

Pentecost 2024: FIRST fruits, First resurrection and more.



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Philip Shields

www.LightontheRock.org

All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

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Summary: Most think of Pentecost exclusively in terms of the Holy Spirit and giving of the law. But there's so much more! SO much more occurred and likely will yet occur in the future on Pentecost or Shavuot, Feast of Weeks. Find out how big a role FIRSTFRUITS play in Pentecost and in the first resurrection. Who alone will be in the first resurrection? What happens after the last trump and resurrection? What will those in that resurrection be doing next? Where will the marriage supper of the Lamb take place? What do all these things have to do with Pentecost? You'll be excited to find out.

Hello saints and holy children of the house of God. I'm Philip Shields, host of **Light on the Rock (LOTR)**. I'm so excited about **this holy day Pentecost** and what scripture calls the "Day of your gladness" in Numbers 10:10. One reason *I'm so excited* about this day and this sermon, is that it's about so many more exciting things than you might be hearing normally.

This day is called "**Pentecost**" in the New Testament and according to the interlinear of the Greek, simply means "**fiftieth**". NOT 'count fifty' – just 50th.

In the OLD Testament it's also called by several names – especially Feast of Weeks – which is "Shavuot" in Hebrew. Seven sabbaths are counted and then Pentecost is the next day, on the 50th day. So we believe Pentecost will always be on SUNDAY – the day after the 7th sabbath, as scripture says. And we count – it's not a fixed day like Sivan 6.

Feast of WEEKS of the firstfruits

Exodus 34:22

"And you shall observe the **Feast of Weeks, of the FIRSTFRUITS of WHEAT** harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering (Feast of Tabernacles/Sukkot) at the year's end."

We do NOT keep Pentecost when Orthodox Jews do, on Sivan 6 of their Hebrew calendar. What would be the need to count, if it's a predictable date like the other holy days? **Orthodox Jews give it a fixed date - Sivan 6.** But we count from the day after the sabbath when the wavesheaf is offered up, 7 sabbaths plus the next day, the 50th day, to the day after the 7th sabbath.

Leviticus 23:15-17

"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.*

16 Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath [shabbat in Hebrew] then you shall offer a new grain offering to YHVH.

17 You shall bring from your dwellings **two wave LOAVES** of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; **they shall be baked with LEAVEN.**

THEY (Those 2 LOAVES) are the FIRSTFRUITS to YHVH."

V 21 SAYS this day is a holy convocation, a holy meeting to meet with God and worship Him.

Other names for this holy day:

- **Feast of the Harvest (Ex 23:16)**
- **It's also called, once more, The DAY of Firstfruits of the Wheat harvest.** I want you to notice that. **It's about FIRST FRUITS** of the wheat harvest in Late May or June in Israel.

Numbers 28:26

'Also on **The DAY of the FIRSTFRUITS**, when you bring a new grain offering to the Lord at **your Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)**, you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work."

And WHO do "firstfruits" refer to? Those being called now; The church.

James 1:18

"Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that **WE** might be a kind of **firstfruits of His creatures.**"

Unless you fully grasp that Pentecost focuses on FIRST FRUITS – which WE are, you'll miss the depth of this day.

- Christ was firstfruits of the Barley harvest in the spring, during days of Unleavened Bread
- WE are the firstfruits of the WHEAT harvest after the barley harvest.

SHOULD WE STILL KEEP PENTECOST and holydays?

And if you have ANY thought that we don't keep holy days in the new covenant – just ponder this: WHY then did Jesus (Yeshua) command his apostles to remain in Jerusalem until they received power from on high and then STARTED His New Covenant church on THIS day, on PENTECOST, a HOLY day of YHVH?

WHY WOULD GOD start His new covenant church on a holy day – Pentecost – if we're not even supposed to be keeping these holy days?

DIVINE APPOINTMENTS with GOD

I have many other sermons that address how God's holydays reveal his sequential plan of salvation, so I'll keep that very brief this time so we have time to focus on other very exciting points about Pentecost.

Leviticus 23:1-2

And YHVH spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: '**The feasts of YHVH**, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, ***these are MY feasts.***'"

These "FEASTS" ARE *MOEDIM* in Hebrew – "moed" in the singular – meaning "divine appointments" with God. So most of the time we read "feasts of YHVH" – it is really saying "the **appointments** that GOD himself set for us to meet with him".

