therefore, it becomes necessary to explain the Assemblies of Yahweh policy regarding our representatives. **Please note the following carefully.**

1 Any ordained elder in good standing in the Assemblies of Yahweh, Bethel, Pennsylvania, will have current credentials signed by the administration of the Assemblies of Yahweh. These current credentials will also have the seal of the organization imprinted upon the certification.

2 Any missionary of the organization will have a current identification card (a current card is issued each year). The missionaries of the Assemblies of Yahweh are dedicated, faithful members bearing good fruit who are considered unordained representatives, a rank of higher service than that of member.

3 Every baptized member of the Assemblies of Yahweh will have a baptismal certificate which they can show you, if necessary. (If such certificate has been lost, it will be replaced upon request by writing to the Home Offices.)

Therefore, if someone comes to you presenting themselves to be an ordained elder of the Assemblies of Yahweh, a representative of the Assemblies of Yahweh, or a member of the Assemblies of Yahweh, we urge you to ask that individual for verification. Members and officials of this organization will be only too

The spiritual children striving to become like Yahshua the Messiah are educating themselves to be of service in the Kingdom of Yahweh.

happy to verify their membership in Assemblies of Yahweh. If you still have doubts in your mind, write to the Home Offices of the Assemblies of Yahweh requesting additional verification and it will be supplied to you. You may also telephone Headquarters at (717) 933-4518 or (717) 933-4880.

The Assemblies of Yahweh of Bethel, Pennsylvania, seeks to provide a spiritual guide to all those who have a sincere desire to live in HARMONY with the Truth of the Bible and to SUBMIT THEMSELVES VOLUNTARILY to the government Almighty Yahweh has consecrated.

Regular meetings are held under the auspices of Assemblies of Yahweh in many states of the United States and in foreign countries. If you wish to attend one of these meetings, please correspond with the Home Offices to make arrangements for your attendance the next time we meet.

Remember, in this organization we are committed to feeding the sheep of Yahweh with the strong meat of the Word that will assist you in achieving your goal of reaching the Kingdom of Yahweh. The Assemblies of Yahweh provides leadership and spiritual guidance to those who voluntarily submit to Yahweh’s Covenant and trust in Yahshua the Messiah. SMB

May 2015

JUNE						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	FIFTH	SIXTH	SABBATH
MAY Corresponding with the Hebrew months <i>Siv</i> and <i>Sivan</i> , representing the second and third scriptural months. This month was named for <i>May</i> , the season between harvest and the beginning of growth or increase.			New Moon— May 20 Feast of Weeks— May 24	1 Day 27	2 Day 28
3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1

Why I Keep the Seventh-Day Sabbath

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

I was not raised as a keeper of the seventh-day Sabbath. From the moment of my birth, until the age of 27 years, I remained in the popular tradition of keeping Sunday (the first day of the week) as the weekly holy day.

I really had no reason to question Sunday keeping early in my life. My immediate family came from the tradition of the German Baptist Brethren, which, for some years now (since the 1920s), has been known as the Church of the Brethren. My family was religious to the point where we regularly attended services. We avoided other religions; for the most part, we were separatists. For example, we never discussed or argued religion with the Jehovah's Witness representatives who went door-to-door infrequently, or to any representative of other religions.

I was quite concerned about my

religion from my very youth. My family continually instructed the children to read, believe, and obey the Bible. At the age of 10, I felt convicted to join the Church of the Brethren during a revival meeting. I was baptized and became a member at that time, perhaps more out of emotion than out of understanding, although I had already absorbed a vast amount of Scripture, having attended literally hundreds of worship services by that time. My grandfather, who was a deacon in the local congregation (for some time the head deacon), would take me with him to services, and many times, I sat with him in the front of the meeting house (we did not call it a church then) with the elders of the congregation. At that time, much Scripture was still being preached in the denomination. Each service started with an opening sermonette,

followed by a long sermon, and then another closing or summary sermonette. Sometimes services continued on for three or four hours, or more.

Probably because of my family background, I was later appointed as a Sunday school teacher, eventually teaching three different classes. I realized I needed more education in the biblical message to do a good job, so I decided to apply myself to Bible study. I remember a minister in the local congregation who kindly gave me direction and helped Mrs. Meyer and me to get started. However, during the middle and late 1950s, the economy was rapidly expanding, and, for a time, I applied myself more to obtaining material possessions than Bible knowledge.

It just so happened that the Berks County Sunday School Association was offering two courses

to church leaders about that time. The courses were sponsored by Albright College and taught by college professors. One of these teachers was a Lutheran minister, and the other teacher was a minister of the German Reformed Church (currently United Church of Christ). The course in "Teaching Bible" aided me to teach more effectively, but it was actually the course in "Bible" that became the turning point in my life. This course was taught by the Lutheran minister, who, after explaining the tools for thorough Bible study (obtain a good study Bible, concordances, Bible dictionary, etc.), began his course lecture by stating, "*The Almighty's Name is Yahweh.*" But, then, he added, "*We call Him Lord or God.*" Several years later, when it came to my attention that the Name of the Almighty is of supreme importance in our Faith, I already had known the Name, used it in prayer, and encountered it with some frequency in my personal Bible study.

