

# Counting to the Feast of Weeks (Day of Sabbaths, Pentecost)

by

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Leviticus 23:15 requires counting to the date of the Feast of Weeks (Day of Sabbaths, Pentecost) within a scriptural year. The year begins on 1 Nisan with the first new-moon crescent after the sunset of the day of the Spring Equinox. Counting is to be in accordance with Deuteronomy 16:9, on the day *after* the first weekly Sabbath from Passover even if Passover falls on that Sabbath. Immediately after sunset, ten Omers of first-fruit barley sheafs were cut by a temple delegation and brought to the priests, even if in darkness. Until then, none of the crop could be harvested. The priests thrashed most the sheafs, winnowed the kernels, parched them with fire, ground them, and sifted the flour fine for the elevated offering.

The Mishna, Menachoth, Chapter 8, Par. 1., 2. states that in the Autumn, *fields* were plowed and barley sown *seventy days before* Passover. Farmers simply counted new-moon crescents to determine 1 Nisan, added fourteen days to Passover, then counted back for the date to sow. Sheafs of the first-fruit barley could be cut from any field. But, if it was determined on 1 Nisan that the barley kernels would not be in the abib (pasty-firm) state by Passover, Nisan was postponed one lunation.

*Counting must start on the Day of the Elevated Offering* within the Days of Unleavened Bread, include *seven complete Sabbaths and the morrow*, total *fifty days*, and *end* on the first day of the week (Sunday). This seems the interpretation of the scriptures by the Sadducee High Priests through CE 70. The Pharisees advocated the interpretation in the footnote.

The chart below shows how the start date and end date of the count can vary. Select ① any day of the week (a) through (g) when Passover will occur, read horizontally under ② to **Sun.**, the Day of the Elevated Offering upon which the count starts; then to ③ the column: 3<sup>rd</sup> month (Sivan) Feast of Weeks (Day of Sabbaths, Pentecost) for the date when the count ends.

For example, when Passover occurs on (a) Sunday, the count starts on the Day of the Elevated Offering which follows the weekly Sabbath (locate: **Sun.**, under column: 21<sup>st</sup>). Sunday occurs on the seventh day within the Days of Unleavened Bread. The count of seven complete Sabbaths and the morrow (fifty days), ends on the first day of the week, 11 Sivan.

When Passover occurs on (g) Saturday, the count starts on the Day of the Elevated Offering which follows the weekly Sabbath (locate: **Sun.** under column: 15<sup>th</sup>). Sunday occurs on the first day within the Days of Unleavened Bread. The count of seven complete Sabbaths and the morrow (fifty days), also ends on the first the day of the week, 5 Sivan.

	① When Passover the 14 <sup>th</sup> , occurs on:	② the count always starts on Sunday (in bold below): Day of the Elevated Offering Day within the Days of Unleavened Bread, month of Nisan							③ and always ends in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> month (Sivan) upon the Feast of Weeks (Day of Sabbaths, Pentecost), Sunday the:
		15 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	
(a)	Sunday	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	<b>Sun.</b>	11 <sup>th</sup>
(b)	Monday	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	<b>Sun.</b>	Mon.	10 <sup>th</sup>
(c)	Tuesday	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	<b>Sun.</b>	Mon.	Tues.	9 <sup>th</sup>
(d)	Wednesday	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	<b>Sun.</b>	Mon.	Tues	Wed.	8 <sup>th</sup>
(e)	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.	<b>Sun.</b>	Mon.	Tues	Wed	Thur.	7 <sup>th</sup>
(f)	Friday	Sat.	<b>Sun.</b>	Mon.	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri.	6 <sup>th</sup>
(g)	Saturday	<b>Sun.</b>	Mon.	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri.	Sat.	5 <sup>th</sup>

Note: The Jews observed a new-moon crescent every 29 to 30 days. The first lunar month Nisan was assigned 30 days, Iyyar 29 days, Sivan 30, etc., through Tishri, the seventh month. The sequence averages 29-1/2 days, close to the theoretical lunation of 29.53 days.

The Pharisees advocated counting only on 16 Nisan. The 16<sup>th</sup> follows the first Day of Unleavened Bread which is an *annual Sabbath* and the 'high' day in John 19:31. But, the 16<sup>th</sup> is *not* always the first day of the week; counting is *not* done because the fiftieth day is always 6 Sivan; there are *not* seven complete weeks of Sabbaths most years; and the fiftieth day does *not* always end on the first day of the week (Sunday).