

Announcement Letter March 2021

Dear Brethren:

We are finally entering the calendar month containing the spring equinox in the Northern Hemisphere, meaning that we are at the very threshold of the Passover season. With that in mind, your devoted servants here in the church home office greet you again with heartfelt love and appreciation. Your belief in the Truth of God's revelation to His Church makes you precious, especially because there are so few today who understand—let alone are holding fast to—the doctrines that Jesus Christ gave to His chosen people. Since you are among the very few who have the chance truly to partake of the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread acceptably, the offerings that you make in your assemblies will be significant. We pray for the day when many more will come to understand the real Truth and to have the gumption to practice it as God revealed it, but in the meantime, your examples will be another instance of a small but very bright light shining in a very dark world.

Spiritual Principle: Which Day Is Wavesheaf Sunday?

This happens to be one of the few years when Passover day falls on a weekly Sabbath (March 27), making the solemn Passover service to be observed the preceding Friday night. According to God's Calendar, we have not had a Sabbath Passover for the last thirteen years—since 2008. For that reason, many of you may not be aware, or may not remember, why this is especially important. We are talking about the controversy over which day is wavesheaf Sunday. And why is that significant at all? It is because wavesheaf Sunday is the *anchor point* for the Pentecost count, and if we do not know which Sunday from which to start counting, how can we be sure to arrive at the correct day for Pentecost? Pick the wrong Sunday, and you are assured of being *at least one week off* in assigning Pentecost.

We are not required today to offer special physical sacrifices on wavesheaf day—as was required under the First Covenant—so it is easy to overlook this day which falls during the Passover season. Yet because this particular Sunday became the day after the resurrection of Jesus Christ, upon which He ascended to be accepted by His Father as our High Priest, it is filled with symbolism that affects our hope of salvation. We should always take note of wavesheaf day, both for this reason as well as for the counting of Pentecost.

Why is there any dispute about which Sunday is wavesheaf day? Leviticus 23:11 simply says, concerning the ceremony, that "on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall

wave it." But which Sabbath is that? The Jews have decided that it refers to an annual Sabbath—the first High Day of Unleavened Bread—so to them, it is always Nisan 15. And if you begin your Pentecost count each year on a *fixed date on the calendar*, your Pentecost will also be a *fixed date on the calendar*. That is why the Jews keep Pentecost on Sivan 6, which they calculate to be fifty days after Nisan 15 each year. Nisan 15 can fall on several different days of the week from year to year, which means that the Jews' Pentecost will also fall on several different days of the week from year to year. The Jews are incorrect.

If the "sabbath" preceding wavesheaf day is not the first day of Unleavened Bread, what are the alternatives? Most others believe it refers to a *weekly* Sabbath day. They are correct. (Technicalities of all of this can be found in our detailed articles concerning the Pentecost count.) But which weekly Sabbath during the Passover season is our benchmark?

Mr. Herbert Armstrong taught for nearly forty years that the "sabbath" from which Pentecost is counted is *the weekly Sabbath falling within the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread*. Therefore, from the 1930s until 1974, the entire Church of God under his leadership followed this rule in any year that the Passover fell on a weekly Sabbath—like in this year. Following that very same rule (which we believe Jesus Christ revealed to him through divine inspiration), which Sunday is wavesheaf day in this year, 2021? In any seven-day period, there is only ever *one instance* of a particular day of the week. There is only one Monday in any seven-day period. There is only one Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday. There is also only one weekly Sabbath in any seven-day period. This year, which day is *the only weekly Sabbath* that falls within the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread? It is not March 27! March 27 is Passover day, but Passover day is not part of the seven-day Feast! What date (on the Roman calendar) is the only *weekly Sabbath* falling within Unleavened Bread? It is April 3, *the last High Day of Unleavened Bread!* Therefore, wavesheaf day is the day following that day, which is April 4. That is why our Pentecost count is tied to April 4, 2021.

But what is the controversy? In 1974, the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) not only made a change in their *way of counting*, which moved Pentecost from Monday to Sunday, they also made a *second doctrinal change* in the formula for Pentecost which many did not even register. In deciding that Mr. Armstrong was wrong about a Monday Pentecost, they also decided separately that he was wrong in years like this one—when Passover falls on a weekly Sabbath—in concerning which weekly Sabbath to use as the benchmark. They decided that *it is wavesheaf day itself* that "must" fall within the Feast of Unleavened Bread, not the weekly Sabbath which precedes it. This, they explained, was necessary because Christ is our wavesheaf, and therefore He must *be part of* the seven-day Feast. According to Mr. Armstrong, in years like this one, wavesheaf day falls outside of the seven-day Feast (the day following the last High Day). The "church scholars" decided that this was an error. What was their proof? Only the standard scholarly mumbo-jumbo that every deceived

religionist uses to assert his own opinion. (Please see our articles and sermons documenting this change, including a convoluted interpretation of Joshua 5:10–12, and why—even technically—they are incorrect.) Where, in their analysis, was God's revelation through a chosen servant? It was non-existent!

