

5th New Moon 2017¹



Please note ... this Rosh Chodesh marks the beginning of the **THIRD** month, according to the Biblical Hebrew calendar ... with the season of Passover and Unleavened Bread over, we now **look forward** to **Shavuot / Pentecost** by counting the Omer. For more info, see the following download:

A Journey Of Seven Weeks To Mount Sinai

<http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=133>

Dates to diarise²:

DATES	EVENT	TIME
25 May	New Moon	21:44
1 June	First Quarter Moon	14:42
1 - 4 June	2017 Bilderberg Meeting	Chantilly VA, USA
9 June	Full Moon	15:10
17 June	Third Quarter Moon	13:33
24 June	6 th New Moon	04:31

¹ Please note ... this moon prayer has been edited and revised from the monthly emails sent out by Steve Olumuyiwa [steve@stremco.com]. We thank him for his emails and contribution ... and his heart to keep watch on the walls!

² Information obtained from <http://www.planetarium.co.za/skystuff/moonphases2017.pdf>

New Moon prayers ...

Remember, the monthly New Moon prayers are **NOT** to be confused with astrology. The Scriptures clearly warn against any / all forms of astrology:

- ◆ And when you look up to the sky and see the sun, the moon and the stars, all the heavenly array, do not be enticed into bowing down to them and worshiping things the LORD your GOD (YHVH) has apportioned to all the nations under heaven (**Deuteronomy 4:19**).
- ◆ ... and contrary to my command has worshiped other gods, bowing down to them or to the sun or the moon or the stars of the sky (**Deuteronomy 17:3**).
- ◆ All the counsel you have received has only worn you out! Let your astrologers come forward, those stargazers who make predictions month by month, let them save you from what is coming upon you. Surely they are like stubble; the fire will burn them up. They cannot even save themselves from the power of the flame. Here are no coals to warm anyone; here is no fire to sit by. That is all they can do for you; these you have laboured with and trafficked with since childhood. Each of them goes on in his error; there is not one that can save you (**Isaiah 47:13-15**).
- ◆ Hear what the LORD says to you, O house of Israel. This is what the LORD says: "Do not learn the ways of the nations or be terrified by signs in the sky, though the nations are terrified by them" (**Jeremiah 10:1-2**).
- ◆ In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in his whole kingdom (**Daniel 1:20**).

The New Moon prayers are to be used for **PRAYER** and warfare, as a guideline for prayer and intercession for the coming month, **as the Holy Spirit leads**. If you'd like more information on why we pray for the New Moon, we encourage you to read "**The Believer's Warfare In The Heavens**", available for order from the office or for download from the website.

In the New Moon prayers, we will often refer to "**possessing the GATES**". For more information on this, please see the following link:

<http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=299>

This New Moon

We bring you greetings to you in the Name of our precious Saviour and soon coming King Y'shua.

As we enter a new lunar season, praise the LORD for a new month (**Psalm 81:1-6**) and sound the shofar! He will deliver you from every yoke (**Psalm 81:6-7**) and refresh you as you rejoice in His Presence.

The LORD is looking to us to watch with Him in this season of prayer over the nations and over His Purposes. As you watch with Him over the nations, He will faithfully continue to watch over you and yours.

The Month of Zebulun

Given that the previous lunar month was the month of Issachar, naturally, the month of Zebulun follows. **Issachar** is associated with the **land** (tents and treasures in the sand) while **Zebulun** is connected to **travelling** and the abundance of the **seas** (fishers of men). The fact that Zebulun has charge of the abundance of the seas is confirmed by Jacob's prophecy over Zebulun:

Genesis 49:13 *"Zebulun shall live toward the seashore, and he shall be a haven and a landing place for ships; and his border shall be toward Sidon."*

Shavuot (Pentecost) and the Month of Zebulun

Another significant attribute of Zebulun is that it was a tribe that **faithfully** followed the counsel of God. For example, in **Judges 4 verse 10**, Barak called Zebulun to join him and the tribe of **Naphtali** in fighting to wade off king Jabin of Canaan and Sisera his commander. **Deborah** also testified in **Judges 5 (verses 14 and 18)** that Zebulun fought on the Lord's side. The initial defeat of Sisera was at by the waters of Megiddo and the ancient river Kishon (**Judges 5:18-21**).