There's a SECOND word for when we read "feasts" in Scripture: *Chag* (pronounced like Hag), Strong's word 2282. "chag" (Hag) on the other hand means "festival", a time for rejoicing, feasting, drinking and having a happy joyful time. *Moed* though is appointment.

So Jews will commonly say "*Chag sameach*" – meaning "have a joyous festival" or "Happy feast". Chag more closely describes our English word "feasts" – meaning lots to eat and drink.

These festivals are like “dates” with our Creator, that HE set long ago. Imagine that! Think of even the weekly sabbath as your special “DATE” with your Husband-to-be!

GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION revealed by the Harvests in Israel

- **These holydays show us the sequence of God’s plan of salvation** for mankind. GOD IS NOT trying to save everyone right now – or He’s failing badly.

1 Corinthians 15:20-24

“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. **22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.**

23 But each one IN HIS OWN ORDER: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.”

First in God’s plan is Passover, picturing the Lamb of God offered up by God the Father to die for our sins, as John the Baptizer said **in John 1:29** – “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

Yeshua/Jesus was the firstfruits of **the humble, poor man’s grain – BARLEY, a soft grain**. The very first strain of barley to be seen often has a red strain in the barley head. He was the fine flour or “omer” – the Wavesheaf -- that was presented to God on Wavesheaf day.

Leviticus 23:10-11

"Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall **bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest** to the priest. 11 He shall wave the sheaf [omer] before YHVH, **to be accepted on your behalf;** on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.”

Jesus was the very FIRST of the first fruits of God’s callings -- then had to go up to heaven in John 20:17, after his resurrection to be accepted by our Father **ON BEHALF OF the rest of the harvest, you and me.**

The next harvest in Israel was the WHEAT harvest in the late spring/early summer. On Pentecost, two leavened loaves of the firstfruits of the wheat were elevated up towards heaven. More on that later.

PRIMARY MEANINGS OF PENTECOST + more I'll show today

I will discuss the three points more quickly, that almost everyone covers on this day – but want to focus most of the time of this sermon on other points not usually covered. I find them so exciting!

1. Giving of God's Law

You can find this starting in **Exodus 19. The timetable mentioned in Ex 19:1-2 show this would be just about Pentecost time.**

Exodus 19:10-11

Then YHVH said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. 11 And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day YHVH will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people."

Notice there was a very, **very loud trumpet blown** on this Pentecost!

Exodus 19:16-20

"Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were **thunderings and lightnings**, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the **trumpet was very loud**, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. 17 And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

18 Now Mount Sinai was **completely in smoke, because YHVH descended upon it in fire**. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. 19 And when **the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder**, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. 20 Then YHVH came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And YHVH called Moses to the top of the mountain, *and Moses went up.*"

Remember the mountain top was on fire and full of smoke! It wasn't just Daniel's three friends who survived in fire! I believe Moses was called into the fire and smoke and cloud of God's presence – and survived.

Hebrews 12:21

"And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling."

And then we know in **Ex 20 – the 10 commandments** are spoken by YHVH. Remember this was all happening on the day of Pentecost/Shavuot. It might be good for you and your family to stand up and read the 10 commandments on this day. Orthodox Jews do that too.

But on the giving of the Law – about 3,000 died; those who worshiped the gold calf.

This began what we Christians refer to as the Old Covenant between God and Israel.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

"Behold, the days are coming, says YHVH, *when I will make a new covenant* with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah – 32 *NOT according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt*, My covenant which they broke, **though I was a husband to them**, says YHVH.

33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says YHVH: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

2. **God married Israel at Mt Sinai around Pentecost (Ex 24:1-8)**–

Blood was sprinkled and it certified the covenant between God and Israel. But this was only a foretaste of the Marriage Supper to come.

Isaiah 54:5 – “Your Maker is your husband...”

Jeremiah 3:14

“Return you backsliding children, says YHVH, for *I am married to you...*”

Then in **Ex 24:9-11** – 70 elders plus Moses, Aaron, and Aaron’s 2 older sons Nadab and Abihu went up and had a meal with YHVH and saw God.

