

- I. **Recent news from Israel:** 45 dead in stampede during Lag Ba'omer festival in Mt. Meron, in N. Israel
For perspective... 45 people in Israel (population 8 MM) equivalent to 1868 people in USA (pop 332 MM)

Lag Ba'omer is a festival based on tradition – i.e., there's no biblical celebration specified by that name. "Lag" simply means "33"; so Lag Ba'omer means 33 in the omer.

What's an omer? And why should we care?

II. **Review the Feasts of the Lord – Leviticus 23**

v3 Sabbaths

v4 "appointed times" (Hebrew = "moedim")

Can also be translated as "Rehearsals"

Remember that each of the feasts are commemorative of Israel's experience in the wilderness, but they are also predictive by design.

v5 Feast of Passover on 14th of Nisan

v6 Feast of Unleavened Bread on 15th of Nisan

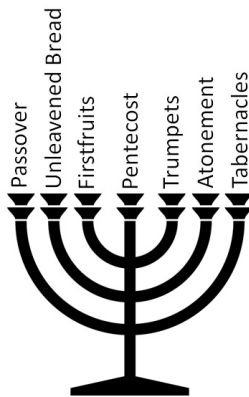
v10 Feast of Firstfruits includes a "wave offering" to celebrate the wheat harvest.

A sheaf ("omer" in Hebrew) of grain is waved before the Lord in the temple

vv15-17 From that point, when the omer is waved, the "counting of the omer" begins

¹⁵ 'And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. ¹⁶ Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD. ¹⁷ You shall bring from your dwellings two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven. *They are* the firstfruits to the LORD.

NOTE: Two loaves of **leavened** bread are waved before the Lord (VERY unusual).



III. **Look at Acts 1 from a Jewish Perspective**

These are ALL devout Jewish men.... They're *all* counting the omer!

Jesus addresses them on the 40th of the omer (Day 40 on the way to Pentecost / Shavuot)

IV. **Acts 2 The Birthday of the Church**

Considering that these feast are "appointed times" (Lev 23:4) or "rehearsals", how can anyone NOT see that the Church was foreseen in the Old Testament?

V. **The Harvest– Jesus says that this is the "end of the age"**

From earliest times, Pentecost (Shavuot) was known as the festival of the harvest.

Think of all that the apostles heard Jesus teach about the Harvest....

esp., Matthew 13 – Parable of Harvest

Good wheat is separated from the tares at the harvest

Acts 2 – Peter quoted from Joel 2 – two themes: Harvest and Jubilee (restoration), aka Jubilee

VI. Look especially at Peter's second sermon in Acts 3:19-21

¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰ and that He may send ^[a] Jesus Christ, who was ^[d] preached to you before, ²¹ whom heaven must receive ***until the times of restoration of all things***, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since ^[a] the world began.

VII. Judaism considers the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) the “Judgment of the Fruit of the Trees”

Take careful note of...

Matthew 7:15-20

2 Corinthians 5:10

1 Corinthians 3:13

Galatians 5:22-23

VIII. Precise timing of Pentecost is a mystery

1. Mark 13:32. “No man knows the day or the hour...”
2. Since the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD, it's physically impossible to commemorate First Fruits or the waving of the loaves at Pentecost

IX. Book of Ruth is much more than a love story

Occurs during the wheat harvest

Ruth – moabitess

Boaz – kinsman redeemer / portrayed as a type of Christ

He purchases the land and in the process takes a gentile bride – who becomes part of Christ's lineage

X. Pentecost occurs on the 6th of Sivan

Noah Given the covenant by God on same date

Moses Receives the Law on Sinai on 6th of Sivan / 3000 died

Holy Spirit given to the Church on 6th of Sivan / 3000 saved

King David Born and died (according to tradition) on 6th of Sivan

Enoch (Type of the church) Believed by the Hassidic Jews to have been born on 6th of Sivan and also raptured on his birthday

³² “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. ³⁴ *It is* like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. ³⁵ Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning— ³⁶ lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. ³⁷ And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!”