

Counting the Omer

Counting of the Omer (Hebrew: ספירת העומר, Sefirat HaOmer, sometimes abbreviated as Sefira or the **Omer**) is an important verbal **counting** of each of the forty-nine days between the Hebrew holidays of Passover and Shavuot as stated in the Hebrew Scripture: Leviticus 23:15-16.

After Passover comes Pentecost, the appointed Feast of Weeks. In Hebrew, it is Shavuot. It is called The Feast of Weeks because in **Leviticus 23:15-16** אַחַד (Yahuah) tells us to count seven weekly Sabbaths from the first Sabbath following Passover Day and on the 50th day of counting it is the appointed day of Shavuot (Pentecost).

It represents a Jubilee and it is the counting of seven weeks, then on the 50th day of counting, the day after the 7th weekly Sabbath, the special Kadosh (Holy) Day is celebrated as the day of the giving of the Ruach (Spirit), the Torah of fire from Mount Sinai and The Ruach (Spirit) at the Temple Mount in Jerusalem 50 days after Messiah's resurrection. That First Fruits resurrection is a key to the count.

We can count up to 50 just as the Disciples did. After all, there is a reason they were instructed to stay in Jerusalem (**Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4**) and there is a reason they knew so easily that our Savior ascended on the 40th day after His First Fruits day resurrection... I do not think it was just because they were counting down the days since the resurrection, it was because they were counting the Omer just as אַחַד (Yahuah) had instructed at Sinai 1,500 years earlier. They were counting -- counting the (Sefirat HaOmer) days up to Shavuot!!!

To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of אַחַד (Yahuah): And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, say he, you have heard of me. **Acts 1:3-4**

You get do the same thing and count up to the great celebration of the Ruach (Spirit) of אַחַד (Yahuah).

Just count all the way to the 50th day
and it will be אַחַד (Yahuah)'s Shavuot -- Pentecost Day!!

It is the Kadosh (holy) day count from the death of the Passover lamb and the first born sons

of Egypt to the giving of the (10) Ten Commandments near the mountain of Sinai in the wilderness. It is the count from the crucifixion day to the giving of the anointing of אַחַד (Yahuah)'s Ruach HaKodesh to the Disciples at the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

On the count up to Shavuot (Pentecost) אַחַד (Yahuah) shows us that He gives all of us a second chance at salvation through Messiah's resurrection which is represented by the great wheat harvest of mankind.

This great promise is seen in the message of the wheat and the tares. The second chance at life is also seen in the Pesach Sheni (the **Second Passover** found in **Exodus 9**) instruction and teaching from אַחַד (Yahuah) as recorded in **Numbers 9:1-14**. This count of 50 days also marks the time between the barley harvest and the wheat harvest in ancient Israel.

After the first and second Passover, the next Scriptural Holiday following the summer's Pentecost (Shavuot) is in the fall, it is Rosh HaShanah, the Day of Trumpets. Because of Messiah's resurrection and His connection to Pentecost, the counting of the Omer is an important participation for all believers as you count your Barachah's (blessings).

This commentary is a study about the importance of counting today because a key part of our celebration in the first resurrection is "to participate" in אַחַד (Yahuah)'s instruction to count to Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks. After all, this Feast represents the Biblical counting to the great Jubilee (Yovel) year. Scripture tells us a Jubilee is the appointed time of release and return. It represents the revival of Eden - the fallen garden and the dominion of אַחַד (Yahuah) with mankind. It represents the promise of restoration and the coming resurrection of the dead. It is the Jubilee of the King of the Universe.

We need to know the Counting of the Omer covers the Jubilee of counting of time until Shavuot (Pentecost) which is the 50th day.

Counting of the Omer is called Sefirat Ha'omer in Hebrew. It is the acknowledged counting of seven Sabbaths and each of the forty-nine days after the first weekly Sabbath after the set apart appointed Feast of Passover. It is the 49 days leading up to Shavuot. Shavuot or Pentecost as it is called by so many today is known as the Feast of Weeks. It is the Feast of the seven weekly Sabbaths of counting. **Leviticus 23** tells us how to count but there has been confusion for thousands of years through tradition. Believe it or not, the omer count confusion started with an ancient conflict between the Pharisees and the Sadducees during the Maccabean era. More of their conflict is seen in the New Testament in **Matthew 22:23-28** as we see the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection.

