

# WINTER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015-2016

## THEME: SACRED GIFTS AND HOLY GATHERINGS

### UNIT THREE – “Holy Days”

## “THE MEMORIAL OF THANKSGIVING – PENTECOST” (The Feast of Weeks)



### Sunday School Lesson No. XI – February 14, 2016 Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher

**Lesson Text:** Leviticus 23:15-22

**Required Reading:** Leviticus 23:15-22; Numbers 28:26-31; Acts 2:1-36

**Motto Text:** Leviticus 23:15-16 (NLT), “From the day after the Sabbath—the day you bring the bundle of grain to be lifted up as a special offering—count off seven full weeks. Keep counting until the day after the seventh Sabbath, fifty days later. Then present an offering of new grain to the LORD.”

**Reliable Resources:** Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Bible Knowledge Commentary; Precepts for Living (UMI Publishing); Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Life Application Study Bible (Tyndale); Libronix Electronic Library; The Jeremiah Study Bible and Resources; Children’s Ministry Resource Bible; Wilmington’s Bible Handbook

### INTRODUCTION

In the prior lesson, we were privileged to study Exodus 12 and examined the implementing of the Passover. It showed us how Jehovah kept His promises to Abraham and his descendants. A specific promise nearly 400 years from Abraham receiving it, did come to pass (Gen. 15:13). Abraham’s enslaved descendants were set free by the mighty hand of Abraham’s God!

Now this lesson will be studied from Leviticus 23, where the great feast days of the nation of Israel are all noted along with their meanings. Let us note these names and where they are found in Leviticus, but above all, each represents a work of Christ. According to Dr. David Jeremiah:

<b>“FEAST/EVENT</b>	<b>PASSAGE</b>	<b>MEANING</b>	<b>CHRIST</b>
Passover	Lev. 23:4-8	Deliverance	Christ is our Passover (I Cor. 5:7)
Unleavened Bread	Lev. 23:4-8	Sustenance	Christ is the Bread of Life (Jn. 6:35)
First fruits	Lev. 23:9-14	First Harvest	Christ’s Resurrection (I Cor. 15:23)
Weeks/Pentecost	Lev. 23:16	Full Harvest	Christ’s Church Begins (Acts 2)
Trumpets	Lev. 23:23	Joy in God’s Goodness	Christ’s Return (I Thess. 4:15-18)
Day of Atonement	Lev. 16; 23:26-32	Atonement for Sin	Christ’s Atoning Death (Rom. 3:24-26)
Booths/Tabernacles	Lev. 23:33-36	Provision in the Wilderness	Christ is our Provision (Jn. 6:32-33)”

Now according to The Standard Lesson Commentary, “Today’s lesson demonstrates how God provided an occasion for his people to meet together as a family of Israelites for the giving of thanks, fellowship, forgiveness, and spiritual dedication. This study is about the Feast of Weeks, which is an unusual term for a one-day celebration. Some of its features made it the preferred event for those who lived at great distances from Jerusalem.”

Just one more word before we enter the study. Of all the feasts and celebrations, Jehovah placed a very high priority upon three of these Feast Holy Days. Note His command in Deuteronomy 16:16 and Exodus 23:14-17: Feast of Unleavened Bread, Weeks or Pentecost, and Tabernacles. All the males of Israel were to appear and not come empty-handed.

Our lesson this week focuses on one of those feasts. **The Memorial of Thanksgiving – Pentecost (The Feast of Weeks).**

### **Anticipated Power Points.**

- **Specific Timing of the Feast. Leviticus 23:15-16a**
- **Sacrificial Offerings of the Feast. Leviticus 23:16b-21**
- **Symbol of Benevolence in the Feast. Leviticus 23:22**

## **LESSON OUTLINE**

### **I. Specific Timing of the Feast. Leviticus 23:15-16a**

The timing of this feast was unique for as most Israelite holy days were counted by Sabbaths, they were to count seven weeks or 49 days from Feast of Unleavened Bread, then on the 50<sup>th</sup> day, a Sunday, would be the celebration of Feast of Weeks, or Pentecost. This was a one-day celebration which fell at the end of their grain harvest season.

According to Dr. John MacArthur: “The Feast of Weeks (May/June) dedicated the first fruits of the wheat harvest (Ex. 23:16; Num. 28:26-31; Deut. 16:9-12). It occurred on the 50<sup>th</sup> day after the Sabbath preceding the Feast of First fruits. It is also known as the Feast of Harvest (Ex. 23:16) and Pentecost, Gr. for 50 (Acts 2:1).”

### **II. Sacrificial Offerings of the Feast. Leviticus 23:16b-21**

During this Feast several offerings were presented. Note:

#### **A. Wave offering. vv. 16b-17**

Baked with leaven into loaves that would be given to the Priest. (No leaven could be burned on God’s altar.) Lev. 2:11

#### **B. Burnt offering. v. 18**

Ten animals representing “the idea of consecration and dedication.” (Standard Commentary)

#### **C. Sin offering. v. 19a**

“Atonement is the dominant factor in a sin offering. Such an offering presupposes that the covenant relationship has been broken and needs to be renewed.” (Standard Commentary). This offering is offered for sins that were unknown and not deliberate, or simply, demonstrating the unworthiness of an individual.

#### **D. Peace offering. vv. 19-20**

The two lambs were offered with loaves waved before the Lord and given unto the Priests. This act is only done this way during the Feast of Weeks. Numbers 10:10, *“Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the LORD your God.”*

#### **E. An act of observance for all. v. 21**

By allowing everyone to participate meant because the day was Holy, all were to have the opportunity to worship and celebrate, even slaves. God is deserving of praise and worship by all.

### **III. Symbol of Benevolence in the Feast. Leviticus 23:22**

According to the Expositor and Illuminator: “As part of the harvest feast regulations, God reminded the Israelites that when they harvested their crops, they were to leave grain standing in the corners and edges of the fields. If harvesters accidentally dropped grain, they were to leave it. This grain was for the poor and for foreigners living in Israel. God cares about the poor, but He did require that they work for this free food. They had to glean from the fields themselves.”

## **CLOSING**

When one reflects on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2, this was the fulfilling day of the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost that we have been studying. Remember this feast represented God’s full harvest when through His Holy Spirit we saw the ingathering of God’s family through the working of His Holy Spirit. (Read Acts 2:41-47). Truly this memorial feast is a great time of thanksgiving!

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**Looking Ahead:**

**February 21, 2016**

**Leviticus 16:11-19**

**Please join us each Wednesday at noon at Bibleway where you can ask questions and make comments as Pastor Davis teaches the weekly Sunday School Lesson. All are welcome!**

