COUNTING PENTECOST

COUNTING PENTECOST

THE COUNTING OF THE OMER

RANDY & LEILANI CUMMINGS

Copyright 2012 – GodStuff

This book was produced using PressBooks.com, and PDF rendering was done by PrinceXML.

Contents

Preface xi

Main Body

Introduction
I Will Write on Their Hearts
Leilani 3

This Day in History 5
He is Risen
First Fruits
Leilani 7

Day Two
The Race Begins
Leilani 9

Day Three
The Lord Shall Ever be thy Guide
Randy 11

Day Four
I Shall be Glorified
Randy 13

Day Five
Weep Not
Leilani 15

Day Six
Pharaoh's pursuit
Randy 17

Day Seven
Where is your faith?
Randy 19

Day Eight
Sin vs Righteousness
Leilani 23

Day Nine
Doubting?
Leilani 27

Day Ten
The First Sabbath
Randy 29

Day Eleven
Road to Emmaus
Leilani 31

Day Twelve
Do You Love Me More?
Leilani 35

Day Thirteen
Counting Fifty
Randy 39

Day Fourteen
We'll take the mark
Leilani 41

Day Fifteen
The Fortunate 500
Leilani 45

Day Sixteen
How Many?!?
Randy 49

Day Seventeen
Let All the People Praise You
Leilani 53

Day Eighteen
What About the Rabble?
Leilani 55

Day Nineteen
Psalm 67
Leilani 57

Day Twenty
An Answer to Prayer
Randy 59

Day Twenty One
Forgiven
Leilani 61

Day Twenty Two
You shall teach them diligently to your sons
Randy 63

Day Twenty Three
Keep Waiting
Leilani 67

Day Twenty Four
Pride goeth before destruction
Randy 71

Day Twenty Five
Nevertheless He looked upon their distress When He heard their cry
Leilani 73

Day Twenty Six
Halfway to Where?
Leilani 77

Day Twenty Seven
and with the blast of Your nostrils
Randy 79

Day Twenty Eight
A Very Good Guide
Randy 83

Day Twenty Nine
The Light
Leilani 87

Day Thirty
The Wilderness of Sin
Randy 89

Day Thirty One
Our Daily Bread
Randy 91

Day Thirty Two
Bread of Life
I 93

Day Thirty Three
From where shall my help come?
Leilani 95

Day Thirty Four
This Testimony is True!
Leilani 97

Day Thirty Five
Open Your Mind
Leilani 99

Day Thirty Six
Waiting
Leilani 103

Day Thirty Seven
Preparation Day
Randy 107

Day Thirty Eight
Today is a Sabbath to the LORD
Randy 109

Day Thirty Nine
Why do you tempt the Lord?
Randy 111

Day Forty
The Ascension
Leilani 113

Day Forty One
WOW
Randy 117

Day Forty Two
A Strand of Three
Leilani 119

Day Forty Three
One Mind
Leilani 123

Day Forty Four
Honor Thy Father-in-Law
Randy 125

Day Forty Six
The Lord's Special Treasure
Randy 129

Day Forty Five
Of One Heart
Randy 131

Day Forty Seven
People Get Ready
Leilani 133

Day Forty Eight
Peter's Sermon
Leilani 135

Day Forty Nine
New Covenant
Leilani 139

Day Fifty
Suddenly a Noise from Heaven!
Leilani 141

After Pentecost
Whatever Happened to Holiness
Leilani 145

Imported Chapters

Preface

First and foremost, we just want to say that we aren't creative writers, able to turn a phrase, or even get our thoughts across in a coherent and logical way. But, we just can't help share what we find in God's word. Secondly, we aren't legalists—looking for more or a different set of traditions, to impose on ourselves or others. We are simply seeking the heart of the Father. We are just beginning to discover the significance of God's Holy Days and want to share how much we are enjoying what we are finding in His word.

We wrote this daily 'Counting of the Omer' during the Pentecost season of 2012, calling it 'Counting Pentecost'. The year before, Leilani saw a connection between the Holy Spirit being given on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 and God coming down on Mount Sinai and revealing Himself to the Israelites, in Exodus 19. She wrote a blog post about it, it is included here as an Introduction.

Pentecost, is the Greek name for the Hebrew festival, "Feast of Weeks". God told the Israelites to start counting fifty days from the day after the Sabbath that follows Passover. The Jews today call this the 'Counting of the Omer'. As Passover approched last year we realized that the year 2012 was special, in that the beginning day of the counting, sometimes called First Fruits and the day that Christians celebrate Jesus' resurrection, were on the same day. That gave us the idea to blog everyday during the Pentecostal season, in a dual timeline fashion to highlight the similarities between the Pentateuch and the Gospel.

It is Jewish custom to do a reading each evening during those fifty days. That was another reason we wanted to try and write something every day for 50 days. We didn't realize what a huge task we set before

ourselves, trying to write something each day, sounded easy in the planning, but when you come home from a hard day and find a blank sheet of paper staring at you…

This e-book is a collection of those blog posts as they were written under our self-imposed deadline. In 2012 we were publishing them at the website http://GodStuff.Ablurk.com and sharing them on facebook for our website readers to follow along.

This year 2013, the counting will not match up like it did in 2012. The first chapter "This Day in History" was written on Saturday April 7th, which was also Passover. So the first day of the counting was on Resurrection Day, Sunday, April 8th, which is when we posted, "He is Risen". This year Passover is March 26 th and we like to start counting on First Fruits, Resurrection Day, March 31st. So, to count along this year, you can start on the day after Passover, March 27th, or you could start reading the 'Introduction' on Good Friday, then "This Day in History" on Saturday, and begin the 'counting' with "He is Risen", on Sunday, March 31st.

Besides this e-book we have two other ways to view the devotional online. One way is at an online flip-book at http://books.ablurk.com/counting-pentecost or at our website http://GodStuff.Ablurk.com/topics/counting-the-omer – where the comments that readers added at the time in 2012–and the discussion continues, come join in–please come visit the website, become a member, join discusions, write your own thoughts and share them.

Whichever way you chose to read this little devotional, we hope and pray, that God will be honored and you will be lifted up.

Randy & Leilani
March 26th 2013

Main Body

Introduction

I Will Write on Their Hearts

Leilani

"Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, " I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Jeremiah 31

I believe this prophecy was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost, fifty days after Passover, in Acts 2. But since I had never studied the Old Testament Feasts, I didn't grasp the similarities.

The following excerpt from Judaism 101 is a simple explanation of Shavu'ot / Festival of Weeks / Pentecost. Leviticus 23

> The period from Passover to Shavu'ot is a time of great anticipation. We count each of the days from the second day of Passover to the day before Shavu'ot, 49 days or 7 full weeks, hence the name of the festival. See ~~The Counting of the Omer~~. The counting reminds us of the important connection between Passover and Shavu'ot: Passover freed us physically from bondage, but the giving of the Torah on Shavu'ot redeemed us spiritually from our bondage to idolatry and immorality. Shavu'ot is also known as Pentecost, because it falls on the 50th day.

Exodus 19 starts out with the Israelites coming to Mount Sinai. They have left Egypt, crossed the Red Sea, God gives them water, He gives them manna/bread, He gives them meat, He gives them the day of rest, He gives them more water, He utterly blots out even the memory of their enemies. Now it's been fifty days since Passover and the Lord wants to come down and talk to His people.

In verses 19:18 through 20:18 He does come down, and Mount Sinai was all in smoke because the Lord descended on it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently. To me it sounds a lot like what happened in Acts 2. When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

When I went to share this it was so hard not to just go on and on about all the layers of meaning the feasts add to what God has done, is doing and will do in the future. In between the Passover and Pentecost is the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and there is so much in that feast and the events that have occurred during it, not the least of which was the Resurrection of Christ. Well looks like I'm going on and on, again… anyone…anyone…

This Day in History

14 Abib 1313 BC

> Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, "Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the Lord as you have said.
> Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also."
> And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste. For they said, "We shall all be dead."
> So the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders.
> Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing.
> And the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians. Exo 12:31-36
>
> And it came to pass, on that very same day, that the Lord brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt according to their armies. Exo 12:51

14 Abib/Nisan 31AD

> Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.
> And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?
> And some of them stood there, when they heard it, said, This man calleth Elijah.
> And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and

filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink.
And the rest said, Let be; let us see whether Elijah cometh to save him.
And Jesus cried again with a loud voice, and yielded up his spirit.
And behold, the veil of the temple was rent in two from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake; and the rocks were rent; Mat 27:45-51



Photo by Leilani - Apr 7th 2012

The Passover Moon, all the better for God's flock to make their great Exodus out of Egypt and for Temple soldiers, Chief Priests and elders running around in the garden of Gethsemane after supper.

He is Risen

First Fruits

Leilani

15 Abib/Nissan 31 AD

The women arrive at the tomb and find it empty.
The stone has been rolled away and an angel
tells them that Christ has already risen!
(Mat 28:1-8; Luke 24:1-8; John 20:1)



Very early on the first day of the week, they *came to the tomb when the sun had risen. They were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" Looking up, they *saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large. Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed. And he *said to them, "Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene,

who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him. "But go, tell His disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you.'" They went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. Mark 16:2-8

15 Abib 1313 BC

And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, beside children. And a great rabble went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, even very much cattle. Exo 12:37 -38

Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for Joseph had made the sons of Israel solemnly swear, saying, "God will surely take care of you, and you shall carry my bones from here with you." Exo 13:19

"Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'When you enter the land which I am going to give to you and reap its harvest, then you shall bring in the sheaf of the *first fruits* of your harvest to the priest. Lev 23:10

'You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to the LORD. It is to be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwelling places. Lev 23:16

Day Two

The Race Begins

Leilani

16 Abib/Nissan 31 AD

Mary went running—she found Peter and John, telling them that the Lord was not in the tomb and was nowhere to be found. I love John's account of him and Peter running to the tomb. They were running together, but the "other disciple" (I guess that is how John refers to himself, LoL), ran ahead faster than Peter! Maybe it's a guy thing. But, I think that is what makes John's gospel so endearing. He is able to share the human-ness of Jesus, his love of Him and his "rivalry" with Peter…all in a real life loving way.



I love this picture by Liz Lemon Swindle – called ~~"Hope"~~

John 20:2-10

So she *ran and *came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and *said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know

where they have laid Him." So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first;
5 and stooping and looking in, he *saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. And so Simon Peter also *came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he *saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. So the disciples went away again to their own homes.

Day Three

The Lord Shall Ever be thy Guide

Randy

17 Abib 1313BC



Now when Pharaoh had let the people go, God did not lead them by the way of the land of the Philistines, even though it was near; for God said, "The people might change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt." Hence God led the people around by the way of the wilderness to the Red Sea; and the sons of Israel went up in martial array from the land of Egypt. The LORD was going before them in a pillar of cloud by day to lead them on the way, and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. They baked the dough which they had brought out of Egypt into cakes of unleavened bread. For it had not become leavened, since they were driven out

> of Egypt and could not delay, nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves. Exo 12:39; 13:17-21

17 Abib/Nissan 31AD

> …and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews… John 20:19

God knows our weakness' and fears, and just as He was with His children in the pillar of fire, He is there at that darkest of hours…He comes to bring His peace, encouragement and power

> Jesus came and stood in their midst and *said to them, "Peace be with you." So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and *said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. John 20:19, 21-22

Day Four

I Shall be Glorified

Randy

18 Abib 1313BC

Pharaoh, who had only given official permission for the Jews to to leave for three days, was informed by secret agents whom he sent along with the Jews, that they had no intention of returning.

