

# Pastor Murray's 2023 Count to Pentecost



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## **Day 01- Sunday April 9, 2023**

Good morning everyone! While we find ourselves in the middle of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (today is Day 4 of 7), today also begins the Feast of Weeks, which will culminate 49 days from now on Day 50 of our count.

Back in Leviticus 23:9-11 we read:

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 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: 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.

This coincides on the first day of the count with the ascension of Jesus Christ to be “glorified together” with His Father (John 17:5) which took place on this day, following His resurrection late on the Sabbath the previous day. The account of the ascension can be found in Acts 1. I would encourage you to take some time to read that story today.

As we have done in past years, we will provide a daily count to 50, as well as the weekly count of seven Sabbaths. This year’s theme will be revealed tomorrow on Day 2.

Until then, today is Day 1 (of week 1). May the last half of the Feast of Unleavened Bread be a blessing to you.

## 2

Good morning brothers and sisters. On this 5th day of Unleavened Bread, today is Day 2 of Week 1 of the Feast of Weeks.

We're going to start off this year with an admonition from Christ following the Passover service when He told His disciples "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."

We are very familiar with the concept of agape love - the sacrificial love displayed by Christ that is central to the process of being made complete in Him. However, there is a very interesting Greek word we will look at this year that accompanies a lot of teachings of Christ and the Apostles.

The word is allelon (G240) - and is translated for us as "one another". There are so many commands in the gospels and apostolic writings that employ allelon. This word means "reciprocally" or "mutually".

As we work through this extensive list this year, I hope we'll not just learn the individual teachings of each word, but see a pattern develop. For us to obey these commands, and become more like Christ in them, it demands that we be in fellowship with the Body of Christ.

We cannot do anything mutually or reciprocally alone. So, true agape love requires that we practice this together.

The significance of starting this study with agape is that it is THE sign will be evidence to others that we are disciples of Christ - if we agape "one another".

Have a safe and blessed day.

## 3

Good morning all! Today is Day 3 of Week 1 of the Feast of Weeks.

Today's passage comes from Mark 9:50.

Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.

To have peace comes from the Greek word eirēneuō (G1514) which means "to make, cultivate, keep or live in peace". Used together with allelon, this requires interaction within the Body of Christ - and demands concerted effort. Avoiding conflict is not making peace - it is "keeping peace".

Disciples are required to actively cultivate peace with each other. As we proceed through the count and study "allelon", we'll keep our eyes on patterns so that we can make some connections.

Feel free, as Olivia did yesterday, to make comments in the thread to engage others in discussion. Have a safe and blessed day - tonight we'll come into another high Sabbath. Until tomorrow...God bless. (edited)

## 4

Good morning on this High Sabbath day! It looks to be a gorgeous day ahead of us with temperatures expected to reach 26C (79F to our American brethren). We have another invitation to appear before our God on this 7th and last day of Unleavened Bread. I hope each of us can

look back on this Feast with thankfulness for progress made - lessons may not be evident yet, but I pray we took another step toward completeness in Christ.

Today is Day 4 of Week 1 of the Feast of Weeks.

Today's passage comes from Romans 12:10 - "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love."

"Kindly affectioned" is the Greek word *philostorgos* (G5387) which means a feeling of fondness, fraternity or devotion to natural relatives.

Consider what this means in our journey towards completion in Christ. With *agape* as the goal (the sacrificial love that defines the character of Christ), the Body of Christ becomes our spiritual family. We see one another not as people we attend services with each week, but akin to our own blood family.

Before we can sacrifice for one another, we must first at least live peaceably with each other, and then build fraternity with one another. This "crawl-walk-run" process takes time, effort and purpose.

Have a very blessed Last Day of Unleavened Bread.

## 5

Good morning - and just like that, the Feast of Unleavened Bread is a memory!

Today is another beautiful day here with temperatures continuing in the high 20's (Celsius).

Today is Day 5 of Week 1 in the count to Pentecost.

Yesterday, we were in Romans 12 and looked at the exhortation to "be kindly affectioned one to another". You may have noticed that there was a 2nd "allelon" reference in the same verse - "in honour preferring one another" (Rom 12:10). When we analyze this, we see that it has nothing to do with favoritism (showing someone undue preference over another person) but more to do with deferring to someone out of respect. Imagine the strides the Body of Christ can make if we could internalize this character trait.

So, when we read both of these admonitions together (in context with the rest of that passage in Romans 12), we can see what a healthy and uplifting body of believers we can be.

Have a great day!

## 6

Good morning - today is Day 6 of Week 1 - with Sabbath just around the corner.

Today, we'll stay in Romans and throw out an interesting exhortation today for us to consider as we come into Sabbath and prepare to convocate tomorrow together!

Romans 12:16: Be of the same mind one toward another.

The word for mind is *phroneo* (G5426) and is used 21 times throughout the Gospels and Apostolic writings.

What does "having the same mind" towards one another mean to you? The Body of Christ has long battled the notion of what it means to be in agreement. Given what we are learning about building *agape* through the study of this reciprocal word "allelon", how would you explain what it means to have the same mind?

What scriptures would you use to support your thoughts?

Have a very blessed Sabbath when it arrives later this evening.

## 7

Good morning and Happy Sabbath to everyone! Today, we find ourselves on Day 7 of the count to 50. It is also, the completion of the 1st of 7 Sabbaths of the Feast of Weeks.

Let's quickly recap what we have seen this week:

allelon (G240) - is an adverb that generally for us as "one another". It also could be read as "reciprocally" or mutually". As an adverb, it cannot stand alone, but modifies a verb. These verbs, used in scripture with allelon are what we are studying this year during the Feast of Weeks. This week, we have seen the following verbs being modified by "one another".

Agape - sacrificial love for one another

Have peace - actively cultivate peace with one another

Be kindly affectioned - have a fraternity or devotion as you would with natural relatives for one another

In honour, prefer - defer out of respect for one another

Be of the same mind toward one another

Have you started to notice any patterns? We started out this week purposely with agape. It is the foundation of what sets us apart as disciples (our Lord said so Himself). It really is a destination as well, in terms of defining what it means to be complete in Christ. His character can be summed up by that one word - agape.

As human beings who have the Holy Spirit and are growing in grace and knowledge, HOW do we grow in agape? The study of the allelon exhortations helps us break down this huge concept of agape into bite-sized portions.

Much more to come in week 2 - until then, have a safe and blessed Sabbath!