The people of Zebulun risked their very lives; so did Naphtali on the terraced fields.

"Kings came, they fought, the kings of Canaan fought. At Taanach, by the waters of Megiddo, they took no plunder of silver. From the heavens the stars fought, from their courses they fought against Sisera. The river Kishon swept them away, the age-old river, the river Kishon. March on, my soul; be strong!"

Water

In summary, the WATERS are crucial this month of Zebulun. Note that in the Scriptures, water represents the following: the Word of God, the Spirit of God, and the people / nations.

- ◆ The **Word** of GOD (YHVH) is like WATER
- ◆ The **Spirit** of GOD (YHVH) is like WATER
- ◆ **The people and nations are like WATER**

John 15:3 *"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."*

John 4:10 - 14 *"Jesus answered and said to her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you Living Water.' ¹¹The woman said to Him, 'Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do you get that Living Water? ¹²Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?' ¹³Jesus answered and said to her, 'Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the Water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the Water that I shall give him will become in him **a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.**'"*

John 7:37 - 38 *"On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"*

Revelation 17:15 *"And the angel said to me, the waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages."*

We therefore need to ensure that we drink richly of the Water of Life ... GOD (YHVH)'s Holy Spirit, and meditate regularly in His Word and that we contend on GOD (YHVH)'s side for the people and nations in this season of Pentecost that we are entering into.

Prayer Points

This New Moon we also need to pray against the activities of the host of wickedness who are opposed to the Counsel of our GOD (YHVH) Who was the first to move upon the waters (**Genesis 1**) at the beginning of creation.

- ◆ Pray against the activities of Leviathan / water spirits (**Isaiah 27:1, Ezekiel 27, 29, 32, etc.**).
- ◆ Let us pray for a fresh outpouring of the Word of GOD (YHVH) and the Holy Spirit to cut through the darkness of sin and oppression, so that the captives can be set free.
- ◆ Apply the Blood of the Lamb on the heavens and the earth (**Colossians 1:20, 2:14-15, Hebrews 9:12-14, 1 John 1:7**).
- ◆ Pray for a new season of revival this month of Shavuot / Pentecost.

Isaiah 9:1 *“Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, as when at first He lightly esteemed The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward more heavily oppressed her, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles.”*

Judges 5:20 *“From the heavens the stars fought, from their courses they fought against Sisera”*

Isaiah 9:2-7 *“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. You have multiplied the nation And increased its joy; They rejoice before You According to the joy of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For You have broken the yoke of his burden And the staff of his shoulder, The rod of his oppressor, As in the day of Midian. For every warrior’s sandal from the noisy battle, And garments rolled in blood, Will be used for burning and fuel of fire. For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”*

Upcoming celestial³ events

Remember to apply the Blood of the Lamb of GOD (YHVH) into the heavens (**Colossians 1:19**) and command the heavens to declare the Righteousness and Glory of GOD (YHVH) (**Psalms 97:6, Psalm 19:1-6**) during the following events:

³ Taken from <http://www.seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-calendar-2017.html>

DATES	WHAT	INFORMATION
25 June 21:44	New Moon	The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 02:59 UTC. This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere.
3 June	Venus at Greatest Western Elongation	The planet Venus reaches greatest eastern elongation of 45.9 degrees from the Sun. This is the best time to view Venus since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the morning sky. Look for the bright planet in the eastern sky before sunrise.
9 June	Full Moon	The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This phase occurs at 13:10 UTC. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Strawberry Moon because it signaled the time of year to gather ripening fruit. It also coincides with the peak of the strawberry harvesting season. This moon has also been known as the Full Rose Moon and the Full Honey Moon.
15 June	Saturn at Opposition	The ringed planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long. This is the best time to view and photograph Saturn and its moons. A medium-sized or larger telescope will allow you to see Saturn's rings and a few of its brightest moons.
21 June	June Solstice	The June solstice occurs at 04:24 UTC. The North Pole of the earth will be tilted toward the Sun, which will have reached its northernmost position in the sky and will be directly over the Tropic of Cancer at 23.44 degrees north latitude. This is the first day of summer (summer solstice) in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of winter (winter solstice) in the Southern Hemisphere.