Approximately November, 1961, the Sunday school lesson I taught to my young married people's class concerned the fourth commandment, the keeping of the Sabbath. We studied through the fourth commandment in the allotted time of an hour. After some additional study and meditation, I was not as convinced about keeping Sunday (the first day of the week) as I had been before. But the forthright challenge still had not been presented to me regarding which day I must personally choose to keep in my spiritual life.

Since several perplexing problems at that time were creating turmoil in the Church of the Brethren congregation I was attending, my mind started to open as I began asking the question, "Where is the True Worship? Where is the Holy Spirit at work today as it was in the Apostolic Assembly in the book of Acts?"

The previous year I had taught six months of Sunday School class lessons and gone through the entire book of Acts. I saw there, before my

very eyes, the candid manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of men, mightily moving the brethren of the Apostolic Assembly following the impalement of Yahshua the Messiah. Clearly, I could not balance out, or justify, some of the things I saw happening in the local Church of the Brethren congregation.

One Saturday evening, as I was lying on the sofa reading a pamphlet that had come in the mail wherein a fundamentalist preacher was exhorting the reader to become more zealous for his faith, I looked up at my wife and asked her. "Why can't we see this kind of a display of sincerity in our church?" She forthrightly stated, "It is evident that the Holy Spirit is not at work here, or else the people are not following the Holy Spirit." Suddenly, into my mind popped the idea of attending another church to evaluate their dedication.

Over the next several weeks, I attended services in a number of different churches.

Two young couples that I had been teaching in Sunday school class then heard that I was searching for the group where the Holy Spirit was at work. It seems they had joined a Bible study group and had become acquainted with the Sacred Name of Yahweh and Yahshua the Messiah. I clearly recall how they telephoned me and asked if they could have a Bible study with me. "Certainly," I replied, "Come right over." I always enjoyed studying the sacred Scriptures and discussing the Word.

That was on a Saturday evening. As we sat around our dining room table they asked me first if I knew the True Name of the Almighty. I replied, "Yes, it's Yahweh." I guess my answer shocked them, but their rejoinder caused a bombshell to explode in my mind when they asked, "If you know it, why don't you use it?" Yes, I had to admit immediately, why am I substituting different terms for the revealed personal Name of our Heavenly Father? He tells us in His Word that His Name

is Yahweh, then why am I calling Him something else?" (He tells us also that the seventh day is the Sabbath. How does the first day of the week then become the [Christian] Sabbath?)

We next discussed the keeping of the commandments (including the Sabbath and the feasts), and that's about where our talk ended for the night, as I said I wanted to study these subjects more deeply on my own.

The following day was the last Sunday I have ever observed as a weekly holy day. On that Sunday, I did not go anywhere to worship services. I stayed home and applied myself to a serious study of the sacred Scriptures, seeing things I had never seen before in my Bible. I studied the subject of the keeping of the seventh-day Sabbath. I read the passages from my own Bible and, with the center-column references, pursued the subject through the entire Bible. Then, I happened to remember a correspondence Bible Study course my wife had taken which had advocated the keeping of the seventh-day Sabbath. I asked her to dig up the course for me, and then, I scanned through it rapidly, recalling the Scriptures they had noted. Several additional Scriptures were given there that I had not before considered.

After a long productive morning of Bible study with my wife, I turned to her and said, "Honey, next week we will begin keeping the seventh-day Sabbath!" From then on (early 1962), we have observed the Sabbath, and we intend to continue to the end of our lives, or until Yahshua returns.

We didn't really know how to keep the Sabbath. My wife and I had to learn this on our own. We made some mistakes early on that helped us gain experience. We had to apply the principles of properly keeping the Sabbath according to the biblical day, from Friday night sundown to Saturday night sundown (Leviticus 23:32 and Mark 1:32). We had to learn that we cannot buy and sell—anything—on the Sabbath

Almighty Yahweh has declared the seventh day of the week as a day set apart—sanctified and holy. He has never placed that kind of emphasis upon the first day of the week.

(Jeremiah 17:19-27 and Nehemiah 13:15-22).

Together, we learned that we must avoid doing our own pleasure on the Sabbath (Isaiah 58:12-13). We learned that it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath and that we must attend a holy convocation each week. We learned that Yahweh means to give us a recuperative day of refreshing rest each week.

In the last days, the Bible teaches that knowledge will be increased, Daniel 12:4. The question now before you is this: Which day will you keep? You also must make your personal decision. It must be an informed decision based upon the Word of Yahweh. You can no longer jump back and forth between two opinions, keeping the wrong day, or keeping two days each week holy, 1 Kings 18:24. If there is no concrete reason to be found in the Bible for keeping Sunday, and certainly no commandment appears anywhere in the sacred Scriptures to keep it, why do you persist in keeping Sunday as the weekly day of worship?

If, conversely, there is indeed a concrete commandment in the Bible to keep the seventh day as the Sabbath (the same commandment with which I began this article), why do you not keep it? Certainly, you cannot lose by keeping the Sabbath, can you? If Sunday is not legislated, but the keeping of the seventh-day Sabbath is, then, by simply being obedient to our Heavenly Father Yahweh, you will receive a blessing. If sin is the transgression of Yahweh's Law, and you are breaking that Law by not keeping the seventh day holy, you will lose your everlasting salvation by continuing Sunday worship.