## Day 8 - Sunday April 16, 2023

What a beautiful Sunday morning it is here in Southern Ontario! I hope your Sabbath was as enjoyable as ours was. Today we begin Week 2 of the Feast of Weeks and we are on Day 8 of the count to 50.

For today's passage, we are going to the conclusion of Paul's first letter to Corinth.

1 Cor 16:20: Greet ye one another with an holy kiss. Paul closes both letters to Corinth with these instructions. The culture of the times was such that men greeted each other with a kiss (and men would not have likely greeted other women, especially wives, with a kiss). Today, we would normally shake someone's hand, or in closer relationships, give each other a hug. Rather than get caught up in how they greeted one another, the word "greet" is quite interesting.

Greet - G0782 - aspazomai - "to welcome or receive joyfully". Our studies of 1 and 2

Corinthians have taught us how Paul is seeking to re-build the dysfunctional congregation of Corinth. Through addressing the issues that are causing the conflict so that they can come into Passover and Unleavened Bread as a unified group, he concludes both letters with the admonition that there should be a sense of joy when we come into the presence of other members of the Body of Christ. This heightened awareness of being in the presence of the covenant community should fill us with joy - there is no better place to be than with other

members of the Body of Christ. What a privilege it is to do this each and every week - and even better if we make time to do it outside of our regular Sabbath services as well (where possible of course).

Have a great day - and don't forget to drop a note in the thread if you'd like to contribute a thought! (edited)

## 9

Good morning! Today is Day 9 of the count to 50, and Day 2 of Week 2 of the Feast of Weeks. Today's passage is found in Galatians 5:13 - "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."

It is interesting that the word "serve" is juxtaposed with the the word "liberty". This is not an accident!

"Serve" is the word "douleuō" (G1398) and means "to be in bondage or servitude to". When used in conjunction with allelon, Paul is making it clear that as part of the functioning Body of Christ, we have an obligation to each other. We are not "free" in the truest and purest sense of the word. It calls to mind Christ's admonition in Matt 6:24 - "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Now, put this together with Matt 25:40 - Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

We have one Master, Lord and King - and we show our service to Him by serving each other!

This is why it is as much a blessing to give as to receive, because it MUST go both ways for the "allelon" to be fulfilled.

Food for thought as we head back to work today!

## 10

Good morning! Today is Day 3 of Week 2, and Day 10 of the overall count to 50.

We're going to stay in Galatians for today's passage - in Galatians 6:2, Paul says: "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." Before we go further, it is interesting to note that 3 verses later, Paul then says: "For every man shall bear his own burden."

Sometimes in the English translations of the Bible, translators use the same word for two different Greek (or Hebrew) words. This is the case here and leads to confusion.

The first "burden" is the Greek word baros (G922) and refers to troubles or heaviness (the strains of life that can weigh us down). In v.5, that "burden" is phortion (G5414) and refers to obligations, rites or faults.

In context, this is all about helping each other through the trials and issues of life. Oftentimes that involves helping them through the ramifications of sin (v.1) while other times it is simply the burdens and weights of this life. We share these types of burdens because we are connected to each other as members of the Body of Christ. Verse 5 is a warning that we should guard against being dragged into sin by offering our help - because we are responsible before God for our own actions.

The word for “bear” is the same though - but the burdens we are to bear are different. We help a brother or sister through their troubles because our desire is to aid in restoration (v.1) - helping truly repentant brethren deal with their burdens being sure not to aid them in repeating the actions that brought them to that point.

## 11

Good morning - today is the 11th day of the count to 50 and Week 2, Day 4 of the Feast of Weeks. Today’s passage comes from Ephesians 4:32 - “And be ye kind one to another”.

A couple of things to take note of as we consider this exhortation:

In context, this passage goes back to v.24 where Paul talks about righteousness, holiness and putting on the new man. He then spends v.25-31 listing very un-Christ-like characteristics that we should not be like.

“And” is a conjunction that then switches gears and presents the Christ-like alternative. The Complete Jewish Bible renders it “Instead...be kind to one another”.

“Kind” is the Greek word *chrēstos* (G5543). In addition to “kind”, it means to be manageable, fit for use, or serviceable. This is seen in its root word *chraomai* (G5530) which means to entreat or to furnish what is needed.

Kindness can take on rather superficial tones of “just be nice to each other”. When we dig a little, we can see that the expectation is much more than that. We must all provide to the Body (and its individual members) what it needs and what makes it fit for service.

Makes sense when you consider the admonition just a little earlier in the chapter beginning in v.11 and culminating in v.16.

Have a very blessed day! (edited)

## 12

Good morning! Today is Day 12 of the count to 50, and Day 5 of Week 2.

I noticed something interesting as we read through Ephesians 4 yesterday, and the allelon admonition in v.32 (“be kind”). If we finish v.32, we see the following:

“...forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”

This particular “one another” is NOT allelon. Rather, it is the word “heautou” (G1438). Why wouldn’t Paul use allelon here? Here are my thoughts.

This word can be used in the singular or plural - himself, herself, themselves, your own selves. When used in the plural, it is often translated as “within themselves”.

The answer I think ties in with the rest of the verse and Christ’s teachings on forgiveness from the Lord’s Prayer:

Eph 4:32b: “...forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”

Mat 6:14-15: “For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

Unlike the other allelon exhortations, forgiveness is NOT a mutual action between members of the Body of Christ, but rather, an issue between the individual and God. We can, and should, forgive others for their wrongdoings to us because of all that Christ has done for us.

The reciprocity in forgiveness is not actually between us and the other individual, but really between us and God - our sins will not be forgiven of us if we refuse to forgive others. Have a very blessed day!

## 13

Good morning everyone, as we prepare to come into Sabbath later this evening.

Today is Day 6 of Week 2 of the Feast of Weeks, and Day 13 of the count to 50.

In Ephesians 4, we find a very intriguing example of allelon used. So far, we are coming to a deeper understanding of Christ's high expectations of how His Body should interact with one another. Today's has always been one of my favourites because it takes it to a new level and cannot truly be done without purposeful activation of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:2: "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love."

The Greek word for forbear is *anechō* (G430) and literally means "to put up with". This word, in the scriptures is only used 14 times and is ALWAYS in the middle voice. If you go back to Pastor Adrian's comments from April 16, he noted "This means we are as much an agent of the action as we are a recipient and that we perform the action to our own benefit (or hurt)."