SUMMER & WINTER SOLSTICE⁴

The Solstice occurs twice each year (around June 21 and December 22) as the Sun reaches its most northerly or southerly excursion relative to the celestial equator on the celestial sphere. The seasons of the year are directly connected to both the solstices and the equinoxes. The Summer / Winter solstice will occur on 21 June 2017 at 04:24 UT⁵.

The term solstice can also be used in a broader sense, as the day when this occurs. The day of the solstice has either the most sunlight of the year (summer solstice) or the least sunlight of the year (winter solstice) for any place other than the equator. Alternative terms, with no ambiguity as to which hemisphere is the context, are June solstice and December solstice, referring to the months of year in which they take place.

At latitudes outside the tropics, the summer solstice marks the day when the sun appears highest in the sky. Within the tropics, the sun appears directly overhead (called the subsolar point) from days to months before the solstice and again after the solstice, which means the subsolar point occurs twice each year.

The word solstice is derived from the Latin sol (sun) and sistere (to stand still), because at the solstices, the Sun stands still in declination; that is, the seasonal movement of the Sun's path (as seen from Earth) comes to a stop before reversing direction.

Summer season in Scripture

There are at least three notable properties associated with the summer season in Scripture.

- ◆ It is harvest time. Summer time is a time to pluck and gather fruit (**2 Samuel 16:1; Jeremiah 40:10,12**).
- ◆ It is a time of Battles. Spring through summer is when kings fought battles in the olden days. For example, we read in **2 Samuel 23:13** that, in the summer, three mighty men broke through the rank and file of the Philistines to get to the well of Bethlehem to get water for King David to drink. When the men brought the water, King David honoured the King of Glory by pouring it out as an offering (**verse 16**).
- ◆ Please note too that it was also this season that King David delayed in going to battle and got trapped in adultery with Bathsheba, with seriously damaging consequences (**2 Samuel 11**). Our own battles are spiritual in GOD (YHVH)'s Kingdom. So we must intensify watching,

⁴ For the Northern Hemisphere, this will be the SUMMER solstice. For the Southern Hemisphere, this will be the WINTER solstice.

⁵ info obtained from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solstice>

praying and spiritual warfare in this summer season more than ever before. Be on guard not to get careless in this season of battle lest you get snared of the enemy.

Summer season in satan's kingdom

Throughout the ages, the army of satan has faithfully worshiped their master and dedicated the times and the seasons to him.

The crucial themes of these demonic gatherings are:

- ◆ Possessing the gate of the season. The army of satan stays up all night to welcome the dawn and the sunrise on the summer solstice.
- ◆ Getting rid of “negative energies” completely from their camp.
- ◆ “Healing” of wounds from spiritual battles.
- ◆ Renewal of strength with blood.
- ◆ Proclaiming a harvest of souls for satan.

Winter season in satan's kingdom (Saturnalia)

- ◆ Celebration of the winter solstice, the longest and darkest night of the year, usually begins with the Saturnalia. Pagans honoured Saturn, god of agricultural fertility with feasting. During this time, masters feasted with slaves.
- ◆ A slave is usually appointed as a mock king of the household.
- ◆ Throughout Saturnalia, the mock king rules and all slaves are given the freedom to do and say what they liked. After that, slaves go back to being slaves until the following year. During the time of slavery in America, Saturnalia was a major event and is still celebrated today in New Orleans. It is significant to note that the final abolition of slavery act in the USA was passed during the 1865 celebration of Saturnalia, a time for mocking slaves. A time in which slaves can pretend they are free. We are no longer slaves pretending to be kings.



Read the song of Hannah in **1 Samuel 2:1-10**, and bring strong praise and worship to YHVH and Y'shua (Jesus) our Deliverer and Restorer. Please pray and ask the LORD to set you free from any remnant of Saturnalia in your life, family, business, job, nation, continent, the Body, and so forth.