The world today is a Babylonish

system built upon the keeping of the first day of the week and the pagan holidays that are not commanded in the Bible. But we can change that! We can make our determined stand for TRUTH in these last days, and, thereby, sanctify Almighty Yahweh our Heavenly Father and His authority, wherein He declares the seventh day of the week to be the day of rest and the seventh-day Sabbath.

If you are contemplating the decision of which day to keep, perhaps the following reasons why I no longer keep Sunday will be helpful to you in finalizing your personal decision.

I can no longer keep Sunday, because it is the first day of the week, and not the seventh. Any common calendar you would care to peruse will plainly give you that information. Look at the calendar. The Chr-stians are keeping the first day of the week and not the seventh. Yahweh's commandment tells us to KEEP THE SEVENTH DAY HOLY, Exodus 20:8-11.

Almighty Yahweh has declared the seventh day of the week as a day set apart—sanctified and holy.

He has never placed that kind of emphasis upon the first day of the week.

Although Chr-stians will tell you that they keep the first day of the week holy because Yahshua the Messiah was resurrected on that day, there is absolutely no biblical support for that assertion. Yahshua the Messiah was raised from the dead in the end of the Sabbath (Matthew 28:1). This counts three full days and three full nights (72 hours) that He spent in the tomb (Matthew 12:40). If He was not resurrected on the morning of the

first day of the week, then why continue to keep it? The only sign of Yahshua's Messiahship is His prediction concerning how long He would be in the tomb—AND NO HUMAN CAN PREDICT SUCH A RESURRECTION EVENT FOR HIMSELF EXCEPT THE TRUE MESSIAH.

Sunday was a day on which the pagans worshiped the sun. Baal worship, especially with its worship of nature, was a sun-worshipping religion. By reading Ezekiel 8:16, you may determine that Israel had emulated Baal worship.

It was a Roman emperor, Constantine, who in 325 C.E. legislated the keeping of the sabbath for this Chr-stian era. He wasn't even baptized then! Up to that point, the Apostolic Assembly and its faithful remnant group had continued to keep the Sabbath. They were called Nazarenes (Acts 24:5). They moved to Transjordan, fleeing before the Roman armies who were soon to destroy Jerusalem. Even after Constantine legislated the keeping of Sunday, inaugurating a determined program of religious syncretism for his empire, remnants of the True Worshipers, who migrated to Europe, continued to resist the religious authorities of Rome. When Rome tried to stamp out the keeping of the Sabbath, countless thousands of these Sabbath keepers died in the persecution.

I keep the biblical seventh-day Sabbath, because our Heavenly Father legislated its sanctity at Creation, and it reflects the prophecy of the great day of salvation for this world during the seventh 1,000-year period called the Millennium. Consequently, the keeping of the Sabbath must stand as a sign uniting Yahweh

with His true Spirit-begotten people, and it will endure from the Creation to the Millennium.

Some people keep Sunday, because they believe our Messiah did not legislate the observance of any specific day in the New Testament era. Such is a false assumption. All you need to do is read Matthew 24:20, wherein our Savior, Yahshua the Messiah, indicates that the Sabbath would be observed both in 70 C.E., as well in the end of the age when all things are to be fulfilled. The Sabbath is still a sacred day, and we must not begin a journey on the Sabbath. Our only journey must be the fulfillment of the commandment to attend a holy convocation. In fact, it was Yahshua's custom to keep the Sabbath each week and go to the house of worship (Luke 4:16). Do you follow His example? See 1 Peter 2:21. Notice that Paul also kept the Sabbath (Acts 17:2).

I cannot keep the first day of the week, because Almighty Yahweh, through the prophet Isaiah (56:1-

7), tells us that those who keep the seventh-day Sabbath will be included in the Covenant with Almighty Yahweh. The Sabbath, not Sunday, will be observed during the Millennium, Isaiah 66:23. I must learn these lessons now.

I keep the Sabbath because the Savior, Yahshua the Messiah, kept it (Luke 4:16). He is Master of the Sabbath (Mark 2:27-28).

I observe the biblical seventh-day Sabbath because the Apostles observed it (Acts 13:14, 44). It was customary for Paul to attend services on the Sabbath (Acts 17:2).

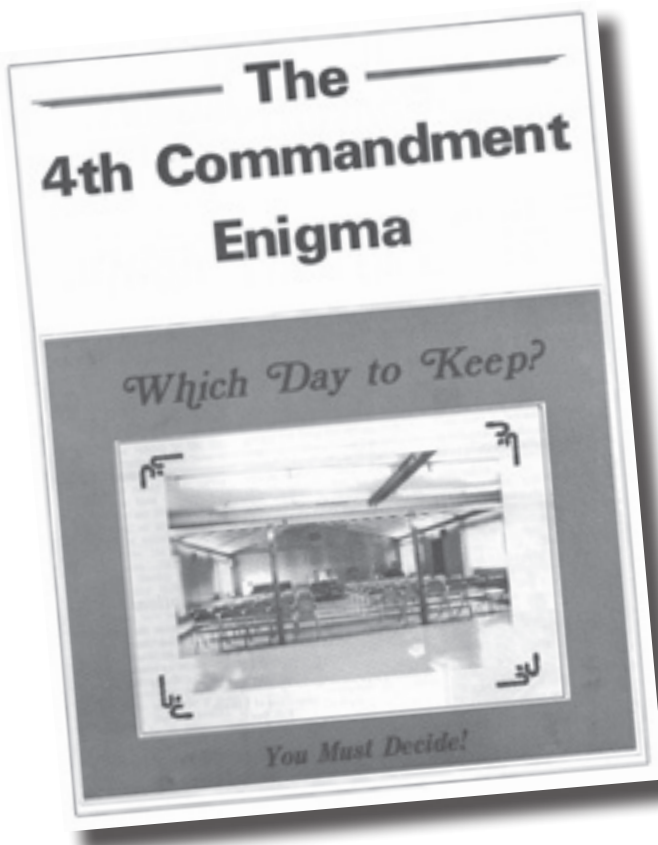
The Apostles inform us in Hebrews 4:9 that there remains the keeping of the Sabbath for the people of Yahweh. How can I spurn such a plain statement, pointedly indicating that the Sabbath continues in a position of vital importance throughout this New Testament era?