Putting up with one another's foibles and idiosyncrasies is part of the growth process of a healthy body of believers. We come from different backgrounds, with different viewpoints and experiences, placed in the Body where needs us to be.

v.3 provides the impetus for internalizing this much needed trait: "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." It is hard work to come together as one body of believers, unified by Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

This may be one of the hardest exhortations to follow on a consistent basis. May God give us the foresight and heart to work hard at putting up with one another for the sake of the unity He so desires.

## 14

Good Sabbath morning everyone! We have come to the 2nd Sabbath of 7 in the Feast of Weeks. Today is Day 14 of 50 in the count to Pentecost.

This week, we learned more of Paul's exhortations to the Body of Christ in how to mutually build toward agape for another. This week, we saw:

Greet one another - welcome or receive each other joyfully

Serve one another - obliged to be in bondage or servitude to each other

Bear one another's burdens - help each other through the weights and strains of life

Be kind one to another - provide to each other, and to the Body as a whole, what it needs to be fit for service

Forbear one another - put up with each other

We also learned "forgiving one another" is NOT an allelon command. We are individually responsible for this; God will reciprocally forgive us when we forgive others.



We are building out quite the list of expectations to help us build towards a unity that Christ expects in His Body. As we become complete in Him, we will reach that level of perfect agape - and by that all will know that we are His disciples.

Have there been any surprises on this list yet? Any that you need to work on? Now is the time as we work towards memorializing the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

Have a very blessed Sabbath.

## **Day 15 - Sunday April 23, 2023**

Good morning all! For those who joined us in London, what a great weekend it was. It was so good to see so many there!

As we begin the 3rd week of the Feast of Weeks, today is Day 15 of our count to 50.

After such an uplifting weekend, let's begin this week's look at the allelon exhortations back in Romans. In Romans 14:19, we read: Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

We talked back on Day 3 of the count about the difference between keeping the peace and making peace. We saw that making peace involves dealing with difficult issues head-on for the purpose reconciliation - rather than avoiding the issue so as not to have to deal with it.

This exhortation from Paul tells to to swiftly run after those things that make peace so that we may edify one another. To edify is the Greek word *oikodomē* (G3619) and it means to build up, as one would erect a building. Metaphorically, and how Paul uses it here, it refers to the act of promoting another's growth in Christian character.

We see from this explained further in Ephesians 4:16 where every members of the Body does his/her share for the growth and edifying of the Body in (and to the goal of) agape.

God way seems counterintuitive to how man naturally behaves - rather than do good for my own benefit, we focus on helping build each other up, and the end result becomes our own growth.

Here's to a renewed focus on building one another up!

## **16**

Good morning on this 16th day of the count to 50. Today is Day 2 of Week 3.

For today's exhortation, we'll continue in Romans. From Rom 15:7, we read:

“Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.”

This is not the same word we studied on Day 8 when we looked at the word “greet” which mean to “receive or welcome joyfully”. This is more of on external receiving.

The word in Romans 15 is the Greek word *proslambanō* (G4355) and is more of an internal receiving. This can be defined as “to take as a companion, to take by the hand in order to lead, or to grant access to one's heart”. The reason Christ, through Paul, admonishes us to do this with each other, is because He has done this for us.

It calls to mind the lesson of footwashing we have just recently come through. When seen in light of the other allelon commands, receiving each other internally like this cannot help but lead to greater agape within the Body of Christ, help prevent the betrayal that the scriptures warn us about.

Have a blessed day!

## 17

Good morning brothers and sisters. Today is Day 3 of Week 3, and Day 17 of the count to 50. We'll continue in Romans for today's exhortation. In Romans 15:14, Paul writes:

“And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.”

The word for “admonish” is *noutheteō* (G3560) and means “to put in mind, warn, exhort or reprove gently”. As we continue to put all of these allelon verbs together, we can easily see how interdependent they all are on each other. *Noutheteō* is a great example. Absent of ones like love, bearing one another's burdens, being kind, forbearing, being kindly affectioned, having peace, etc - admonishing one other would not seem to be in the spirit of agape. Taken in context with all of the other characteristics, we can see how looking out for each other's spiritual welfare is part of a healthy, functioning body.

Take note also that there is an underlying goodness that must accompany this, as well as knowledge. Knowledge, in the context of the Christian walk, is connected to the law of God - the Torah, the Way. This enables us (note the word able) to care enough about a brother or sister to properly warn, exhort or reprove (gently).

Have a blessed day.

P.S. Don't forget that the Wednesday study has been moved to Tuesday at 7:30 pm EDT, this week only (edited)

## 18

Good morning on this 4th Day of Week 3 of the Feast of Weeks - and Day 18 of the count to 50.

Back on Day 6, we covered the exhortation to “be of the same mind” (*phroneo* - G5426).

Today's excerpt might be seen as a companion exhortation. Found in 1 Cor 12:25, we read:

“...the members should have the same care one for another.”

“Care” is the Greek word *merimnaō* (G3309). This admonition from Paul reminds us to take thought of, look out for, and be troubled for the cares of one another. Again, we practice these things mutually.

For context, Christ uses this word 5 times in the Sermon on the Mount - all in Matthew 6 when He tells us not to worry about our life, tomorrow, food and clothing. This provides a good backdrop of how this works in conjunction with allelon. We are not to be troubled for ourselves, but we certainly are to be concerned about other members of the Body. If the Body does this for one another - we don't have to do this for ourselves, since we are assured others are doing this for us.

We can see how Paul then expands on this - focusing on the needs of others prevents schisms from developing in the Body...and again, will help prevent the betrayal Christ warns us about in Matt 24:10. This takes time and effort from each of us!

## 19

Good morning! Today is Day 19 of our count to 50, and Day 5 of Week 3 of the Feast of Weeks!

We'll head back to Ephesians today and take note of Eph 5:21: Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."

"Submitting oneself" is the Greek word *hypotassō* (G5293) and means to put oneself in subjection to or subordinate to another. This is similar to, but not the same as, the passage in Gal 5:13 where we saw that serving each other took on the tone of being in slavery to each other - see Day 9's passage for review.

The context of the entire letter to the Ephesians deals with the battles against the evil spiritual realm that we all face - as targets of the Adversary's war against the saints. The way to combat this is to commit oneself to being a positive contributor to a functioning, healthy Body of Christ. We fight against the feeling of idolatry and self-importance by subjecting ourselves to each other within the Body. We are never as important as we think we are!

We continue to see how all of these allelon exhortations work together to bring us to state of completeness in Christ - the Bible calls this "perfection", but it is better rendered "completion". Have a safe and productive day!