Meanwhile the Lord and Moses plotted

> "Thus I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will chase after you; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD."
>
> When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his servants had a change of heart toward the people, and they said, "What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?"
>
> So he made his chariot ready and took his people with him; and he took six hundred select chariots, and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. Exo 14:4-7



Day Five

Weep Not

Leilani

19 Abib/Nissan 31 AD



Jesus *said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she *said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." Jesus *said to her, "Mary!" She turned and *said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher). Jesus *said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'" John 20:15-17

Because Mary stayed behind, weeping, she was the first to see the risen Lord! But have you ever had a problem with this passage? Why does Jesus tell her to "stop clinging to Me", or in other versions, "touch Me not", or "do not hold onto Me". In all of the 18 versions I looked at, it always had this tone of Jesus saying, hands off. That has always struck me as out of character of Him. He always went against the norm of the times and treated the women as equals. Now look at this commentary

I found in the *Treasury of Scriptural Knowledge* and tell me what you think:

> Touch: Or rather, "embrace me not," or, "cling not to me," (μη [Strong's G3361], μου [Strong's G3450], απτον), "Spend no more time with me now in joyful gratulations. For I am not yet immediately going to ascend to my Father; you will have several opportunities of seeing me again; but go and tell my disciples that I shall depart to my Father and your Father."

And when we read further into the gospel accounts, He goes on to show Himself to His disciples and hundreds of others for 40 more days. Even saying to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." So, I don't think Jesus meant, you're not allowed to touch Me, before I ascend to the Father, when clearly He is touching and being touched, eating with and being with, all those that were fortunate to see Him before He went and sat at the right hand of God. I hope this little insight brings you as much joy as it did me. Happy counting!

The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge has been an enduring cross-reference resource for Bible students worldwide. This highly respected and nearly exhaustive compilation of cross-references was developed by R.A. Torrey from references in the Rev. Thomas Scott's Commentary and the Comprehensive Bible. With nearly 500,000 cross-references it is the most thorough source available. I just recently found this "treasure", the one I use came with the E-Sword program that you can download for free. It has so many resources, information and applications, it has been a real blessing.

Day Six

Pharaoh's pursuit

Randy

20 Abib 1313BC



Pharaoh's pursuit of the Jews ended on this day, on the shores of the Red Sea.
A terrified Jewish nation divides into several factions. Some advocated mass suicide, others wanted to surrender and return to Egypt, the bolder ones prepared to battle the Egyptians, while others advised the nation to pray.

> And the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth,

before Baal-zephon.
And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians were marching after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto Jehovah.

And Moses said unto the people, Jehovah will fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace. Exo 14:9-14

Day Seven

Where is your faith?

Randy

The Lord is a Man of War! The Lord is His name!

Why do you cry to Me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward!

21 Abib 1313 BC

> And the LORD said unto Moses, Lift up your rod and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, and the Israelites shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.
>
> And the Angel of God Who went before the host of Israel moved and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before them and stood behind them,
>
> And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and Jehovah caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all the night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.
>
> And the sons of Israel went through the midst of the sea on the dry land, and the waters were like a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.
>
> And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.

> And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses. Exo 14



On the eve of the seventh day after the Exodus, the Children of Israel found themselves trapped between the Egyptian army and cavalry pursuing them from behind and the waters of the Red Sea before them. God commanded Moses: "Speak to the Children of Israel, that they should move forward!"

Nachshon ben Aminadav of the tribe of Judah was the first to jump into the sea; the water split, and "the children of Israel walked across on the dry land in the midst of the sea." All that night, a pillar of fire intervened between the Egyptians and the Israelites. When the Egyptians followed, the waters returned to their natural state and place and drowned them. The Children of Israel sang the "Song at the Sea" in praise and gratitude to God.

The Lord is my Strength and my Song, and He has become my Salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise Him,
my father's God, and I will exalt Him.



Jehovah is a Man of War! Jehovah is His name!

Exo 15

Day Eight

Sin vs Righteousness

Leilani

22 Abib/Nissan 1313 BC

> And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day throughout your generations by an ordinance for ever. Exo 12:17
>
> "For seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a feast to the LORD. Exo 13:6

22 Nissan 31 AD

> Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. 1Co 5:8

This feast has so much symbolism in it, I don't know where to begin! Partially because it's part of the Passover and First Fruits and then ending with Pentecost. In the Old Testament story we see that Egypt represents bondage, slavery, sin. Reading the Exodus story we come to see that although getting the Jews out of Egypt was a miraculous task, getting Egypt out of the Jews was much more daunting! And 1300 years later God's plan came to fruition in Christ. Celebrating this feast gives us the chance to remember the "Egypt" He has taken each of us out of. To me that is the most precious miracle each and every one of us can remember personally.

When you consider the nature of both leavened and unleavened bread, you can see several spiritual comparisons with sin and righteousness.

• Living in sin is easy; being righteous is hard. Because of its soft texture, leavened bread is easier to eat than unleavened bread, likewise, going the way of sin is easier than living righteously (Matt. 7:13-14). Obeying God is difficult, because you still have a carnal nature that wants to sin (Rom 7:14-25).

• Sin exalts the self, righteousness builds humility. Leaven puffs bread up. The same is true of sin. It puffs up in the sinner his desire to exalt himself, rather than allow God to rule him (Ps 10:3).

• Sin's pleasures are temporary; the benefits of righteousness endure. Leavened bread, left for very long soon becomes hard and moldy. Unleavened bread lasts much longer. Spiritually, the pleasures of sin soon pass away (Job 20:12-16) the end result is eternal death (Rom 6:23). Righteousness in contrast, brings both temporal and eternal blessings (Deut. 28:1-11, Ps. 15)

• Sin spreads easily, righteousness is built slowly. It doesn't take long for leaven to spread throughout a loaf of bread. This is the way sin is, it spreads rapidly (Gal. 5:9), whereas building right character takes a lifetime.

• Sin is based on deceit; truth is the basis for righteousness. What you see is not what you get with a loaf of leavened bread. Air pockets give the impression that there's more in the loaf than there really is. Sin also appears to be something it isn't, deceiving the sinner into thinking he is getting something worthwhile when he is really earning the death penalty (Heb. 3:13). With righteousness there is no deceit, only truth (Ps. 119:151, 172).

• Sin is more prevalent than righteousness. Most people prefer leavened bread because they find its taste more desirable. Is it really better? Not necessarily — just more common. People are accustomed to it. Spiritually, the same is true. Most people prefer to live in sin. But you must reject sin, and choose to live a righteous life (Deut. 30:19).

• Sin builds a false image. righteousness builds true character. As you have seen, leaven gives a false impression. So does the sinner. He may appear impressive on the outside, but is he? Read Matthew 23:27. True character is based on much more than outward appearance, It involves righteous living based on obedience to God's Word (I John 2:5).

God is showing, through the analogy of leaven, that He wants us to escape the clutches of sin and lead righteous lives. — George M Kackos



Day Nine

Doubting?

Leilani

23 Abib/Nissan 31 AD

After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus *came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then He *said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus *said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."John 20:26-29



"Doubting Thomas" – Caravaggio 1603

I remember reading this passage as a new Christian for the first time, "Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed", and thinking, Jesus is talking about me! Wow that still blows me away every time I read it!

Have you ever been called, or felt like, a "doubting Thomas"? We just watched 'The Ten Commandments' the other night, and Moses seems almost obsessed with his desire to see and hear God for himself. In the Bible we read that even after all his "face to face" time with God, Moses kept striving to have more of God (Exo 33:13-23) In the beginning of the movie, Moses comes across as a doubter – poetic license maybe. But I see that God is not unwilling to prove Himself to us. What parent doesn't want their children to beg them to have more time, more hugs, more love? I think the Father loves to have us beg for more. Jesus says, "*Keep* asking, and it will be given to you; *keep* seeking, and you will find; *keep* knocking, and the door will be opened to you. Matt 7:7 CJB

> There is a third-century work, the *Acts of Thomas,* thought by most scholars to have originated in Syrian Christianity. It tells how Judas Thomas, "Twin of the Messiah', was given India when the apostles divided the world by casting lots. Thomas, though went as a slave, was responsible for the conversion of many well-know Indians. The ascetic element is again present in Thomas' emphasis on virginity. In the end he was imprisoned and martyred. Holman Bible Dictionary

Day Ten

The First Sabbath

Randy

24 Abib 1313 BC

According to Jewish tradition, two days after the Israelites crossed the Red Sea they arrived in Marah. There they received several commandments; one of them was to observe the Sabbath. The first Sabbath was observed on the 24th of Abib.

> And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water.
> Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah.
> And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"
> So he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them. And there He tested them, and said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you."
> Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters. Exo 15

The Sabbath

Six days a week we wrestle with the world, wringing profit from the earth; on the Sabbath we especially care for the seed of eternity planted in the soul. The world has our hands, but our soul belongs to Someone Else. Six days a week we seek to dominate the world, on the seventh day we try to dominate the self.

The Sabbath, thus, is more than an armistice, more than an interlude; it is a profound conscious harmony of man and the world, a sympathy for all things and a participation in the spirit that unites what is below and what is above. - *Abraham Joshua Heschel*

It has taken me a couple of years but I am almost able now to turn off my six day "wrestle with the world" and really enjoy the gift that God meant the Sabbath to be.



Day Eleven

Road to Emmaus

Leilani

25 Abib/Nissan 31 AD

> And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them. But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they stood still, looking sad. One of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?" And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him. "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened. "But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. "Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see." And He said to

> them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther. But they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is getting toward evening, and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them. When He had reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?" Luke 24: 13-31

We use a very cool audio tool we downloaded from Bible Gateway. It is the audio ~~Bible with Max McLean~~ reading. He reads from the King James version. We use it for our Bible devotion in the mornings, he reads and we follow along with two other versions. But how cool would it have been to have Jesus explain the Scriptures to you, starting with Moses and all the prophets! I bet their hearts were burning! We've all had those times when while we're searching the Scriptures, and you feel like God has saved that portion just for you.

> There are a lot of people who look for excitement in their religious experiences. They look for emotional highs. They look to discover some kind of a miracle or phenomena that they can get all excited about; an angel appeared, or some other type of phenomena. These men said, "Did not our hearts burn when He talked to us and opened the scriptures to us?" Chuck Smith

In this 21st century we're a pretty desensitized bunch. I think we miss His still small voice (1 Kings 19:12) I believe Christians in America

today have to discipline themselves to *dedicate* time, to listening for God's voice. We are constantly being bombarded with a barrage of images and sounds — TV, Radio, I-Pods, Video Games, Cell Phones, etc., etc., etc. Some of us never have any quiet and/or silence, except when we're sleeping, and sometimes not even then. To me it is a phenomenon and a miracle every time the Holy Spirit is able to get through all the world's chatter and we experience that *burning in our hearts*.

> Emmaus: Emmaus was situated, according to the testimony both of Luke and Josephus, sixty furlongs from Jerusalem, that is, about seven miles and a half. It has generally been confounded with Emmaus, a city of Judah, afterwards called Nicopolis; but Reland has satisfactorily shown that they were distinct places; the latter, according to the old Itinerary of Palestine, being situated 10 miles from Lydda, and 22 miles from Jerusalem. D'Arvieux states, that going from Jerusalem to Rama, he took the right from the high road to Rama, at some little distance from Jerusalem, and "travelled a good league over rocks and flint stones, to the end of the valley of terebinthine trees," until he reached Emmaus; which "seems, by the ruins which surround it, to have been formerly larger that it was in our Saviour's time. The Christians, while masters of the Holy Land, re-established it a little, and built several churches. Emmaus was not worth the trouble of having come out of the way to see it." Treasury of Scriptural Knowledge



Abraham Bloemaert – The Emmaus Disciples – 1622

Day Twelve

Do You Love Me More?