The key to understanding the lesson in Matthew is that **וַיִּשְׁאָל (Yahusha)** quotes from the Torah, which the Sadducees accepted as the basis for their theology. **וַיִּשְׁאָל (Yahusha)** did not get caught up in the controversy between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, instead He focused on the words of the Torah and that's what we need to do.

Leviticus tells us that the day after Passover is a "Kadosh (Holy) Convocation" or "mikra" in

which, like the weekly Sabbath no labor, no work is to be done. Think about this, if vocation or work was done, some would miss the convocation, but no one is to miss a convocation. Because of the instruction from **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) to not work, Hebrew's call this day a Sabbath. In a way that is adding to Scripture, yet we are instructed in **Deuteronomy 12:32** to not do that. Just look for yourself in **Leviticus 23:15-16**, the word "Sabbath" does not appear until the counting instruction is given. The word being used in the verses telling us to count is just that the Sabbath.

During the "Counting of the Omer", we all "get to" count up to the Feast of Shavuot and with each day we are actually participating in the growing expectation and anticipation of what THE BIG DAY many call Pentecost actually represents.

That is why Scripture tells us the Omer counting is an unchanging, eternal instruction. It is an appointment and teaching direct from Almighty **יְהוָה** (Yahuah). In our so called modern day we need to take a step back and re-read Scripture with the Omer Count in mind. When we do we realize that it was early the 1st day of the Omer count that **וַיֵּשֶׁב** (Yahusha) appeared in the garden to Mary.

That day He also taught the meaning of the Torah at the end of the road to Emmaus. Then on the next day of counting, **וַיֵּשֶׁב** (Yahusha) appeared in the upper room to the witnesses on the 2nd day of the Omer count when He appeared to the remaining Disciples.

On the 40th day of the Omer count, He ascended only after His stern command to wait ten more days for the promise of the Father:

To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of **יְהוָה** (Yahuah): And, being assembled together with [them], commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, [he said], you have heard of me. **Acts 1:3-4**

Pentecost (Shavuot) is one of the **big three** appointed calendar days in **יְהוָה** (Yahuah)'s word.

The ultimate appointed place to appear is in Jerusalem. It is a day that aligns with the spring Passover salvation and the coming autumn days of Tabernacling with **יְהוָה** (Yahuah). It is a special day that **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) instructs us to not work for ourselves so that we can gather before Him for His gifts of the Spirit. It is the day of celebration of His Spirit (Ruach), the wind and life breath of our Creator.

In the beginning, Alahym (God's) breathed life into Adam, 2,000 years ago He gave the gifts of the Ruach (Spirit). One of which was instantaneous foreign speech. A gift of language to the disciples so that they could spread the Gospel to all nations on earth. It was a reversal if you will of the event of the Tower of Babel recorded in **Genesis 11:1-9** when **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) confounded their speech so that they could no longer understand each other. The result of the confusion in Babylon is that they soon scattered around the world. The purpose of the gift of

tongues was so the disciples could begin to re-unite the world in Messiah by the power of the Spirit of **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah).

In the end, **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah)'s power and Ruach (Spirit) will restore our life as it once was in Eden with the ultimate gift of eternal life. His Ruach (Spirit) will empower you as it did for people like Joseph, Caleb, Joshua, Bezalel, Micah, Haggai and Samson. John Piper, Chancellor of Bethlehem College & Seminary in Minneapolis, Minnesota explains:

"Before Pentecost the river of **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah)'s Ruach (Spirit) Baruch (blessed) the people of Israel and was their very life. But after Pentecost the power of the Ruach (Spirit) spread out to light the whole world. None of the benefits enjoyed in the pre-Pentecostal days were taken away.

He provides great insight in a sermon on **How Believers Experienced the Ruach (Spirit) Before Pentecost**.

Shavuot is the only appointed day that **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) asks His people to actually count "up" to. It is not a countdown but a counting up. That is important. The key to understand this is to know that **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) gives us His teaching and instruction for living because He loves us. Nothing is by chance or happenstance in Scripture. **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah)'s timing for His appointments is sovereign.

Because of His unfailing love - **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) never changes His mind and He teaches us some simple guidelines about how we are to live and worship Him. The concept of change is you and I need to change and to return to "the faith which was once delivered". It's the original message of the deceiver to fall for the idea that **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) does not mean what He says or that He changes His mind. Don't listen to that message any longer.