Exodus 24:9-11

“Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, 10 **and they saw the God of Israel**. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity. 11 But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. **So they saw God, and they ate and drank.**”

Could this have been a prototype of the marriage supper? Just a thought. Then Moses alone went to the very top, in the midst of the cloud and fire. You can **read Ex 24: 16-18**.

This concept of Pentecost reminding us of our MARRIAGE TO GOD on this day, or at or near this TIME period, is critical to remember.

It was also about Pentecost time that we **read of Ruth and Boaz getting married**. I recommend you hear my sermon on “**Ruth, Boaz and Pentecost**”.

That also happened at the end of the BARLEY harvest and beginning of the wheat harvest. BOAZ was a type of Messiah – the “*goel*” – the kinsman redeemer – and RUTH was a type of the church, including Gentiles! It’s all in the sermon.

Ruth 2:23 says Ruth was gleaning and working until the end of the barley AND wheat harvest – so their marriage must have taken place right about the time of Pentecost.

3. Pentecost was when God gave the New Covenant church the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:4-5

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to **wait for the Promise of the Father**, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, **but you shall be baptized [immersed] with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now."

Acts 1:8

“But you **shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you**; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 2:1-4

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with **one accord in one place**. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 **And they were ALL filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.**”

The giving of the Holy Spirit is absolutely vital for any of the rest of the meanings of this day to take place. **I have a sermon on “22 Things the Holy Spirit does”. I can’t go through them all again right now.**

<https://www.lightontherock.org/index.php/sermons/message/22-things-the-holy-spirit-is-doing?highlight=WyJob2x5Iiwic3Bpcml0IwiZG9lcjJd>

Some of the MAIN points of the 22 points –

- **Holy Spirit opens our minds to spiritual truths of God (1 Cor. 2:9-12)**
- **Holy Spirit gives us very PRESENCE of God our Father and Jesus the Messiah into our very lives (John 14:23)**
- **That consecrates us and makes us HOLY people, saints, the very TEMPLE of God. (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 6:16)**
- **Holy Spirit BEGETS us into the family of God. That’s God’s seed in us.**
- **Holy Spirit gives us GOD’S very OWN NATURE growing in us**
- **Also places God’s power in us (See 2 Peter 1:3-4)**
- **There are FRUIT of the spirit and GIFTS of the Holy Spirit.**
- **Holy Spirit gives us the peace of mind that God will FINISH what he started in us. It’s the DOWN PAYMENT – Greek “arrabon” – God promises to finish what he started in us.**

In Greece today an ENGAGEMENT RING is an “arrabona”– closely tied to “down payment” *arrabon* - because it’s the promise to truly MARRY this one you have pledged yourself to.

God’s Holy Spirit is the GUARANTEE of God’s salvation – the “earnest” or downpayment guaranteeing God will finish in us what he started – and **Philippians 1:6** says that too—“He who started a good work in us will complete it...”.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 and also Eph 1:13-14

“Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, 22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”

ALL of this is pictured by Pentecost. But oh – there's so much more! When we realize our bodies are now the dwelling of GOD – we should be very careful what we do, what we watch, where we go, how we DRESS—everything!

FOR The REST OF The MESSAGE LET'S GET INTO The OTHER very, very exciting meanings of this DAY.

4. I believe PENTECOST IS The MORE LIKELY TIME OF The FIRST RESURRECTION. I'll explain.

Of course we all believe the first resurrection happens at the last trump, the 7th trump, as scripture clearly says

1 Corinthians 15:49-53

“And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

50 Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, **but we shall all be changed —**

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at The LAST TRUMPET. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”

Because TRUMPETS are mentioned, many churches believed and taught that this last trumpet, the 7th trump of Revelation, would surely happen during the Feast of Trumpets. But remember a couple of things:

- **Trumpets were blown on ALL the holydays – Numbers 10:10**
- **A super loud trumpet/shofar was blown on Pentecost at Mt. Sinai!** So trumpets are not the exclusive domain of the Feast of Trumpets.
- **Pentecost is all about FIRSTFRUITS.** It's the only holyday about firstfruits (Num 28:26). It's the Feast of Harvest of the firstfruits of the wheat.
- **And the first resurrection is all about FIRSTFRUITS.** So just as Passover was the very day when the Christ our Passover was sacrificed, the RESURRECTION which is all about FIRSTFRUITS, surely has to be on the DAY of firstfruits! LET that sink in.
- ***Why were we artificially forcing the resurrection about FIRSTFRUITS to be in the FALL holydays? Probably because one of the holydays was called Feast of Trumpets. But the real***

Hebrew was Yom TERUAH – BLASTS, shouts and trumpets too. But trumpets were blown on ALL the holydays.