Leilani

26 Abib/Nissan 31 AD

Third Time Jesus shows Himself to His disciples

> After these things Jesus manifested Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He manifested Himself in this way. Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. Simon Peter *said to them, "I am going fishing." They *said to him, "We will also come with you." They went out and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing. But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. So Jesus *said to them, "Children, you do not have any fish, do you?" They answered Him, "No." And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a catch." So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish. Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved *said to Peter, "It is the Lord." So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped for work), and threw himself into the sea. But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not far from the land, but about one hundred yards away, dragging the net full of fish. So when they got out on the land, they *saw a charcoal fire already laid and fish placed on it, and bread. Jesus *said to them, "Bring some of the

fish which you have now caught." Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many the net was not torn. Jesus *said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples ventured to question Him, "Who are You?" knowing that it was the Lord. Jesus *came and *took the bread and *gave it to them, and the fish likewise. This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead. So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus *said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He *said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He *said to him, "Tend My lambs." He *said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He *said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He *said to him, "Shepherd My sheep." He *said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus *said to him, "Tend My sheep. "Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go." Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He *said to him, "Follow Me!" Peter, turning around, *saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" So Peter seeing him *said to Jesus, "Lord, and what about this man?"

22 Jesus *said to him, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!" Therefore this saying went out among the brethren that that disciple would not die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but only, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to

> you?" This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and wrote these things, and we know that his testimony is true. And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they *were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself *would not contain the books that *would be written. John 21

There is a song by DC Talk called 'What if I Stumble'. It begins, "The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today
Is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, Then walk out the door and deny him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable." The recurring stanza is, *"What if I stumble, what if I fall? What if I lose my step and I make fools of us all? Will the love continue when my walk becomes a crawl? What if I stumble, and what if I fall?"* What we need to see in what Jesus is saying to Peter and to us, is that it is His grace that enables us to continue, no matter what we did, we have *sincere repentance* to bring us right back to a right standing with Him.



> Our Lord addressed Peter by his original name, as if he had forfeited that of Peter through his denying him. He now answered, Thou knowest that I love thee; but without professing to love Jesus more than others. We must not be surprised to have our sincerity called into question, when we ourselves have done that which makes it doubtful. Every remembrance of past sins, even pardoned sins, renews the sorrow of a true penitent. Conscious of integrity, Peter solemnly appealed to Christ, as knowing all things, even the secrets of his heart. It is well when our falls and mistakes make us more humble and watchful. The sincerity of our love to God must be brought to the test; and it behoves us to inquire with earnest, preserving prayer to the heart-searching God, to examine

and prove us, whether we are able to stand this test. *Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary 1662 – 1714*

Day Thirteen

Counting Fifty

Randy

27 Abib 1313 AD

> And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service? Exo 12:26
> Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye are come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring the sheaf of the first-fruits of your harvest unto the priest: Lev 23:10
> And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave-offering; seven sabbaths shall there be complete:
> even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meal-offering unto the Lord Lev 23:15-16

Jewish tradition says that the counting is intended to remind us of the link between Passover, which commemorates the Exodus, and Shavu'ot or Pentecost, which commemorates the giving of the Torah. It reminds us that the redemption from slavery was not complete until we received the Torah.

I think Pentecost is Greek for "fiftieth day", but that is just because that is the best I have come up with. All of the definitions are talking about post Jesus, I have been trying to figure out how the word was used before, as it seems certain that it was a holy day that the Apostles were used to celebrating, I thought it may just mean "50" in Greek, but I can't find any Greek etymology like we have the Latin etymology.



Day Fourteen

We'll take the mark

Leilani

28 Abib/Nissan 1313 AD

For several hundred years the Jews cried out to God to save them, to release them from the bondage of their Godless captors. They were not only slaves, but they were surrounded with a people and culture that believed in many gods – not the One true God. So they were not able to fully worship Him. Many of the Egyptians customs and rituals were not only strictly forbidden to the Israelites, but at the time just before the deliverance, there was an edict in the land to kill all male babies born to them. In movies it's portrayed that the Egyptian soldiers do this killing, but in Exo 1:15-22 we are told it is the midwives that are to do the killing!

But God hears their cries and remembers His word, that He spoke to Abraham, *"I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, to own in perpetuity; and I will be their God." Gen 17:8* So God sends Moses, and the people 'bowed low and worshiped', that their deliverer had been sent. But, Pharaoh's reaction to this news is less than happy. He increases their work-load, the people grumble against Moses. Exo 5:21 God says, *'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. 'Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. Exo 6:6,*7 But they didn't listen because they were so despondent. But God did just what He said he would do and the Egyptians not only let them go, they gave them all their silver, gold and clothing!

Of course we know Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he came after them like a roaring lion. Again the Jews grumble against Moses – '*"Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." Exo 14:12* Of course God saves them with His 'outstretched arm'. They go a little further and are again grumbling at Moses. Exo 15:24 God gives them water and again they grumble…Ex16:2,3 Now, God has freed them from slavery, destroyed their enemies, given them water, given them bread and meat. So now they've been traveling some time and their grumbling turns to quarreling with Moses, demanding water, testing the Lord. Exo17:2

When I read these stories I wonder how could they be so ungrateful, doubting, grumblers. I only have to look in the mirror. Paul reminds us not to grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. he goes on to say that those things happened to them as an example for our instruction. 1 Cor 10:10-13

God sent Moses to bring the Israelites, purchased with the blood of all the firstborn, out of Egypt- Egypt represents – sin – bondage –slavery – hopelessness.

God sent Jesus to bring us out of our sin, bondage, slavery, hopelessness – purchased by His own firstborn Son's blood

Pharaoh and his army represents – Satan – he was unwilling to let God's people go. He chased them like a roaring lion.

When we become sons and daughters of God, Satan and his demons, his army are unwilling to let us go, and they continue to chase us.

But , "The Lord is our strong defender; he is the one who has saved us. He is our God, and we will praise him, our father's God, and we will sing about his greatness. Jehovah is a warrior; Jehovah is his name!" *Song of Moses* Exo 15:2,3 GNT



Michelangelo's – *"Last Judgment"* - Sistine Chapel

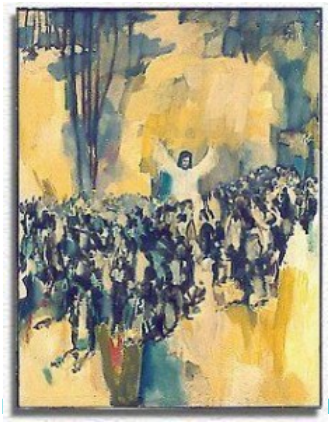
Day Fifteen

The Fortunate 500

Leilani

29 Abib/Nissan 31 AD

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. 1 Cor 15: 1-8



I found this interesting commentary from Chuck Smith -

So Paul, first of all, declares that this is the heart of the gospel. The gospel that Paul preached, he preached the gospel that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures. The scriptures that he would have to be referring to would be the Old Testament scriptures, because the New Testament was not yet written. So where in the Old Testament does it speak of the death of Jesus Christ? Many places. Psalm 22 , a description of death by crucifixion. Isaiah 52-53. That He was buried and rose again according to the scriptures on the third day…now this presents a little more difficult problem. Where in the scriptures does it speak about Jesus rising again the third day?

When they asked Jesus for a sign, He said, "a wicked and an adulterous generation seeks after a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale so shall the Son on Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth Matt 12:39-40. And so the third day and rising again, Jonah, perhaps, as sort of an example and yet it's really hard to tie that in a very definite way.

But if we go back to the book of Genesis, we hear God saying to Abraham, "Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac and offer him as a sacrifice on the mount that I will show you." Gen 22:2. Now, when God said to Abraham take now thy son thine only son, we have an equivalent to that in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son." And you remember that Abraham gathered his servants and Isaac, and they began to journey from the area of Hebron towards Jerusalem. And they had journeyed for three days when they came into view of the mount that the Lord showed unto Abraham. Mount Moriah, which is in Jerusalem. During that three-day journey . . . and Isaac is an interesting type of Christ in the Old Testament. During that three-day journey in the mind of Abraham, Isaac was as dead.

We read in Hebrews 11 that by faith Abraham offered Isaac believing or knowing that God, if necessary, would raise him from the dead. For God had said, "Through Isaac shall thy seed be called," and Isaac at this point did not have any children. And so Abraham had such confidence in the promise of God that through Isaac shall thy seed be called that he was willing to obey the Lord, if necessary, to offer him as a sacrifice, knowing that God would raise him from the dead. So it was Abraham's faith in the resurrection that caused him to be willing to obey this command of God.

As they left the servants and journeyed together, father and son, toward Mount Moriah, Isaac said, "Dad, we're missing something. We've got the fire and the wood for the sacrifice, but we don't have any sacrifice. Where's the sacrifice, Dad?" And Abraham said, "Son, the Lord will provide Himself a sacrifice." What an interesting phraseology. He didn't say, The Lord will provide a sacrifice for Himself, but, The Lord will provide Himself a sacrifice. In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen. And so they journeyed together, and Abraham built the altar and he placed Isaac thereon. And as he raised the knife, the Lord said, "Okay, Abraham, far enough. Now I know that you will not withhold from Me. Behold there is a ram caught in the thicket. Go ahead and offer the ram as a sacrifice."

Now the interesting thing is Abraham left the servants. He said to the servants, "You wait here, and I and the lad will go and will sacrifice and will come again." Abraham told the servants, "We're coming back. I and the lad are going we're going to sacrifice and we're going to come again." Faith in the promise of God, "through Isaac shall thy seed be called." He knew that somehow, someway, if necessary, God would even raise him from the dead. And thus, the belief in the resurrection after three days, dead in his mind, in that he had to sacrifice him according to the commandment of the Lord.

> And Abraham offered the ram as the sacrifice and he declared, "Jehovah-Jireh." He called the name of the place Jehovah-Jireh, for the Lord will provide. And then again he prophesied, "For in the mount of the Lord it shall be seen." Interesting! Not, "It was seen, I saw it, I've seen it," but future, "It shall be seen." Very interesting that 2,000 years later on the top of Mount Moriah, the very same mount where Abraham offered Isaac, God provided Himself a sacrifice. And God's only begotten Son was crucified on Mount Moriah in the spot where Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice. And so Abraham was only in a play act drama, play acting what God would do in the future and prophesied of that day in the future when God would provide Himself the sacrifice. "In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen," and it was. – Chuck Smith

I believe there are other Old Testament scriptures that speak about the Messiah rising on the third day….anyone know off the top of their head which ones they are?

Day Sixteen

How Many?!?

Randy

30 Abib 1313BC

My minds eye has never grasped the "multitudes" that left Egypt, probably because of movies, no matter how grand they may try to make the Exodus look, I don't guess, no matter how wide the screen, can they capture the mass of folks that were journeying, like I always say, the book is always better,

> Then the sons of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children.
>
> And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years–on that very same day–it came to pass that all the armies of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt. Exo 12

Most Bible versions say 600,000 men and "children", without going too deeply into Hebrew word studies we can see from the census taken 50 days later at Sinai that the 600,000 is just men fit for military service. Those that only add children say the number is 1million. Keil & Delitzsch's Commentary goes way into the numbers, I will only quote a few lines -

"The numbering at Sinai gave 603,550 males of 20 years old and upwards (Num_1:46), and 22,000 male Levites of a month old and upwards (Num_3:39). Now if we add the wives and children, the total number of the people may have been about two million souls. The multiplication of the seventy souls, who went down with Jacob to Egypt, into this vast multitude, is not so disproportionate to the 430 years of their sojourn there, [ ] 41

grandsons of Jacob who founded families, in addition to the Levites. [ ] Let us assume, that on an average there were three sons and three daughters to every married couple in the first six of these generations, two sons and two daughters in the last four, and we shall find, that in the tenth generation there would be 478,224 sons about the 400th year of the sojourn in Egypt, who would therefore be above 20 years of age at the time of the exodus, whilst 125,326 men of the ninth generation would be still living, so that there would be 478,224 + 125,326, or 603,550 men coming out of Egypt, who were more than 20 years old." K&D

How can we picture in our minds ***2 Million people*** sojourning through the desert, that is incredible. Years ago we saw the Stones at the Los Angeles Coliseum, it seemed like a sea of people, come to find out the Coliseum only holds 93,000, the largest in the US, Wolverines Michigan Stadium, only holds 109,901. So the Israelites would fill the 20 times over!

