

Pastor Murray's 2024 Count to Pentecost



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Day 01- Sunday April 28, 2024

“And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD.” (Lev 23:15-16)

Good morning Brothers and Sisters. While we are in the final stretches of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks has arrived. So this morning we begin our annual exercise of counting the days and weeks to Pentecost, as we are commanded to do by The Almighty.

Today is Day 1 of our count to 50, and Day 1 of Week 1 of the Feast of Weeks.

Our Saviour rose near the end of the Sabbath during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, but it was not until the next morning that He ascended to be accepted by The Father as the first of the first-fruits.

When Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early in the morning following the Sabbath, she came upon our risen Saviour and was told: *“Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.” (John 20:17)*

It was the **ascension** and **acceptance** by The Father that fulfilled the waving of the first sheaf

(omer) described for us in Torah.

This year, I've got a theme that I will introduce tomorrow that I hope will help you grow in the grace and knowledge of our risen Lord and accepted Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Have a very safe first day of the week!

2

Good morning on this 7th and Last Day of Unleavened Bread. May your worship and edification from the Word of God bring this year's festival to a meaningful conclusion.

Today is Day 2 of 50 and Day 2 of Week 1 in the Feast of Weeks.

I concluded yesterday by referring to the concluding verses of Peter's second epistle. "*You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" (**2 Pet 3:17-18**)

This is not some feel-good sentiment that sounds nice. Rather, it is an exhortation based on the context of pending persecution on the Body of Christ. The warning we see is to prevent falling away into the error of wickedness. The antidote is growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ. Grace to the believer is so much more than "unmerited pardon". Rather it is divine favour that we are to grow in through obedience and character development.

Growing in the knowledge of Christ is an interesting concept and one that will be the theme of this year's count.

During this very same Feast of Weeks, in **Luke 24:44-45**, Jesus said to His soon-to-be Apostles: "*These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.*" And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

Starting tomorrow, we will take time in each book of the Hebrew Scriptures (often called the Old Testament) to find Christ. I hope it will be a fascinating learning experience for us, and I encourage interaction from those who would like to participate by replying in the thread of each day's post.

Christ concludes this exhortation by reminding them why they were witnesses to His life, death and resurrection - and why they were to tarry for (and by extension count to) Pentecost.

"*Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.*" (**Luke 24:46-49**).

Get ready for an enlightening journey. Until then, have blessed Holy Day.

3

Good morning brothers and sisters.

Today is Day 3 of our count to 50, and Day 3 of Week 1 of the Feast of Weeks.

Hopefully your Feast of Unleavened Bread ended on a high with worship and teaching, and you are now poised to move forward in your complete and total commitment to Jesus Christ.

As we get to know Him better, today we will begin in Genesis. Frankly, I think I could spend all

50 days of the count here in Genesis, there is that much there that we can learn about Christ. However, to get this started, we'll look at two passages from the beginning of the book and one from the end where Christ can be seen.

- **Gen 1:26:** *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.*
- Here in the creation account, there is a conversation that takes place within the “family” of God at that time, and there is clearly a plurality. In his gospel account, John makes it very clear who was present at the time - and it was the being that would become Jesus Christ.
- **Gen 3:15:** *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*
- Here we see the prophecy of the Adversary’s temporary victory over Man, but the ultimate victory of Christ over Satan allowing for the redemptive plan of God to come into effect.
- **Gen 49:10:** *The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.*
- We now jump to the end of the book and see the patriarch Israel foretelling of the saviour of God’s covenant people coming into His creation through the line of his son Judah. The gospel accounts in Matthew and Luke prove this to be true in their delineation of Christ’s heritage from Mary and Joseph.

I thought I would start with some obvious ones today to whet your appetite.

Do you see Christ in other places in Genesis? If you do, and there are many other places, reply in the thread to this post and share - to help us grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour! Have a safe and blessed day as we return to our regular routines following the Feast we just completed. (edited)

4

Good morning! It was great to see so much interaction yesterday as we began our journey through the Hebrew Scriptures.

Today is Day 4 of Week 1 of the Feast of Weeks, and Day 4 of the count to 50.

As we saw with Genesis yesterday, Christ can be found in many places throughout the book of Exodus.

To start the conversation today, I'd like to point out two critical roles Christ plays in the plan of redemption - those of sacrifice and priest. As Israel is redeemed from servitude to Egypt, the sacrifice of the lamb sets them apart from those that would be subject to the final plague of death of the firstborn.

Exo 12:12-14: *For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord. Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. ‘So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.*

Later, as Israel became the covenant people of God, the role of the priesthood became part of the worship system, and specifically the High Priest, who would act as intermediary for Israel,

overseeing the tabernacle and the various sacrifices that were required to teach them the importance of holiness. Christ would ultimately replace the Aaronic priesthood following his perfect life, death and resurrection.

Exo 40:12-15: *Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the door of the tabernacle of meeting and wash them with water. You shall put the holy garments on Aaron, and anoint him and consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest. And you shall bring his sons and clothe them with tunics. You shall anoint them, as you anointed their father, that they may minister to Me as priests; for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations.*

I look forward to your feedback and additional examples you find in Exodus.

Have a safe and productive day. (edited)

5

Good morning on Day 5 of the count to 50, and Day 5 of Week 1 of the Feast of Weeks.

Thank you for the input and knowledge we are generating together from the scriptures.

Today, we come to Leviticus. I'll kick the discussion off right from the beginning.

Lev 1:1-2: *Now the Lord called to Moses, and spoke to him from the tabernacle of meeting, saying, Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When any one of you brings an offering to the Lord, you shall bring your offering of the livestock—of the herd and of the flock.*

The ability to come into God's presence is made possible by the sacrificial system. The root of the Hebrew word for offering (H7133 - qarban) means to approach.

A sinful, defiled people needed to understand what it meant to be acceptable before The Almighty. The blood and flesh of animals, grain or wine brought to the altar for various reasons were like gifts being brought to a king to permit us to approach him.

The epistle to the Hebrews goes into detail on how Christ's sacrifice replaced those mentioned in Leviticus.