In the final analysis, I keep the biblical seventh-day Sabbath because I am determined to be obedient to all of the command-

ments of the Almighty Heavenly Father Yahweh who legislated it. The Sabbath is among the most important commandments, because of the many times wherein Almighty Yahweh mentions it in His Law. I can prove that the same day the Israelites observed for the Sabbath in Exodus 16 is the day we continue to keep today.

Consequently, with these and many other reasons, my personal decision has been unalterably settled. I will obey Almighty Yahweh and keep the day He legislated in His Word—the seventh day of the week.

What will be your own personal decision? Will you obey Him? Or will you reject the Word of the True Mighty One Yahweh and our Savior, Yahshua the Messiah? If you want to be there with the Messiah in His Kingdom, you must obey His Word and become a seventh-day Sabbath keeper, too. Can we expect you to attend our services at Bethel this coming Sabbath? We hope so! ^{BNB}



The weekly day of rest and worship is carefully scrutinized in this 14-page article. Don't neglect this extremely important subject!

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Yahweh's Righteous Rule

Which Type of Government is Best?

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

Have you ever wondered just which type of government is best suited for the people of this earth? I suppose that I am addressing many people who are, at times, slightly confused with the turbulent events characterizing our time. Government makes war upon government, and we are told through the news media that the purpose of the war is to prevent the spread of a different form of government, or to keep the peace. Just what is wrong with another type of government anyway? Do you actually know, for instance, why you would not prefer to live in a land which is governed by royalty, or by communism, or have you prejudged this question from a purely emotional point of view because the news media insists that the capitalistic economic system is the best?

In our world today, people constantly allow others to do their thinking for them. It is a very peculiar era of history, and, I might

add, a pitiful era, when we allow ourselves to be swayed by an emotional appeal via the news media

In just the past 40 years, our great nation has gone from a nation of realists and thinkers, to the extreme of managed news and managed thought, almost as bad as the system described by George Orwell. When you pick up your newspaper, or hear a news broadcast coming over the air, are you sure that you are hearing the truth—the whole truth? You may just be receiving half-truths and outright lies. If we do not sit and meditate on what we are receiving and consider the implications of the trends which are being established, we may just be guilty of aiding and abetting falsehood.

I cannot stress strongly enough that we today must open our eyes and look carefully at things transpiring around us. I cannot urge strongly enough that we determine

to return to the convictions of bygone days. What we discuss and think about, the things which are happening in our country and in the world today must be scrutinized in the light of Truth.

Just to relieve the anxiety of our readers, the author has no fondness or affinity for the communist philosophy. In plain terms—I am not a communist!

In this country, as you well know, we have resolved to implement a democratic form of government. This ideology is one which roughly can be defined as a government which is controlled completely by the citizens. As Abraham Lincoln so remarkably expressed it, the American system of government is of the people, by the people, and for the people. However, have you stopped to scrutinize this philosophy in a systematic manner? Is this form of government really the best that has been devised? Could it be that another government is

better suited to govern this earth?

Let's take a careful look at the democratic form of government. Our country, the United States, was founded and established on principles that called for a minimum of government. Laws were made to regulate society, and each man was individually charged with obeying them. It was the intention of the planners of the Constitution that there should be a minimum of government bureaucracy, and there should never develop a dictatorship which could demand outrageous taxes and subservience, as had King George and the British Empire prior to the Revolutionary War. Therefore, a remarkable system of checks and balances was built into the Constitution. In this one simple definition, we might say that the Constitution of this United States employed the honor system of government in a major way.

The **Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language**, Second College Edition, defines *democracy* in this way: "[Fr. *democratique*—ML. *democratia*—Greek *demokratia*—*demos*, the people (—IE. **damos*, a division of the people—base **da*—, to cut, divide: cf. Tide 1) + *kratein*, to rule] 1. government in which the people hold the ruling power either directly or through elected representatives; rule by the ruled; 2. a country, state, etc. with such government; 3. majority rule; 4. the principle of equality of rights, opportunity, and treatment, or the practice of this principle; 5. the common people, esp. as the wielders of political power; 6. the principles of the Democratic Party.

Therefore, we see that the word *democracy* is derived from a Greek concept wherein the majority of people will rule, either personally, or through elected representatives. Needless to say, rule by committee has never worked, and if there are 100 people gathered, there will be 100 different ideas possible—and not always the best idea will prevail. An interesting observation was once made by one of the author's

mentors, Dr. Solomon Zeitlin. He said, "*The Greeks made law into a philosophy, the Romans made it into a science, and the Jews made it into a religion.*"

From the standpoint of some philosophers, the democratic form of government may be considered the best, but, in practical application, it can also foster anarchy.