I looked to see what the population of a medium city like Duluth was and was shocked to find that the 4th largest city in the US has 2,099,451 people, the *4th* largest! The 5th largest, Philadelphia comes in with a measly 1,526,006. So now I am trying to picture everybody in Houston packing up all their belongings on their wagons and onto their backs and onto their asses and heading out across Texas. Then come night they "pitch" camp, that is a whole bunch of tents, it is no wonder that it can't be captured in a movie.

And how about "even very much cattle"?



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_States_cities_by_population

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_stadiums_by_capacity

Day Seventeen

Let All the People Praise You

Leilani

1 Ziv / Iyyar 31 AD

One Jewish tradition during their counting of the omer, is to sing Psalm 67, each night at evening. They see this Psalm as a harvest thanksgiving song, they saw a good harvest as a fulfillment of their covenant with the Lord. Today we can sing it as a praise song for our salvation!

> **Psalm 67 For the choir director; with stringed instruments.**
>
> **A Psalm. A Song.**
>
> God be gracious to us and bless us, And cause His face to shine upon us– Selah.
> That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations.
> Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You.
> Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; For You will judge the peoples with uprightness And guide the nations on the earth. Selah.
> Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You.
> The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us.
> God blesses us, That all the ends of the earth may fear Him.

There are seven stanzas: twice three two-line stanzas, having one of three lines in the middle, which forms the clasp or spangle of the septiad, a circumstance which is strikingly appropriate to the fact that this Psalm is

called "the Old Testament Paternoster" in some of the old expositors. The second half after the three-line stanza beings in Ps 67:6 exactly as the first closed in Ps 67:4. is repeated three times, in order that the whole may bear the impress of the blessing of the priest, which is threefold. K&D



Day Eighteen

What About the Rabble?

Leilani

2 Ziv 1313 BC

But it wasn't just 2 million sons of Jacob that left Egypt, there was a gang of folks that decided to tag along!

> And a great multitude of sundry other nations went also with them, and sheepe and oxen, and exceeding much cattell. Exo 12:38 Bishops
>
> The rabble who were among them had greedy desires; and also the sons of Israel wept again and said, "Who will give us meat to eat? Num 11:4 NASB

"And a mixed multitude went up with them – Some perhaps willing to leave their country, because it was laid waste by the plagues. But probably the greatest part was but a rude unthinking mob, that followed they knew not why:" – Wesley

"Probably the greatest part of this mixed multitude were but a rude unthinking mob, that followed the crowd they knew not why; we afterwards find that they proved a snare to them [...] They were hangers on, who took hold of the skirts of the Jews, and would go with them only because they knew not how to live at home, and were disposed to seek their fortunes (as we say) abroad. These were the scabbed sheep that infected the flock, the leaven that leavened the whole lump. Note, A few factious, discontented, ill-natured people, may do a great deal of mischief in the best societies" – Henry

How much "rabble" do we bring with us or hang on to, after we decide to follow Jesus? For me, my rabble is the past. I was floored the first time I heard these lyrics in a song by Newsboys.

Why you holdin' grudges in old jars?
Why you wanna show off all your scars?
What's it gonna take to lay a few burdens down?
It's a beautiful sound



The Adoration of the Golden Calf Poussin 1633

Day Nineteen

Psalm 67

Leilani

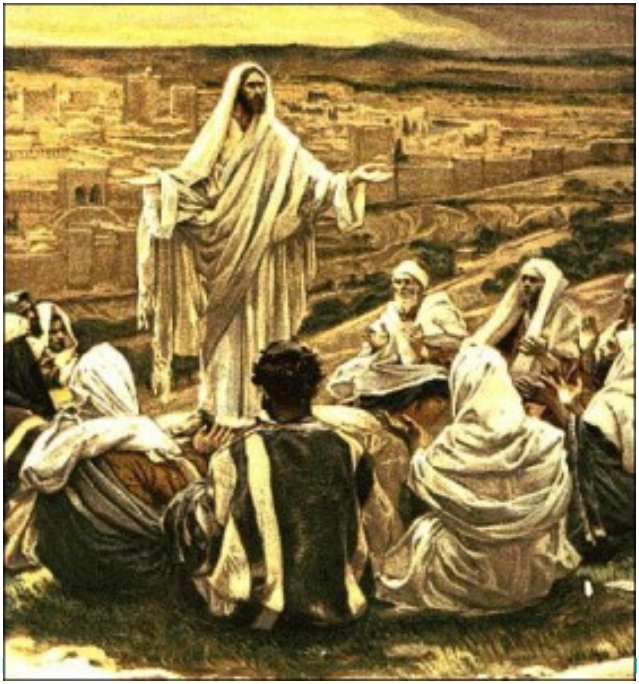
3 Ziv / Iyyar 31 AD

On our day seventeen post we noticed a similarity in Psalm 67 with the "Lord's Prayer"? We don't really know what traditions Jesus was raised with, we are given only a few glimpses, Lk 2:39; Lk 4:16, to name a couple. Mary and Joseph were chosen by God to raise the Son of God, so I'm thinking they were obedient. I think it is fair to say that since He came to fulfill the law, I'm sure He *knew* the Scriptures inside and out. He always says, "it is written". He always quoted the law, prophets and the psalms..

> Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.
> 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. 'Give us this day our daily bread.
> 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
> 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. Matt 6:9-13

God be gracious to us and bless us, And cause His face to shine upon us– Selah.
That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations.
Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You.
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; For You will judge the peoples with uprightness And guide the nations on the earth. Selah.
Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You.

The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us.
God blesses us, That all the ends of the earth may fear Him. Psalm 67



"The Life of Christ" by James Tissot – 1899

Have you ever wondered what "Hallowed" means?

Easton Definition: Hallow

To render sacred, to consecrate (Exo_28:38; Exo_29:1). This word is from the Saxon, and properly means "to make holy." The name of God is "hallowed", i.e., is reverenced as holy (Mat_6:9).

What similarities do you see?

-

Day Twenty

An Answer to Prayer

Randy

4 Ziv 1313 BC

The Israelites in Egypt, miserable with the lives they were leading, prayed to their Lord. He answered with more than they could have dreamed of. Not just freedom and a new land to live in – but riches!

> and the Israelites groaned because of their bondage. They cried out, and their cry for deliverance from slavery rose up to God. – Exo 2:23
>
> "I will grant this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be that when you go, you will not go empty-handed. "But every woman shall ask of her neighbor and the woman who lives in her house, articles of silver and articles of gold, and clothing; and you will put them on your sons and daughters. Thus you will plunder the Egyptians." – Exo 3:21-22
>
> "Speak now in the hearing of the people that each man ask from his neighbor and each woman from her neighbor for articles of silver and articles of gold." […] Now the sons of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, for they had requested from the Egyptians articles of silver and articles of gold, and clothing; […] and the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have their request. Thus they plundered the Egyptians. – Exo 11-12



The Israelites after Crossing the Red Sea – *Simon de Vos*

So the Lord, true to his word, led the Israelites out of Egypt, not only out of bondage but they left loaded down with Gold and Silver…

Has God ever answered your prayers in a way you didn't expect?

–

Day Twenty One

Forgiven

Leilani

21 Ziv / iyyar 31 AD

We love God because He first loved us 1 John 4:19 . Without His love we could not love any one let alone God. After telling the parable in Luke 7 of the two debtors, Jesus goes on to bring attention to the woman who is named only as a sinner, most assume she is Mary Magdalene, she has been quietly crying, washing Jesus' feet with her tears and drying them with her hair and anointing them with perfume. This alabaster jar full of costly perfume, has cost her more than money, it has cost her, her standing in the community, her chance of ever marrying, ever having legitimate children, or grand-children, it has cost her everything, it represents her shame. Jesus says that those who have been forgiven much, love much–the one who has forgiven them.



I love the LORD, because He hears My voice and my supplications.
Because He has inclined His ear to me, Therefore I shall call upon Him as long as I live.
The cords of death encompassed me And the terrors of Sheol came upon me; I found distress and sorrow.
Then I called upon the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I beseech You, save my life!"
Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; Yes, our God is compassionate.
The LORD preserves the simple; I was brought low, and He saved me.
Return to your rest, O my soul, For the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.
For You have rescued my soul from death, My eyes from tears, My feet from stumbling.
I shall walk before the LORD In the land of the living.
I believed when I said, "I am greatly afflicted."
I said in my alarm, "All men are liars."
What shall I render to the LORD For all His benefits toward me?
I shall lift up the cup of salvation And call upon the name of the LORD.
I shall pay my vows to the LORD, Oh may it be in the presence of all His people.
Precious in the sight of the LORD Is the death of His godly ones.
O LORD, surely I am Your servant, I am Your servant, the son of Your handmaid, You have loosed my bonds.
To You I shall offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving, And call upon the name of the LORD.
I shall pay my vows to the LORD, Oh may it be in the presence of all His people,
In the courts of the LORD'S house, In the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD! Psalm 116

As for me…I have very *much* love for the Savior of my many sins.

Day Twenty Two

You shall teach them diligently to your sons

Randy

6 Ziv 1313 BC

> And on that same day the LORD brought the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their hosts. – Exo 12:51
>
> Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, …… – Exo 13:1

So just as soon as the Israelites start out of Egypt, the Lord is in Moses' ear teaching him how the new covenant will work. And Moses is repeatedly given reminders to remember.

> It shall be as a sign to you upon your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the law of the Lord may be in your mouth; for with a strong hand the Lord has brought you out of Egypt. – Exo 13:9
>
> "And it shall be when your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What is this?' then you shall say to him, 'With a powerful hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. "So it shall serve as a sign on your hand and as phylacteries on your forehead, for with a powerful hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt." Exo 13:14-16

phylacteries ?!?!

> "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.
> "You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by

> the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.
> "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead.
> "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. – Deu 6:6-9

I feel that the Lord is explaining that we are to center our lives on our relationship with him, I am constantly writing notes on my hand when I 'm driving, that is the only place to write it down if I really want to remember it! I have been searching commentaries for info on phylacteries, and have read paragraphs and pages that don't say much. I like 2 simple statements by Wesley about Exo 13:9 & 16:

Exodus 13:9 – "Upon thy hand, between thine eyes – Proverbial expressions; denoting things which are never out of our thoughts.
Exodus 13:16 – For frontlets between thine eyes – As conspicuous as any thing fixt to thy forehead, or between thine eyes." – Wesley

So, not only am I to *remember* but it needs to be obvious to everyone that I am remembering and living it.

> My son, observe the commandment of your father And do not forsake the teaching of your mother;
> Bind them continually on your heart; Tie them around your neck.
> When you walk about, they will guide you; When you sleep, they will watch over you; And when you awake, they will talk to you.
> For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life - Pro 6:20-23



Day Twenty Three

Keep Waiting

Leilani

7 Ziv / Iyyar 31 AD

What an exciting "fifty" days those must have been for the followers of Jesus, especially those of His inner circle! An emotional roller-coaster for sure. Their Lord, their Messiah–their friend–has died a horribly unimaginable death. They spent the next three days and three nights in what can only be abject despondency. They had pinned all their hopes, dreams, aspirations, their very lives on this one man—and then he's gone. But then, oh hallelujah, He's alive! He comes to them, showing Himself to them many times. But they also know He will not be with them for much longer. What must have been their inner battles during the times He is not with them. To them the world is upside down, and yet everything and everybody else is just going on with their lives. Even though the temple is torn asunder, *"…the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split." Matt 27:51** There were also reports that the tombs in Jerusalem "*were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many." Matt 27:52-53* And there were rumors going around that the disciples themselves had stolen His body at night, just so they could claim He had risen. *"…the chief priests [ ] assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, and said, "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.' And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews, and is to this day." Matt 28:11-15* Now these are the same guards that shook with fear when they *saw* the angel of the Lord whose "*appearance*

was like lightning!" Matt 28:2,3 But the Lord keeps coming to them and reassuring them. Telling them that very soon they would not need to have Him there with them physically, that He would be sending the promised Helper!

> Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. "You are witnesses of these things. "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." Luke 24:44-49

I think those fifty days would have be exciting days full of anticipation, but also days filled with uncertainty, fear, dread, anxiety. As time went on they learned they could rely on Jesus for everything, remembering His words of reassurance…*"the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me."* And today we can be confident that He is always ready to come to us, when ever we have doubts, fear, anxiety…

> "…the Lord earnestly waits expecting, looking, and longing to be gracious to you; and therefore He lifts Himself up, that He may have mercy on you and show loving-kindness to you. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed–happy, fortunate, to be envied, are all those who earnestly wait for Him, who expect and look and long for Him for His victory, His favor, His love, His peace, His joy, and His matchless, unbroken companionship! Isa 30:18



** The veil of the temple*

According to the Rabbis this was a handbreadth in thickness, and woven of seventy-two twisted plaits, each plait consisting of twenty-four threads. It was sixty feet long and thirty wide. Two of them were made every year, and according to the exaggerated language of the time it needed three hundred priests to manipulate it. This veil was the one which covered the entrance to the holy of holies, and not, as has been asserted, the veil which hung before the main entrance to the sanctuary. The holy of holies contained only a large stone, on which the high-priest sprinkled the blood on the day of atonement, occupying the place where the ark with the mercy-seat had stood. – Vincent's Word Studies.

Day Twenty Four

Pride goeth before destruction

Randy

8 Ziv / Iyyar 31 AD

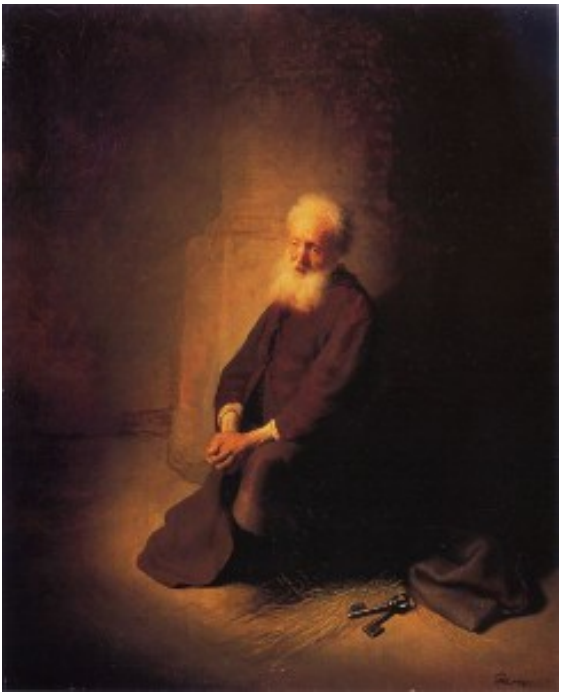
> "But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments. Matt 23:5

Did these phylactery wearers really think they were tricking God? or did they not care? Jesus seems to say that what was most important to them was what their neighbors thought. Maybe they didn't really believe in God, maybe they believed only in man's power on earth.

Jesus knew the answer to this question, the Father knew the answer to this question.

Jesus said,

> "But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.
> "When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. – Matt 6:3-6



St. Peter in Prison 1631 – *Rembrandt*

Any thoughts? Anyone…anyone…

Day Twenty Five

Nevertheless He looked upon their distress When He heard their cry

Leilani

9 Ziv / Iyyar 31 AD

What a rough day we had! This is the Psalm we started our day with in our daily Bible in a year reading. And by providence it is also an Omer devotional Psalm…so we're sharing it with you. Praise the Lord!

> Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
> Who can speak of the mighty deeds of the LORD, Or can show forth all His praise?
> How blessed are those who keep justice, Who practice righteousness at all times!
> Remember me, O LORD, in Your favor toward Your people; Visit me with Your salvation,
> That I may see the prosperity of Your chosen ones, That I may rejoice in the gladness of Your nation, That I may glory with Your inheritance.
> We have sinned like our fathers, We have committed iniquity, we have behaved wickedly.
> Our fathers in Egypt did not understand Your wonders; They did not remember Your abundant kindnesses, But rebelled by the sea, at the Red Sea.
> Nevertheless He saved them for the sake of His name, That He might make His power known.
> Thus He rebuked the Red Sea and it dried up, And He led them through the deeps, as through the wilderness.

So He saved them from the hand of the one who hated them, And redeemed them from the hand of the enemy.
The waters covered their adversaries; Not one of them was left.
Then they believed His words; They sang His praise.
They quickly forgot His works; They did not wait for His counsel,
But craved intensely in the wilderness, And tempted God in the desert.
So He gave them their request, But sent a wasting disease among them.
When they became envious of Moses in the camp, And of Aaron, the holy one of the LORD,
The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan, And engulfed the company of Abiram.
And a fire blazed up in their company; The flame consumed the wicked.
They made a calf in Horeb And worshiped a molten image.
Thus they exchanged their glory For the image of an ox that eats grass.
They forgot God their Savior, Who had done great things in Egypt,
Wonders in the land of Ham And awesome things by the Red Sea.
Therefore He said that He would destroy them, Had not Moses His chosen one stood in the breach before Him, To turn away His wrath from destroying them.
Then they despised the pleasant land; They did not believe in His word,
But grumbled in their tents; They did not listen to the voice of the LORD.
Therefore He swore to them That He would cast them down in the wilderness,
And that He would cast their seed among the nations And scatter them in the lands.
They joined themselves also to Baal-peor, And ate sacrifices

offered to the dead.
Thus they provoked Him to anger with their deeds, And the plague broke out among them.
Then Phinehas stood up and interposed, And so the plague was stayed.
And it was reckoned to him for righteousness, To all generations forever.
They also provoked Him to wrath at the waters of Meribah, So that it went hard with Moses on their account;
Because they were rebellious against His Spirit, He spoke rashly with his lips.
They did not destroy the peoples, As the LORD commanded them,
But they mingled with the nations And learned their practices,
And served their idols, Which became a snare to them.
They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons,
And shed innocent blood, The blood of their sons and their daughters, Whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; And the land was polluted with the blood.
Thus they became unclean in their practices, And played the harlot in their deeds.
Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against His people And He abhorred His inheritance.
Then He gave them into the hand of the nations, And those who hated them ruled over them.
Their enemies also oppressed them, And they were subdued under their power.
Many times He would deliver them; They, however, were rebellious in their counsel, And so sank down in their iniquity.
Nevertheless He looked upon their distress When He heard their cry;
And He remembered His covenant for their sake, And relented according to the greatness of His lovingkindness.

He also made them objects of compassion In the presence of all their captors.
Save us, O LORD our God, And gather us from among the nations, To give thanks to Your holy name And glory in Your praise.
Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, From everlasting even to everlasting. And let all the people say, "Amen." Praise the LORD! Psalm 106

Day Twenty Six

Halfway to Where?

Leilani

10 Ziv / Iyyar 31 AD

We had another busy day today, so we are sharing another song of David's, Psalm 144. We are just over half way through counting the Omer. Does it seem like a long time to you? I wonder what the Israelites were thinking! Surely they had witnessed many miracles of God…but have you ever been traveling for three plus weeks, and the guy leading doesn't seem to have a map?

> A Psalm of David. Blessed be the LORD, my rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle;
> My lovingkindness and my fortress, My stronghold and my deliverer, My shield and He in whom I take refuge, Who subdues my people under me.
> O LORD, what is man, that You take knowledge of him? Or the son of man, that You think of him?
> Man is like a mere breath; His days are like a passing shadow.
> Bow Your heavens, O LORD, and come down; Touch the mountains, that they may smoke.
> Flash forth lightning and scatter them; Send out Your arrows and confuse them.
> Stretch forth Your hand from on high; Rescue me and deliver me out of great waters, Out of the hand of aliens
> Whose mouths speak deceit, And whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.
> I will sing a new song to You, O God; Upon a harp of ten strings I will sing praises to You,

> Who gives salvation to kings, Who rescues David His servant from the evil sword.
> Rescue me and deliver me out of the hand of aliens, Whose mouth speaks deceit And whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.
> Let our sons in their youth be as grown-up plants, And our daughters as corner pillars fashioned as for a palace;
> Let our garners be full, furnishing every kind of produce, And our flocks bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our fields;
> Let our cattle bear Without mishap and without loss, Let there be no outcry in our streets!
> How blessed are the people who are so situated; How blessed are the people whose God is the LORD!

What do you think the Jews were feeling? What would be feeling?

Day Twenty Seven

and with the blast of Your nostrils

Randy

11 Ziv 1313 BC

Okay we are singing songs and talking about tired Israelites, I meant to put up this song weeks ago and missed it, the folks were excited and happy right after escaping the Pharaoh's army by the Lord's strong hand.

And so they sang "the Song of Moses"

> "I will sing to the Lord, For He has triumphed gloriously!
> The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!
> The Lord is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him.
> The Lord is a man of war; The Lord is His name.
> Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea; His chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea.
> The depths have covered them; They sank to the bottom like a stone.
> "Your right hand, O Lord, has become glorious in power; Your right hand, O Lord, has dashed the enemy in pieces.
> And in the greatness of Your excellence You have overthrown those who rose against You; You sent forth Your wrath; It consumed them like stubble.
> And with the blast of Your nostrils The waters were gathered together; The floods stood upright like a heap; The depths congealed in the heart of the sea.
> The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; My desire shall be satisfied on them. I will draw

my sword, My hand shall destroy them.'
You blew with Your wind, The sea covered them; They sank like lead in the mighty waters.
"Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?
You stretched out Your right hand; The earth swallowed them.
You in Your mercy have led forth The people whom You have redeemed; You have guided them in Your strength To Your holy habitation.
"The people will hear and be afraid; Sorrow will take hold of the inhabitants of Philistia.
Then the chiefs of Edom will be dismayed; The mighty men of Moab, Trembling will take hold of them; All the inhabitants of Canaan will melt away.
Fear and dread will fall on them; By the greatness of Your arm They will be as still as a stone, Till Your people pass over, O Lord, Till the people pass over Whom You have purchased.
You will bring them in and plant them In the mountain of Your inheritance, In the place, O Lord, which You have made For Your own dwelling, The sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have established.
"The Lord shall reign forever and ever."
For the horses of Pharaoh went with his chariots and his horsemen into the sea, and the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them. But the children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea.
- "Sing to the Lord, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!" – Exo 15:1-21



Cosimo Rosselli ~ Crossing of the Red Sea ~ Sistine Chapel

Day Twenty Eight

A Very Good Guide

Randy

12 Ziv 1313 BC

We think of Moses as leading the children of Israel out of bondage, but it looks like God himself is doing the leading -

> The LORD was going before them in a pillar of cloud by day to lead them on the way, and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. – Exo 13:21-22

John Wesley says -

"In the two first stages, it was enough that God directed Moses whither to march; he knew the country, and the road; but now they are come to the edge of the wilderness, they would have occasion for a guide, and a very good guide they had, infinitely wise, kind, and faithful, the Lord went up before them;"

They say that it was common to travel by night because it was so hot, the cloud glowed with fire at night, but not only were they being led through this hostile place, they had God's hand over them protecting them, the cloud also shaded them from the heat of the sun.