The first THREE holydays are about those God is calling and working with now. The last FOUR holydays are about God working with the rest of the world and all humanity starting with the return of Jesus Christ to the earth to take the reins of power over again.

- **PLUS, there's a huge LOGISTICAL AND TIMING problem** we get trapped into, when we put the first resurrection in the FALL.

Listen: far too much has yet to happen before Christ will return to the Mt of Olives and we can't force all those events into one day.

For example, there are still SEVEN LAST PLAGUES that follow after the seven trumpets, and after the first resurrection. People seemed to have forgotten this, and these seven last plagues we read about in Revelation 16, AFTER the 7th TRUMP, will take at least a few months.

So let's pick up the story flow with the sequence in the book of Revelation. **You may have to listen or watch this sermon more than once.** And also later carefully study Revelation as you go through these notes.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS before Christ returns:

- **There are 7 SEALS** that need to be opened. The first 6 are in Revelation 6. The 4 horsemen of the Apocalypse, then 5th seal of the Great Tribulation, then 6th seal of the signs in the heavens. Then in Rev. 7, the 7th seal, and the sealing of the 144,000 from the tribes of Israel and then a great number of people from other nations, which no one could number who come to Jesus -- all that is in Revelation chapter 7.
- **Then the 7th seal has SEVEN TRUMPET plagues.** See Revelation 8 and 9. Revelation 9 is one of the scariest chapters in the Bible, but be sure to read it. It covers the **5th and 6th Trumpets**, and the 200 million-man army – and 1/3 of all the world left alive at that time will DIE. I wish I had time to read it.
- The 7th TRUMPET – the last trump -- is when we're resurrected or changed.

We already read **1 Cor. 15:50-52** – how we're changed at the last trumpet.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

Remember that Jesus said he would return in the CLOUDS of heaven, send out his angels to gather up all his elect scattered around world (Matthew 24:29-31). Remember clouds.

Matthew 24:29-31 (skim read)

(Mark 13:24-27; Luke 21:25-28)

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days [5th seal of Rev 6] the sun will be darkened, [6th seal] and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

30 THEN the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will SEE the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a **TRUMPET**, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

[They're not all just in one place of Safety]

Remember on Pentecost that **two leavened wave loaves of wheat**, were raised up to heaven by the priest. And of course brought back down again. And WHO and WHAT do the 2 loaves picture?

Leviticus 23:16-17

“Count **fifty days** to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to YHVH.

17 You shall bring from your dwellings two wave LOAVES of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be **baked with LEAVEN**. They are the FIRSTFRUITS to the Lord”.

SO the **TWO LOAVES** that were raised toward heaven on Pentecost – we're clearly told-- are FIRSTFRUITS to YHVH. And we read James 1:18 which says God's people, God's church -- are the firstfruits. So the 2 loaves picture US, those with God's spirit. They are LEAVENED loaves, as we have had sin.

BUT – a leavened loaf is no longer able to continue leavening! In like manner, we must *be done in our spirit* with the old way of sin and turned now to obedient holiness in Christ as our life – in the spirit. In the flesh we are still weak as Paul even admitted in Romans 7, but God works with our spirit now.

But then AFTER the 7th Trumpet, there are still the SEVEN LAST Plagues, TAKING MONTHS, of Rev. 16 that people seem to forget.

SO there we are, changed to spirit beings, with Christ in the clouds after the 7th Trumpet has sounded. But now what?