Winter Solstice

- ◆ Winter solstice is the longest and darkest night of the year. On this shortest day of the year, the sun is at its lowest and weakest, a pivot point from which the light will grow stronger and brighter. This is a turning point of the year.
- ◆ At a point, the sun looks like it is about to die, all of a sudden, it arises again leading us to the spring season. The Romans called it Dies Natalis Invicti Solis, the Birthday of the Unconquered Sun. For witches, it is the time of the celebration of the first lesser sabbat in their new year.
- ◆ This lesser sabbat is called Yule. Unfortunately, it is from this witchcraft word YULE that modern day Christianity coined the word YULETIDE. It is common to find Christmas cards bearing captions YULETIDE greetings. So-called Christmas speeches by heads of governments are also labelled YULETIDE messages, and so forth. YULE means “yoke of the year” or “wheel”.
- ◆ Although the “rebirth” of the sun is celebrated, the winter solstice season is still considered a time of deep darkness. Being the darkest time of the year, it is also a time when supernatural forces were thought to roam free, and the spirits of the dead would return to their families. During this season, witches engage in deep necromancy sorcery.
- ◆ Fire always has been the key element in ritual celebrations of the winter solstice. Heath fires, bonfires, burning candles and lanterns and electricity are used to symbolise the power of the sun. During winter solstice, the Yule log, an evergreen tree such as pine, fig, oak, or mistletoe is lit for twelve hours for “good luck”.
- ◆ Then, the ash of the log is kept in the house or sprinkled around for protection, healing, fruitfulness, and invocation for an ever-green life in the coming year. In recent times, the pine tree is the most favoured of these evergreen trees because its cone (the pine cone) is used for other diabolic purposes such as mind control.
- ◆ The pine cone has the same shape as our the human pineal gland, a pea sized gland in the center of the brain, which is referred to as the “third eye” in occultic circles. Pine cones are used to work sorceries that tap into the pineal gland. When the enemy gains control of the pineal gland, a victim becomes a blinded robot (zombie) that can be manipulated at any time.

How to pray

All these demonic desires are given maximum force from this New Moon to the Full Moon.

Please apply the precious Blood of Y'shua (Jesus) on these events, commanding the heavens to vomit the rituals and sacrifices of the wicked. Command the heavens to declare the Glory of GOD (YHVH) (**Psalm 19:1-6**). Blow the shofar to honour Y'shua, the KING of kings and LORD of lords (**Psalm 81:1-3**). Please read Deuteronomy 33:26-29 and be encouraged in YHVH GOD Who rides the heavens to help us. Arise and praise the LORD of the Newness and Fullness of the month (**Psalm 81:1-7**). The season after Shavuot (Pentecost) is a season of harvest ... it is a time to rejoice in the GOD (YHVH) of our jubilee ... it is a time of victory! It is a time of signs and wonders ... shake off every discouragement, PRAISE YHVH our GOD!

Shavuot / Pentecost

This month is also the month of Shavuot / Pentecost. Shavuot symbolises grace and jubilee because it occurs fifty days from Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

In the New Testament the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples at Shavuot / Pentecost (**Acts 2:1-4**), and the Word was preached boldly accompanied by signs and wonders.

Shavuot / Pentecost is therefore a time of Power Evangelism. It is the time of Power Harvest.

- ◆ Are you baptised in the Holy Spirit?
- ◆ Don't you need a fresh infilling?

You should this season seek to be daily filled and soaked in GOD (YHVH)'s Holy Spirit as we pray that the LORD of the harvest will refresh and energise us to co-labour with Him in the mighty revivals that will spring forth in our generation.

This New Moon season, given the knowledge we are privileged to have from the LORD about the time and season we are in, let us come before His Throne of grace joyfully with thanksgiving, praise and worship. Let us praise His Holy Name!

The LORD GOD (YHVH) wants us to receive FRESH RUSHING MIGHTY WIND of His Seven-fold Spirit this Shavuot / Pentecost (**Acts 2:2**).

As we receive His Fresh Impartation, He wants us to shake off all discouragement and hopelessness, and arise to BUILD with Him.

Please read the Book of **Haggai**. Ask for the strength and courage of Heaven to advance in the calling and appointment of GOD (YHVH) for your life.

FURTHER Prayer

Please organise all night prayer meetings to possess the gates of the times highlighted in this report. Pray also during the set times for the events. Remember, scripturally speaking, the summer is a time for harvest, battles and watching and praying!