> And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night. At the morning watch, Jehovah looked

> down on the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud and brought the army of the Egyptians into confusion. – Exo 14
>
> The cloud of the LORD was over them by day when they set out from the camp. – Num 10:34

Their Lord led them then when the time came, showed them the place to camp and then rose and let them know it was time to go.

> Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Throughout all their journeys whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the sons of Israel would set out; but if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out until the day when it was taken up. For throughout all their journeys, the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and there was fire in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel. – Exo 40:34-38

The people of Israel camped out with God for 40 years, until he had prepared them to go into the land that he had promised. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people. – Exo 13:22



The Israelites Led by the Pillar of Fire by Night – 1845 – William West

Do we know where our Lord wants us to go?

Day Twenty Nine

The Light

Leilani

13 Ziv / Iyyar 31 AD

Just like the Israelites in the wilderness, *lived with God* as the pillar of fire, we have the "light" of the Father through the Holy Spirit, *living in us* guiding us and protecting us, day by day…

> Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." John 8:12



Transfiguration of Christ on Mount Tabor – Titian

Day Thirty

The Wilderness of Sin

Randy

14 Ziv 1313 BC

Thirty days into their journey, as they arrive in the wilderness of Sin, the children of Jacob run out of the Matzah that they brought with them, and of course they immediately start to murmer, but of course God has a plan….

> all the congregation of the sons of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departure from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The sons of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the LORD'S hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."
>
> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day. – Exo 16



The Prince of Egypt – Disney

Does God have a plan for you?

Day Thirty One

Our Daily Bread

Randy

15 Ziv 1313 BC

The Lord works in mysterious ways, He had a plan, this was the day that he took over supplying the Israelites with their most basic needs on a daily basis…

> Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, "At evening you shall know that the Lord has brought you out of the land of Egypt. And in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord; for He hears your complaints against the Lord.
>
> And the Lord spoke to Moses, "I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I am the Lord your God.' "
>
> So it was that quails came up at evening and covered the camp…

And in the morning they saw the glory of our God –

> in the morning the dew lay all around the camp. And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground. So when the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "This is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat.

> And the house of Israel called its name Manna. And it was like white coriander seed, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey. – Exo 16

They were only to gather enough manna to make bread for the one day, they were to have faith that their Lord would provide again the next day.



Poussin, Nicolas – The Jews *Gathering* the *Manna* in the Desert – 1637 – 1639

Day Thirty Two

Bread of Life

1

16 Ziv / Iyyar 31 AD

Jesus answers the multitude's question, by ignoring it! In John 6:26 He chides them and His disciples that they should be looking for the food that endures to eternal life. But just like the Israelites in the wilderness of Sin, we are more interested in our bellies, than realizing that everything we have comes from the Father…our next breath even.

> "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh." John 6:51

We are so wowed by signs, the manna God gave every morning for forty years and the *loaves* that Jesus provided for the five thousand, and only good for this life. that we miss what Jesus wants us to realize, that we need to feed on the living Bread, so that we will never die. We start to do that when we repent and believe in Him!



Jesus asks…"Does this cause you to stumble?"

Day Thirty Three

From where shall my help come?

Leilani

17 Ziv / Iyyar 31 AD

Psalm 121 ***A Song of Ascents.***

I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; From where shall my help come?
My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.
He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber.
Behold, He who keeps Israel Will neither slumber nor sleep.
The LORD is your keeper; The LORD is your shade on your right hand.
The sun will not smite you by day, Nor the moon by night.
The LORD will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul.
The LORD will guard your going out and your coming in From this time forth and forever.

Where do you go when you need help?

Day Thirty Four

This Testimony is True!

Leilani

18 Ziv / Iyyar 31 AD

> Jesus manifested Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He manifested Himself in this way. John 21

Jesus appears again to his disciples, showing Himself in a way they would instantly recognize, by a great catch of fishes. John 21:5-8 He has also already made a fire, made bread and cooked fish, to share with them. John 21:9-14. Then Jesus restores Peter's confidence as leader. John 21:15-17 Then foretells what kind of death Peter will endure. John 21:18,19 And true to Peter's personality, he needs to have his curiosity rebuked regarding how John would die. John; John 21:20-24 The conclusion of John's witness is this, *"that this testimony is true. And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they *were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself *would not contain the books that *would be written."* John 21:24,25 John has repeated himself, it seems like he has run out of time to write all that he knows…see John 20:30,31

> Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

Although I need no other evidence that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that I have life in His name…I sure am looking forward to having some long talks with John about everything else he witnessed!



Jesus eats *Breakfast* with his *disciples* - James Tissot

Day Thirty Five

Open Your Mind

Leilani

19 Ziv / Iyyar 31 AD

> Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. "You are witnesses of these things. "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." Luke 24:44-49

It had been more than a month since "the passion" and those terrible first three days. Jesus comes to them yet again with more of Himself. He opens their minds to understand the Scriptures, *"Now you will understand what seemed so dark to you when I told you about the Son of man being put to death and rising again"* Jamieson, Fausset & Brown

Jesus is referring back to when He told them exactly what was going to happen, *"Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all the things that are written through the prophets shall be accomplished unto the Son of man. For he shall be delivered up unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and shamefully treated, and spit upon: and they shall scourge and kill him: and the third day he shall rise again. And they understood none of these things; and this saying was hid from them, and they perceived not the things that were*

said. Luke 18:31-34 Since all that He said would happen–happened, they are given the "mind" to understand the Scriptures they've known all their lives. And they know full well that Jesus is the fulfillment of all of them. Earlier in Luke 18 Jesus explains to Nicodemus that he must be born again, to understand God's word. *"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Cor 1:18*

Just some of the Scriptures fulfilled in Jesus–

Prophesied ~ The Messiah would be betrayed by a close friend for thirty pieces of silver

Psa 41:9 "Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me."

Zec 11:12 "Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver."

Fulfillment ~ Luke 22:47,48; Mat 26:14,15

Prophesied ~ The Messiah would be mocked, scorned and shamefully treated.

Psa 22:7, 8 "All those who see Me laugh Me to scorn; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, "He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!""

Isa 50:6 "I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting."

Fulfillment Matt 26:67; Luke 23:35

Prophesied ~ He would be scourged and killed.

Mic_5:1 The Messiah Will Be Born at Bethlehem, gather yourself in troops, O daughter of troops; He has laid siege against us; They will strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the cheek."

Isa_53:5 "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."

Zec_12:10 "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they have pierced; they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for his first born."

Isa_53:12 "Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall

divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."
Fulfillment ~ Mark 15:19, 27, 28; John 20:27

Prophesied ~ The Messiah would be raised from the dead
Psa_16:10 "For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption."
Psa_49:15 "But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, for He shall receive me. Selah"
Isa_53:8, 11 "He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living for the transgressions of My people He was stricken. He shall see the labour of His soul, and be satisfied by His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities" "
Fulfillment ~ Matt 16:6, 7; Matt 28:2, 5-7, 9

Prophesied ~ Messiah would bring salvation to the whole world, to the Jews first, then to the gentiles.
Isa_49:6 "Indeed He says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel: I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.""
Isa_42:1-4, 6 "The Servant Comes to Glorify the LORD My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him: He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench: He will bring forth justice for truth. He will not fail nor be discouraged, Till He has established justice in the earth: And the coastlands (aka. Gentiles) shall wait for His law." "I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand: I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles,"
Fulfilled ~ Matt 12:14-21

"We are not called to be defenders, but witnesses of the truth. We speak what we know and testify what we have seen. Our fellow-witness is the Holy Spirit," Acts 5:32. F.B. Meyer

I think if we would just share what we know and even what we don't know, we would be better witnesses. But that's the rub…we have to be experiencing Him daily or we have nothing to say…



Jesus and his disciples travelling into Galilee – William Brassey Hole

Day Thirty Six

Waiting

Leilani

20 Ziv / Iyyar 31 AD

The resurrection of Jesus is the great fact on which the truth of the gospel was and is to be established. We serve a living God, not one made by the hands of man, fashioned of wood or stone. Deut 4:28 Our Heavenly Father hears us, waiting patiently for us to come to Him. 2 Pet 3:9 He formed us in our mother's womb and has counted the hairs of our head. He knows what our needs are before we ask—but longs to hear us ask Him. Matt 6:8

> To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Acts 1:3-5

Waiting on God for the anointing of the Spirit is the great condition of spiritual blessing and fullness of power. Those whom Jesus Christ employs as His witnesses He will qualify for it by a better spirit than their own—the Holy Spirit, His representative. Summarized Bible by Keith L. Brooks 1919

According to the People's New Testament there were "*eleven appearances recorded, they say there were probably others.*" . And as we read in John yesterday he says,*"there was so much else that Jesus did; if it were*

written down in detail, I do not suppose the world itself would hold all the books that would be written." John 21:25

I couldn't find a list of the "eleven" appearances in the PNT, I did find these lists of proofs and appearances by Clarke ~

1. *Appearing to several different persons at different times.*
2. *His eating and drinking with them.*
3. *His meeting them in Galilee according to his own appointment.*
4. *His subjecting his body to be touched and handled by them.*
5. *His instructing them in the nature and doctrines of his kingdom.*
6. *His appearing to upwards of five hundred persons at once, 1Cor 15:6. And,*
7. *Continuing these public manifestations of himself for forty days.*

The several appearances of Jesus Christ, during the forty days of his sojourning with his disciples, between his resurrection and ascension, are thus enumerated by Bishop Pearce:

The first was to Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, Matt 28:1-9.

The second, to the two disciples on their way to Emmaus, Luke 24:15.

The third, to Simon Peter, Luke 24:34.

The fourth, to ten of the apostles, Thomas being absent, Luke24:36, and John 20:19. (All these four appearances took place on the day of his resurrection.)

The fifth was to the eleven disciples, Thomas being then with them, John 20:26.

The sixth, to seven of the apostles in Galilee, at the sea of Tiberias, John21:4.

The seventh, to James, 1Cor 15:7, most probably in Jerusalem, and when Jesus gave an order for all his apostles to assemble together, as in Acts 1:4.

The eighth, when they were assembled together, and when he led them unto Bethany, Luke 24:50, from whence he ascended to heaven. But see the note on John 21:14, for farther particulars. Adam Clarke's Commentary on the Bible (I sure would've like to have found these lists before I started this counting!)



What are you waiting for?

Day Thirty Seven

Preparation Day

Randy

21 Ziv 1313 BC

At the beginning of this counting I really hadn't noticed that the Lord was planning on using the journey out of Egypt to get his people ready to live in the promised land. Besides using the manna to show the Israelites to have faith in him, he wanted to teach them how they should observe his Sabbath, which hasn't been mentioned since Gen 2:3.

On the first day the Manna fell from heaven they were commanded not to collect more than enough for one day, they were not to try and hoard it, but that didn't stop them from trying -

> This is the thing which the Lord has commanded: 'Let every man gather it according to each one's need, one omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent.' " Then the children of Israel did so and gathered, some more, some less. So when they measured it by omers, he who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man had gathered according to each one's need. And Moses said, "Let no one leave any of it till morning." Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. So they gathered it every morning, every man according to his need. And when the sun became hot, it melted. Exo 16:16-21

On the 21st of Ziv 1313 BC, Moses explained that since the next day would be the Sabbath, they would need to prepare -

> Then he said to them, "This is what the Lord has said: 'Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord. Bake what you will bake today, and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning.' " So they laid it up till morning, as Moses commanded; and it did not stink, nor were there any worms in it. Exo 16:23-24



The *Gathering of the Manna* – James Tissot 1896

Day Thirty Eight

Today is a Sabbath to the LORD

Randy

22 Ziv 1313 BC

So the Israelite's continue to learn on this day, like doubting Thomas….