In **Matt 27:51**, we see the connection to *qarban*, when we read *Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.*

His sacrifice allows us direct access to approach Father's throne in prayer.

Thoughts on this or other glimpses of Christ in Leviticus?

Have a safe and blessed day! (edited)

6

Good morning on Day 6 of Week 1 of the Feast of Weeks.

As we come to the book of Numbers, I'll point out a couple of incidents for your consideration as we consider growing in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. In **Number 20**, the scene jumps to year 40 of the exodus and the group is at Kadesh. There was no water for them to drink so another miracle was forthcoming. You can read the full account from **v.1-13**, but for brevity's sake, we'll look at **v.11**.

And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

We know this was the error that caused Moses to miss out on leading the Israelites into the Promised Land. Additionally, Paul the Apostle makes a very clear connection to Christ in **1 Cor 10:4:** *And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that*

followed them: and that Rock was Christ. Numbers 21 tells of the bronze serpent on a pole. In **v.9**, we see that anyone who looked upon it in faith lived. *And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.*

Christ linked this to Himself in **John 3:14-15**: *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.*

We cannot soft sell, like many “Christians” do, what it means to “believe” in Christ. The point is clear that complete faith, manifest in our whole-hearted repentance and obedience to His Law shows the depth of our belief. So, not surprisingly, Christ continues to be found throughout the Torah.

Have a very blessed preparation day.

7

Good Sabbath morning brothers and sisters.

Today is Day 7 of 50 and completes Week 1 of the Feast of Weeks.

With **Deuteronomy**, we complete the Torah that was preserved through Moses. In chapter **18:15**, as Moses warns the second generation of Israelites against adopting the evil customs of the nations around them, he tells them about The Messiah who would come many centuries later:

The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken.

The deacon-martyr Stephen included this incident in his defence against the charges of blasphemy - you'll find this in **Acts 7:37**. Following his defence, we read in **v.54-56**:

When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

Part of the benefit of growing in the knowledge of Jesus Christ is the strength and fortitude this should be building in us to defend Him, and our faith in Him, when called to do so. If you look around the world, this need is creeping ever closer!

May your Sabbath teaching, worship and fellowship edify you for a profitable week ahead.

8

Good morning as we begin Week 2 of the Feast of Weeks. Today is Day 8 of 50, and we hope your Sabbath was edifying!

Today we find ourselves in the Book of Joshua. I am very interested in where you see Christ in this book, so my example will be from the introductory verses and then turn it over to you.

Joshua 1:1-2: *Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.*

The Word came to earth and became Jesus Christ - His Hebrew name “yehôšûa” is the same name as the Hebrew form of Joshua and led the covenant people into the Promised Land.

After a week of doing this, the feedback from everyone is very much appreciated by other brethren. In fact, one member told me that they write down every contribution in a notebook to keep.

Have a safe and enjoyable first day of the week.

9

Good Monday morning everyone!

Today is Day 2 of Week 2 of the Feast of Weeks, and Day 9 of the 50 day count to Pentecost. Judges is an interesting historical book that teaches us many lessons. As you may have heard before, the people of God go on a repeated cycle over hundreds of years of “apostasy, beat down, crying out, and deliverance” (ABCD).

Christ, as The Righteous Judge, can be seen in the deliverance of Israel through the many judges.

In **Judges 3:28**, we can see a connection to Christ when the judge Ehud said: *Follow after me: for the LORD hath delivered your enemies the Moabites into your hand. And they went down after him, and took the fords of Jordan toward Moab, and suffered not a man to pass over.*

Christ used similar language when choosing the 12 to be His disciples. We read in **Mark 1:17**, *And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.*

Can you find other places in the Book of Judges that can point us to Christ?

Have a blessed week ahead.

10 - Tuesday May 7

Good morning brothers and sisters.

Today is Day 3 of Week 2 of the Feast of Weeks, and Day 10 of the count to 50.

Ruth and the story of the kinsmen-redeemer has already been referred to in comments earlier in the count. Before Ruth meets Boaz, she chooses to commit herself to the God of her mother-in-law, Naomi, in a beautiful passage found in **Ruth 1:16-17**.

And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.

This attitude is what is expected of the Bride of Christ - “wherever He leads, I’ll go”.

Have a safe and blessed day.

11

Good morning on this 11th day of our count to 50, and Day 4 of Week 2 of the Feast of Weeks. As we continue to move into the historical books, we come to the First Book of Samuel. We are introduced later in this book to David, son of Jesse, and future king of Israel. His selection and anointing is found in **1 Sam 16:12-13**:

Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he. Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward.

We see the Spirit of God present with David for the rest of his life. We are also reminded of the

lineage of Jesus Christ, following through from what we read in Genesis 49 earlier in the count. In **Rev 22:16**, we read:

I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

This was low-hanging fruit to get today's conversation started. Can you see references to Christ elsewhere in 1 Samuel? Show us!

Also, don't forget about the weekly line-upon-line study tonight at 7:30 on Rumble - 1 John 5 is on the docket.

Also, at sunset tonight, the God's calendar flips to month # 2. If anyone missed Passover this year, the Bible allows for a second Passover, which would fall after sunset on Tuesday, May 21. Contact one of your pastors should you be in this situation.

12

Good morning on this 1st day of the 2nd month of the sacred calendar. Today is Day 5 of Week 2, and Day 12 of the count to 50.

In the second book of Samuel, we find God affirming His covenant with the House of David that would eventually lead to Jesus Christ assuming His position as King of Kings. **2 Sam 7:12-13**: *And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.*

I find David's humble acknowledgement of this covenant very inspiring - in **v.18** it begins: *Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who am I, O Lord GOD? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?*

It is this level of humility and awe that should keep us mindful of our place in the covenant, and committed to doing what is right, for His name's sake.

Who are we that we even hear? - and yet, here we are.

Have a safe and blessed day.

13

Good morning everyone on this Sabbath preparation day. Today is Day 13 of 50, and Day 6 of Week 2 of the Feast of Weeks.