- ◆ Give thanks / praise to GOD (YHVH), the KING of all seasons for the transition. Enter His Gates with thanksgiving (***Psalm 8, 19, 100, 136, 148***). Rejoice in GOD (YHVH) our KING for His Faithfulness and Loving-kindness!
- ◆ Declare the Kingship of Y'shua (Jesus), our Messiah, over all things (yourself, family, business/job, community, Church, Africa, principalities, powers, witchcraft spirits, water spirits, mountains, hills, winds, sun, moon, stars, planets, constellations, strongmen, satanic watchmen, and so forth).
- ◆ Bring repentance of personal sins, especially rebellion/disobedience, which is like the sin of witchcraft (***Psalm 15, Psalm 19:12-14***)
- ◆ Bring repentance for family sins (***Ephesians 5:21-25, 6:1-9***), also repent on behalf of the Body of Messiah. Repent especially for our sleeping and slumbering (***Isaiah 56:9-12***).
- ◆ Ask GOD (YHVH) for forgiveness and mercy. Bring atonement by the Blood of Y'shua (Jesus) Messiah (***Psalm 51, Hebrews 9:12-14***). Invite the Holy Spirit to come and fill you, your household, and so forth.
- ◆ Apply the Blood of Y'shua (Jesus) on the sun and moon. Exercise spiritual legislation to blot out the voices of satan's hosts from the heavens with respect to their invocations, mantras, rituals, and incantations, which they do at this time (***Revelation 12:11, Colossians 2:14-15***).
- ◆ Command the heavens and all creation to reject/vomit all satanic rituals and sacrifices.
- ◆ Disconnect the army of satan from the heavens and proclaim Y'SHUA AS THE WAY (***John 14:6***) to the heavens. All contrary ways are blocked and cut off.
- ◆ Let us ask the Lamb with Seven Horns and Seven Eyes and Seven-Fold Sprit of GOD (YHVH) (***Revelation 5***) to seal off the ley-lines and ley-routes of the army of satan, cutting off their astral horses and chariots (***Micah 5:10-15***).
- ◆ Let us command the earth to vomit these evil tokens (***Jeremiah 22:29***). Let us ask GOD (YHVH) of Hosts to send His Almighty Rod to shatter the demonic tokens buried in the earth into pieces.
- ◆ Let us ask GOD (YHVH) of Hosts to cut off all Babylonian sorcery, arrow and liver sorcery, at the parting of the roads (***Ezekiel 21: 21***).
- ◆ Let us apply the Blood of the Lamb on all paths around us to turn them into paths of righteousness (***Psalm 23:3***) which the devil and his agents

cannot trespass.

- ◆ Ask our Messiah to use His Sickle to break the sickle of Hecate and the bow of Diana in the heavens (**Revelation 14:14**).
- ◆ Command the heavens to declare the Glory of GOD (YHVH) (**Psalms 19:1-6**). Announce to the false gods of the nations that the gods who have not created the heavens and the earth will perish (**Jeremiah 10:11**).
- ◆ Shut the heavens with the Key of David against all satanic watchmen; shut the covens and esoteric centers with the Key of David against witches and occultists (**Revelations 3:7-8**).
- ◆ Use your priestly authority to break all satanic covenants which your family, the ancients, satanic prince, satanic watchmen, politicians, religious leaders, occultists, and so forth, have over you life, family, business/job, community, state, nation, Africa, the Church, and so forth (**1 Peter 2:9, Isaiah 28:14-18**).
- ◆ Renounce the invocation made around coven circles. Cancel the sorcery invoked using the four elements: wind, fire, earth and water.
- ◆ Command these elements to rebel against witches and wizards. Proclaim **Jeremiah 10:11**.
- ◆ Command the elements to praise GOD (YHVH), the Creator of Heaven and earth (**Genesis 1, Psalm 148**).
- ◆ Renounce and cancel the negative dance and energies around coven circles. Apply the Blood of KING Y'shua (Jesus) to blot out the circles, the astral projections and medi-focusing.
- ◆ Ask GOD (YHVH) to frustrate these tokens (**Isaiah 44:24-25**). There shall be no vision for the army of satan.

