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FIFTY: THE COVENANT NUMBER

Today is the biblical Day (Feast) of Pentecost. "Penta" means "fifty." It is the 50th day after Passover. It is the day associated with God's covenant with His people.

The original Pentecost occurred in the Sinai Wilderness fifty days after the Passover in Egypt when the Jews were released from Egyptian bondage (a "type" representing bondage to sin). They were set free.

Fifty days later, God called Moses up to Mount Sinai where He gave Moses the covenant that bound them to Him. This was the original "old" covenant with Israel which we associate with the Old Testament.

Prophets spoke of a Messiah that would come to set them truly free. Jesus was that Messiah. He became the Passover Lamb. His shed blood completed (fulfilled) the Old Covenant. Fifty days after that Passover came the Day of Pentecost when God established the New Covenant with His people who accepted Jesus. He sealed it by pouring out His Spirit upon His people. They were now truly free from the bondage (slavery) to sin just as the Jews were set free from bondage fifteen centuries earlier.

The original Passover lambs in Egypt "bought" their freedom from bondage and 50 days later God sealed them with His covenant at Sinai. The Messianic Passover Lamb "bought" our freedom from bondage and 50 days later God sealed us with His covenant with the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem.

God is very orderly. The Old Testament is numerically systematic. O.T. numerology is a study within itself. The number fifty is very "covenant" oriented. The Old Testament "law" also set every 50 years as a "jubilee" year in which each plot or piece of land God gave by covenant to Abraham was to be returned to the family to which it had been originally granted. The 49 years leading up to Jubilee is "mirrored" in the 49 days leading up to Pentecost. There is much more to study about that than we can do today.

Just know that Jesus' blood fulfilled the Old Covenant and opened the freedom of the New Covenant sealed by the Holy Ghost fifty days after His Passover blood was offered up.

The Christian church tradition observes Pentecost always on a Sunday and not on the biblical day. The Roman church established it that way many centuries ago and will celebrate it this year on this coming Sunday, May 31st, when it actually starts at sundown today (observed as 6:00 p.m.) and ends at sundown (or 6 p.m.) tomorrow, May 29.