As we move deeper into the history of the Kingdom of Israel, I am moved in **1 Kings 8** by King Solomon's prayer of dedication of the temple (**v.22-53**). His prayer is filled with supplications of forgiveness, justification, protection and maintaining their cause. Ultimately, this is only possible by the blood of Jesus Christ who will become Israel's King of Kings and Lord of Lords. In **v.26-29**, we read a provocative question and insight:

*And now, O God of Israel, let thy word, I pray thee, be verified, which thou spakest unto thy servant David my father. But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded? Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant prayeth before thee to day: That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, **My name shall be there**: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place.*

Food for thought as we come into Sabbath this evening. Have a safe and blessed end of the work week.

Thanks, also, to everyone for your contributions. Don't forget that you can go back to previous days and continue to exchange on scriptures and thoughts brought forward, too.

14

Good Sabbath morning brothers and sisters. We have come to the end of Week 2 of the Feast of Weeks. Today is Day 14 of 50 in our daily count.

As we come into the **Second Book of Kings**, we see the transition from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. You will recall (in **Matthew 11**) that Christ makes note that John the Baptist fulfilled the prophecy in Malachi about a messenger sent, like Elijah, to prepare the way for Christ. Interestingly, the Hebrew name Elisha (who followed Eljah) means "God is Salvation". Like Christ, Elisha began his ministry through the performing of miracles. While he is introduced to us in **1 Kings 19**, he becomes a primary focus beginning in **2 Kings 2**.

Have a blessed Sabbath, and don't forget to share with the group where you see Christ in this book, or in any of the previous books we've covered.

15 - Sunday May 12

Good morning as we start Week 3 of the Feast of Weeks. Today is Day 15 of our count to 50. The two books of Chronicles, which we will cover today and tomorrow, are post-exilic accounts of some of the history of the Kingdom of Israel. As Judah returns from captivity, the author (likely Ezra) sets out to remind them of their heritage as the covenant people of God. In doing so, we see many of the same indicators to Christ as we covered in the previous four books of the kings. However, this solidifies the message that the Bible is a narrative message that connects from beginning to end - further establishing the fact that seeing Christ throughout the Books of Moses should naturally mean we see him in both the pre-and post-exilic books.

1 Chr 2 begins with the lineage of the family of Israel (Jacob). **V.1-2** list his sons in birth order. However, the deeper lineage account begins with Judah, NOT Reuben. We then have three full chapters devoted to Judah, followed by much shorter accounts of the other brother's families. If you reflect back on the postings earlier last week for **1 and 2 Samuel**, this makes complete sense. In addition to encouraging the people of Judah coming out of captivity, a reminder that the Messiah would come through their line is present.

Wishing all of our Moms a wonderful Mother's Day. (edited)

16

Good morning! Today is Day 16 of 50, and Day 2 of Week 3 of the Feast of Weeks.

When we reviewed **1 Kings** last week, we focused on King Solomon's prayer of dedication of the finished temple. Today, as we look at the post-exilic book of **2 Chronicles**, we are reminded that this was written to the returned exiles of Judah from captivity. They were hearing what took place centuries earlier long before the Kingdom was split and their ancestors were forced into servitude.

God's appearance to Solomon was covered in **1 Kings 9**, but Ezra also included it here in **2 Chronicles 7**. There are some additional details from God's directives to Solomon including the well-known **2 Chr 7:14**.

If My people, who are called by My name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

The returning exiles are hearing this after their fathers failed to follow through on this command. They are reminded that their Lord has a name, and has a face, and is an actual being who has expectations of behaviour that are to be followed to prevent what they just came out of. We know from the gospel accounts that this being who Judah was to seek and call by name was none other than the one who became Jesus Christ.

Have a safe and blessed day. (edited)

17

Good morning Brothers and Sisters on this 17th day of our count to 50. Today is Day 3 of Week 3 of the Feast of Weeks.

We now come to the Book of **Ezra** - the account of the Covenant people of God being allowed to return to their homeland after Cyrus of Persia defeated the Babylonians. The very start of the book brings Christ into the picture and acknowledging that the prophecies of Cyrus (**Isaiah 45**) and the end of captivity to Babylon after 70 years (**Jeremiah 25**) were fulfillments of promises from the Lord Himself - which we have already discussed is The Word who became Jesus Christ.

We learn much about the re-establishment of the worship system from Ezra and the need to maintain purity in our marriages and families by ensuring the covenant people of God do not marry outside of the covenant. Lessons that clearly extend to today.

Of note, that Judah is allowed to return to the Holy Land ensures the prophecies like **Micah 5:2** to come to pass with the birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem. This would not have happened if Judah was not allowed to return to their homeland.

Have a safe and blessed day.

18

Good morning everyone, as we come to the midway point of the week. Today is Day 18 of 50 and Day 4 of Week 3 of the Feast of Weeks.

Nehemiah is the continuation of the story that unfolded in **Ezra**. As the covenant people of God continued their return to their homeland, Nehemiah held a very high position in the inner circle of the Persian King Artaxerxes as his cupbearer, or personal attendant. Nehemiah seeks a leave of absence from his job to return to the people and light a fire under them. Using the rebuilding of the wall around Jerusalem as a way to bring the people together, the latter half of the book sees a return to the proper system of worship and a recommittal to covenant.

Like Christ, Nehemiah had a life that he was quite comfortable in, a powerful position serving under the highest authority in the empire. Yet, he left that lifestyle to help lead the people not just back to their land, but back to properly serving their God!

His opening prayer in Chapter 1 shows a very clear understanding of the prophetic word of The Logos as it came through Moses:

Neh 1:5: *And I said, "O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments.*

Neh 1:8-10: *Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are*

*unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.’ They are your servants and your people, **whom you have redeemed** by your great power and by your strong hand.*

As he acknowledges the being who communicated with Moses so many centuries before, he also points to the redemption of the covenant people by this very merciful and loving God. As we can see from the sightings of Christ throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, the story of redemption did not begin with the birth of Jesus in the gospels, but is central to the narrative of the Bible, and specifically why God chose Israel to work through.

Have a safe and blessed day.

