

# Pentecost's Exciting 5-fold Meaning



*Philip Shields*

*MAY 2018*

[www.LightontheRock.org](http://www.LightontheRock.org)

What is the Feast of Pentecost all about? This message breaks it down to five exciting main points that explain the multi-faceted overall picture of this very special day. What does “Pentecost” mean? How does this day explain God’s plan of salvation for humanity? We know God’s spirit was given to thousands on this day, but what other exciting things are yet to happen on this day?

\*\*\*\*\*

**Hi everyone. We’re in the season of God’s holyday “Pentecost”,** when His children were gathered at Mt Sinai. Then believers again assembled in Acts 2 to receive God’s spirit. Early believers obviously were keeping this holyday of God in Acts 2, as well as Passover and days of Unleavened Bread (**1 Cor. 5 and 11 clearly show that**).

I have many sermons on this site about Pentecost. The name “Pentecost” comes from the Greek which means “count 50”, as we count 50 days from the “wave sheaf day” after Passover. The “wave sheaf” ceremony was fulfilled by our Messiah when he rose to heaven to be accepted by the Father in our behalf. See my notes and sermons about Wavesheaf Day.

**The Hebrews called the day of Pentecost -- “Shavuot”** - literally meaning “weeks”. Pentecost is celebrated 7 weeks and a day (50 days) after Wavesheaf day, so Pentecost is also called **“Feast of weeks”**.

This holy day – I never call them “holidays” like the Jews do – is also called Feast of First Fruits.

**So welcome everyone, this is Philip Shields, host of Light on the Rock**, a website devoted to teaching the Word of God, and to Christ our light and our Rock, and to our Holy Father in heaven. Let’s ask Yah’s anointing and presence and guidance today (short prayer – can be heard on the audio of this).

So Pentecost is one of the Feasts of YHVH.

**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** (Hebrew 'moed' – divine appointments)

*ALL the feasts of YHVH are listed in this one chapter – including Pentecost, but in Leviticus it is called "feast of weeks".* Though first given in the Old Testament or old covenant, early true believers continued to keep the holydays - - even on pain of torture and death.

So these are the "FEASTS OF YHVH". HIS feasts, not the feast of the Jews. And remember that there was a great "**mixed multitude**" of Gentiles who also left Egypt with Israelites. They had to live as Israelites and keep the same laws God gave Israel. **Exodus 12:38; Numbers 11:4.**

### YHVH'S DIVINE APPOINTMENTS WITH HIM

**The Hebrew word for "Feast" in Lev 23:2 is "mo-ed". And moed means an appointment, an appointed time set by the Creator for his children to come together and worship him.** In Leviticus 23, *moed* is the word most used for each of the holydays, the feasts (moedim) of YHVH. It's the same word used in **Genesis 17:21** and may point to the possibility that Isaac was born on what is now a holyday.

So most of the times we read "feasts of YHVH" – it is really saying "the appointments that GOD himself set for us to meet with him". Let that sink in. That's why we must have holy convocations with other believers, or if we can't meet in person, at least try to do a service online with God's people.

These festivals are like "dates" with our Creator, that HE set long ago. By the way, Jews keep TWO days on each festival except Atonement each time, just to be sure they have "the right day".

**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. So Jews will commonly say "Chag sameach" – meaning "have a joyous festival".**

**Examples of "feasts" coming from the word *hag*, 2282** – Exodus 34:18-25; Lev. 23:6; Deut. 16:16; Ezra 6:22; Lev. 23:34; Zech 14:16. Frankly

the “hag” feasts are more akin to what we in the western world think of a “feasts”!

*Let's continue with the instructions for this holyday.*

**Leviticus 23:15-21**

'**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; 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 YHVH.**

Then verses 18-20 describe the animal sacrifices that also happened on this day - 7 lambs, young bull, 2 rams and so on. Let's continue in verse 21.

**21 And you shall proclaim on the same day that it is a holy convocation to you.** You shall do no customary work on it. It shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.”

A lot has happened right on this holyday. But in a way I see it as a transitional holyday as well, because I think much has *yet* to happen on this day... some very exciting things in the future, that you and I hope will involve you and me too. I'll explain as we go along.