Instead, be a part of the plan, the plan of **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah).

אֱלֹהִים (Yahuah) tells us that the "big three" unchanging holy days in Jerusalem are Passover (Pesach), Pentecost (Shavuot) and Tabernacles (Sukkot). They are the days **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) instructed Israel to appear before Him at the Temple. Thankfully today, many people are coming to realize His appointed feasts are important to honor. The truth is they help us demonstrate our love for **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) in the celebration of worship He asks of us because **all Scripture** is written about **the mystery of the revealing of the Messiah**, in His word - - from Genesis to Revelation.

Perhaps like me, you are learning that drawing nearer to the presence of **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) is indeed done by walking in the step and rhythm of our Creator just as He instructed us to in the annual appointed "cycle" of His eternal rehearsal days, His Feast Days so that we can "be near" to Him at the appointed time in **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah)'s plan of salvation and restoration.

Can you just imagine what would have happened if the disciples ignored the words of **וְיָשׁוּבָה** (Yahusha)?

They would have missed our the Barachah (blessing) and gifts of His Ruach (Spirit)!!

OWYAZL (Yahusha) the Messiah, the one whose Hebrew name is **OWYAZL** (Yahusha) (it means "Yahu Saves/Delivers"/Saviour) is the fulfillment of the Passover (crucifixion), Unleavened Bread (grave) and the FirstFruits (resurrection).

As **Genesis 1:14** says, the sun and moon were created for signs, appointed times, days and years. They are always in sync with His creation of greater and lesser light by His time piece, the moon, in the 1st Biblical lunar month called Abib. Passover is always on the 14th day after the new moon so the moon is nearly full, unleavened bread is the 15th day count and first fruits the 16th and the 7th day of the Passover week is a "mikra", a holy convocation and it is always on the 20th day of the Hebrew month.

It's amazing that the Messiah's appointed covenant week matches His creation story. Day one light.. the light of the world was there hung on the tree for all to see, day two He separated the firmament, His body was put behind the stone separated from others and on day three the seeds and fruit burst forth just like the first fruits of Messiah as He rose victorious over death into new life through is resurrection.

OWYAZL (Yahusha) is the "firstborn" through the power of resurrection. We are first taught about the firstborn by the symbols seen in **Exodus 22:29**: "Thou shalt not delay [to offer] the first of thy ripe fruits, and of thy liquors: **the firstborn** of thy sons shalt thou give unto me."

According to Random House Dictionary (2010) the definition of a "cycle" is:

1. any complete round or series of occurrences that repeats or is repeated.
2. a round of years or a recurring period of time, esp. one in which certain events or phenomena repeat themselves in the same order and at the same intervals.

Like the laws of physics **AYAZL** (Yahuah)'s word does not change. Physics defines a "cycle" as:

- a.) a sequence of changing states that, upon completion, produces a final state identical to the original one.
- b.) one of a succession of periodically recurring events.
- c.) a complete alteration in which a phenomenon attains a maximum and minimum value, returning to a final value equal to the original one.

Understanding this is important because FirstFruits is very special in the significance and "eternal" meaning of the Passover season of **AYAZL** (Yahuah)'s appointed feasts held "every" spring at the beginning of the grain harvest season. FirstFruits is representative of the eternal cycle of the appointed time of thanksgiving for **AYAZL** (Yahuah)'s provision and salvation. It is and will be **THE** fulfillment of the reality of the promise of our restoration to the original relationship that **AYAZL** (Yahuah) intended for us. It is well beyond our comprehension, but He will accomplish our restoration to live set apart and near to Him through resurrection.



Leviticus 23:9-14 institutes the symbol of resurrection through the instruction of the "first fruits" offering described in Scripture. **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) instructed His people to bring a sheaf of grain to the priest, who would wave it before **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) along with a burnt offering, a meal/grain offering, and a drink offering. The teaching of **Deuteronomy 26:1-10** gives us even more information on this great day.