19

Good morning everyone! Today is Day 19 of 50, and Day 5 of Week 3 of the Feast of Weeks. The Book of Esther takes place during the reign of King Ahasuerus (also known as Xerxes), the son of King Darius of Persia. Bible students will know that this is the only book in the canon that does not directly reference the name of God.

The story of the Jewish queen finding her way into the most inner circle of the Persian king by marrying him. This position would allow her to thwart the efforts of a would-be villain who sought to destroy all of the Jewish people in the Kingdom of Persia.

While this sentiment has returned to the forefront of world events today, we see another member of the covenant community with nothing to gain and everything to lose putting her life on the line to save her people.

You’ll recall her Uncle Mordecai encouraged her through this in **Est 4:13-14**:

Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

Many years later, a promised Messiah would come into His creation **for such a time as this**.

Have a blessed and productive day.

20 - Friday May 17

Good morning on the preparation day for the 3rd Sabbath of the Feast of Weeks. Today is Day 6 of Week 3, and Day 20 of our count to 50.

The Book of Job has been studied for years and there are many diverse opinions and interpretations on both the book, the history and the man. We learn much about ourselves as we read the account through the eyes of Job and his four friends.

In **Job 19:25-27**, we read of Job’s acknowledgment of a Redeemer.

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that He shall stand upon the earth in the latter days; And though worms destroy my skin and body, yet apart from my flesh shall I see God— Whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another; though my heart be consumed within me.

The “redeemer” was a legal term used in those times, as we’ve learned through the study of the Torah and the story of Boaz and Ruth - which, not by coincidence, is read by Jews at the time of

Pentecost.

That “He shall stand on earth” points us both to Christ’s first coming, and most importantly, His second coming.

Have an edifying and uplifting Sabbath.

21

Good Sabbath morning, Brothers and Sisters. Today is the end of week 3 of the Feast of Weeks, and Day 21 of the count to 50.

Today brings us to the Book of Psalms. When I read the Psalms, it is hard not to see Jesus Christ everywhere in this collection of poetic hymns.

Because it is the Sabbath and we all have a little extra time, let’s see how many different places we can share where we can find Christ. I’ll go first.

Psalm 2 is a Royal Psalm about the ultimate reign of Jesus Christ.

V.1-2: *Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed.*

V.7-9: *I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”*

Your turn! Where can you find Jesus Christ in one of 150 Psalms preserved for us?

22

Good morning as we kick off Week 4 of the Feast of Weeks.

Today is Day 22 of our count to 50.

First off, thank you to everyone who participates by offering your perspectives and insights on this journey of finding Christ in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Today we come to the wisdom book of Proverbs. This is a great book to begin one’s journey in reading the Bible, especially for youth. Interestingly, if one took one chapter per day, you could read it in about a month.

Proverbs 8 is a section that personifies wisdom. Today’s section is a little long, but as you read through it, I could not find a good way to shorten it. As we seek to grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, knowledge is the first step that matures into understanding before reaching the ultimate place of wisdom. Something to ponder in today’s excerpt. Have a safe and productive day.

Prov 8: 22-32: *The LORD possessed me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, before the earth ever was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I was brought forth. Before He had made the earth, or the fields, or the highest part of the dust of the world, When He prepared the heavens, I was there; when He set a circle upon the face of the deep; When He established the clouds above, when He established the fountains of the deep, When He gave to the sea its limit that the waters should not pass His command, when He appointed the foundations of the earth, Even I was with Him as a master workman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him, Rejoicing in the habitable world, His earth; and my delight was with the sons of men. And now therefore hearken unto me, O you children, for blessed are those who keep my ways.*

23

Good morning on this 23rd day of our count to 50. Today is Day 2 of Week 4 of the Feast of Weeks.

The Book of **Ecclesiastes**, which is traditionally read by Jewish people during the Feast of Tabernacles is a heartfelt testimony of the author's realization of the emptiness of life without God. There is a beautiful passage that so clearly points to Christ, His power, His role as both King and Judge and the one through whom we covenant.

Ecc 3:14-17: *I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him. That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away. Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness. I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work.* For those of you in Canada, enjoy the holiday today! For our brethren in the US, your turn for a long weekend comes next week! Until tomorrow...be safe!

24

Good morning brothers and sisters! Today is Day 3 of Week 4, and Day 24 of our count to 50! Today, we find ourselves in the poetic **Song of Solomon** - a book that is rarely mentioned in sermons but one that should not escape our attention. It provides the backdrop of a deep, committed, passionate love the way God designed marriage, between one man and one woman for life, from creation. In a time where marriage, and by extension family, is not only not appreciated, but denigrated by this world, this book speaks to God's plan for happy and fulfilling lives.

It also points us forward to the time when Christ will marry His covenant bride. This idea of true, committed covenant for life is the mystery Paul connects for us when he speaks of the roles of Godly wives and husbands in **Ephesians 5**.

Eph 5:31-32: *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

Take time to read this beautiful book and ask yourself if compare your passion for Christ to His for His covenant body. Have a blessed day! One other thing. If you missed the Passover last month, you have an opportunity after sunset this evening (14th day of 2nd month). You'll find this in Numbers 9:9-11. Blessings to all. (edited)

25 - Wednesday May 22

Good morning everyone! It is hard to believe we are already half-way through the count. Today is Day 25 of 50, and Day 4 of Week 4 of the Feast of Weeks.

We have made our way through the Torah, Historical and Wisdom books. We will now spend the next little while working through the Prophets. We'll begin, of course, in **Isaiah**. For those of you who watched the Line-Up-on-Line series on Isaiah, you'll recall the depth of understanding of the plan of God that the prophet conveys to us. **Isaiah** is a mini-Bible, of sorts, with 66 chapters, divided into two sections of 39 and 27 chapters each - a microcosm of the Holy Bible.

There are so many prophecies in Isaiah that point to Jesus Christ - which makes sense since the name "**Isaiah**" means "God saves." Let me start the conversation, and hopefully you can make some time to point out other areas where you clearly see Christ being preached by **Isaiah**. We'll start near the very beginning of the prophecy.