Micah 3:6-7 *"Therefore it shall be night to you, so that you shall have no vision; yes, it shall be dark to you without divination. And the sun shall go down over the false prophets, and the day shall be black over them. ⁷And the seers shall be put to shame and the diviners shall blush and be confounded; yes, they shall all cover their lips, for there is no answer from GOD."*

- ◆ Use **Isaiah 47, Jeremiah 46:11-24, and Ezekiel 13:17-23** to pray against the activities of water spirits, witches and the queen of heaven. They must come down from their throne and sit in silence and darkness in Y'shua's (Jesus') Name.
- ◆ Pray against witchcraft agenda to amass blood for healing and renewal. Let us tell witches and other sorcerers that they cannot be healed during the season (**Nahum 2 and 3**) because the LORD says there is no healing of their wounds.
- ◆ They cannot renew their strength either because it is only by waiting on GOD (YHVH) that one's strength is renewed (**Isaiah 40:31**).

- ◆ Let us pray that the human blood which they want to use to renew their strength will become a snare and a trap for them (***Psalm 69:22-25***).
- ◆ Let us pray that LORD will cause us to reap in joy all that we have sown in tears (***Psalm 126***).
- ◆ Receive the following promises: ***Deuteronomy 33:13-17, Psalm 121, Deuteronomy 28:1-14, Revelation 21:7***.
- ◆ Apply the Blood of Y'shua (Jesus) on your mind, your pineal gland, spinal cord, and umbilical cord. Reject all forms of mind control by satan and his agents. Renew your mind daily by reading and meditating on the Word of GOD (YHVH).
- ◆ Pray for mass repentance, revival, salvation, righteousness, holiness, mercy; pray that the agenda of witchcraft, occultism, idolatry and new age to rob us of our blessing be overturned; pray for the emergence of Christian-servant rulers/leaders, favour, grace, wisdom, understanding, economic abundance, grace to watch and pray without ceasing, victorious Christian life, jubilee victory, and so forth.
- ◆ Let us sound the shofar continuously at this time. Thank GOD (YHVH) for His Promise to grant us His Almighty Voice in the heavens (***Isaiah 51:16***). Thank Him for His Grace, Love, Mercy and Favour. Thank GOD (YHVH) for creating the sun to rule the day and the moon to rule the night. Thank GOD (YHVH) for creating the heavenly elements for signs and seasons (***Psalm 136, Genesis 1***).

May Adonai Y'shua, the Chief Intercessor, bless you as you pray with the strength of EL Gibor, the Almighty GOD (YHVH) and knowledge this season.

Four reasons to blow the Shofar!



1. For the calling of the assemblies Numbers 10:2-4

This is therefore a season for GOD (YHVH)'s saints to gather either as leadership or as groups in solemn assemblies unto the LORD to hear what the Spirit is saying unto the Body at this Appointed Time.

2. For the journeying of the camps Numbers 10:5-7

As Israel was compelled to keep moving forward in their journeying to their Land of Inheritance, so must we individually and collectively insist that in this period, there must be a moving forward in GOD (YHVH)'s Purposes. Reject in this season every form of stagnation — spiritual, financial, material, as well as destiny and general fulfilment of GOD (YHVH)'s Redemptive Purposes.

3. At the times of war to invite GOD (YHVH) into the battle, Numbers 10:9

As we pass through this so called ember seasons, we need to invite the LORD of Hosts as the LORD of the Battle into our personal and national battles as the Church in the nations, so that the LORD will remember us against the strong onslaught of the forces of satan and witchcraft.

4. At the times of our Feasts (solemn days) and start of new seasons, Numbers 10:10

Psalm 20: 1-9 “MAY THE LORD answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the GOD of Jacob set you up on high [and defend you]; ²Send you help from the sanctuary and support, refresh, and strengthen you from Zion; ³Remember all your offerings and accept your burnt sacrifice. Selah [pause, and think of that]! ⁴May He grant you according to your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans. ⁵We will [shout in] triumph at your salvation and victory, and in the name of our GOD we will set up our banners. May the LORD fulfill all your

petitions. ⁶Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand. ⁷Some trust in and boast of chariots and some of horses, but we will trust in and boast of the name of the LORD our GOD. ⁸They are bowed down and fallen, but we are risen and stand upright. ⁹O LORD, give victory; let the King answer us when we call.”