## 20

Good morning all!! Another week is almost here and Sabbath will be upon us soon. Today is Day 20 of 50 and Day 6 of Week 3 in the Feast of Weeks. Anyone familiar with the Bible is likely aware of Paul's teaching in Philippians 2 on the mind of Christ. Today's passage comes from Phil 2:3 where we are told "...in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."

The Greek word for "esteem" is *hēgeomai* (G2233) and in this context means "to consider or to deem". The adverb "better" makes the obvious point that the disciple seeking to put on the mind of Christ (v.5) should make a conscious effort to consider the needs and wants of others in the Body ahead of his/her own. In this way, we are doing exactly as Christ did for us through His life and death.

What is interesting is that the initial uses of this word (chronologically in Scripture) have it used for an entirely different meaning - that of "to lead, command or have rule over". We see it used a few times in the Gospels and in Acts. It is where we get the English word "hegemony" - leadership or dominance.

I found this fascinating - the same word used by the Apostles and the writers of the Gospels and Acts for two entirely different meanings. Then I got to thinking about true leadership which involves leading people to become better than what they are. Good leaders know they cannot operate in a vacuum and value what others bring to the group.

What do you think? What other reasons can you think of for *hēgeomai* to be used in these different ways?

## 21

Sabbath blessings to everyone as we come to the end of Week 3 in the Feast of Weeks. Today is Day 21 of our count to 50.

What an in-depth study we continue to have into the Greek word *allelon* - the adverb which, when combined with various verbs, shows us the way to interact with one another towards a healthy and functional congregation of the Body of Christ.

This week, we added to our growing list of exhortations and learned the need to:

Edify one another - mutually promote growth in each other

Receive one another - take each other into companionship and grant access to one's heart

Admonish one another - to put one another in mind, to warn, exhort and gently reprove

Have the same care one for another - to look out for and be troubled for the cares of each other

Submitting to one another - to place ourselves in subjection or subordination to each other

Esteem each other better than ourselves - in context, to consider the wants and needs of each other ahead of our own.

It will be interesting to look back once we have completed the count and make a summary list of what we've learned. Next week, we'll look at *allelon* from a different angle - stay tuned!

Safe travels today as we gather together to worship and be taught from God's precious Word!

## Day 22 - Sunday April 30, 2023

Good morning as we begin the 4th week of the Feast of Weeks. Today is Day 22 of the count to 50.

This week, we'll take a slightly different approach as we continue our study of the *allelon* exhortations. Back to Romans for today's excerpt. In Rom 14:12 we read:

"Let us not therefore judge one another any more."

In addition to learning about what to be like so that we may become complete in Christ, the apostles also cover many areas that we should avoid. We begin this nuanced study with judging. The word "judge" can cause confusion because there are three different Greek words that are all translated as "judge" - hence the confusion when scriptures admonish us both to judge and judge not. In this case, the Greek word "*krino*" means to condemn. When the scriptures tell us not to judge, it is this word that is being used in the sense of a final condemnation. As humans, this is currently above our pay grade.

As we've covered before, the other words translated as judge are *diakrino* (discern) and *anakrino* (evaluate).

A functional body of Christ avoids condemning one another.

Have a safe and blessed week.

## 23

Good morning brothers and sisters. Today is Day 23 of our count to 50, and Day 2 of Week 4 of the Feast of Weeks.

Today, we go to the Epistle to the Galatians for a rather blunt warning from the Apostle Paul. In Gal 5:15 he writes: "But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." We find *allelon* used twice here in a "cause and effect" admonition.

The Greek word for “bite” is *daknō* (G1143) and its meaning of “to cut with the teeth” is metaphorically understood “to wound the soul”.

“Devour” is the Greek word *katesthiō* (G2719) and means “to utterly consume or destroy”.

As we read this, the words that should jump off the page at us are “take heed”. These words are used often by both Christ and the Apostles. When we see them, we should treat them like “red flags”. For context, go back to verse 13 where we are warned that we should not take the liberty we have in Christ to serve our own flesh.

Remember that as we study these admonitions, we need to add these to the list we are building and see how they work together to teach us what “telios” or “being complete in Christ” really means. Have a blessed day.

## 24

Good morning! Today is Day 24 of 50, and Day 3 of Week 4.

We’ll stay in Galatians 5 for today’s excerpt. In v.26 we read: Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another...”

While some of these exhortations may seem obvious, it is important that we spend time on each and not overlook them. If they were easy to overcome, Paul would not have spent so much time warning us about these things!

The Greek word for “provoke” is *prokaleomai* (G4292) and means “to irritate or to call forth in a challenge”. This exhortation stands in contrast to the one we studied on Day 13 when we saw the need to forbear (or put up with) one another.

As human beings not yet complete in Christ, we can all be annoying from time to time. The onus is two-fold - don’t be the source of aggravation for others; and in patience, learn how to put up with the annoyances of others.

I dare say that it is these little things that are sometimes the hardest to keep our eyes on. We like comfort, and we like to be right. Here is another example of an allelon exhortation that cannot be studied alone, but in the context of the others.

More to come on this verse tomorrow! Have a safe and productive day. :blush:

## 25

Good morning! We have reached the half-way point of the count as today is Day 25 of 50; and Day 4 of Week 4. I promised yesterday that we would continue in Gal 5:26 because there is a companion exhortation to yesterday’s:

“Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.”

The Greek for envy is *phthoneō* (G5354) and it simply means “to become jealous or envious of.” As we look at it side by side with provoke, we can see how these correlate from an allelon (mutual, reciprocal) perspective.

Paul writes this immediately following his contrasting of the “works of the flesh” against the “fruit of the Spirit”. The works of the flesh are caused by satisfying our own desires against the will of God. If we all focused on ourselves, this creates hatred in the other person (through provoking) and hatred in ourselves (through envy).

So, we can mutually affect one another for the good AND the bad! Let's use these Feast of Weeks to ensure we are a positive force within the Body of Christ!

## 26

Good morning on this 5th day of Week 4 of the Feast of Weeks; today is Day 26 of our count to 50.

Today's passage comes from Paul's letter to the Church in Colossi. In Col 3:9 we read, "Lie not one to another." The word for "lie" is *pseudomai* (G5574) and, to no one's surprise, means "to deliberately deceive or utter a falsehood." While this seems simple enough, the context always provides deeper lessons we can pull out.