Revelation 11 is about the TWO witnesses, who are killed at the end of their 1260 day (3-1/2 years) mission, then resurrected again just before the sounding of the 7th Trumpet. They are raised up in a cloud (Rev 11:11-12). They are the first to be resurrected in the First Resurrection. Then we read this about the 7th angel, LAST trump AFTER the two witnesses have already been taken up to the clouds.

Revelation 11:15

“THEN the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.

16- And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned” – and v 18 also.

Revelation 11:19

“Then the TEMPLE of God was OPENED in HEAVEN, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.”

Rev. 12 is about the woman being protected in her place in the wilderness – and then Satan goes after the remnant not taken there, who keep the commandments and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (Rev. 12:13-17)

Rev. 13 is about the Beast and the False Prophet and the warnings about NOT worshiping the Beast or taking on the 666 number.

Back to Rev. 11:19 -- HEAVEN is OPENED. WHY?

And remember, where we are – the 7th or LAST Trumpet has sounded and now there are SEVEN LAST PLAGUES about to begin on earth.

A PROBLEM with timing

Because there are still 7 LAST PLAGUES that have to happen – read REVELATION 16 -- there's a huge logistical and timing problem to be able to have the first resurrection happen in the Fall. And last we read, we are in the clouds with Jesus. Now what? The armies from the East mentioned in Rev. 16 and 17 aren't even in Israel yet!

- **Let me say again: Since the first resurrection is made up on ONLY those who are FIRST FRUITS – does it not make much more sense that the first resurrection more likely happens on the FEAST OF PENTECOST, which is all about FIRST FRUITS of the wheat!?**

So the firstfruits Saints have been resurrected. What are those in the first resurrection DOING next and during the 7 last Plagues? Just hovering in the air? NO... Something FAR MORE exciting!

The FIRSTFRUITS SAINTS ARE TAKEN TO The THIRD HEAVEN!

**Revelation 4 describes the throne room of God AND sea of GLASS:
Revelation 4:6**

“Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the THRONE, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.”

Revelation 14:1-5

“Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. 3 They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. 4 These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being FIRSTFRUITS to God and to the Lamb. 5 And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the THRONE of GOD”.

Remember The SEA OF GLASS is in front of God's throne – Rev 4:6.

So REV 14 speaks of the 144,000 of Israel. But REV. 15 SPEAKS of others who did not accept the Beast power or worship it.

Revelation 15:1-3

*“Then I saw another sign **in heaven**, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.*

2 And I saw something like a SEA OF GLASS mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.

3 They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying:

*"Great and marvelous are Your works,
Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways,
O King of the saints!"*

So these saints and firstfruits are CLEARLY IN The 3RD HEAVEN, heavenly Jerusalem, before the wedding of the Lamb takes place in Revelation 19. All the thrones are there and the Sea of Glass before God's throne is there also.

So the resurrected and changed Saints are in heaven. During all this time, the 7 LAST BOWL PLAGUES OF REV 16 are being poured out on earth. We in heaven are outside time and space as earth knows it and are not a part of those plagues, which are the wrath of God. We are NOT part of God's wrath.

Let's look at Revelation 16. The seven last plagues are these:

- ***painful SORES***
- ***#2 plague - the SEAS turning to blood and killing all fish***
- ***then #3 plague turns all the FRESH WATERS into blood, presumably killing a lot too; 16:4-7***
- ***plague #4 – scorching heat v. 8-9***
- ***Plague #5 – SEVERE DARKNESS and pain v 10-11***
- ***Plague #6 River Euphrates dries up opening the way for the nations' armies to go gather at Megiddo v 12-16 This plague alone surely takes 1-2 months for armies to cross to Israel.***

- **#7 – greatest earthquake the world has EVER experienced**
Great 75-lb or 34 kg hail stones, MANY cities destroyed. Every island disappears, every mountain leveled low.

So while all this is going on, God's saints are in heavenly Jerusalem! We just read it in REV 14 and 15 – they are in front of the thrones and on or beside the sea of glass before God.

What would they or we be doing there? No doubt meeting all the other saints from all the bygone eras and times, getting to meet the prophets and leaders – men and women, seeing the homes God has prepared and built for us (“in my Father’s house are many mansions”-John 14:1-2, not just offices), **and getting ready for the WEDDING and MARRIAGE SUPPER of the Lamb of God in REV 19.**

Before going there, let's learn a KEY LESSON from Isaac/Rebekah.