Isa 2:2-4: *It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.*

As always, I look forward to your contributions and feedback. If you haven't seen the study series, be sure and check it out - Isaiah is a central book to the understanding of the prophetic word of Christ.

<https://lineuponline.thinkific.com/>

26

Good morning everyone on this 26th day of our count to 50. Today is Day 5 of Week 4 of the Feast of Weeks. **Jeremiah** had a front row seat to the demise of Judah as he pleaded with them through the prophetic word to repent and follow the God of their fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

In **chapter 23**, we see a beautiful description of Jesus Christ, the King and the Branch of Righteousness. It is far too lengthy to post the entire description here, so I will point you to it for your own reading and studying.

It begins in **v.1** with a stark warning the priests of Judah: *"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!" declares the Lord.*

After letting them know He will deal with them and their evil leadership, He promises to follow up and give them shepherds who feed and care for them properly before pointing to the True Shepherd. Notice this excerpt in **v.5-6**: *"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'*

Have a safe and blessed day.

27

Good morning brothers and sisters. Today is Day 6 of Week 4, and Day 27 of our count to 50. Following his rather detailed series of prophecies are the set of five Hebrew acrostic poems we know as the **Book of Lamentations (of Jeremiah)**. This is another book that is not referred to very often in messages, in lieu of the depth we find in his eponymous book we discussed yesterday.

This series of poems allows the prophet to recap the reasons for their captivity and seek to help them face their pain by pleading for their repentance. They are reminded that their suffering is a

sign of God's covenant love. They suffer because He cares about His people. Jeremiah's weeping over Jerusalem reminds of Christ's own lamentation in Matthew 23. This covenant love of Christ is reflected throughout the book, and here in the passage I've chosen today, **Lam 3:22-24** (the 8th stanza of the 3rd poem, for the Hebrew letter **Khet**: *Because of the Lord's faithful love we do not perish, for His mercies never end. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness! I say: The Lord is my portion, therefore I will put my hope in Him.*

Have a safe and productive preparation day as we prepare to come into His presence this evening when Sabbath arrives.

28

Good Sabbath morning as we complete Week 4 of the Feast of Weeks. Today is Day 28 of 50, and as our brother Ernie notes above, it is a day to be joyful and gather with the Body of Christ wherever you are able to do so.

Today, we find ourselves in the **Book of Ezekiel** - the prophet and priest of Judah who wrote and spoke from captivity. The passage I've chosen to highlight today is found in **chapter 34**. It is significant because it highlights the evil shepherds of Judah who had abandoned their posts as the overseers of the flock of God in lieu of taking the easier path to care for themselves. Ezekiel then contrasts these irresponsible leaders with the True Shepherd of God, who we know to be our Messiah, Jesus the Christ. This contrast begins in **v.11**. Here is a little longer excerpt for you today meditate on today.

Ezekiel 34:11-16: *For the Lord God says this: "Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and look after them. As a shepherd cares for his flock on a day when he is among his scattered sheep, so I will care for My sheep and will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and gloomy day. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them to their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the streams, and in all the inhabited places of the land. I will feed them in a good pasture, and their grazing place will be on the mountain heights of Israel. There they will lie down in a good grazing place and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I Myself will feed My flock and I Myself will lead them to rest," declares the Lord God. "I will seek the lost, bring back the scattered, bind up the broken, and strengthen the sick; but the fat and the strong I will eliminate. I will feed them with judgment.*

Wishing all of our brothers and sisters a most edifying and enriching Sabbath as we seek to become kings and priests like Christ.

29

Good Sunday morning! Hope everyone had a rejuvenating Sabbath and are ready to get the week started. Today is the beginning of Week 5 of the Feast of Weeks. We are on Day 29 of our count to 50.

The prophet **Daniel** had an unusual perspective having lived and served during the reigns of kings in both the Babylonian and Persian empires. His rather descriptive prophecies are well-read and analyzed by followers of The Word for many centuries - and are very closely linked to visions John documented for us in Revelation.

The gospels record Christ quoting **Daniel** in five places, and even many more references to him.

When we read his prophetic book, Christ comes alive in so many places! In **Daniel 7**, the vision of the Ancient of Days and the Son of Man presents such a clear vision of the Godhead.

Dan 7:9-14: *I watched until thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days sat, Whose raiment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was like flames of fire, and its wheels like burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came out from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court sat and the books were opened. Then I was looking because of the voice of the boastful words which the horn spoke. I watched until the beast was slain, and his body was destroyed and given to the burning flame. And as for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away. Yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. I saw visions in the night and, behold, One like the Son of Man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. And dominion and glory was given to Him, and a kingdom, that all people, nations and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.*

Don't forget that everyone is encouraged to share other locations where you see Christ in the Hebrew Scriptures! Have a safe and blessed day!

30 - Monday May 27

Good morning everyone - and to our US brethren who are commemorating Memorial Day today. Today is Day 30 of 50, and Day 2 of Week 5 of the Feast of Weeks.

We find ourselves in the **Book of Hosea** today, a contemporary of Isaiah preaching to Israel before their captivity to Assyria.

While the prophets are very clear about God's anger with His covenant people's disobedience, they typically conclude with a reminder of God's covenant love, and the need to turn back to Him in obedience.

As Hosea concludes, we see the message of forgiveness, grace and mercy that can only come from Jesus the Christ. How do we know Hosea is referring to Christ? He speaks of the forgiveness of iniquity. Students of the Torah know that only unintentional sin could be covered by the blood of animals - intentional sin (transgression and iniquity) could not. That was one of the differences available through the blood of the Lamb.

Hosea 14:1-3: *O Israel, return to the LORD your God, For you have stumbled because of your **iniquity**; Take words with you, And return to the LORD. Say to Him, "Take away all **iniquity**; Receive us **graciously**, For we will offer the sacrifices of our lips. Assyria shall not save us, We will not ride on horses, Nor will we say anymore to the work of our hands, 'You are our gods.' For in You the fatherless finds **mercy**."*

Grace and peace.