> Moses said, "Eat it today, for today is a Sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the field. "Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none." It came about on the seventh day that some of the people went out to gather, but they found none. Exo 16:25-27

It is said that the idea of a day of rest was known to them before this, but it is sure that as slaves they weren't getting a day off, since the Egyptians weren't taking one. I have heard that the fact that the Jews took one day in seven off from work is one of the things that made them stand out and separated them from the rest of the world from the beginning.

But our Lord wasn't into excuses….

> Then the LORD said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My instructions? "See, the LORD has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you bread for two days on the sixth day. Remain every man in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day." …..So the people rested on the seventh day. Exo 16:28-30

Chuck Smith Says:

Now the Lord said, "Six days shalt thou labour and do thy work, but the seventh day is a day of rest." God said, "I have given you the Sabbath." The Sabbath was made for man. God made it for man to give the body a chance to just sort of recuperate. The idea was just stay in bed, rest, do nothing. It wasn't really get up and go to Sabbath school, or go to synagogue, or whatever. It was just stay in bed and rest on the Sabbath day. I don't know, but what that wouldn't be a good idea.



To this day traditional Jewish Sabbath dinners have two loaves of bread on the table to remember.

How do you observe it?

Day Thirty Nine

Why do you tempt the Lord?

Randy

23 Ziv 1313 BC

Oh man when are they gonna get it!?!?!?!

> Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, "Give us water, that we may drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the Lord?" And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" Exo 17:1-3

I think Moses is going to lose it this time…..

> So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!" And the Lord said to Moses, "Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. Exo 17:4-6

I think this whole thing is as much a trial for Moses as it is the ungrateful whining Israelites that he is hanging around with. I sure haven't forgotten that he told the Lord he couldn't and or didn't want to do this, I feel for him. It's kinda weird that I would, he is one of the two most important prophets in the history of man…



Moses Strikes Water from a Rock 1649 – Poussin, Nicolas

Day Forty

The Ascension

Leilani

24 Ziv / Iyyar 31 AD

> And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they, after worshiping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising God. Luke 24:50-53

The Jews of Jesus' day and Jews today have been "counting the omer" all their lives. "*The period from Passover to Shavu'ot is a time of great anticipation. We count each of the days from the second day of Passover to the day before Shavu'ot, 49 days or 7 full weeks, hence the name of the festival. See ~~The Counting of the Omer~~. The counting reminds us of the important connection between Passover and Shavu'ot: Passover freed us physically from bondage, but the giving of the Torah on Shavu'ot redeemed us spiritually from our bondage to idolatry and immorality. Shavu'ot is also known as Pentecost, because it falls on the 50th day. – Judaism 101*

Now Jesus has told the disciples not to leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift the Father has promised. I say again what exciting times they were living in! Not only are they part of the fulfillment of God's promises that He made to not only Israel, but the whole world, at Sinai. They were also probably very aware of the prophecy of Jeremiah 31:31-33. I think they knew they only had to wait ten more days before they would receive the "gift" When we receive His Gift—the Holy Spirit, the Creator of the universe writes on our hearts His very words, He becomes our God and we become His people—it's a miracle!

I have really enjoyed "Counting Pentecost", it has really focused my heart and mind on how much the Father longs for us to come near to Him. Remember the Israelites refused to come near to God at Mount Sinai, because they knew they were not holy enough Exo 20:19. I am so grateful and full of awe when I remember that the Father has provided the *WAY* for us to draw near to Him. He had His Son pay the price, on that last Passover–the only one that will ever count, to free us from the bondage of sin, then gives us His own Holy Spirit to dwell in us and cleanse us of all unrighteousness, giving us His power, to be holy as He is holy—now that's a miracle!

> So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. Acts 1:6-12

There is so much in these few verses of Scripture. *"The Holy Spirit is the indwelling representative of Christ on the earth. It is He who guides us into the truth concerning Christ, forms Christ's purposes in our hearts, and even prays through us. ~ Rom 8:26.*

Acts 1:11 ~ "Is one of the most definite promises of the second coming in the Scriptures. This "same Jesus", is coming "in like manner" as He went

up—in the clouds visibly. This could not have been fulfilled in the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost." Summarized Bible by Keith L. Brooks 1919



"The Ascension of Our Lord" 1888 – John LaFarge

I hope you are enjoying counting with us…

Day Forty One

WOW

Randy

25 Ziv / Iyyar 31 AD

Jesus's friends have been hanging around with him, resurrected from the dead, this LONG!?!

When Lei and I had this Idea about a month before we started counting, 50 days seemed like nothing, I can't remember now how many days we were doing it, like day thirteen? Could it really have only been 13 days? OK, maybe it was 20 days in, I was seriously surprised at how hard it was to post everyday, we keep saying we need to get on top of it and get some posts written in advance.

So, real early on, Lei started to run out of "appearances" to write about, and that is when I realized, "Jesus HAD BEEN ON EARTH—RESURRECTED–ALL THIS TIME." I have read about the appearances in the gospels and I guess it just seemed like a short time, but, IT WAS FORTY DAYS, come to find out that is a real long time if you are paying attention, like I assume his followers were.

I know there hasn't been a lot of people following our count, my brother Larry is the only one I know of, but does it seem like forever that you have been thinking "oh my gosh are they still doing that??!!"

How many times have you gone to the gas station since Easter?

How many times have you gone to the post office?

How many paychecks have you cashed?

So it has seemed like forever to me, while we have been "counting" but I'm sure, at the time, the disiples thought that is was TOO short of a time, maybe that is why when I read their writings I get that impression.

Day Forty Two

A Strand of Three

Leilani

26 Ziv 131 BC

Moses took his stand, he brought with him Aaron and Hur. Have you ever been struggling with someone or something alone. and it seems like God is not hearing your prayers, and you get so tired that you stop praying, kind of giving up and giving in? Then, you tell someone you need help and everything changes! Moses is in his eighties so he knows he needs help at the outset of any battle. When he gets tired his friends are there to help him, keep his arms up, get a seat for him. This reminded me of another Scripture, *"For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst." Matt 18:20*

> The Amalekites, the descendants of Esau, then came and attacked Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Pick some men and tomorrow morning go out and engage Amalek. I, for my part, shall take my stand on the hilltop with the staff of God in my hand.' Joshua did as Moses had told him and went out to engage Amalek, while Moses, Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill. As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage; when he let his arms fall, the advantage went to Amalek. But Moses' arms grew heavy, so they took a stone and put it under him and on this he sat, with Aaron and Hur supporting his arms on each side. Thus his arms remained unwavering till sunset, and Joshua defeated Amalek, putting their people to the sword, and Joshua defeated Amalek, putting their people to the sword. Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Write this for a memorial in the book to commemorate it, and repeat it over

> to Joshua, for I shall blot out all memory of Amalek under heaven.' Moses then built an altar and named it Jehovah-Nissi, and he said, because theirs is a hand against the throne of Jah; Jehovah will have war with Amalek from generation to generation Exo 17:8-16

In Deut 25:18 it says the Amalekites attacked from the rear, where the Israelites would be the weakest, the old and the young. Isn't that just like *the enemy,* he strikes where we are the weakest! We need to always have on *the full armor of God*, lest we forget that we're in a battle! Eph 6:10-20

Keil & Delitzsch say in their Commentary on the Old Testament "*Whereas he had performed all the miracles in Egypt and on the journey by stretching out his staff, on this occasion he directed his servant Joshua to choose men for the war, and to fight the battle with the sword. He himself went with Aaron and Hur to the summit of a hill to hold up the staff of God in his hands, that he might procure success to the warriors through the spiritual weapons of prayer. […] He took Aaron and Hur with him, not as adjutants to convey his orders to Joshua and the army engaged, but to support him in his own part in connection with the conflict. This was to hold up his hand with the staff of God in it. To understand the meaning of this sign, it must be borne in mind that, although Exo 17:11 merely speaks of the raising and dropping of the hand (in the singular), yet, according to Exo 17:12, both hands were supported by Aaron and Hur, who stood one on either side, so that Moses did not hold up his hands alternately, but grasped the staff with both his hands, and held it up with the two. The lifting up of the hands has been regarded almost with unvarying unanimity by Targumists, Rabbins, Fathers, Reformers, and nearly all the more modern commentators, as the sign or attitude of prayer.*"



Victory O Lord! (1871) John Everett Millais

Day Forty Three

One Mind

Leilani

27 Ziv / Iyyar 31 AD

> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying; that is, 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. These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. Act 1:12-14

His brothers. The sons of Joseph and Mary. One of them, James, was afterwards the James of Jerusalem and the author of the Epistle of James. See Acts 15; also Matt 13:55. They were unbelievers six months before (John 7:5), but now believed. James had seen the risen Lord 1 Cor 15:7. – The People's New Testament (1891) by B. W. Johnson

Wow never caught that before…that His brothers didn't believed before the crucifixion and resurrection. To me that is another proof that no matter how many *miracles* people see, if they are not willing to humble themselves and repent—they cannot and will not see (in their spirit) God here on earth. Eventually every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord! It also says volumes about the power of the crucifixion and resurrection. We would do well to remember that when sharing our faith…it is the power of God that saves. Jesus knew and quoted the Scriptures perfectly, His brothers

were raised by the same parents that taught them all the Scriptures. Jesus said everything perfectly, did everything perfectly—and yet many walked away, even his brothers, as a matter of fact few find the Way. Jesus said, *"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. John 6:44*

A Sabbath-day's journey, according to Jewish tradition, was about three-quarters of a mile. It was the supposed distance between the camp and the tabernacle in the wilderness (Jos 3:4). Vincent's Word Studies



Mary Magdalen announcing the resurrection to the apostles abt 1120ad

Does this make witnessing easier or harder??

-

Day Forty Four

Honor Thy Father-in-Law

Randy

28 Ziv 1313 BC

Moses takes some time out of his busy schedule for some family time -

> Now Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father-in-law, heard of all that God had done for Moses and for Israel His people, how the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt. Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, came with his sons and his wife to Moses in the wilderness where he was encamped at the mountain of God. And when he sent word to Moses, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons with her," Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed down and kissed him. And they asked each other of their welfare and went into the tent. Then Moses told his father-in-law all that the LORD had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, all the hardship that had come upon them in the way, and how the LORD had delivered them. And Jethro rejoiced for all the good that the LORD had done to Israel, in that he had delivered them out of the hand of the Egyptians.

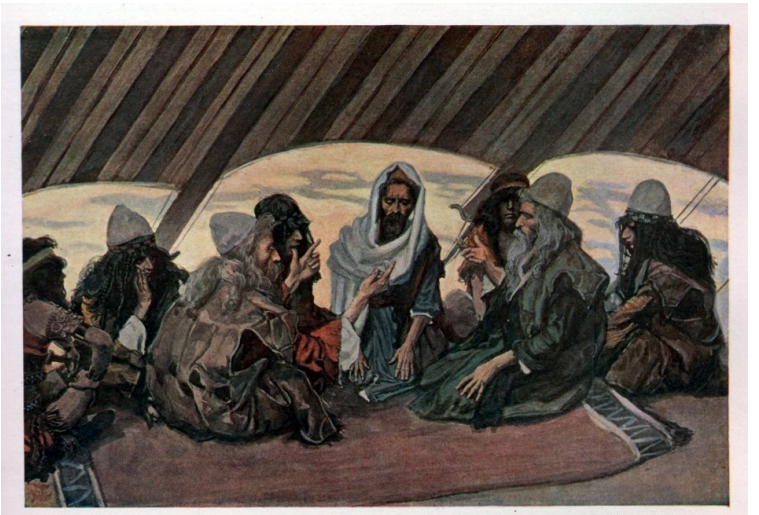
Moses always seems to respect his father-in-law, he even asked his permission before leaving on God's mission to deliver the children of Jacob. Now Moses rushes out to welcome him, he bows down to him and kisses him, his reception for his wife's father is reminiscent of Joseph's welcome to his father Israel when he arrived in Egypt Gen 46:29

We are also reminded here that Jethro is a priest, must be a pagan priest, worshiping pagan gods. What did this nomad hear while he was tending his flocks and his family, that the newly escaped Israelites had defeated the mighty Amalek, or the big miracle, our Lord's parting of the Red Sea.