**GOD'S PLAN and TIMING of His SALVATION are DEPICTED by ISRAEL'S HARVESTS**

**The first 3 festivals** – Passover, the Days of Unleavened Bread, with the Wavesheaf offering in that same week plus Pentecost (Feast of Weeks or firstfruits) – **all focus on those being called now**; the EARLY harvest of souls. *Pentecost does too. It's about first fruits.* And remember Passover protected the first born from death on Passover night if the household had come under the blood of the lamb.

Think about it: the firstborns were – in a sense -- the first fruits of families.

**So I'll say again: the first festivals in the spring and early summer are focused on God's early harvest; on the firstfruits of God's harvest of souls, those being called now.**

Passover through Pentecost picture events that have mostly happened already – except that Pentecost, I believe, is not finished yet. I believe there definitely are still future events coming on a soon-coming Pentecost that will then fully fulfill this day. More on this later.

**My point is that the first 3 festivals point to those being called now, the first fruits of the harvest. The smaller harvests.** It's to show us that God is calling and working with only a select few right now whom he personally chooses – and usually they are the base and not-so-greats of the world, frankly (**1 Corinthians 1:26**).

**The last 4 holydays – Feast of Trumpets/blasts; Atonement, 7 day feast of Tabernacles and 8<sup>th</sup> day – all picture future events** and in these festivals the focus turns to the REST of humankind who have yet to accept YHVH as their God and Yeshua as their savior and king.

**So for the rest of humanity, their equivalent of Passover is the day of Atonement**, when all their sins are purged and taken away. Atonement covers ***everyone too***, this time, not just firstborns. Then those who do accept Yeshua as their Savior can come under Christ's rule and be part of his 1000-yr (millennial) reign after he returns, pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles.

Those who don't surrender, are still under God's wrath (John 3:36). The only way to get out from under God's wrath and judgment for sins we've committed, is to accept his Son as your personal Saviour and Redeemer. Because God so loves the world – and you – He sent His one and only Son to come and die for you, and to live for you now as the risen Christ. Now he lives his life anew in each of us by His Spirit.

**Let me say again: the harvests of the land of Israel picture the timing behind the harvests of human beings** whose hearts are being turned back to the true Living God. **The land of Israel's harvests depict God's Plan of Salvation.** God is not trying to save everyone right now. He will eventually work on everyone, but not yet, not now.

Otherwise you'd have to conclude God is losing the battle against Satan because only a very small percentage of humanity has come to deep, true repentance and have accepted Yeshua (Jesus Christ) as their king and Savior for real.

*But again: God is not losing this battle. It's just not the time yet where He takes over the world government and pours out his spirit to everyone who*

*accepts Christ. The harvests of Israel picture the sequence and plan of God. Some are called first. The rest are called and worked with later. Not all the harvest comes in the spring. The large harvest (fruits, vegetables, etc) is in the Fall. So the spring holydays portray those being called now. The Fall holydays picture those being called after Christ returns. Each in his own order.*

Many profess to be Christians, but very, very few truly live that confession. But even all the professing Christians in the world make up only a small percentage of the world's total population.

God is NOT losing that battle. He's working only with a relative few for now.

It's simply that most don't understand God is NOT calling everyone right now, not yet anyway. Let me say it all another way: In Israel, in the spring and summer there is a harvest first of barley and then wheat. Those picture those being called first. It's a small harvest compared to everything that is harvested in the Fall. God is not choosing many right now.

Then in the fall is the big fall harvest of everything else – and that pictures when God begins to open the minds of everyone else in the world. God is not willing that ANY should perish and in the end, just about everyone will be saved. In his time, in his way. That's the overview.

### **THE 5-FOLD MEANING OF PENTECOST**

So what is Pentecost all about? Here are 5 points. There could be 20 points, I'm sure, but here the big 5 that I think of when I think of Pentecost.

#### **1. GIVING OF THE TORAH/GOD'S LAW. 3,000 DIED**

The Ten Commandments (also called "the Ten Words" by Jews) were thundered out by YHVH, either on, or very, very close to Pentecost (Hebrew Shavuot) when you look at the verses that show the timing.

**Exodus 19:1** says it was already the Hebrew 3<sup>rd</sup> month since they had left Egypt (that would put it sometime in our present mid-late May- June).

