

Exegetical Notes, Deuteronomy 16:9-12

“The Feast of Weeks”

Prepared by Charles H. Jensen, Pastor, Cornerstone Fellowship

101 Kylies Road, Coatesville, PA 19320

610-384-1375

charleshjensen@aol.com

Deuteronomy 16:9-12 (see notes of Leviticus 23:15-22 & Numbers 28:26-31)

Verses 9-12

Count off seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the standing grain. ¹⁰ Then celebrate the Festival of Weeks to the Lord your God by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the Lord your God has given you.

¹¹ And rejoice before the Lord your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name—you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, the Levites in your towns, and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows living among you. ¹² Remember that you were slaves in Egypt, and follow carefully these decrees.

- The second of Israel’s great annual celebrations was called the Feast of Weeks. This feast was to be held “seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the standing grain.” Hebrews said that that day was Aviv 16th (See notes on Deuteronomy 16:1-8. The Passover started on the 14th of Aviv. The 16th day would then be the second day of Passover since Passover began at sun down of Aviv 14). Seven weeks from that day, the second feast began (Notice the cycle of seven. A week is seven days. They are to count off seven weeks).
- Seven weeks is 49 days. The Feast of Weeks began on the 50th day after the beginning of Passover. The Greek word for 50 is Pentecost. Thus, this feast became known as the Feast of Pentecost (See Acts 2:1-13). Beginning on the 50th day, it is an annual reminder of the third of Israel’s great Sabbaths, the seven cycles of seven Sabbaths or the year of Jubilee.
- To celebrate this Feast, the Israelites were to make a freewill offering to God, an offering given freely to thank God in an amount proportionate to the blessing he had given them. They were to rejoice for God had blessed them.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *The Feast of Weeks*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by Dr. Jensen and *Cornerstone Fellowship*.)