ISAAC AND REBEKAH GEN 24:61-67 and Gal 4:22-26

You can read the whole story in Genesis 24. Abraham – picturing God the father – sent a servant (maybe Eliezer) out to find a wife for Isaac, Abraham's son. Isaac was about 40, picturing Jesus. Rebekah would picture the church who marries Christ.

The servant went back to where Abraham's homeland, where he had come from and:

- **Prayed for God's blessing first. Gen 24:10-21**
- **Rebekah was found at the springs of water (picturing Holy Spirit perhaps?)**
- **She was the daughter of Bethuel, Abraham's nephew. Bethuel means “dweller in God, or House of God”.**
- **She went back with the servant and her maids on ten camels.**

Genesis 24:61-67

Then Rebekah and her maids arose, and they rode on the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed.

*62 Now Isaac came from the way of Beer Lahai Roi, for he dwelt in the South. And Isaac went **out to meditate in the field** in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels were coming.*

64 Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel; for she had said to the servant, "Who is this man walking in the field to meet us?"

The servant said, "It is my master." So she took a veil and covered herself.
 66 And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.
 67 ***Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.***"

Isaac was in the field – not at his tents. In the same way, Jesus is away from heavenly Jerusalem when He collects His bride. And then He takes her to his deceased mother's tent – SARAH's tent – and consummates the marriage there.

But why in Sarah's tent? What would Sarah's tent represent? This is explained further by Paul in Galatians.

Galatians 4:22-26

"For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman [HAGAR], the other by a freewoman [SARAH]. 23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise,
 24 **which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants:** the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is **Hagar** — 25 for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children — 26 but **the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.**"
 [PICTURING SARAH]

So it appears to me that taking Rebekah into Sarah's tent pictured Jesus taking HIS new Bride back to Jerusalem above, pictured by Sarah and her tent-- and there, we will be married to the Son of God! God doesn't waste words in his scripture and all of this about Isaac and Rebekah is all there for good reason!

Also remember the parable of Matthew 22.

Matthew 22:1-3

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: 2 "The kingdom of HEAVEN is like a certain KING who arranged a marriage for his SON, 3 and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come."

A certain KING put on a wedding for his SON. Who's the SON? Jesus. Who's the king? Our father. WHERE is the King who puts on the wedding? What do we pray? "our father IN HEAVEN...."

This was all pictured by Isaac meeting Rebekah first in the field – then taking her to Sarah's tent. Rebekah was being brought to him from Bethuel's household to marry Isaac. Isaac was in the FIELD, away from his home tent – who took her and brought her to his mother Sarah's tent (she had already died) and consummated his marriage in that TENT, PICTURING HEAVENLY JERUSALEM.

Are you getting it? Christ comes for his firstfruits elect – most likely on the day of Firstfruits, Pentecost -- to take us to His Father's city, heavenly Jerusalem. From the first resurrection until the time we return to earth with Christ could easily be three or four months – and meanwhile the Seven last plagues are being poured out.

Remember the *first resurrection is the FIRSTFRUITS resurrection.*

And know this: THIS is the Feast day that CELEBRATES the firstfruits of wheat, picturing the brethren, the church of God.

5. So I BELIEVE, PENTECOST SEASON ALSO PICTURES OUR WEDDING DAY WITH Jesus Christ IN HEAVENLY JERUSALEM.

More and more holyday-keeping teachers and pastors are coming to this conclusion, not just we at LOTR. To me it's all very clear in Revelation 19, especially seeing God's firstfruits are mentioned as being IN HEAVEN with the SEA OF GLASS and before the THRONES – obviously 3rd heaven (Rev. 14:1-5; 15:1-4). They are also represented by **the two leavened loaves, which are the firstfruits**, that are elevated up towards the sky. So WE are in HEAVEN during that time after the resurrection.

Soon after going to the third heaven, we will marry the Son of God. Notice again WHERE this is all taking place.

Revelation 19:1-5

“After these things I heard a loud voice of **a great multitude in HEAVEN**, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! 2 For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her." 3 Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!"

4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!" 5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!"