**In Exodus 20 YHVH speaks the 10 commandments**, with the Mountain afire, the blast of the angelic shofar was ear piercing, there was thundering, earthquake and it was a very scary time frankly. Many orthodox Jews still read the full 10 commandments, while standing, on this holy day.



And at the end of it all, 3,000 people were executed for breaking their marriage covenant with YHVH and indulging in orgiastic worship of a gold calf they had made. **Exodus 32:28**

Many **believe the Law (Torah) including the codified 10 Commandments (“the 10 words” as Jews would call them) was given on this day** to ancient Israel. *YHVH made a covenant* with the House of Jacob (**Ex. 19:3-6**). The people said, in verse 8, they would obey and come into covenant. That was their “I do”. **Ex. 24:6-8**.

This is what we call the First Covenant between Israel and YHVH. He clearly says they broke that covenant at Sinai even though he was their husband. (**Jeremiah 31:31-33** - goes back and read this passage).

Many see Pentecost as **the time YHVH married Israel-- Ex. 24:6-8.** Some say it was a betrothal, but even a betrothal was considered as strong as marriage, stronger than our “engagement”. Moses is seen as the “matchmaker” bringing the “Bride” – Israel – to the Groom (YHVH). In the shadow of Mt Sinai they made the wedding agreement, the giving of the covenant/Law. Mt Sinai is seen as the Bridal chamber – the “*chuppah*” -- and the Law is seen as the *Kettubah* (Wedding contract).

Of course Israel was the unfaithful, adulterous wife over and over and eventually God divorced Israel. This is also why Yeshua needed to die so – after he was resurrected - He could marry a spiritual Israel (see this law explained in **Romans 7:1-2**) composed of all who have accepted Him in faith (**Gal. 3:26-29**).

By “spiritual Israel” (Galatians 6:16) or “spiritual Jew” I mean someone who has accepted Yeshua as Savior and king and come into new covenant with Him. One is a Jew, or Israelite, who is a Jew inwardly, of the heart – not outwardly (**Rom. 2:28-29**).

Let's print out the verses. Remember most of the brethren in Rome, Galatia and other cities were Gentiles coming into faith.

**Galatians 3:26-29**

**“For you are ALL sons of God *through faith* in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were *baptized into Christ have put on Christ.* 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are ALL ONE in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”**

**Romans 2:28-29**

For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; 29 **but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit**, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

Jews who are hearing this: the living God is also God of the Gentiles he is calling into his new body "Israel of God".

Rabbi Shaul (Paul's Hebrew name), trained at the feet of the famous Gamaliel (or as the Jews say – Gamliel), says this:

**Romans 3:29-30**

**"Or is He the God of the Jews only? *Is He not also the God of the Gentiles?* Yes, of the Gentiles also,** 30 since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith."

I have sermons about Gentiles and how they are absolutely invited to be part of the Israel of God (**Gal 6:16**), spiritual Israel. You gentiles who obey the truth and respond to your calling and worship Yeshua are more "Israelite" than Jews who haven't accepted Yeshua as their Saviour/Messiah because you are now part of SPIRITUAL Israel. See **Romans 9 and Rom 11**.

**Jews of Yeshua's day on earth missed him, for their eyes were blinded. I think Jews were not expecting their Messiah to have to die first. They missed the teaching of Isaiah 53.** The Messiah had to come first and die for us – then be resurrected – and then come back as king of the Jews and really, of all the world. Jews missed that. Their eyes were blinded. But God is opening their eyes more and more to see this great truth, that the Messiah for the whole world came and lived as a JEW.

Some of the next couple paragraphs are not in the audio of this sermon but I feel led to say this:

**My Jewish followers – please slowly read Isaiah 53 and the end of 52.** Also slowly read **Psalm 22** and you'll see so many pointers to Christ. And read **Psalm 2**, how God clearly says he has a son. And **Isaiah 9:6-7** that a young damsel or virgin would conceive and produce the Messiah, who is also "Mighty God".

**Isaiah 7:14**

“Therefore YHVH Himself will give you a sign: **Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel (GOD with us).**”

**Isaiah 9:6-7**

**“for unto us a Child is born,**

**Unto us a Son is given;**

And the government will be upon His shoulder.