31

Good morning! Today is Day 3 of Week 5 of the Feast of Weeks; & Day 31 of our count to 50 As we proceed now through the Minor Prophets, we come to the Book of Joel.

We have a direct connection to the Day of Pentecost when Peter quotes from this prophecy in his sermon preserved for us in Acts 2. Peter is laying out the case for the crucified Jesus of Nazareth being the long-prophesied Messiah and Anointed One (Christ). As part of this

methodical case, he specifically quotes from **Joel 2:28-32**:

“And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. “And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the Lord has said, Among the remnant whom the Lord calls.

Have a great day!

32

Good morning brothers and sisters. We're at the midway point of Week 5 (Day 4), and Day 32 of our count to 50. The prophet **Amos** was an early contemporary of Isaiah's whose timeline is set out rather specifically in the introductory verses of the book. One of the themes Amos focuses on is God's judgment of Israel for their willful disregard of His law. In prophesying of the restoration of Israel, Amos records the words of God's promise of restoration - words that foreshadow when Christ would come to tabernacle with His creation.

Amos 9:8-12: *Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are on the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the face of the earth; except that I will not completely destroy the house of Jacob," says the LORD. "For lo, I will command, and I will shake the house of Israel among all the nations, as one shakes with a sieve, yet not a grain shall fall to the earth. All the sinners of My people shall die by the sword, who say, 'The evil shall not draw near, or confront us.' In that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David that has fallen, and close up its breaches; and I will raise up its ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old; So that they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the nations on whom My name is called," says the LORD who is doing this.*

Have a safe and blessed day.

33

Good morning! Today is Day 33 of our count to 50, and Day 5 of Week 5 of the Feast of Weeks.

Today, we come to the short prophecy of Obadiah, which is addressed to the Edomites - who find their ancestry going back to Jacob's brother Esau. The Edomites, rather than assist their "cousins", helped those who sought to inflict persecution upon them.

They are reminded of God's promise to deliver Israel according to His covenant. We find a couple of interesting verses that clearly point to the time when Christ will return and gather Israel back to Himself.

Obad:17-18: *But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions. And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the Lord hath spoken it.*

Also, as we find ourselves in the Feast of Weeks, as Firstfruits preparing for the arrival of the Day of Pentecost, we see a reference to those who will assist Christ in this endeavour.

Obad:21: *And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the Lord's.*

Have a wonderful day!

34

Happy Preparation Day on this 34th day of our count to 50. Today is Day 6 of Week 5 of the Feast of Weeks.

Jonah is an interesting prophecy as you know. A reluctant prophet, he is sent to Nineveh, not the covenant people, who end up repenting. Famous for being three days and nights in belly of a fish, which foreshadowed Jesus' time in the grave, his account closes with his anger and dissatisfaction with God's decision. We know this prophet's experience was the one sign that Christ offered.

However, it is Jonah's prayer from within the fish that caught my eye.

Jon 2:3-6: *For You threw me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the current flowed around me. All Your breakers and waves passed over me. So I said, 'I have been cast out of Your sight. Nevertheless I will look again toward Your holy temple.' Water encompassed me to the point of death. The deep flowed around me, Seaweed was wrapped around my head. I descended to the base of the mountains. The earth with its bars was around me forever, But You have brought up my life from the pit, Lord my God.*

The "pit" is the Hebrew word *Sheol*, or the "grave". Jonah was faced with certain death inside the fish and experienced a resurrection of sorts from his Lord.

Have a safe day - and a blessed Sabbath later this evening as we come into the holy presence of God.

35 - Sunday June 1

Good Sabbath morning brothers and sisters. Today is the end of Week 5 of the Feast of Weeks, and Day 35 of our count to 50. Only two more weeks to go - and we have travelled through the Hebrew Scriptures and are now at the prophecy of **Micah**. For context, he lived during the events and kings described in **2 Kings 15-20** and **2 Chronicles 27-32**.

Micah speaks extensively about Jesus Christ. He foretells of His coming as both Judge and Saviour, as the following two passages show.

Micah 1:3-5: *For behold, the Lord is coming forth from His place. He will come down and tread on the high places of the earth. The mountains will melt under Him and the valleys will be split, like wax before the fire, like water poured down a steep place. All this is due to the transgression of Jacob and the sins of the house of Israel.*

Micah 5:2-5: *But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will come forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His times of coming forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity." Therefore He will give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth. Then the remainder of His brethren will return to the sons of Israel. And He will arise and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they will remain, Because at that time He will be great To the ends of the earth. This One will be our peace.*

Have a most edifying and uplifting day of worship!

36

Good morning everyone as we kick off Week 6 of the Feast of Weeks. Today is Day 36 of 50...and the destination is appearing on the horizon, but we still have a ways to go!

Nahum was the 2nd prophet who spoke concerning Nineveh. Unlike in Jonah's day, they did not heed the warnings of **Nahum**. Nineveh was the capital of Assyria, the nation that was used by God to bring the disobedient Northern Kingdom of Israel to its knees. That God used Assyria for His purposes does not give them a free pass when it comes to the evil that enveloped the nation. This prophecy outlines God's plan to seek vengeance for His people upon these oppressors.

Check out this reference to our Messiah, Jesus the Christ.

Nahum 1:14-15: *The Lord has given a command concerning you: "Your name shall be perpetuated no longer. Out of the house of your gods I will cut off the carved image and the molded image. I will dig your grave, for you are vile." Behold, on the mountains the feet of him who brings good tidings, who proclaims peace! O Judah, keep your appointed feasts, perform your vows. For the wicked one shall no more pass through you; he is utterly cut off.*

Have a safe and productive first day of the week!



37

Good morning on this 37th day of our count to 50. Today is Day 2 of Week 6 of the Feast of Weeks.

The prophet **Habakkuk** witnessed the fall of Nineveh and the rise of the Babylonians and was perplexed that God would allow such evil to triumph. It is fascinating that God allowed the prophet to question Him. We see from Habakkuk's responses that he was really trying to understand what God was doing. What he learned was that God judges in His own time, but is always faithful to His covenant. What seems like going off-script is really the plan of God - and "the just shall live by faith."