The lesson begins back in v.1 of the same chapter: "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above." We can claim a lot of things through our words - but our words must be backed up by action. IF we say we have come out of the watery grave of baptism and belong to Christ, our thoughts, actions and words must reflect how Christ thought, acted and spoke. V.8 covers all types of negative communication disciples of Christ should avoid. The passage then sums it up with "putting off" the old person, and "putting on" the new one - something the allelon exhortations are helping us better understand. Have a blessed day!

## 27

Good morning! With Sabbath coming later this evening, we are currently on Day 27 of 50, and Day 6 of Week 4. Today's "warning" allelon comes from James 4:11 where we read: "Speak not evil one of another, brethren."

The key word here to unpack is "evil" which is the Greek word *katalaleō* (G2635) and means "to slander, speak lies of or damage the reputation of one another."

If we go back a few verses, James is calling out brethren who behave with extreme pride, and even calls them double-minded. Family members do not slander one another. We can disagree, we can have difficult conversations, but we never seek to damage the reputation of each other. This occurs when we speak about people rather than to them.

James further explains that doing so places us in a category "above our pay grade" - judging them in a condemning way - you may recall our studies on the Greek word *krino*. We'll recap the week tomorrow and provide a little bit of interesting history, too! Stay tuned!

Until then, may this Sabbath be a blessing to you and your families!

## 28

Good Sabbath morning everyone! Today is the end of Week 4 of the Feast of Weeks - and Day 28 of our count to 50.

This week, we took a look into the other side of the allelon coin for some of those things we must avoid as they are detrimental to the Body of Christ. It is becoming increasingly clearer how all of these admonitions work together - and why the Feast of Weeks is a good time to focus on them - as we prepare for Pentecost.

Don't condemn one another.

Do not cut and wound each other, lest we destroy each other.

Don't provoke or irritate each other.

Don't be jealous of each other.

Don't deceive or lie to each other.

Don't slander or damage the reputation of each other.

From a historical perspective, today is Day 15 of Month 2 of God's calendar. Exodus 16, the Assembly of Israel arrived at the Wilderness of Sin following their departure from Elim. It was here at the God would provide the miraculous manna from heaven for them.

Have a blessed Sabbath!

## **Day 29 - Sunday May 7, 2023**

Good morning! Today is Day 29 of our count to 50 as we begin Week 5 of the Feast of Weeks. We'll continue in James today where he tells us in chapter 5, verse 9: Grudge not one against another, brethren.

Given all that we have learned so far, this seems to be an obvious exhortation - not to hold a grudge against each other - and we certainly should not do that. However, the Greek word of "grudge" is *stenazō* (G4727) which seems to take this to a whole other level than you might expect. It means "to sigh or murmur inaudible with grief or groaning". We are being admonished to quash wrong thoughts about each other even under our breath. We all know scriptures that teach us that God knows our heart, so He knows what we are saying even quietly to ourselves. These quiet murmurings, if we don't stop them at the moment of thought and allow ourselves to say them will only snowball into increasingly negative actions toward each other.

This verse is part of James' teaching about patience (v.7-11), and we would be wise to read and study this passage. The writer's of God's Holy Word were really inspired to get to the very heart of the matter - our heart (mind). Without God's Holy Spirit, it is "deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jer 17:9). Have a blessed day!

## **30**

Good morning on Day 30 in our count to 50, and Day 2 of Week 5 of the Feast of Weeks. Over the course of this study on the allelon exhortations, we have seen them come in one of two categories: Do's and Don'ts. Today's passage from the Apostle Peter combines them.

In 1 Peter 4:9 we read: Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

Hospitality is something we should all work towards, regardless of our situation. It is time spent together that helps build unbreakable bonds in the Body of Christ. Your situation may only allow you to be hospitable to one person at a time, and it might not be fancy - but it is important to Christ.

The word for hospitality is the Greek word *philoxenos* (G5382) meaning "being generous to guests". Interestingly, that word is a compound word from *philos* (showing fondness to a close friend) and *xenos* (stranger). This makes perfect sense - when we open ourselves up to being hospitable, we are opening up our circle of companionship to those we may not be close to.

Peter also adds a warning that we do not do so with murmuring or muttering - that is, against our will.

Have a safe and blessed day!

## 31

Good morning everyone! Today is Day 31 of 50 and Day 3 of Week 5.

James has an interesting exhortation that can be misinterpreted. In James 5:16 we read:

“Confess your faults one to another.” The first thing that comes to mind is the confession of sins to another human being. Is that what this is talking about? The word here for faults is different from the one used for sin in places like 1 John. There sin is hamartia (G266). James uses the word paraptōma (G3900) which means an “unintentional lapse or deviation”. The word confess refers to “open acknowledgement.”

This has caused much confusion about whether we should be confessing our sins to each other, especially when newer translations use the word “trespasses”.

There are some other factors to consider. The books of the Torah written by Moses define sin in three ways with different levels of gravity based on intention and the effect they have on others. James is referring to unintentional veering from the path.

The key to this passage (to me) seems to be the reason for the “confessing” - that we might be healed by praying for one another. These allelon passages are showing us the need to build deep bonds within the Body of Christ - so deep, that when we struggle, there should be others we can lean on to help us pray our way through so that we may be healed spiritually (and physically should it be God’s will).

What are your thoughts on this passage? This particular passage definitely speaks to a level of closeness and trust that takes time and a lot of “allelon-ing” to build!

Have a safe and blessed day!

## 32

Good morning! Today is the 4th day of Week 5 and Day 32 of our count to 50.

In Paul’s first letter to the Church in Thessalonica, twice he exhorts the brethren to “comfort one another” (1 Ths 4:18 and 5:11).

Much more than simply offering consolation, the Greek word for “comfort” is parakaleō (G3870) and means “to encourage or strengthen through exhortation, entreaty, comfort, or instruction.” This reminds me of the passage in Galatians encouraging stronger brethren to uphold weaker members (Gal 6).

However, this runs much deeper as the context indicates. The context begins in chapter 4 and speaks to the difficult times the Body of Christ will face in the days, weeks, months and years immediately preceding the return of The Messiah. The first 10 verses of chapter 5 provide further things we must not forget, and then Paul repeats the comfort exhortation.

These warnings to ensure we know our responsibility to keep each other strengthened then speaks to the difficulties we should expect. Thus, the building of bonds during the easy times we have today is paramount. Like fire and rescue teams who train in their down time so they can react at elite levels when need arises.



Have a safe and blessed day! (edited)

### 33

Good morning again - on this 33rd day of the count, and Day 5 of Week 5 of the Feast of Weeks!

If you have followed the weekly studies over the last couple of weeks, you will have heard the Greek word *koinōnia* discussed as it relates to the last couple of chapters of 1 Peter.