Nonetheless, the WCG changed their Pentecost formula in 1974 to require wavesheaf day to fall within the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and 1974 happened to be one of those few years when it mattered. In 1974, Passover day also fell on a weekly Sabbath (April 6, 1974). Until that year, there had only been two previous years within the Radio Church of God when that had occurred (1950 and 1954).

What was the result of this *two-fold doctrinal change* in 1974? Not only did the Worldwide Church of God "keep" Pentecost *one day earlier* than before (Sunday vs. Monday), but they actually kept it *eight days earlier* than before, moving wavesheaf day back an entire week!

In 1974, Mr. Raymond Cole and a very few others—who understood and insisted upon holding to *the original teaching* which came from God through Herbert Armstrong—kept *the true Pentecost* (in member homes) a whole *eight days after* the WCG had already held their assemblies. Is it not ironic that in the particular year that the liberal scholars gained the upper hand and rammed through their perverted doctrinal changes, they ended up forcing God's people into missing the true Pentecost, not just by one day, but by *a whole week and one day*? Is it possible that God's hand was involved, to demonstrate that man can never just change God's Truth "a little bit"? When man makes even *a seemingly small change* to what God revealed to be Truth, it is never actually small, but *titanic in its effect*! A little leaven leavens the whole lump (1 Corinthians 5:6; Galatians 5:9).

More details will be provided to you on the upcoming Day of Pentecost concerning this important history and the technicalities for properly assigning wavesheaf day. In the meantime, please let us know if we can provide you with references to past explanations of all of these topics.

As we prepare to observe Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, please take note also that when this Feast is completed, wavesheaf day will follow on Sunday, April 4, which is a memorial of the very day that Jesus Christ actually became your High Priest in heaven.

Death

Mrs. Jenny Davies, of Penrith, Cumbria, UK, died Wednesday morning, February 24, peacefully at home. Jenny had taken a bad fall earlier and never quite recovered fully from her injuries. She was 84 years of age at the time of her death. We will miss her lively, energetic personality. We offer our condolences to her children who were with her at death.

In regard to the death of Mrs. Jenny Davies, her children sent this note:

If you are reading this, then there's a good chance you will have met our Mum, Jenny Davies, whose favourite pastime was to walk, far and wide, and to talk to anyone she happened to meet. Within a matter of minutes she would have found some common ground, and over a good natter, she will have given you the gift of her boundless optimism, and made your day even brighter. She had time for everybody and their life stories. She talked to the animals, and sang to some of them. She would dance with anyone, young or old, in the street or in the fields, and the joy of existence was her essence. She knew that less is more, that to give is better than to receive, and she remained true to herself right to the end.

We, her children are so so blessed to have had such a lovely Mum. But we know there are so many other people to whom she was "special." So, as you read this, you will know she lived her life to the full, and left as she wished. And she would like you all to be happy, to celebrate, and not be sad, for she would say she doesn't matter any more (though we will carry her in our hearts for as long as they beat on).

With grateful thanks to all you folks who sent Jenny messages and gifts. She knew she was loved. Thank you so much.

Nicola, Clare, Andrew, James and Philip

New Moon

The new moon, Nisan (first month), begins Saturday evening, March 13. The new moon day is Sunday, March 14.

Holy Days

- Passover Friday, March 26
- Night to be Much Observed Saturday, March 27
- First Holy Day—Days of Unleavened Bread Sunday, March 28
- Second Holy Day—Days of Unleavened Bread Sabbath, April 3

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

- March 26–28 (Passover/1st HD-UB). Grand Rapids, Michigan
- April 3 (2nd HD-UB). Tilton, Illinois

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-RC 26-3	02-04-21	02-27-21	The Technicalities of Divorce and Remarriage #3
WSM-RWL 22	02-04-21	03-06-21	Pre-Passover Examination: In an Unworthy Manner
WSE-JWB 225-35	02-04-21	03-13-21	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #35
WSE-JWB 225-36	02-25-21	03-20-21	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #36
WSE-JWB 252	02-25-21	03-27-21	Where Are All the Mentors?
Holy Day Sermons	02-11-21	04-03-21	2 nd High Day of Unleavened Bread
WSE-RC 26-4	02-25-21	04-10-21	The Technicalities of Divorce and Remarriage #4
WSE-RC 26-5	03-18-21	04-17-21	The Technicalities of Divorce and Remarriage #5

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby