

HOD – THE POWER OF REAL HUMILITY

“Our Father we humbly bow before you on this Sabbath day and ask that you will open our hearts and minds that we may drink in the full intense meaning of these days of counting the Omer. We are striving to learn how to overcome and grow in the knowledge of you through your Spirit and grace. Thank you for your plan of salvation and for the work you are doing in our lives. Open our hearts to really respond to you and to respond to each other in a positive, righteous humble way as your Spirit and word direct. Strengthen our compassion and discipline in enduring with others’ their burdens, pain and suffering and be doers of your law instead of judges. We give all our praises and thanksgiving to you our one and only true God from whom all blessings flow. We yield ourselves to you as living sacrifices praying not to be conformed to this world, but to be transformed your Spirit into your Spirit and likeness. We thank you for the opportunity of gathering together before you to worship in Spirit and truth. In the name of the holy righteous name of your Son, Jesus Christ, we pray and ask these things. Amen.”

First we must know where we are today on the calendar in order to know where we are going from today. Today is the 17th day of Iyar and the 17 day of May, and it is the 32nd of the Omer count which means we are in the fifth week and the fourth day of the Omer count. We began the Omer count the day after Passover like the Orthodox Jews do, the Rabbis do and the Pharisees did in the time of Christ. The Apostle Paul was a Pharisee and the son of a Pharisee. He was taught at the feet of Gamaliel the leading Pharisee of his age and time. Paul said he kept the Law as a Pharisee blamelessly and the Pharisees kept the Omer starting on the day after Passover. The book by Alfred Eidershiem, *The Temple and Its Services*, also makes that perfectly plain as well as do the Jewish historians and the *Talmud*.

The only ones who counted from Sunday during the Feast of Unleavened were the Ancient Sadducees at the time of Christ. They disappeared when the temple disappeared. There are no Sadducees today, but about the eighth century a group of Jews in Asia or Babylon broke away from Judaism and launched a new movement called the Kaarites. They took on the old teachings of the Sadducees. To a large degree they became the inheritors of the mantle of the Sadducees and carry on the counting to Pentecost from Sunday during the Days of Unleavened Bread and sow massive confusion because of that. Worldwide Church of God under Herbert Armstrong was led astray also. Originally back in 1935 -1936, the WWCG counted from the day after Passover, but then switched to keeping it the way the Sadducees did because they were the temple priests in charge of the temple, but the nation followed the Pharisees in the days of Christ. Therefore they dictated temple observances and when to count Pentecost and from what day. They counted from a different day than the Pharisees.

Matthew 22:3-32—The Sadducees who say there is not resurrection said to Christ, “Teacher, Moses said that if a man dies, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brothers. There were seven brothers. The first died after he had married, and having had no offspring, left his wife to his brother. Likewise, the second died also, even through the seventh one. Last of all, the woman died also. Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife of the seven will she be: For they all had her.” Christ silenced the Sadducees’ questions about the resurrection, **“You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.”**³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.³¹ But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying,³² ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.” Yet the Sadducees were priests

So why are those who followed WWCG and “inherited” Armstrong’s “mantle” so to speak following the Sadducees in counting Pentecost today when Christ himself said they were ignorant and not following the scriptures? Later on in **Matthew 23**, Christ says, **“The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat.”**³ Therefore whatever they tell you to observe that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.” Christ is saying that we should follow the Pharisees when it comes to the law of Moses. I have met Nehemiah and have spoken with him in Spokane a number of years ago and he is a fine man. The Kaarites and Nehemiah Gordon count Pentecost just like the Sadducees did and keep Pentecost on the wrong day and do not accept Christ as the Messiah.

On the other hand the Jews are not blameless either. They have not restored the true calendar of God, but continue using the mathematical calendar created by Rabbi Hillel II in 357-358 AD, 300 years later after the time of Christ. The key is based upon the nineteen-year time cycle, so the beginnings of the new moon which are the beginnings of the new month are approximated. The mathematical and astronomical calculations are done centuries in advance, not by observing the new moons every month and invariably are a day or two off. It so happens this year they were right on for the months of Nisan and Iyar. Next month their calendar may be a day or two off (they generally are), so they need to get back to the calendar of God and we as Christians need to get back to the faith as it was once delivered to the saints.

Jude 1:1—“Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:² Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.³ Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.⁴ For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.”

I think that God allows these things to come up year after year to teach and instruct us to be diligent in proving and struggle “upstream” like the salmon and be taken in by the worldly pulls and pushes and Satanic deceptions which are all around us. So by the grace of God we are counting Pentecost right on the day after Passover. I am thrilled personally to have been given that knowledge because it is a precious gift from God. I

am not worthy of it, but God is generous and good. He gives the knowledge to those whom he chooses to give it to. He will not give it to the proud or arrogant. But he will give it to those who are of a humble and contrite spirit and who tremble at his word.

The seven weekly Omer count gives us the opportunity to work on the seven aspects of the character of God and to build his character into our lives the way he manifests himself to the world and mankind. We need to learn to manifest ourselves back to him and to other people in love as God loves us. Each of the seven weeks stand for a specific characteristic.

Zachariah These seven weeks parallel the seven shepherds of Israel. Each of the main believers and teachers of Israel is identified by one of each of these seven emotional attributes each of the seven weeks, so we can learn from their attributes personified.

WEEK 1—ABRAHAM (founder of Israel) Loving-kindness CHESED
obeyed God’s laws willingly in faith and was willing to give his only son when God asked

WEEK 2—ISAAC (son of Abraham) Justice and discipline GEVURAH
was willing to be sacrificed as God was going to sacrifice His son, showing his love for us so our sins would be forgiven. In type, a type of the Lamb of God/Christ who took our place

WEEK 3—JACOB (son of Isaac) Harmony, compassion TIFERIT
means plain or perfect/complete man, learned to be patient and forbearing

WEEK 4—MOSES (led Israel out of Egypt) Endurance NETZACH
meekest man on the face of the earth, 40 years in the wilderness

WEEK 5—AARON (brother of Moses; Hi-priest) Humility HOD
submitted to God quietly; given glory to fit the office he was given

WEEK 6—JOSEPH (son of Jacob) Bonding YESOD
prevailed with God and name changed to Israel; his 12 sons became the 12 tribes of Israel

WEEK 7—DAVID (king of Israel) Sovereignty, leadership MALCHUT

Every race was created by God, in him we are all one, color does not matter, nor is there discrimination of one color above another color. God’s way is not the way of pride, but the way of humility.

Ezekiel 28:12-26—“Lucifer, an anointed cherub, was the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty in the Garden of God, perfect in all his ways. But he corrupted his wisdom for the sake of his splendor. His heart became proud and lifted up because of his beauty and his riches, and he set his heart as the heart of a god. **Isaiah 14:12-14**—“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven,¹⁴ I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ ”

This week is the fifth week of Hod which is the attribute of humility which goes along with glory and grandeur. Let me explain that. A diamond is cut into many facets, the more facets the brighter shines the diamond. Do you ever hear a diamond say anything? Diamonds don't talk, but just shine the reflection of light. This is the way God wants us to reflect his character in every direction. Each facet reflects the light in a different direction. We are to reflect the light of God in every direction. Although humility is the key to reach beyond yourself, humility is silent it is not a void. It is a dynamic expression of life that includes all seven qualities of love, discipline, compassion, endurance, humility, bonding and sovereignty. **Matthew 5:14-16**—Christ said to his disciples, “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp-stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Light chases away the darkness and helps us see through the darkness. A candle will spread light and a mirror will reflect and spread light. Without light we can stumble and fall in the dark.