The Apostle John uses this word in an allelon exhortation in 1 John 1:7 where we read:

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

*Koinōnia* (G2842) refers to “joint participation, intimate fellowship, or community” - this, along with *agape* are the end results of pulling all of these exhortations together into one complete package. We often hear the scriptural adage “know them by their fruits”. This is true of *koinōnia* - and the context of the passage supports this. Note the “if/then” statement; *koinōnia* is a result of the Body of Christ truly walking in the light of Christ. IF we walk in HIS light, true fellowship will be the natural result.

How would you define “walking in the light of Christ”? Feel free to drop your thoughts in response!

Have a safe and blessed day!

### 34

Good morning on this preparation day for the weekly Sabbath! Today is Day 34 of 50, and Day 6 of Week 5 of the Feast of Weeks. Thank you to those who, not just yesterday, but over the course of the last 5 weeks, have added to our conversation through their postings.

As we considered “walking in the light of Christ” yesterday, I really appreciated everyone’s comments and how they took the Law of God into account as central to this teaching. As we all know, God’s law comes under scrutiny by those who discount the Hebrew Scriptures in light of the “more enlightened New Testament”.

We cannot forget the beauty of Psalms 119 - which we posted here in its entirety over the course of a previous Feast of Weeks. In v.105, we read “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

This law, established from Creation, guides us on our journey towards being made complete in Christ. Rather than a hindrance, it is like a well-lit path that keeps us safe and headed in the right direction. The allelon exhortations teach us that we are not on that path alone - and are surrounded by those who can help us right ourselves when we step on a rock, or lose our balance. What a blessing to be on this journey together!

Have a wonderful Sabbath! :hugging\_face:

### 35

Greetings brothers and sisters on this beautiful Sabbath morning. Today marks the end of week 5 of the Feast of Weeks. It is Day 35 of our count to 50. Thank you to everyone who has

contributed over these last 5 weeks by adding your comments to the daily postings. I enjoy and am uplifted when I read them, as I hope you all are also. Please continue as you are inspired.

This week, we saw more allelon passages exhorting us mutually:

Not to murmuring negatively even under our breath about each other

To be hospitable to each other by showing the fondness we would to very close friends

To open ourselves up to each other for prayers of spiritual healing

To encourage and strengthen each other through exhortation, comfort and instruction

To have joint fellowship with one another as we walk in the light of Christ and His Word/Law

What a list we have been building! We've got two more weeks - looking forward to seeing where God leads us.

From a historical perspective, today is Day 22 of Month 2 in God's calendar. Numbers 10:11 tells us that on the 20th day (in year 2 following the Exodus), the camp of Israel packed up and started their journey out of the Wilderness of Sinai.

Have a blessed Sabbath!

## **Day 36 - Sunday May 14, 2023**

Good morning everyone! Today we begin Week 6 of the Feast of Weeks - and it is Day 36 of the count to 50.

Today, I am travelling and have very little screen time, but didn't want to neglect posting. So, inspiration will come from you today, for those who choose to accept this mission :blush:.

Which of the allelon exhortations stands out so far from our studies? I look forward to reading your responses! God bless and have a safe day!

## **37**

Good morning! Today is Day 37 of the count to 50, and Day 2 of Week 6. We've got one more allelon exhortation from the Epistles before we head off to the Gospels for a while. In 1 Cor 11:33, we find the following: "Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another."

While this passage was written in the context of the Passover, fellowship meals between the brethren are a very important part of what builds bonds within the Body of Christ. We can see that in various places throughout the scriptures, and did see it as a foundational experience for the newly baptized at the end of Acts 2. These aren't simply potluck meals by today's standards, but fellowship meals designed specifically to help unify, exhort, edify and comfort one another (remembering how these words are biblically defined).

As in other accounts, it is easy to apply today's definitions to these Biblical passages - so we would read this imploring us to wait for one another. However, it runs a little deeper, as you might expect now after 37 days of study together.

"Tarry" is the Greek word "ekdechomai" (G1551) - and it means to expect, wait, and look out for. When we gather together, not only are we expected to wait, but to look out for one another. Do we know when one of our regular brothers or sisters is missing? Do we follow up to make sure they are okay? A unified body knows when parts are missing.

One side note - tarry for one another does not mean that something like a formal worship service shouldn't start until everyone is present. Love for the brethren and a respect for coming into the presence of God to worship together should cause all of us to work towards arriving on time and ready to worship and be attentive so the whole flock is together before God being fed and worshipping.

Have a safe and blessed day!

## 38

Good morning everyone! Today is Day 3 of Week 6 of the Feast of Weeks, and Day 38 of the count to 50.

I believe we have exhausted the allelon exhortations from the epistles. We certainly did not cover all verses since many, like agape, are repeated throughout. Now we turned our focus to the use of allelon in the Gospels. We begin today with a somber warning in Matthew 24:10 where we read: "And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another."

This warning from Our Messiah comes as part of His answer to the Disciples questions back in v.3 - including "What will be the sign of Your coming? And of the end of the age?" Part of that response was a warning of deception coming to attack the Body of Christ. Much of the attack will come from without as agents of the adversary attack the saints.

However, it will have an affect on the Body as some within will become offended and will betray. Some have debated whether this offence, betrayal and hatred comes from without or within the Church. The use of allelon (in addition to the overall context of His answer) would have me believe that Christ is specifically referring to it happening within the Body.

One of the signs preceding His return is that deception will take root in the Body and cause to betray other brethren - in protective response to persecution from without. Surely, you may think, this could not happen amongst us. Christ says otherwise.

They say "an ounce of prevention is worth of a pound of cure". Internalizing these allelon exhortations during times of peace is the prevention that will protect you from succumbing to deception and betraying one another!

Some food for thought with 12 days left in the count! (edited)

## 39

Good morning on this 39th day of the count to 50. Today is Day 4 of Week 6 of the Feast of Weeks. There is an interesting passage in Matthew 25 following the two parables (The Ten Virgins and The Talents).

Immediately following these parables, Christ states in v.31-32: When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats.

It is interesting in a world that so badly wants to globalize that when The Messiah returns, He will separate. The Greek word for "separate" is aphorizō (G873) and means "to set off by boundary, sever, separate or divide".

The very use of the term “nations” means that God still knows who belongs to what nation - and He must if He will also be unifying Judah and Israel. It is extremely interesting that the separation into “sheep” and “goats” seems to be done at the national level.