In **Hab 2:13-14** we read, *"Behold, is it not from the Lord of hosts that peoples labor merely for fire, and nations weary themselves for nothing? For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."*

This glory of the Lord includes Christ returning as Judge which He reminds us of in:

Matt 25:31-34: *"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'*

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 our count to 50.

We learn a lot about the circumstances surrounding the prophecies of Zephaniah from the opening verse of his writings. There we see that he preached during the reign of Josiah, the

Godly king who temporarily righted the ship of Judah after the very evil reigns of Manasseh and Amon. He would also have been a contemporary of Jeremiah. The return to God under Josiah was short-lived.

In **Zephaniah 1:14-16**, he foretells of a devastating time known as the “day of wrath” of God. *The great day of the LORD is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; there the mighty men shall cry out. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet and alarm against the fortified cities. And against the high towers.*

Jesus Christ, the Revelator, prophesied of a time when the kings of the earth and other rich and mighty men would hide themselves and say “*to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For **the great day of His wrath** has come, and who is able to stand?” (Rev 6:16-17).*

Have a safe and blessed day.

39

Good morning on this 39th day of our count to 50. Today is Day 4 of Week 6 of the Feast of Weeks.

Approximately 18 years after the Persian King Cyrus allowed the captive people of Judah to begin returning their homeland, God sent the prophet **Haggai** to stir the people up. They had gotten a little too comfortable and had not completed the rebuilding of the temple - the focal point of worship going all the way back to the tabernacle established in Exodus. You’ll recall God’s glory coming into the tabernacle and the temple in the form of a cloud of smoke. **Haggai** records a prophecy that foretells of an even greater glory filling the temple of God.

Hag 2:6-9: *For thus saith the Lord of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts. The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts.*

Another fun fact: Take notice of what date on God’s calendar this prophecy was given about Christ coming into the presence of His covenant Body.

Grace and peace!

40 - Thursday June 6

Good morning everyone! Today is Day 5 of Week 6 of the Feast of Weeks. Adding a little more significance to today, we are on Day 40 of our count to 50.

We will take a slight break from our routine of going through the books of the Hebrew Scriptures and turn our attention to Acts 1 - as the believers were waiting for the Day of Pentecost to fully arrive.

The account in the Book of Acts actually begins on the 40th day of the Feast of Weeks that year.

Acts 1:1-3: *And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were*

staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

Acts was essentially Luke, Part 2 - with part 1 dealing with the events of Jesus life, death and resurrection up until “the day He was taken up”. Recall that He had to go away so that the gift of the Holy Spirit could come, en masse, to those who would repent, accept the sacrifice of Christ, and be grafted into the covenant with Him.

His departure is recorded for us just a little later in **v.6-9**: *So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.*

They had 9 days left before the Day of Pentecost would arrive - and they devoted themselves to preparing for this monumental day as we see in **v.14**: *All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.* If you haven’t already, I would encourage you to spend some time in Acts 1 today.

Have a safe and blessed day!

41

Good morning on this 41st day of our count to 50. Today is Day 6 of Week 6 of the Feast of Weeks. Today is also the beginning of the third month of the sacred calendar.

We have come to the penultimate book in the Hebrew Canon - **Zechariah**. His prophecy begins during the reign of Darius which places it not long after Judah began to return to their homeland. God always remembers His covenant promises.

Visions of the first and second comings of the Anointed One are throughout this scroll.

We are quite familiar with many of the passages in chapter 14. Just before that part of the scroll, we see the sacrifice of the Messiah followed by the tribulation that will drive some of the covenant people to their knees.

Zec 13:7-9: *Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the Lord of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones. And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God.*

What a blessing it is to be in covenant with a God who always remembers!

Have a productive preparation day and a blessed Sabbath when it arrives! (edited)

42

Good Sabbath morning brothers and sisters. Today is the Sabbath that concludes Week 6 of the Feast of Weeks, and Day 42 of our count to 50.

The last scroll in the Hebrew Canon belongs to the prophet Malachi - a name which means "My Messenger". Besides its very prophetic last chapter, Malachi ensures we know that the covenant made with Abraham so many years ago prior to his writing goes through the lineage of Jacob.

This, despite the continued profane behaviour of both the priesthood and the people.

Before the inter-testament period of silence, we are reminded by the prophet:

Mal 3:1-4: "Behold, I will send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, Whom you seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in Whom you delight. Behold, He comes," says the LORD of hosts. "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who shall stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire, and like fuller's soap. And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver. And He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem shall be pleasing to the LORD, as in the days of old and as in former years.

What a journey this has been - to uncover Jesus, The Anointed Messiah, throughout the Hebrew Scriptures. We still have one more week to go before the Day of Pentecost fully arrives.

Have a blessed day of edification and worship wherever you gather before our great and mighty Father and His Son, our Saviour.

43

Good morning everyone! Today, we begin the final week of the Feast of Weeks. Today is Day 43 of our count to 50.

What a journey we had over the first six weeks of the count, discovering Jesus Christ throughout the Hebrew Scriptures. When we began 6 weeks ago, we sought to literally "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ." If you recall, we sought to follow His example when He told His disciples:

Luke 24:44-45: "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

We get a deeper understanding of what He meant during His exchange with the Pharisees in John 8 when He said to them in verse 58 "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

The revealing of Jesus Christ as the "God of the Old Testament" also helps us understand who the Father is. Recall His final prayer with His disciples before His arrest when Christ prayer to His Father and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." (John 17:1-3).

We have one more week to go, in our preparation for the Day of Pentecost to "fully come".

Let's make each of these last 7 days count so that we can look back at this Feast of Weeks and say they made a difference in our walk with Christ.

Until tomorrow, have a safe and blessed day.

44

Good morning as many of us return to work today. Today is Day 44 of our count to 50 and Day 2 of Week 7 of the Feast of Weeks.