- ◆ **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Pray that the Two Sticks of Judah and Ephraim will become ONE (Psalm 122, Ezekiel 37).**
- ◆ Let us pray that the on-going shakings in the Middle East will draw Jews to their True Messiah, our KING Y’shua (Jesus).
- ◆ Thank Him for His Shalom. He has not given us the spirit of fear, but of love, power and a sound mind. Cover your mind with the Blood of the Lamb and keep looking to Y’shua (Jesus), the Author and Finisher of your faith.
- ◆ Thank ABBA FATHER and bless His Name (**Psalm 105, 118**).
- ◆ He is called Faithful and True (**Revelation 19:11**).

Preparing for Shavuot (Pentecost)

For more information, please see the following links:

- A Journey Of Seven Weeks To Mount Sinai
➔ <http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=133>
- On Which Day Is Shavuot?
➔ <http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=150>
- Shavuot, the Story of Ruth
➔ <http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=264>
- Thoughts On The Significance Of The 2016 Omer
➔ <http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=440>

Counting the Omer⁶

Leviticus 23:15-16 “And you shall count from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, seven Sabbaths; [seven full weeks] shall they be. ¹⁶Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall present a cereal offering of new grain to the Lord.”

At one time or another, we’ve all probably said something like, “Grandma’s

⁶ Taken from the email newsletter of Mark Biltz of *El Shaddai Ministries*, <http://www.elshaddaiministries.us/>.

coming to visit in a week and a half," or "Only seventeen more days until my birthday!" But there's one subtle difference ... the usual method is to count down toward the big day, whereas in the case of the Omer, we count up ... from one to fifty. Why the difference?

The answer is that the people of Israel were not yet spiritually equipped to receive the Torah. For over two hundred years, they had been living in an Egyptian society known to be the world center for immorality and vice.

The high-impact adventure of the Exodus → ten miraculous plagues and the splitting of the Red Sea → launched the nation of Israel into physical freedom. Any experience, as powerful as it is, does not permanently change anyone's character. That is only possible through practice and adjustment over time.

Why did GOD (YHVH) wait fifty days after Israel left Egypt before giving the Torah? Why didn't He simply give it to them in Egypt, or immediately after their departure?

You can take people out of Egypt, but you can't take Egypt out of the people. Think of wealthy people who steal. Or people who attend a seminar all psyched up but no permanent change in their life.

Leviticus 25:8-9 *"And you shall number seven sabbaths or weeks of years for you, seven times seven years, so the total time of the seven weeks of years shall be forty-nine years. ⁹Then you shall sound abroad the loud trumpet on the tenth day of the seventh month (almost October); on the Day of Atonement blow the trumpet in all your land."*

Why count the Omer?

Because He told us to. Beginning on the day that the first Omer of barley was harvested and brought to the Temple, a countdown to the next Biblical Festival began. The Israelites were commanded to count off forty-nine days and then celebrate the Feast of Shavuot (Pentecost) on the fiftieth day.

Traditionally, the period of the Omer count is to be a time of spiritual introspection as the counters prepare themselves for Shavuot. Because it begins during Passover and concludes at Shavuot, it is a remembrance of the journey from Egypt to Mount Sinai. A remembrance of our journey from the world to a life of walking in the Spirit. It is an expectation of a coming harvest and asking GOD (YHVH) to prepare us for it!

The Counting of the Omer is a count up to Shavuot (Pentecost), the time of the giving of the Holy Spirit. It is a journey which is begun with Passover, the symbol of our Salvation in Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ), and completed at Shavuot (Pentecost), the symbol of our completion through the Spirit. The distance of days between the two events should be a time of spiritual reflection, growth, purification and preparation.

The Master's Resurrection makes the counting of the Omer a season of special significance and joy. For his disciples, it is a time to remember the resurrected Y'shua (Jesus). All of His post-resurrection appearances and ascension fell within the days of the Omer count. On the first day of the Omer, Messiah Y'shua (Jesus) appeared to Miriam and to two of our number while they traveled to Emmaus, then those gathered together.

John 20:18-19 *"Away came Mary Magdalene, bringing the disciples news (word) that she had seen the Lord and that He had said these things to her. ¹⁹Then on that same first day of the week, when it was evening, though the disciples were behind closed doors for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, Peace to you!"*

On the 40th day of the Omer ...