As we understand the unifying aspects of allelon, I wonder if this another indication of how globalized (in a bad way) the world will have become that it will require forced separation by The Messiah. Much to ponder...your thoughts?

Have a safe and blessed day! (edited)

## 40

Good morning! Today is Day 5 of Week 6, and Day 40 of our count to 50 - a VERY significant day in Biblical history. We'll take a quick break from the allelon exhortations today and take a look at the introductory verses in the book of Acts.

“The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.” (Acts 1:1-4).

It was on Day 40 of the Feast of Weeks back during the year of The Messiah's death and resurrection that He was last seen here on earth. Following His resurrection, He spent 40 days with His followers for the express purpose of proving beyond a shadow of a doubt that He had indeed been brought back to life. His resurrection is the hope upon which our faith is built - and we build that hope on the eyewitness accounts of those who wrote about it because of these 40 days.

Then, preparation for Pentecost intensified following His final ascension. We see this in Acts 1:13-14:

And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

Take some time today to ponder the significance of this day in history, and then let's deepen our focus as His followers did in these final days of the Feast of Weeks.

Have a safe and blessed day!

## 41

Good morning as we near the end of the penultimate week of the Feast of Weeks! Today is Day 41 of 50, and Day 6 of Week 6.

We recall how the disciples at the meal they shared before the Passover disputed over who would be considered the greatest among them - we see this in Luke 22. This was NOT the first

time they debated this question. Mark captures an incident in Capernaum in chapter 9 of his gospel account. In verse 34 we read:

“But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest.” “Among themselves” is translated here from allelon. This disputing was rather argumentative given that the Greek word used was dialegomai (G1256) which means “to boast or argue”. This type of disputing is quite unhealthy in the Body of Christ as it seeks to serve the interests of the self - which goes completely against all of the healthy allelon teachings we have been learning.

This calls to mind the meeting in Jerusalem where the Church leaders gathered to discuss circumcision. We see the same English word used here - “dispute” (Acts 15:7). Here, “dispute” is syzētēsis which gives an entirely different explanation. This was not a self-serving debate as we would see today, but rather a “mutual questioning”. This allowed each side to understand the other’s point of view in order to rationally come to a meaningful decision led by the Holy Spirit.

So, mutually interaction, as we have seen over these last six weeks can be healthy or destructive - depending on whether we allow the Holy Spirit to lead us or not.

Have a wonderful Sabbath!

## 42

Good Sabbath morning everyone! On this drizzly Sabbath, we have reached the end of Week 6 of the Feast of Weeks. Today is Day 42 of the count to 50.

I have really appreciated the feedback and interaction that continues - which will help us get better at hearing each other out and learning from one another in the spirit of syzētēsis. While not specifically an allelon exhortation, I am reminded of Proverbs 27:16: “Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.” Like the pruning of trees that fosters growth, we help each other sharpen our swords through spirit-filled back-and-forth discussion. When the other allelon exhortations are being worked on, a natural environment of trust is built, leading to even further growth.

As we recap the week that was, we saw what it means:

To tarry - to look out for one another

Not to betray or hate one another - within the Body

When Christ will separate nations from one another upon His return

Each year when we look back on Day 40 to the last time Christ stepped foot on this planet

To have a healthy interaction through mutual questioning

As we look back to where we started in John 13 with agape and simply opened our Bibles and concordances, to borrow a line from the inimitable Dr. Seuss: Oh, the places you’ll go!

Have a peaceful and edifying Sabbath!

## Day 43 - Sunday May 21, 2023

Good morning - today we begin the 7th and final week of the Feast of Weeks. Today is Day 43 of the count to 50. Also, of note, today is the beginning of the 3rd month of God’s calendar.

Today, we find an interesting question from Christ that should cause us to ponder our choices. In John 5:44, Christ asks: “How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?”

For context, we go back to v.16 where we see the Jewish leaders were taking Christ to task for healing on the Sabbath. Writing many decades later, John notes that they were persecuting Jesus and seeking to kill Him because He threatened the power they had over the people (in terms of what was permissible to do on the Sabbath). Then, Christ begins a very lengthy response in v.17. The passage we quoted today was part of His concluding remarks. They sought the praise, honour and public adulation from each other, rather than from God.

Here is another example of misguided allelon. Using each other to increase our own sense of self-satisfaction is not what coming together is all about. Rather, seeking the approval of God, regardless of what men think is what Christ was showing them.

As we consider a world that has lost respect for God and His Word, do we seek to be liked by the world. Do we find fulfillment in the mutual praise and honour of those that clearly do not follow God? Or do we find joy (defined by Strong’s as “calm delight”) in seeking the honour and respect of our Creator and Messiah?

Have a safe and blessed day!

## 44

Good morning on Day 44 of our count to 50. Today is Day 2 of Week 7.

If you followed the most recent set of Wednesday night Bible Studies you would have noticed that Peter, in his first epistle, used the phrase “one to another” several times. For some reason, he did not employ the Greek word allelon - however, the meaning seems to be the same!

We see this in 1 Peter 4:9-10 where we note the following:

“Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

You will notice as we near the end of this word study that the exhortations are often repeated throughout the writings, and by different authors.

We’ve covered hospitality previously (philoxenos) but ministering the same is interesting. The word for “minister” is diakoneō (G1247). If that word looks familiar, it should. It means servant, and it is where we get the title of the office of Deacon.

The context for this letter deals with the persecution that the Body of Christ will need to endure - and these “one to another” exhortations come just after v.7 which reminds us “the end of all things is at hand”.

Something for us to ponder during this last week of the Feast of Weeks as we prepare for the arrival of Pentecost. (edited)

## 45

Good morning - we are now 90% of the way through the Feast of Weeks, with only 5 more sleeps until Pentecost! Today is Day 3 of Week 7 and Day 45 of 50 in the count.

When we consider the myriad of allelon exhortations we have studied over the last 7 weeks, we need to remind ourselves “why?” Why go through this exercise? Why do it in the lead up to Pentecost?

Let’s keep in mind what allelon means. Way back on Day 2, we noted the word allelon (G240) is translated for us as “one another” - and that the Greek word means “reciprocally” or “mutually”.

To boil it down as simply as we can, let’s look at Philippians 2:1-5 where we read:

“If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.-- Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”

Recall from Acts 2 where Luke noted in v.1 “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.”

Being of one mind, and having that like mindedness be aligned with the mind of Christ takes effort. We see this effort in Acts 1 with those who came together to tarry for the promise of The Father. We also see this effort in the preparation that was required by the Assembly of Israel at the base of Mount Sinai as they prepared to receive the Law of God.