We spent the bulk of six weeks looking back into the Hebrew Scriptures for references to Jesus Christ. This was based on the comment from Christ at the end of Luke 24, which we referred to yesterday. For the next three days, let's take a look at the Word of God from the other end of the spectrum. Let's see how the Gospels, Apostolic Writings and Revelation look back into the Hebrew Scriptures. We'll split this over the Law, Prophets and Writings (Psalms) as Christ indicated.

Today, let's find and share some references to the law. I'll go first, but I would love to hear other examples from others.

Before Christ began His ministry, He fasted for forty days. As the fast came to a conclusion, He was tempted by the Adversary to leave the Father and follow Him. We are quite familiar with Satan's temptation of Christ. We are also familiar with His three responses. What we cannot lose sight of is that Christ's go-to responses when faced with temptation was the Law of God. Do we know God's law well enough to use it to make the right decisions when we are tempted to stray?

- Deut 8:3: Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

- Deut 6:16: You shall not tempt the LORD your God.

- Deut 6:13: You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.

Grace and peace!

45

Good morning on this 45th day of our count to 50. Today is Day 3 of Week 7 of the Feast of Weeks.

As we consider Christ teaching from the Law, Prophets and Writings (Psalms) this week, we come to the prophets - and today, I'd like to take a look at a few verses from Matthew 23 when Christ was woefully taking the Pharisees to task on their misapplication, and therefore, disobedience to the Law.

Matt 23:23-24: Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

Christ is referring back to a passage in Micah 6:8: He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

I think it is noteworthy to examine a couple of words to be sure we let the Bible, and not modern-day scholars, define them.

- Faith, or trust, is often softened to mean "I believe in the existence of Christ" when it so much more than that. Obedience and following His instructions even when they're uncomfortable shows Him our true level of faith.

- “Walking humbly” is an interesting translation in Micah 6. Humility is part of it, but again, non-believers value humility, so what kind of humility does Christ expect? Let’s consider two other translations:

- Complete Jewish Bible: Walk in purity before God.

- Septuagint: Be ready to walk with God.

Being a follower of Christ is a deep, profound and meaningful decision that we must make every morning that we wake up. There are no days off in this journey.

As always, looking forward to hearing where the Christ teaching from the Prophets has impacted you.

Have a safe and blessed day.

46

Good morning everyone! Today is Day 4 of Week 7 of the Feast of Weeks, and Day 46 of our count to 50.

Students of the Bible know that Christ quoted often from the Hebrew Scriptures, not a surprise since we also know He is the Word (Logos). Did you know that during His ministry, He quoted from Psalms most often.

As you ponder this, consider that the religious leaders He spoke to knew the Hebrew Scriptures very well. As such, when He made any reference, they knew exactly where in the scriptures He was referring to. When He later made the claim that they should have known that He was the promised Messiah, it was in part because these references told them, if only they had ears to hear. For instance, compare these two references:

Psa 78:23-25: Yet He had commanded the clouds above, And opened the doors of heaven, Had rained down manna on them to eat, And given them of the bread of heaven. Men ate angels’ food; He sent them food to the full.

John 6:32-33: Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

Where else does Christ quoted from the Psalms? Please share when you can!

Grace and peace!

47

Good morning brothers and sisters. Today is Day 47 of the count to 50, and Day 5 of Week 7 of the Feast of Weeks.

As the Day of Pentecost (the culmination of the Feast of Weeks) looms on the horizon, we have been on quite the journey over the last 46 days. It is time to up our preparation for the holy annual Sabbath of Pentecost. Following in the steps of those that went before us, let’s turn our attention to those who were preparing for the arrival of Pentecost immediately following the ascension of our Messiah.

Acts 1:12-14: And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath

day's journey away. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Let us take time to prepare ourselves for coming into the presence of Our Father and Our Messiah during time specifically appointed for covenant believers. How would you prepare yourself for a job interview, an annual review with your boss, or even to take your spouse out for a special anniversary dinner? Now consider how we prepare to come into the presence of the King of Kings.

Have a safe and productive day!

48

Good morning on this final preparation day during this year's Feast of Weeks. Today is Day 48 of our count to 50, and Day 6 of Week 7.

As we consider our final preparations for the Day of Pentecost, let us be reminded by the words of our Lord that He gave to Moses at Sinai on this day during their preparations for their first Day of Pentecost.

Exo 19:10-15: 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.

Have you ever wondered why this command to begin final preparations two days out so that they would be ready for God to come down on the third day? Consider the calendar, and the double-Sabbath we will keep this weekend.

May this special day of preparation be meaningful as we look forward to answering the invitation to appear before Him when the Day of Pentecost fully arrives.

Grace and peace!

49

Good morning brothers and sisters and a very special Happy Sabbath to all!

Today marks the completion of the 7th and final week of the Feast of Weeks! Today is Day 49 of our count to 50.

Yesterday, we went back to the commands from God in Exodus 19 to prepare ourselves for coming into the presence of The Almighty on the Day of Pentecost. Today, let's review WHY He brought them to Sinai in the first place.

Exo 19:2-6: They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, while Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and

how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

A bright and glorious future awaits the covenant people of God - IF we will indeed obey His voice and keep His covenant.

Thank you for accompanying me on this journey through the scriptures to find Jesus Christ, our kinsmen-redeemer, spoken of from beginning to end. Thank you also to those who contributed scriptures that spoke to them. Together, we uncovered a magnificent portrait of our Lord and Saviour!

Have a blessed Sabbath today as we anticipate the full arrival of the Day of Pentecost.

50 - Sunday June 16

Good morning brothers and sisters. That day we have been counting to is finally here. Today is Day 50, the final day of our count.

Acts 2:1-4: When the Day of Pentecost had 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 the whole house

where they were sitting. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

Imagine the scene in Jerusalem as the followers of Christ waited for the promised arrival of the Holy Spirit. The scene, not surprisingly, is similar to an earlier time that God came down to meet His servant in the presence of His people at Sinai.

Exo 19:16-20: And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up.

Two incredible gifts were bestowed upon the people of God on this day - both are central to the covenant we are so blessed to be a part of - His Law and His Spirit. May we be living lives worthy of His sacrifice.

Have a most meaningful and edifying day! Grace and peace to all.