Communism, as we see it today, on the other hand appears to be in a state of degeneration. However, if we were to define or describe it, we would have to call it "International Socialism." This form of government is supposed to render each person of the masses equal in everything. Every form of enterprise, from the farm to the factory, ostensibly should be owned by, and operated for, the benefit of the people. In theory, this type of philosophy sounds just fine, but as we can observe from the Russian model, in practice, the theory just will not work.

Free enterprise remains the best, and only, stimulation of production. It will encourage each individual in society to do his or her best to improve their lot in life. Thereby, all will work hard, because the individual who works the hardest will profit the most.

In the past, the world has seen a rise of Fascism such as ruled Nazi Germany during World War II. If we define this form of government, we would have to call it "National Socialism." However, the ruling government of Nazi Germany was never actually too socialistic as we would define socialism, but its complete motivation was nationalistic, declaring the subjugation and annihilation of other ethnic groups it deemed undesirable, with the German people ultimately ruling the world and exterminating all other ethnic groups until they themselves would comprise the entire population of the earth. Hitler believed he could found a "thousand-year reich," a kingdom ruling 1,000 years—but, in fact, it only lasted 12 years. Hitler tried to emulate the Millennial Kingdom of Yahweh, but couldn't.

In fact, his Nazism was actually a controlled Capitalism.

We could go on down the line and take a critical look at all of the other forms of government ruling the nations. We could evaluate the absolute monarchies and constitutional monarchies, and the dictatorial, republican, anarchist, etc., governments.

If we were to study each form of government in depth, we would soon see that, in principle, each one of these governments includes some really fine concepts. Each form of government actually has some intrinsic good that makes it work—to a certain extent.

This might be a very controversial suggestion, but it would be good for our nation to stay out of the internal affairs of nations outside our sphere of influence. While we love democracy and have made it work down through the years, other ethnic groups desire other forms of government. It should be our policy to follow the advice of George Washington, who suggested that we keep our hands from entangling alliances abroad.

Some years ago, I was led to study and meditate on these various forms of government, trying to discover which would be the best possible form of government for man. It is not strange at all that our Bibles contain the answer to this perplexing question which has caused many wars and suffering down through the centuries. That Bible right there in your home, perhaps on your closet shelf covered with dust, actually reveals which form of government is best suited to rule the inhabitants of this earth. The Bible also reveals that very soon this form of government will be established on this earth and rule in righteousness.

The nation of fleshly Israel described in your Bible actually was given a model of Yahweh's perfect government. This same government will be instituted in the Kingdom. This government is called, at various places, the Kingdom of heaven, or the Kingdom of Yahweh. Sometimes

you hear me say, “The Kingdom of the Heavens.” This is a much better translation, since the term *Kingdom of heaven* is somewhat misleading. The Hebrew term is *malkuth hashamayim*—the Kingdom of the heavens.

Your Bible predicts that this heavenly government will come to this earth when the Messiah returns, that the very orderliness which characterizes the universe will regulate mankind in that day, on this very earth. The Kingdom of the heavens is not something which is floating around in space, but it is an actual government which will take over rule of this earth, coming from Heaven to this earth. We pray for this eventuality in the Savior’s model prayer, **“Your kingdom come. Your will be done, as in**

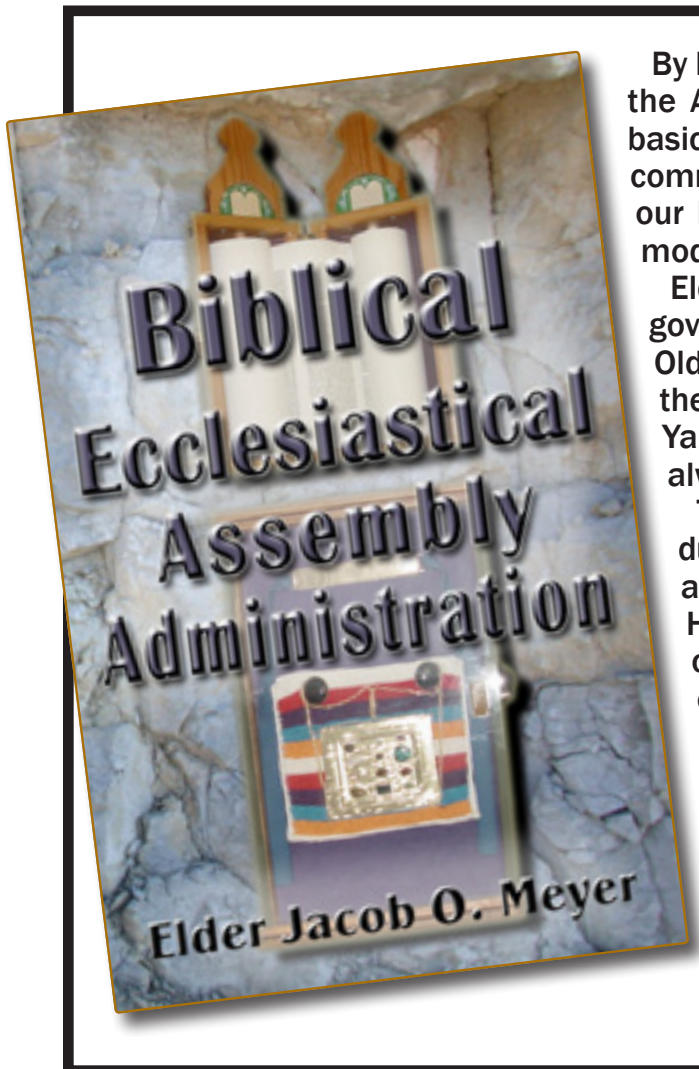
heaven, so on earth.” (Matthew 6:10).