It is said by Hebrew theologians that Jethro thought that there were two gods: one who does evil and one who does good. Then he heard about Moses' God who both drowned the Egyptians and saved the Children of Israel at the same time with one blow of the wind, he realized that the same One performs evil and good.

So this idolatrous priest came to convert, he tells Moses -

> "Now I know that Jehovah is greater than all gods, because he delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians, when they dealt arrogantly with them."
> And Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, offered a burnt offering and sacrifices to God; and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses' father-in-law before God.
> Exo 18



J. James Tissot. Copyright by de Brunoff, 1904.

JETHRO AND MOSES. Ex. xviii. 7.

"And Moses went out to meet his father in law, and did obeisance, and kissed him."

Do you think that Moses' witness, his respectful countenance, had anything to do with Jethro's conversion, or was it all due to the miracles?

–

Day Forty Six

The Lord's Special Treasure

Randy

2 Sivan 1313 BC

This is the day that God told Israel that they were "his chosen people", Moses went up the mountain for further instructions and God told him …..

> "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel:
> 'You 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, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.
> And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

With these few verses he tells them and of course all of us that are reading his words thousands of years later, that all of the people of the earth are his, since he is the "Creator", but he wants the Israelites to be his "special treasure" and if they will keep his covenant, he would be pleased to value and esteem them.

They agree unanimously and immediately, who wouldn't…..

> Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do." – Exo 19

-

Day Forty Five

Of One Heart

Randy

1 Sivan 1313 BC

> On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone forth out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai, and there Israel pitched their tents over against the mount. – Exo 19:1-2

It is hard to write about this day in our journey through history, it is known as a day when nothing happened -

[On the first of Sivan] Moses did not say anything at all to the Jewish people, since they were weary from the journey. -Talmud

But I found a commentary by a Hebrew theologian where he analyzes the original Hebrew words in the verses:

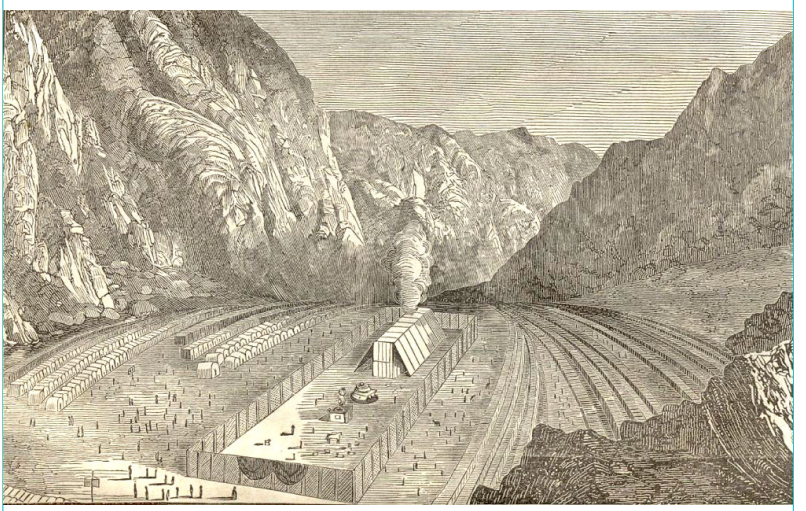
…..note the grammatically unconventional use of the singular vayichan ("and he camped," rather than vayachanu, "and they camped") in speaking of the entire Jewish people. the Torah wishes to inform us that "they camped as a single man, with a single heart, unlike all other encampments, which were accompanied by dissent and dispute." – Rashi

The Israelites had known since Moses the Deliverer arrived in Egypt, where they were going and they knew that their deliverance was to be more than just a physical freedom from the bondage they had endured but a whole new relationship with the Lord. After grumbling and murmuring their way across the desert they know that they have arrived in the shadow of the mount of God and that they need to establish a camp that was "as a single man with a single heart."

So come to find out the children of Jacob are doing the exact same thing on 1 Sivan 1313 BC as the disciples of Jesus were doing

on 1 Sivan 31 AD in the upper room. Gathered, waiting and praying, united, of one mind, of one heart…..

> These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. – Act 1:14



For more, see the post ~~Day Forty Three ~ One Mind~~

-

Day Forty Seven

People Get Ready

Leilani

3 Sivan 1313 BC

> Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. "Be ready for the third day; do not come near your wives." Exo 19
>
> And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty. Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2 Cor 6:18-7:1

-

Day Forty Eight

Peter's Sermon

Leilani

4 Sivan 31 AD

Peter's first sermon begins with, the 'Scripture' had to be fulfilled. We have very little information on what happened to Judas. In Matt 27 we're told he had remorse for his betrayal. When Peter heard the cock crow he remembered Jesus telling him he too would betray Him–he went and wept bitterly. Judas was driven to hang himself. Have you ever wondered if he had repented, like Peter did, and not killed himself, would he have been forgiven? By the Apostles and disciples?

> At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said, "Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. "For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry." (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'LET HIS HOMESTEAD BE MADE DESOLATE, AND LET NO ONE DWELL IN IT'; and, 'LET ANOTHER MAN TAKE HIS OFFICE.' "Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us–beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He

> was taken up from us–one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection." So they put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus), and Matthias. And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles. Act 1:15-26

In Acts 1:16 the prophecy Scriptures concerning Judas are *Ps 41:9 Even my close friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me. and Ps 55:12-14 For it is not an enemy who reproaches me, Then I could bear it; Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me, Then I could hide myself from him. But it is you, a man my equal, My companion and my familiar friend; We who had sweet fellowship together Walked in the house of God in the throng.*

When we read the Gospels and the Psalms that tell us that it was not an enemy but a dear friend that betrayed Jesus, and knowing what that betrayal led to–we naturally have no sorrow for Judas, thinking he got what he deserved. However I had never really given much thought to Judas' family or his legacy. If we believe that the Scriptures were fulfilled about Judas, we would have to believe what was prophesied about his family too—wouldn't we?

In Acts 1:20 the prophecy Scripture concerns the betrayers family and his legacy. *Psa 109:9-15 Let his children be fatherless And his wife a widow. Let his children wander about and beg; And let them seek sustenance far from their ruined homes. Let the creditor seize all that he has, And let strangers plunder the product of his labor. Let there be none to extend lovingkindness to him, Nor any to be gracious to his fatherless children. Let his posterity be cut off; In a following generation let their name be blotted out. Let the iniquity of his fathers be remembered before the LORD, And do not let the sin of his mother be blotted out. Let them be before the LORD continually, That He may cut off their memory from the earth…*



The Kiss of Judas, by Giotto di Bondone

-

Day Forty Nine

New Covenant

Leilani

5 Sivan 31 AD

As the counting of the Omer ends at Pentecost, it is a time to rejoice and give thanks for His Word and The Holy Spirit.

The hundred and twenty in the upper room are waiting–and they realize that they are to be the first to experience the fulfillment of of Jeremiah's prophecy, remembering the promise Jesus made…they would receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

> "Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, " I will put My commands within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Jeremiah 31:31–33

> If you really love Me, you will keep, obey My commands. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, and Standby, that He may remain with you forever–The Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, welcome, take to its heart, because it does not see Him or know and recognize Him. But you know and

recognize Him, for He lives with you constantly and will be in you. John 14:16-17



St. Peter Preaching at Pentecost by Benjamin West

Day Fifty

Suddenly a Noise from Heaven!

Leilani

6 Sivan 1313 BC ~ 6 Sivan 31 AD

Just as the Israelites received the teachings of God at Mount Sinai fifty days after He delivered them from the slavery of Egypt…the gift of the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples in the upper room fifty days after Jesus' resurrection delivered us from sin. And just as the nation of Israel was not complete until they had the laws and instructions written in stone to guide them down the right path–followers of Jesus are not complete until God's laws and instructions are written on our hearts.



So it came about on the third day, when it was morning, that there were thunder and lightning flashes and a thick cloud upon the mountain and a very loud trumpet sound, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled…Now Mount Sinai was all in smoke because the LORD descended

> upon it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently. Exo 19:16,18

> When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. Acts 2:1-4

Because it is the end of the Festival of Weeks—Pentecost. The devout Jews, living in foreign lands, came in large numbers to attend Pentecost, as God had instructed. When the disciples in the upper room receive the Holy Spirit they immediately started sharing the Gospel in many different languages. Most of the onlookers were amazed, but some started mocking them saying they were drunk. BUT…

> Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words. Acts 2

Peter reminded them what the prophet Joel said would happen on Pentecost. God said, "*Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. 'AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.'*

Does the gift of the Holy Spirit mean the same to us today as it did in 31 AD? I believe it does—God is the same yesterday and today and forever. That power that filled the hundred and twenty in the upper room, giving them utterance, so that three thousand were saved in that day, is the same power given to us today. So that we can *take a stand* with confidence, like Peter, even when we are being mocked.



Pentecost by Jean II Restout

-

After Pentecost

Whatever Happened to Holiness

Leilani

Were any of you as impressed as I was, with the Holiness of God, as we went through 'Counting Pentecost'? Especially in the Old Testament? As we were reading and studying to put the count together everyday, paralleling the old with the new testaments, in as much of an order as we could, it struck me how many times God says, I am Holy therefore my people will be holy. I wonder if we haven't lost that awareness of God's holiness, in our desire to be a people pleasing church. Or is that we're like the church at Ephesus and *have left our first love?*

So, what has changed? Why did the children of Israel tremble when God came down? But at Pentecost the disciples were waiting—eagerly for the Holy Spirit to come upon them? You get the sense that they were like Esther, they were willing to risk everything—death—to be consumed in the fiery breath of God—*if I perish, I perish!* Like Moses, they yearned to see the face of their God!

Maybe it's just a matter of degrees. We have the Old and New Testaments to know the love and forgiveness the Father has for us—*exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think…*He started by choosing a people, so they could be an example.

Throughout the whole Bible, God is pursuing us, wooing us to Himself. He begins in the Old Testament, showing us who He is, the One true God. The One who–out of nothing–created everything. A Holy God. And because He is holy when He calls us, that call, demands that we be holy ourselves in all our behavior.

> *See now that I, I am He, And there is no god besides Me; It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who*

heal, And there is no one who can deliver from My hand. Deu 32:39

God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it And spirit to those who walk in it, Isa 42:5

Then Moses said to Aaron, "It is what the LORD spoke, saying, 'By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, And before all the people I will be honored.'" So Aaron, therefore, kept silent. Lev 10:3

In the Gospels we see just how much the Father wants to be close to us. He provides the way for us to be holy. He sacrifices all that is dearest to Him, His Son, the very essence of who he is–His very Holiness. *"…who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Php 2:6-8* Jesus came and lived with us, became Sin itself, and offered up His life to the Father, the only sacrifice worthy, once and for all, to cleanse us, so that when God sees us, He sees only the righteousness of Jesus. At repentance, (we think differently; change our mind, regretting our sins and changing our conduct) we are to be *As obedient children, not being conformed to the former lusts which were ours in our ignorance, but like the Holy One who called us, being holy ourselves also in all our behavior; because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY." 1Pe 1:15-16*



Photo by Leilani

Without Holiness–No man will see the Lord. Heb 12:14

What are your thoughts?