Our joy is to seek understanding and truth in **יְהוָה** (Yahuah)'s word. We may not be able to catch a plane to Jerusalem today, but we can in Ruach (Spirit)!! Like John said: **יְהוָה** (Yahuah)'s commandments are not grievous. There's no burden in showing **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) you love Him! (**1John 5:1-3**)

The Scriptures constantly give us visible and physical symbols of our Creator's invisible spiritual truths that we can relate to from **יְהוָה** (Yahuah)'s creation. The offering of the first fruits of the spring barley harvest represents the promise of **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) for eternal life and it leads to the Day of Shavuot or Pentecost and the first wheat harvest. Messiah **יְהוֹשֻׁעַ** (Yahusha)'s resurrection is represented by the barley harvest of grain of First Fruits. We read in His word about the coming harvest, it is the harvest of wheat. His followers and believers are represented by the fall wheat harvest of grain. Regretfully, there are unbelievers, those that reject **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) and judgment will occur because sin can not survive in **יְהוָה** (Yahuah)'s presence. This is represented in Scripture by the pulling out of the "tares" - the weeds.

The picture of the harvest in Scripture is amazing. Incredibly, both barley and wheat contain the eight essential amino acids that are regarded as essential for human life! They are: phenylalanine, valine, threonine, tryptophan, isoleucine, methionine, leucine, and lysine.

In all of Scripture the number eight (8) signifies a new beginning and eternity. According to **Bible Study.org** "It is 7 plus 1. Hence it is the number specially associated with **Resurrection and Regeneration**, and the beginning of a new era or order."

Numbers are important in Scripture, so are the pure metals. In Scripture **fifty (50) equates** with "deliverance" and silver represents "redemption". Have you ever noticed this?

And if a man shall sanctify unto **יְהוָה** (Yahuah) [some part] of a field of his possession, then you estimation shall be according to the seed thereof: an homer of **barley seed** [shall be valued] at **fifty** shekels of **silver**. **Leviticus 27:16**

Even the most obscure verses of Scripture alludes to Messiah! Truly, **יְהוָה** (Yahuah)'s word is amazing - every word has a meaning and purpose!!

For example, the three symbols of the First Fruit offerings are: 1) a burnt offering = the

crucifixion death, 2) a meal/grain offering = Messiah's body given as the unleavened bread of life, and 3) a drink offering = Messiah's life blood given as a covering and atonement for sin. But unlike the burnt sacrifice of a lamb or heifer, The Messiah lives as the First Fruits of eternal life. He has victory over death through his resurrection. By His own words we know: I [am] he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. **Revelation 1:18**

Here's another interesting example. Just after His resurrection on the third day following Passover which is called First Fruits, we see some unusual instruction that is tied to **Leviticus 23**.

"**OWYAZL** (Yahusha) saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my Aloah (God), and your Aloah (God)." **John 20:17**

Many have read the story of the road to Emmaus and it's worth repeating. Following Passover, after walking a few miles outside of Jerusalem, two disciples who had not yet heard of the resurrection met **OWYAZL** (Yahusha) whom they did not recognize in the physical glory and form of His resurrected body until He interpreted the ancient Scriptures for them. They only recognized Him after He related how He is hidden within the stories, words and symbols of the Torah. The five scrolls penned by Moses that so many today call the Tanakh (Old Testament)... the very Word and Scripture **OWYAZL** (Yahusha) always read and taught from. This "Word", the Scriptures are the bread of life. It is not "old" - and there's no mold!!

It just so happens that the two disciples understood the "Word" when they entered a home to have a meal, and with the giving of "the bread" and "meat", they understood who He was as their eyes were "opened" to the "truth" which is in the stories and symbols of the Scriptures.

"All" Scripture is full from the front cover to the back of **AYAZL** (Yahuah)'s eternal spiritual truths. Truth from **AYAZL** (Yahuah) that He does not change. The Creator describes Himself as the One that was, is and will be.

Think about it, if either the law of physics, which were spoken into existence by **AYAZL** (Yahuah) at creation were to change or if the instruction of **AYAZL** (Yahuah) were to change, then the heavens, the earth and life itself would cease to exist. That is why **OWYAZL** (Yahusha) told all of us plainly about the truth of the Scriptures He taught from. The perfect One said:

"For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the Torah till all is fulfilled." **Matthew 5:18**

The "Jot" is representative of the letter "Yod", which is the smallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The "tittle" is the small decorative spur or point on the upper edge of the yod.