Fleshly Israel had a righteous government which, at its beginning, was ruled by a just system of judges and priests. Almighty Yahweh Himself was the King and Ruler over Israel. He was their invisible Ruler who ruled Israel through His ministers—the priests and judges.

Let us read of Yahweh’s righteous government structure in His Torah (Law). **“Judges and officers shall you make yourselves in all your gates, which Yahweh your Elohim gives you, according to your tribes; and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment. You shall not wrest justice; you shall not respect persons; neither shall you take a bribe; for a bribe blinds the eyes of the**

wise, and perverts the words of the righteous. That which is altogether just shall you follow, that you may live, and inherit the land which Yahweh your Elohim is giving you.” (Deuteronomy 16:18-20).

“If there arises a matter too hard for you in judgment, between blood and blood, between plea and plea, and between stroke and stroke, being matters of controversy within your gates; then you shall arise, and go up to the place which Yahweh your Elohim shall choose; and you shall come to the priests the Levites, and to the judge that shall be in those days: and you shall inquire; and they shall show you the sentence of judgment. And you shall do according to the



By harmonizing the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, the Assemblies of Yahweh has embraced a simple, basic method of Bible research. Returning to the basic commands of the Old Testament (which is the basis of our Faith), we can perceive how Yahweh intends His modern-day Assembly to be organized.

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This study shows that in the time of the Messiah and during the era of His Assembly, Yahweh the Father and Yahshua the Son did not change (Malachi 3:6 and Hebrews 13:8). This duo—the Father and the Son—continue down to this very day to direct every aspect of the organization founded by the Messiah almost two millennia ago.

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tenor of the sentence which they shall show you from that place which Yahweh shall choose; and you shall observe to do according to all that they shall teach you: according to the tenor of the law which they shall teach you, and according to the judgment which they shall tell you, you shall do; you shall not turn aside from the sentence which they shall show you, to the right hand, or to the left. And the man that does presumptuously, in not listening to the priest that stands to minister there before Yahweh your Elohim, or to the judge, that man shall die: and you shall put away the evil from Israel. And all the people shall hear, and fear; and do no more presumptuously.” (Deuteronomy 17:8-13).

This righteous system of government functioned like this: the people were governed by judges and officers ruling units of ten, fifties, hundreds, and thousands. Each person was individually responsible for obeying Yahweh’s Covenant Law. Each person individually promised to keep the Covenant. The judges were assigned the responsibility and authority to ensure that everyone lived up to their Covenant (agreement) with Father Yahweh.

I don’t exactly like to use the term, *Theocracy* (because of its basic root word), but for want of a better one, which you could easily understand, I will use it. This term roughly means *governed by the Almighty*.

In that government, things were much different than today. No bureaucracy and no heavy taxes were evident, because only the 10th part of the increase was used to provide for the tabernacle service and the priesthood. Just think today of your own position financially, if you would be required to pay as tax 10 percent of your income. If you could not work for some reason, there would be no tax at all. While our governments today take quite a bit more of your income as tax, they also collect taxes

The government of the Kingdom of the Heavens will not be like anything this world has ever seen, even though all governments try to copy its concepts in some way or another. It will be ruled by Almighty Yahweh Himself, as He sends His Son, our Savior, Yahshua Messiah, back to this earth.

on necessary goods and services purchased—even when a man is sick and disabled.

It is ironic, really, that the Revolutionary War was fought in resistance against unjust taxation, while our taxes today are a great deal heavier than were the taxes then, and no one seems to utter a word of protest. Actually, in the news reports recently, I have noticed several instances of taxation without representation—the principle for which the Revolution was fought.

But the theocratic form of government was not good enough to suit Israel. They desired the pomp and circumstance of a visible monarchy. We read in 1 Samuel, chapter 8, that as the prophet and judge Samuel became old, this cry for a ruler like the nations around them escalated to an uproar. Finally, Yahweh yielded to their petitions and said to Samuel, “They have not rejected your judgeship, nor do they merely wish to have a visible king, but they have actually rejected me, that I should not rule over them.”

Samuel was told by Yahweh to explain to the people what they would have to suffer if they were governed by a human king. He would take their sons into the military service. He would confiscate their goods and use it for his own purposes. He would select many people to govern with him—a bureaucracy, if you please—and, on top of all this, there would be increased taxes, taxes upon taxes, heaped on the people until they would cry out for

relief, and when they did, Yahweh would turn a deaf ear to their cries.

But the people answered, “No, we want to be just like our neighbors. We want a king to rule over us, regardless of the consequences.” Even today, this seems to be the cry. We want someone to rule over us, but it must be someone that we choose, a visible ruler, rather than the true King of the universe—Yahweh the Almighty. Even as Israel was disillusioned by her monarchy, this generation will also be disillusioned. But trends will continue until the Beast system is established.