Revelation 19:6-9

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord **God Omnipotent reigns!** 7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, **for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.**" 8 And to **her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen**, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the **righteousness** of the saints."

The GREEK original does NOT say "righteous acts" but "righteousness". Surprising to me is that only two translations have it that way: the KJV and Webster's translation. But we don't earn our way into the marriage with the Lamb. God's righteousness is granted to us. I know that's so hard for many of you to accept.

Notice her garments, picturing her righteousness, are granted or given to her. Our righteousness remember is GOD'S very own righteousness that He gifts to us (please read **Rom 4:20-24; 5:17, 5:15-19; 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil 3:8-11**) Jesus in us – lives again his life of righteousness IN US. It's HIM doing it; HE gets the glory. All of it.

Even **Philippians 2:12** to work out your own salvation – just keep reading **verse 13. "For it is GOD who works in you** both to will and to do according to HIS own good pleasure."

But for some reason, this is so hard for Sabbath-keeping groups to accept: that the LORD our Righteousness – as is revealed even in the Old Testament. Let's continue in Revelation 19:9 now.

9 Then he said to me, "**Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'**" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

6. Jesus after the marriage supper returns TO EARTH with his angels and saints TO DESTROY The REBEL ARMIES AND BEGIN OUR REIGN pictured by the FALL holydays, beginning with Feast of Trumpets or blasts or shouts. We're now into the fall holydays. Pentecost is now 3-4 months past by this time.

So, as we read later in Revelation 19, *after* the wedding supper, our Husband the Word of God (Jesus) gets on a powerful angelic charger that looks like a horse, and we and all his holy angels with him and the saints return to earth –

probably about 3.5-4 months AFTER Pentecost in that year – and probably on the Feast of Trumpets/Yom Teruah. A day of shouting and jubilation indeed.

Revelation 19:11-21

“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, **and His name is called The Word of God.** 14 **And the armies in heaven**, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, **“Come and gather together for the supper of the great God,** 18 that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.”

19 **And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.**

20 Then **the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet** who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. **These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone [sulfur].** 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.”

We face the armies assembled below us around Jerusalem to Megiddo in the north in Galilee – and they are slaughtered. You can read of it in Zech 14:1-5, 12 -14. I can't take the time to read it all now, but will include some of it in the notes.

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Zechariah 14:1-5

Behold, **the day of the Lord is coming**, And your spoil will be divided in your midst. 2 For ***I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem***; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

3 *Then* YHVH will go forth and fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle. 4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south.

5 ... **Thus YHVH my God will come, And all the saints with You**".

Read Zech 14:12-14 to read of HOW they die if you wish.

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So let's wrap it up. What's Pentecost all about? I hope you're excited about it!

- You know it's when God gave his Law at Mt Sinai
- It's when God married Israel at Sinai
- **It's when the early saints were anointed and immersed with God's spirit on Pentecost** to start the New covenant church. It was the promise of completing what God started; the "earnest" or *down payment* ("arrabon" in Greek), similar to the engagement ring -- *arrobona* – a promise to marry.
- Pentecost is all about the FIRSTFRUITS of the wheat harvest.
 - WE are God's firstfruits. James 1:18
 - The 2 leavened wave loaves of wheat were the firstfruits of the wheat harvest. They were raised to heaven, picturing us.
- SAINTS are clearly depicted as being in heaven, in front of the thrones of the 24 elders and creatures and God -- and the Sea of Glass is there (Rev. 14; 15). All of that HAS to be in the third heaven to have all the thrones there too. They are not just in the clouds above the earth – but in the 3rd heaven.
- The saints marry the Word of God in heaven too, as Revelation 19 says.
- Then we return with King Jesus/Yeshua on mighty spirit angelic chargers to fight the armies and take over the reins of government with Christ for 1000 years. That probably happens during the Fall holyday of Feast of Trumpets.

ALSO REMEMBER, the first round of Jesus' coming – he comes in the clouds, but the 2nd round, is different: he's on angelic chargers, spirit horses – not in the clouds!

I hope you're as excited as I am!

Hallelujah, praise God. What a great and high calling we have. BE zealous and rekindle your first love and repent of spiritual lethargy. There's so much to be excited about.

CLOSING prayer