**And His name will be called**

Wonderful, Counselor, **Mighty God,**

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of His government and peace

There will be no end,

Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,

To order it and establish it with judgment and justice

From that time forward, even forever.

The zeal of YHVH of hosts will perform this.”

This Child, this Son, is being called “mighty God” in Isaiah 9:6. See also Psalm 2, where God’s SON is mentioned. That’s more than just about David, folks. Read it for yourself.

Yeshua’s returning again soon, this time for all the reasons most Jews look for in their Messiah – one who comes to restore power to their nation, to reign as King of Kings over the earth, and to teach the ways of God over all the earth eventually.

**The book of Ruth is also traditionally read on this day** – and don’t forget – Ruth was a Gentile, a Moabitess. More on that later. So take heart you Gentiles who have accepted Yeshua, the risen Messiah and who now sits on God’s right hand in heaven waiting to return!

**2. PENTECOST is also when GOD MOST HIGH sent his HOLY SPIRIT into his 120 first fruits children. Later that day, 3000 more were given LIFE.**

**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.”**



So with this Holy Spirit, the laws of God were written on their hearts and on our hearts. God's law's not done away with, but now we're able to have them with us, in our hearts and minds by His Spirit.

**A special sign was given to these original believers to show they had God's spirit** – and that was speaking in other languages! Onlookers who came in to see what was going on, could hear their words in their own dialects! In this particular time, the miracle was in the hearing! It was not like a modern day "Pentecostal" meeting but onlookers heard them speak in their own tongues.

**Acts 2:5-12**

And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, **because everyone heard them speak in his own language.** 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? **8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?** 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs – we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." 12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

In later years, it's obvious that those speaking in tongues needed someone who had the gift of interpreting tongues. But here in Acts 2, people heard them speak in their own languages and there were no interpreters.

**The Holy Spirit is a part of God – God's spirit is his power, his spirit which alone is holy, his mind, his seed, and his nature** – is imparted when we have His spirit. I have many sermons about the Holy Spirit, so I won't dwell on it in this sermon as this is a high-level overview message.

But do realize that in the New Covenant, 3,000 people were given life and the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:41).

Let me just say this: when you receive the Spirit of God, you also receive **gifts of the spirit.** These are listed in 1 Cor. 12 and Romans 12. It's important to pray that God reveals what they are to you.

Over time, we show proof of having God's spirit because God's spirit changes us. We become a new person. We begin to talk, act and speak more and more

like our Father – because we now have his nature. This is called the **FRUIT of the Spirit** – Gal. 5:22-23.

This change – or conversion – happens only if we have repented, turned from our previous way, buried the old self in baptism (**Romans 6:1-6**) and received the gift of the Holy Spirit upon laying on of hands by a true ordained minister. There are some who don't believe it has to be a minister, but I'd say show me where any laying on of hands in the new covenant was done by anyone but an ordained man. (See **Acts 8:15-17; Acts 19:5-6**)

So, so far we have 2 points:

#1—Pentecost was when God gave his Torah

#2 – Pentecost was when God gave his Holy Spirit en masse, to thousands, in the New Covenant. (Individuals here and there received his spirit in the Old Covenant as my previous sermon proves.)

3. **PENTECOST is also called the “Feast of FIRST fruits”**. It shows God is “harvesting” only those he is calling now.

I've talked about this a bit already, but it needs to be a huge central point.

**First of all, Shavuot/Pentecost was a *celebration* of the physical firstfruits of the wheat harvest and end of the barley harvest. It pictures God's plans spiritually for his people.** It is a time of thanksgiving, of showing gratitude to the Almighty Creator of the Universe who sent us the “Bread from heaven” (**Ex. 16:4**).

Pentecost is about how some few being called now are responding. You were hand-chosen, hand-picked by God the Father (**John 6:44**). He did not choose you because you had much to offer. No, not at all. You were chosen because in Christ he could show what Christ could do in you and me in spite of our weaknesses, common birth, and lack of great talents. It's all about Yeshua, folks. It's all about HIM and what HE does in us, to us, and for us.

**Titus 3:3-7**

*For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.* 4 But **when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,** 5 **NOT by works of righteousness which WE have done,** but according to His ***mercy*** He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 *whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus*

Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified [seen as righteous] by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

So God called us in his mercy and Yeshua saves us in his mercy.