Your Bible describes that the best, the most efficient, and economical form of government is one in which a righteous King rules, having a small army of dedicated people to assist him and police the realm to see that His righteous laws are obeyed. Today, we see a great escalation of bureaucracy on every hand. Not only in this nation, but in every nation, it seems, numerous people are employed by the government for various functions. The position of every one of those people cannot be usually justified in their employment.

The government of the Kingdom of the Heavens will not be like anything this world has ever seen, even though all governments try to copy its concepts in some way or another. It will be ruled by Almighty Yahweh Himself, as He sends His Son, our Savior, Yahshua Messiah, back to this earth.

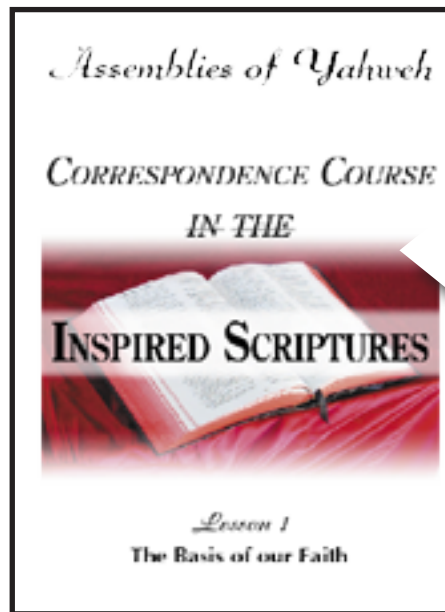
We read in Psalm 22:28, “***For the***

kingdom is Yahweh's; and he is the ruler over the nations." We also read that the responsibility of the Savior, Yahshua Messiah, when He returns to this earth, will be to rule until He has put all enemies under His feet, and then He will turn back the rule and authority of this earth to His Father, Almighty Yahweh.

When Yahshua returns, He will place in active service of rulership, as His higher echelon of government officials, the resurrected 12 Apostles who rule over Israel under the resurrected King David. Then, there will be a system of minor kings who will rule the nations of this earth. Also, a priesthood, having the responsibility of restoring True Worship to this earth, will be re-established (Ezekiel 44:10-16). This small army of dedicated people will teach, govern, and point the way to right living, and they will also act as judges during trials of those who sin, should there be any lawbreaking.

What a wonderful era of bliss awaits each one who will attain to this Kingdom. Each one of Yahweh's dedicated people, who have learned the way of righteousness here in this age, may have an assignment of service in this era. Not only will we demonstrate to the people of the world the right way of living, but we will have a part in Yahweh's Kingdom government. We may assist Yahshua the Messiah to set up the correct form of government that will work after centuries of wrong concepts.

You are invited to join this group of dedicated people in preparing for the new order, the Kingdom of the heavens, which is just around the corner—a new order of righteousness and peace in the earth. This remarkable opportunity is offered to all sincere, faithful, and obedient believers. Why not look into the possibilities today? Those who qualify may even be adopted into the family of Yahweh and be reckoned as children of the Most High. ^{ENB}



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Continued from page 6.

Abib, Yahshua could not have been the first fruits offering, and His Messianic claims would have to be rejected. He was in the grave on the 16th of Abib, just a dead corpse. However, He was raised from the dead in the end of the Sabbath (Sabbaths, the Sabbath during the Feast) and became the first fruits of them that sleep. What a truly wonderful prophetic picture can be found in the Word of Yahweh!

Yahshua Fulfills the Count

We have seen that Yahshua the Messiah is the fulfillment of the wave sheaf offering. He is the first-born from the dead. He was raised from the dead in the end of the weekly Sabbath, and He presented Himself to Almighty Yahweh as the standing grain on the first day of the week. Yahshua says in Revelation 1:8, ***“I am the Aleph and the Tau....”*** Revelation 2:8 has a similar thought, ***“... These things says the first and the last....”***

Let us consider these Scriptures in the light of what we have learned in this study. Yahshua the Messiah ends an old system (the old Covenant), and He replaced it with the new Covenant. Simultaneously, He is the ending of an old cycle and the beginning of the new one (number one, the first, of the new system). The only way that such a phenomenon can occur is to accept the blueprint of the Scriptures for counting the Feast of Weeks. Yahshua completed the old system by lying dead in the tomb. The old Covenant was just as dead, just as unable to give life. He began the

new cycle on the first day of the week, beginning to count toward a new system wherein other righteous dead would be resurrected as He was under the new Covenant which gives life. Following the completion of 49 days of additional careful, spiritual cleansing, the Holy Spirit can occupy the pure vessel necessary for its home.

The works of Yahweh are perfect, and He does things systematically. The plan of salvation was presented to the human family in the fullness of time (Galatians 4:4). By counting toward the Feast of Weeks as the Scriptures direct, we can clearly understand the systematic ways of Yahweh. Yahshua is the fulfillment of the plan of Yahweh and is the beginning and ending of all things.

Why Count the Days?

Have you ever eagerly anticipated an important event so that you would count off the days until it arrived? Perhaps it was your wedding, graduation, or some other important event. Yahweh wishes us to anticipate the coming of the Feast of Weeks with similar eagerness so that He instructs us to count the days until this annual pilgrim convocation.

Oaths

Many of the reference books seem to suggest that the giving of the Law did not necessarily take place at the Feast of Weeks. They imply that because some of the early historians did not mention this, it must be a later tradition.