The meaning of this passage is very clear and straightforward: Not even the smallest Hebrew letter or even its decorative corner will ever disappear from **AYAZL** (Yahuah)'s own "spoken" Word until all is fulfilled. The point is: **Nothing changes with AYAZL (Yahuah)... so we need**

to keep counting!

Only when heaven and earth are restored by a **renewed** heaven and earth will the words of **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahuah) be accomplished and only then will His Word be fulfilled in every detail even to the very letter of every word. We can see this "revelation" described in **Revelation 21:1-7**:

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, **for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away**, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Kadosh (Holy) City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of the Shamyim (heaven's) from **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahuah), prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahuah) is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and **וְיָהוּשָׁע** (Yahusha) himself will be with them and be their Alahym (God). He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." "It is done. I am the the Aleph and Tav, (Alpha and the Omega) the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his Aloah (God) and he will be my son.""

Here we see **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahuah)'s words are trustworthy and true. So, we can understand and "see" the story of the road to Emmaus is tied to Shavout.

Walking a few miles **outside of Jerusalem**, two disciples met the Master whom they did not recognize until He interpreted the Scriptures (the bread of life = Torah) for them in relation to the true understanding of Who He really is (meat = truth) hidden within the words and writings of the so-called "Old" Testament... Scriptures that He read and taught from. The same hour, the two disciples walked back in obedience and **returned to Jerusalem** announcing the resurrection to the others. Then **וְיָהוּשָׁע** (Yahusha) appeared again and commissioned them to preach repentance and forgiveness to all. He told them to stay in Jerusalem "until you are clothed with power from on high". Just think about it, the disciples knew to count the days to Shavout.

His instruction to stay in Jerusalem matched the instruction of the seven Sabbath day counting of the omer.

Have you ever wondered how the the disciples knew to gather together on Pentecost Day?

It was the 50th day, the day following the 7 weeks, the 49 days of counting the omer, **the day** called Shavuot, the day that had been celebrated for nearly fifteen hundred years by the people of Israel that were faithfully following **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahuah)'s eternal teaching and instruction, His Torah.

That's why there were thousands from around the world gathered there in Jerusalem at that moment listening to Peter talk to the great assembly.

In fact, just as 3,000 of Israel died at the scene of the golden calf (see **Exodus 32:28**); 3,000 were

redeemed that great day (see [Acts 2:41-42](#)) as they listened to the witnesses speaking to them in their native languages, their tongues. In the same manner, the 12 "nations" of Israel and the sojourners with them gathered together to hear the voice of אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) declare the (10) Ten Commandments from the fiery cloud above them on Mount Sinai 3,500 years ago.

So too, people gathered 2,000 years ago at the Temple Mount to hear with one voice - the word of אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) declared by the disciples, each in the native speech of the people that were gathered in from nations. The King James called this "tongues". It was a miracle from the cloven tongues of fire. This is what the story of speaking in "tongues" was all about. [Mark 16:17](#) gives us the last promise given by the voice of Messiah. This was the sign, the gift given by the fire and Ruach (Spirit) of אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) so that all men could hear the truth in that day that began when Peter preached:

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, You men of Judaea, and all [you] that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: For these are not drunken, as you suppose, seeing it is [but] the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, says אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah), I will pour out of my Ruach (Spirit) upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Ruach (Spirit); and they shall prophesy: And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) come: And it shall come to pass, [that] whosoever shall call on the name of אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) shall be saved.

You men of Israel, hear these words; **וַיָּהוּשָׁא** (Yahusha) of Nazareth, a man approved of אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah), you have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) has raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer your Kadosh (Holy) One to see corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you shall make me full of joy with thy countenance.

Men [and] brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Messiah to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Messiah, that his soul was not left in Sheol, neither his flesh did see corruption.

This **OWYAZL** (Yahuah) has **AYAZL** (Yahuah) raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of **AYAZL** (Yahuah) exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Ruach HaKodesh, he has shed forth this, which you now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, **AYAZL** (Yahuah) said unto my Adonai (Master), Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that **AYAZL** (Yahuah) has made that same **OWYAZL** (Yahusha) whom you have crucified, both Master and Messiah. **Acts 2:14-36**

Before this great 50th day, our Savior **OWYAZL** (Yahusha) told His disciples something worth repeating in this study once again:

"And he said unto them, these [are] the words which I spoke to you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the Torah of Moses, and [in] the prophets, and [in] the psalms, concerning me. Then he opened their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Messiah to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry you in the city of Jerusalem, until you be endued with power from on high." **Luke 24:44-49**

This comes from the unchanging instruction given regarding determining the exact day of Pentecost which was first given some 1,500 years before His disciples would participate in its fulfillment of reality at Pentecost. Can you imagine what would have happened on this day which is known in Hebrew as Shavuot if the disciples had not counted the 49 days? No wonder **AYAZL** (Yahuah) instructed that seven Sabbaths are to be counted day by day.