**1 Corinthians 15:20-28**

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.**

It goes on to say how Christ must rule until all enemies have been put down, and then he himself comes back under the Father, who is over all and in all. Christ is under his father. **“The head of Christ is God” – 1 Cor 8:3.**

Notice this! Paul makes it clear that the final harvesting of the firstfruits is what takes place at His coming. This is called the “first resurrection”.

**4. TWO leavened wheat “WAVE LOAVES” were elevated up towards heaven on this day. Hmm.... I wonder why.**

**Leviticus 23:17**

“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 YHVH.**”

Every sentence in Lev 23:17 is full of meaning. Fine flour, baked with leaven. They picture the FIRSTFRUITS to YHVH. That’s the meaning of Pentecost – right there – how Yah is working with those he’s calling first.

As far as I know, this is the only time *leavened* loaves were allowed to be offered to YHVH. Leaven is usually a picture of sin, though not always. Explaining these 2 wave loaves is worthy of a whole sermon, and I’ll probably do that eventually. But just notice the 2 loaves were large LEAVENED loaves that were raised up to God, ON THIS DAY, and *they are representative of those first fruits* being called now to be part of the body of Christ.

So there are whole sermons given on what the 2 loaves exactly represent. Scripture frankly doesn’t tell us – except they’re first fruits (Lev 23:17). So it’s been speculated that they are first fruits of the OT and NT; or Israelite and Gentile. It doesn’t matter exactly what they pointed to – just know they pointed to FIRST FRUIT believers down through the ages.

These 2 loaves picture those of us being called now. **But saying they are leavened does not permit us to feel free to continue a life of sin. A leavened loaf, remember, is DONE leavening. It can't be further leavened, and it can't leaven anything else.**

**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. “*

We're not of this world, but of his kingdom. Our identity is now with Jerusalem above, not the politics of what's going on here on earth. So what happens to these 2 loaves? The loaves are RAISED UP – and brought back down again. Hmm. Interesting, don't you think?

If you hear my sermon about Ruth and Boaz, you'll see also how Boaz pictured Yeshua as our Kinsman- REDEEMER, the “*go-el*” in Hebrew, the one who steps up and takes you as his own. But Ruth – a Gentile – had to accept the God of Israel first. We ALL become a part of SPIRITUAL Israel. Even heavenly Jerusalem has 12 gates – with the names of the 12 sons of Israel on them (Rev. 22:10). So every time we will enter heavenly Jerusalem someday, we'll be entering through one of the gates inscribed with one of the tribes of Israel.

**5. More and more of us believe Pentecost also pictures the ROYAL WEDDING or Marriage Supper of the KING OF KINGS with his commoner Bride (including you and me) – IN HEAVEN.**

**If you want a full explanation of this, hear my sermon “I Go Prepare a Place for you”. Or you can click on this link:**

**<http://www.lightontherock.org/index.php/message/i-go-prepare-a-place-for-you-john-14-1-3>**

**Don't forget: Our Father has called the base and weak of the world.** God the father is not insisting that his son marry someone who is an elite of this world or of noble birth. Some in his kingdom will be of noble birth, but not most. The Bride for Christ is hand-picked – not by Jesus – but by his Father. God then gives that person to Yeshua to work with.

*“NO ONE can come to me unless the Father first draws him” – John 6:44. Then Yeshua in turn says, no one can come to the Father except by and through HIM, for he is the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6).*

Do you see how SPECIAL your calling and choosing is? Let's not blow this great calling and opportunity!!!

Here are some outlined reasons I believe Pentecost is when the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet is sounded and we are resurrected and ascend to heaven to marry Yeshua, King of kings, and the Son of God.