However, it is interesting to note that the same Hebrew consonants which spell the number seven (*sheva*) means also *oaths*. This is in-

deed a wonderful, inspiring thought when you see it in Hebrew! It was on the weekly Sabbath, in the third month from the time that Israel left Egypt (Sivan), that they gave their oath, they made a vow, gave their word, to obey all that Yahweh had commanded them to do in His Torah. Regardless if reference works imply that this interpretation is of later origin, these interesting facts coincide, and they are undoubtedly not merely coincidence.

The members of the Assemblies of Yahweh seek to adhere strictly to the inspired Scriptures for our doctrines, and we reject the interpretations of men. In this way, we can cut through all that traditional worship which has separated the people of the human race from the blessings of Yahweh. Yahshua the Messiah accused the Pharisees in Matthew 15:6, ***“...And you have made void the word of Yahweh because of your tradition.”***

The Sabbatical Year

By turning to Leviticus 25:1-12, it should be noted that the counting of the Sabbatical and Jubilee years closely parallels the counting of Shavuoth, Pentecost. Therefore, the Jubilee year will constitute the first year of the succeeding 49-year cycle. With this understanding, we should note that the continuity of seven-year cycles is never broken. How perfect is Yahweh's system!

It is our desire to obey Almighty Yahweh as strictly as we can and not to make void the Law of Yahweh in any way. As this article has shown, by taking a literal translation from the Hebrew Scriptures, we can learn that we must keep the Feast of Weeks as full complete weeks, counting 7 Sabbaths and then the following day—the 50th day—is Pentecost, Shavuoth, the Feast of Weeks. Traditional interpretations notwithstanding, we must obey Yahweh rather than men, and, if we do, we will be counting toward Pentecost, rather than using a fixed date on which to keep the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) each year. ^{ENB}

By counting toward the Feast of Weeks, we can clearly understand the systematic ways of Yahweh. Yahshua is the fulfillment of the plan of Yahweh and is the beginning and ending of all things.

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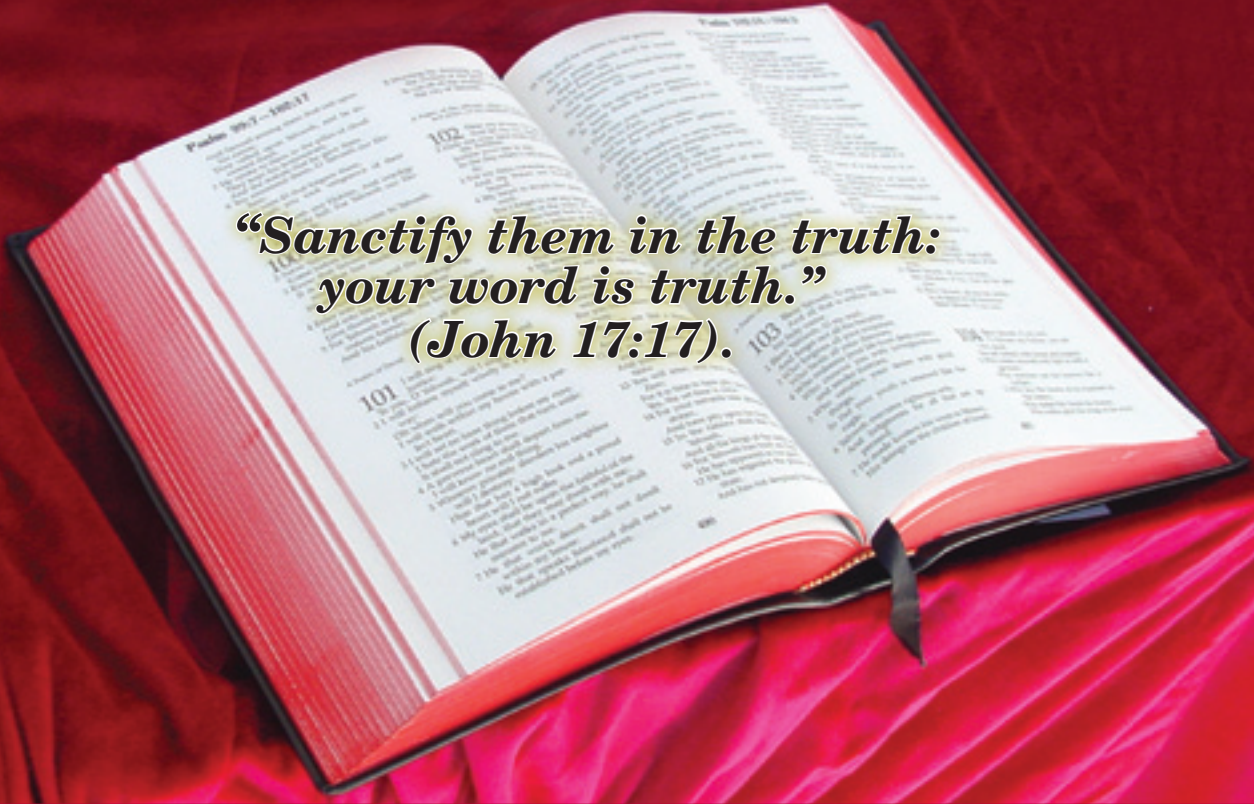
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