We’ll spend the remaining days looking at these days immediately preceding the Pentecosts found in Exodus and Acts. Putting in the effort comes from understanding that the Feast of Unleavened Bread is linked to Pentecost by the Feast of Weeks. They very much are related and not stand-alone events.

Until tomorrow, have a very safe and blessed day.

## 46

Good morning all! Today is Day 4 of Week 7 and Day 46 of 50.

The oneness that we saw yesterday with the disciples (not just the 12, but the larger group of dedicated followers) coming together during the last 10 days mirrors the experience of the Israelites as they moved to the base of Mount Sinai and awaited the coming of the Law.

In Exodus 19:5-6, God makes a very interesting statement: Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

This mirrors 1 Peter 2:9 where the covenant people are called “chosen, royal, holy and special”. That word “special”, given how it is defined by society today causes angst - are God’s people really “special”? How can we promote the gospel when we call ourselves “special”? Doesn’t this create in us a sense of superiority? Is this really Christ-like?

This angst happens when we let non-believers (I won’t use the term “the world”) define Biblical terms.

The fact of the matter is that we ARE different - not because of anything special about us, but because God, in His infinite wisdom, and according to His divine plan, reached down and called us in this life.

That phrase “peculiar jewel” really does mean “special treasure”. If that makes you uncomfortable, I suggest you are misunderstanding the meaning of the word.

We will celebrate Pentecost BECAUSE we are God’s special treasure - part of His covenant people. That peculiarity, rather than cause us to be uncomfortable should spur us on to follow through on the rest of that admonition - BE HOLY. That takes work, effort, persistence and a deep understanding that we can only do it with the help of The Helper - and that is what the disciples came together to wait for.

Have a safe and blessed day - we are almost there!

## 47

Good morning everyone! Today is Day 47 of 50, and Day 5 of Week 7 of the Feast of Weeks. As we work our way through these last few days before Pentecost, we see another interesting observation. In Exodus 19:9, God tells Moses: “Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD.”

Not only would the thick cloud announce God’s presence on the mountain, but they would actually hear His voice when He spoke to Moses. There was a very clear chain of command from God to Moses.

This is why, just a chapter prior to this, that Jethro was led by God to have Moses set up the system of elders to assist him in oversight. Moses would have a lot on his plate as the point of contact for God with Israel. Verse 7 indicates that Moses shared God’s words with the elders first, and used them to help organize the assembly to hear what God had told Moses.

So, they would have heard God talking to Moses, and then Moses repeating to them what God had told them. This is why they could make the pledge that “all that the Lord has said, we will do.”

Which makes it all the more curious how they could continue to blame Moses for the situations they found themselves in - humans tend to blame the messenger!

God’s magnificence is on display when He promises to make this rag-tag group a kingdom of priests. That we have been grafted into this same covenant, as Paul tells us, should give us cause to meditate on these things.

Have a safe and blessed day! (edited)

## 48

Good morning everyone - today is Day 48 of our count to 50, and Day 6 of Week 7 of the Feast of Weeks. Let us begin in Exodus 19 with some very timely words (v.10-15):

“And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes, And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai. And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death: There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount.



And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes. And he said unto the people, Be ready against the third day: come not at your wives.”

Quite interesting that the washing and preparation took place on the weekly preparation day! God’s covenant people were being trained on what it means to come before God on His holy, appointed time. “Ready yourselves physically, get cleaned up and come respectfully before God, and prepare yourselves mentally, Stay within the boundaries He has set.”

Curiously, Moses added a particular boundary to married couples that God did not specify. This reminds me of what we read in Gen 3:3 where Eve told God “God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it.” God actually only said not to eat of that tree - but as the leader of his home, Adam was within his scope to add other boundaries, like touching the tree. Moses added that last boundary for reasons only he knows.

When God speaks specifically, we are wise to take notice. These last 2 days are of utmost importance in the final preparations for the culmination of the Feast of Weeks on Sunday when Pentecost arrives.

Have a safe and blessed day - and edifying Sabbath when it arrives this evening.

## 49

Bright, sunny and cheery Sabbath morning greetings to everyone! Today is the final day of the Feast of Weeks - Day 7 of Week 7. We have counted a full seven weeks and Sabbaths. It is also Day 49 of our count to 50. This weekend is one of those rare opportunities we have to observe a double-Sabbath.

As Israel was preparing themselves for the arrival of God on Mount Sinai, they should have expected Him to come in the form of a cloud - recall that they had been led by a pillar of cloud by day (and pillar of fire by night) since they departed Ramses and Succoth in Exodus 13. Imagine what it would have been like to witness the thunder, lightning, thick cloud and trumpet blasts announcing His arrival.

In Acts 2, as the group of disciples waited on Day 50 in the house, they witnessed similar supernatural events - clearly identifying the arrival of The Promised Helper they had obediently waited for.

Imagine what it will be like when Christ descends from the heavenly realm upon the Mount of Olives - we know many will be offended and gather in war against Him and the heavenly hosts. Whatever supernatural signs occur at His arrival should not frighten us, but rather, give us exceeding joy knowing our Messiah has returned as promised.

No wonder God warned Moses in Exo 19:21-22: And the LORD said unto Moses, Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the LORD to gaze, and many of them perish. And let the priests also, which come near to the LORD, sanctify themselves, lest the LORD break forth upon them.

Coming into the presence of The Ever-Existent One which we are invited to do each week, and on the annual High Days should never be taken lightly. Our reverence to be in His presence stems from His preamble to the Commandments found in Exo 20:2-3: I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

What a humbling acknowledgement it is to know that the Almighty Creator brought us out of bondage - there really is none like Him!  
Have a safe and very blessed Sabbath!

## **Day 50 - Sunday May 28, 2023**

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...”

Today is Day 50 of 50 - after 7 long weeks, we are finally here. Day 50!

Wherever you are commemorating this appointed time, may you be filled with the Holy Spirit and be an edifying blessing to those you are with. A lot of time, effort, pain and sacrifice, from our Loving Father and our Faithful Messiah has enabled us to be part of this invite.

Thank you for joining me on this 50 day journey. I have learned a lot over the last seven weeks, and hope you have, too. Remember where we started this journey - all of these allelon exhortations were meant to help us define and better understand what Christ meant when He told us to be filled with agape. There is still work to be done, and some time left to do it, but let us be about Father's business together. God bless and have a very safe and edifying day!

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”