They would have all missed the giving of the fire of His Ruach (Spirit) on the day **AYAZL** (Yahuah) spoke the covenant of the (10) Ten Commandments. Why? His word is unchanging, **AYAZL** (Yahuah) means what He says when He says it!

There are great parallels to the account of the book of Acts and Exodus:

- **AYAZL** (Yahuah) came down to Mount Sinai and the Ruach HaKodesh came down on the Disciples.
- **AYAZL** (Yahuah) came down in fire at Sinai and the Ruach (Spirit) came down as fire on the Disciples.
- **AYAZL** (Yahuah) came down in fire at Sinai and there was sound of lightning and thunder on Sinai and there was a sound of rushing wind on the Disciples.
- **AYAZL** (Yahuah) spoke the (10) Ten Commandments and the Disciples spoke in languages or tongues as the Ruach (Spirit) enabled them.

When יהוה (Yahuah) speaks we need to listen and do what He asks or we will miss His blessing. יהוה (Yahuah) instructs us to count the days up to Shavuot.

"And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath... Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to יהוה (Yahuah)." Leviticus 23: 15-16

יהוה (Yahuah) told Moses that He will make His people a set apart (holy) people called out to be a priest to all nations, He keeps His eternal promises:

"Now therefore, **if you will indeed obey my voice**, and keep my covenant, then you shall be my own possession **from among all peoples**; for all the Earth is mine; and **you shall be to me a kingdom of Priests**, and a Kadosh (holy) nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel." Exodus 19:5-6

"But you shall receive power, after that the Ruach HaKodesh is come upon you: and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8

If we just look, we can see that the book of Leviticus gives the prophecy and the story of the Acts of the Apostles records the promise in the faithful counting by the disciples up to the day of Pentecost "**when it was fully come**":

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them." Acts 2:1-3

You need to know the counting is like the jubilee of counting of time until Shavuot (Pentecost) which is the 50th day.

Counting of the Omer is called Sefirat Ha'omer in Hebrew. It is the acknowledged time counting of seven Sabbaths and each of the forty-nine days between the set apart appointed days of Passover and Shavuot. Shavuot or Pentecost as it is called by so many today is known as the Feast of Weeks. It is the Feast of the seven weeks of counting. It got its name from Leviticus:

"And you shall count for yourselves from the morrow of the Sabbath, from the day on which you bring the Omer offering, seven complete weeks they shall be; until the morrow of the seventh week, you shall count fifty days... **And you shall proclaim that very day a holy festival**" Leviticus 23:15-21

During the counting, we all privileged to "count" to the Feast of Shavuot and with each day we are actually participating in "adding to" the growing expectation and anticipation of what THE DAY of Pentecost actually represents. At the Exodus, it was His voice from the fire on the mountain giving His Torah, His wisdom as seen with the fire of Mount Sinai and at Messiah's time it was the giving of His blessings and gifts by His Ruach (Spirit) like a mighty

wind as seen through the cloven tongues of fire.

“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” **Psalm 90:12**

During the daily Counting of the Omer in years past, many have started their days by reading a verse from King David's **Psalm 119**.

Just imagine the previous 49 days in the life of the Israelites as they stood below Mount Sinai. They had come from from Egypt (which means confusion), they had seen the plagues and they made the sea crossing. Everyone had to be anticipating the moment of their meeting at Sinai, the mountain of **אֵיֶזֶל** (Yahuah). Can you just imagine that perhaps you too may be privileged to see the plagues (tribulation) and take the journey across the sea to Israel, to the Mount of Olives to meet with **אֵיֶזֶל** (Yahuah) at His return to the place of His name - Jerusalem?