- **First of all, understand that this time around Yeshua is marrying Israel all right, but the “Israel of God” (Gal. 6:16) – comprised of Israelites and Gentles – as his bride.** Paul even told the gentile Corinthians that they were espoused to Christ. **(2 Cor. 11:2).** The Gentile Ephesians were also taught that our marriages picture Christ and the church **(Ephesians 5:30-32)**
- **It does not make sense for the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet to be happening in the fall** – which pictures God working with the rest of the world. Pentecost is all about the first fruits. **TIMING** – it makes much more sense for God to resurrect/change his saints at Pentecost at the last trump. Timing makes more sense here. But we’ll see.
- **Trumpets were blown on all the holydays (Numbers 10:10)**
- **Pentecost is all about the season of marriage and weddings.** We know for sure it was when God married/ or was betrothed to – Israel. Pentecost was when Boaz (who pictures Christ) was married to Ruth. Pentecost was when God gave his “engagement ring” to his called-out ones; his promise to marry them when he returns.
- **If the 2 wave loaves picture the first fruits, why are they lifted up towards heaven** if it doesn’t picture **us** going to heaven after we’ve been brought to Christ in the clouds at his return?
- **God the Father is at the wedding. In the parable of Matthew 22,** the king (GOD) puts on a marriage supper for his Son (Yeshua). **Where** is God the Father? **IN HEAVEN.** Who else could officiate the wedding? Where else in the universe would be a suitable place for this Royal Wedding? The earth is in total ruins at the time Christ returns, and will have to be restored again. Hardly a suitable place for a royal wedding.
- **After the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet is sounded, which is when we’re resurrected or changed, what happens next?** There are still 7 last plagues. Let that sink in. That will take time. And those plagues will take MONTHS to go through. What would the newly resurrected saints be doing all that time? I submit we’ll be taken to heaven to the



Father's home (Heavenly Jerusalem) and be prepared to be part of the Marriage of the Lamb in Heaven.

**In my sermon about "I go prepare a place for you"**—I also explain and connect how what Isaac did with Rebekah, when she was brought to him to be his wife, **pictures the Church and Christ**. Be sure you hear that sermon. You find the whole story in the Bible in Genesis 24.

**Where was Rebekah taken?** Do you remember? Back to Isaac (who pictures Christ) and his father Abraham (who pictures God the Father). Sarah has died by this time, but what did Isaac do? Isaac **took Rebekah into SARAH'S TENT to consummate the marriage**.

**Genesis 24:67**

**"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."**

**What does Sarah's tent depict? Let's see...**

**Galatians 4:21-27**

"Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? **22 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"**.

**Sarah pictures the new covenant out of heavenly Jerusalem.**

I just think it's so clear that all the stories are there to show us we're going to go to heaven to be married and then return to the earth to rule with Christ for a thousand years, as Rev 20 says.

Plus, from Revelation 14 onwards, the context of where things are originating, is always heaven. Here are some examples.

**Revelation 14:1-5** -- We read of 144,000 there, who are called "firstfruits" and who were redeemed from the earth (verse 4). They stand before the throne of God. Folks, that's in heaven! And they're not the only ones redeemed from the earth, as we read in Rev 7 of the innumerable multitude



from every nation who are saved also. There's the Bride, but there's also "guests" at the wedding. **And the context is – in heaven!**

**These 144,000 are also "redeemed from the earth"**. Remember Boaz with Ruth? He was her kinsman-redeemer. Christ is our Kinsman-Redeemer. He redeemed us from the wages of our sins. See **1 Peter 1:18; Romans 8:23**.

**Rev 14:17**—angel came out of the temple in heaven...

**Rev. 15:1** – I saw another sign in HEAVEN, great and marvelous.

**Rev. 15:5** – the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in HEAVEN was opened

**Rev. 19:1** – I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven saying, "Alleluia! Salvation..." And goes on to speak of the wedding of the Lamb and his bride – IN HEAVEN – and how the bride has made herself ready.

Then later in Revelation 19 – the Christ comes back with his army and bride and saints – FROM HEAVEN (**Revelation 19:11-16**). These include the saints – **Jude 14; Rev. 17: 14**.

I'll leave it with that.

So I think this day is a WONDERFUL day – **picturing the giving of the Law of God on 2 tablets of stone**, then **later the giving of God's spirit** that is his earnest money, his guarantee of his commitment to us. That is also when the law is written on our hearts.

**Pentecost is also a picture that our God is only working with a very few right now and you and I should be THRILLED** to be part of those hand-picked by Father himself to be worked with at this time. We forget that sometimes and lose the excitement we should have for that. Shame on us. We're firstfruits.

**Pentecost also is the picture of our going to heaven to get married to the Son of God. This was also depicted by the 2 leavened wheat loaves raised up to God.**

It's a wonderful day. I hope you are full of praise and thanksgiving over it.