Each day of counting has a special meaning. Just consider day five of the counting to Pentecost/Shavuot because in the Hebrew language, letters are also used to not only spell but to count. The Hebrew alef-bet starts with 1) Aleph, 2) Bet 3) Gimel, 4) Dalet and 5) Hey. The letter Hey = five.

The ה HEY, or the 5th day's verses are: Psalms 119: 33-40. So give it a try reading the Psalm of David in a manner that allows you to review and reflect on your life and path of separation from the ways of confusion, the ways of the world to be near to **אֵיֶזֶל** (Yahuah):

HEY ה

Teach me, O **אֵיֶזֶל** (Yahuah), the way of Your statutes, And I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it. Incline my heart to Your testimonies, And not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, And revive me in Your way. Establish Your word to Your servant, Who is devoted to fearing You. Turn away my reproach which I dread, For Your judgments are good. Behold, I long for Your precepts; Revive me in Your righteousness.

Every year, at every Passover we are reminded of the greatest gift ever given to mankind--the gift of Salvation. In Hebrew, that would be translated "the gift of **וְיִשׁוּעָה** (Yahusha)".

We are asked by The Almighty to count the 49 days-and then present ourselves ready for His Ruach (Spirit) of fire on the 50th day, enabling us to proclaim His gospel of the Kingdom to the ends of the earth!!

"And you shall count for yourselves from the morrow of the Sabbath, from the day on which you bring the Omer offering, seven complete weeks they shall be; until the morrow of the seventh week, you shall count fifty days... **And you shall proclaim that very day a Kadosh (holy) festival**" **Leviticus 23:15-21**

So teach [us] to number our days, that we may apply [our] hearts unto wisdom. **Psalms 90:12**

Read **אֲדָנָי** (Yahuah)'s Word, listen to His voice and you will find the destination He is leading you toward. The Omer Count as a pointer to the Jubilee Year of release.

So, if you do not yet feel **אֲדָנָי** (Yahuah) calling you to His appointed Sabbaths, today may be the beginning. A beginning in which **אֲדָנָי** (Yahuah) is calling you out to return the Torah and be set free. That is why you are reading this. The appointed time is now:

Therefore say thou unto them, Thus says **אֲדָנָי** (Yahuah) of hosts; **Turn you unto me**, says **אֲדָנָי** (Yahuah) of hosts, **and I will turn unto you**, says **אֲדָנָי** (Yahuah) of hosts. **Zechariah 1:3**

Even from the days of your fathers you are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept [them]. **Return unto me, and I will return unto you**, says **אֲדָנָי** (Yahuah) of hosts. But you said, Wherein shall we return? **Malachi 3:7**

And I will give them an heart to know me, that I [am] **אֲדָנָי** (Yahuah): and they shall be my people, and I will be their Alahym (God): for **they shall return unto me** with their whole heart. **Jeremiah 24:7**

Since the beginning, His words ARE unchanging AND true so... come out of Egypt, out of confusion, circumcise your heart, obey His voice, walk in His ways... But never simply take my word or anyone else's, get a second witness from the Scriptures. Open and study **אֲדָנָי** (Yahuah)'s word and let it be your witness for truth as you consider His appointed Feast Days.

The Feasts of **אֲדָנָי** (Yahuah) have their prophetic fulfillment in Messiah **וְיֵשׁוּעָא** (Yahusha). They are His rehearsals for His appointments with mankind.

I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. **Matthew 8:11**

What does it mean to become a Disciple?

Repent and return to **אֲדָנָי** (Yahuah)'s covenant, return to hear and do His word and walk in the faith of His Kingdom path so that you can ready your lamp for your coming assignment. **אֲדָנָי** (Yahuah) is a sovereign Aloah (God). He is a loving Aloah (God) and He has provided a way to offer you His salvation. You can accept His gift of life. Consider carefully what your life consists of, look at it and repent of your sin, ask His forgiveness and accept His gift of love through Messiah **וְיֵשׁוּעָא** (Yahusha). Then follow Him.

What to Say. . . and What Not to Say

One stands when counting the omer, and begins by reciting the following Barachah (blessing):

Baruch ata **אֲדָנָי** (Yahuah) Alaheinu Melekh ha'Olam asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tizivanu al sefirat ha'omer.

Baruch (Blessed) are you, **יהוה** (Yahuah) our Aloah (God), Sovereign of the Universe, who has sanctified us with your commandments and commanded us to count the omer.