Acts 1:3-4 *"To them also He showed Himself alive after His passion (His suffering in the garden and on the cross) by [a series of] many convincing demonstrations [unquestionable evidences and infallible proofs], appearing to them during forty days and talking [to them] about the things of the kingdom of GOD. ⁴And while being in their company and eating with them, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised, Of which [He said] you have heard Me speak."*

Acts 1:9 *"And when He had said this, even as they were looking [at Him], He was caught up, and a cloud received and carried Him away out of their sight."*

The disciples waited and counted the days ... forty-one, forty-two, forty-three, forty-four, forty-five, forty-six, forty-seven, forty-eight, forty-nine days of the Omer, up to the fiftieth day!

Acts 2:1-4 *"AND WHEN the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all assembled together in one place, ²When suddenly there came a sound from heaven like the rushing of a violent tempest blast, and it filled the whole house in which they were sitting. ³And there appeared to them tongues resembling fire, which were separated and distributed and which settled on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled (diffused throughout their souls) with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other (different, foreign) languages (tongues), as the Spirit kept giving them clear and loud expression (in each tongue in appropriate words)."*

For more information, please see the following links:

<http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=440>

<http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=426>

<http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=430>

<http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=432>

<http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=436>

www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=437

<http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=439>

<http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=441>

More information on Counting the Omer⁷

What is Counting the Omer?

In **Leviticus 23:15**, which is in the third book of the Torah, it says: *"You shall count from the next day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be completed".* "Omer" is a Hebrew word that means "sheaves of a harvested crop" and in ancient times Jews brought the Omer to the temple as an offering on the day after the weekly Sabbath during Passover week. The Torah tells us to count seven weeks from the bringing of the Omer until the evening of Shavuot (Pentecost), hence the custom of counting the Omer. Although Jews no longer bring Omer to the Temple the forty-nine days are still called "the Omer."

For further details regarding the day we start the counting of the Omer, see Pastor Mark's teaching at the following link:

<http://www.elshaddaiministries.us/torah5773/20130330.html>

Why should followers of Y'shua Ha-Mashiach (Jesus Christ) "count the Omer"?

According to Jewish understanding, the counting of the Omer recounts the journey of the Israelites from Egypt, through the desert wastes, to the revelation of GOD (YHVH) at Mount Sinai, when the Torah was given. This step-by-step journey through the wilderness was a time of trial and testing.

GOD (YHVH) satisfied their hunger with manna from heaven (**Exodus 16:15**), revealed to His people the Sabbath (**Exodus 16:23**), caused water to spring forth from a rock (**Exodus 17:6**) and intervened to protect them from attacks

⁷ Taken from the email newsletter of Mark Biltz of *El Shaddai Ministries*, <http://www.elshaddaiministries.us/>.

from the Amalekites (**Exodus 17:11**).

How does this apply to the followers of Y'shua (Jesus), today?

This journey through the wilderness is a TYPE of the Christian life of overcoming – from baptism and leaving sin behind (Egypt), marching and struggling through the spiritual wilderness (this evil world, and our human nature), until we reach the His Kingdom on earth.

As we go through our Christian lives, we meet obstacles, encounter problems, face trials and difficulties.

All these are reflected in the “counting of the Omer,” a task which identifies with our progress in “overcoming” our sins, faults, and human nature, putting sin out of our lives, and developing the Holy Attributes of GOD (YHVH), from the moment of conversion and baptism, until the coming of the Messiah.

At Passover we begin the march to freedom with GOD (YHVH) delivering us through supernatural miracles by the Hand of GOD (YHVH). It took Israel fifty days to march to Mount Sinai. Shavuot then is the conclusion of the march to freedom. It is the concluding feast of liberty that is true freedom. It begins with Passover and ends with Shavuot / Pentecost.

How can we be free unless we are connected to GOD (YHVH)? It is vital to our freedom. This is why counting the Omer is important to arriving at Pentecost. And “counting the omer”, is becoming more and more “connected” to GOD (YHVH), from the moment of our conversion and acceptance of Christ as our Saviour until the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Before Y'shua ascended into heaven He told His disciples in **Luke 24:49** *"And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."*

They waited as He instructed and on the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit fell!

Here's how you can Count the Omer

1. Every day, you can say the following blessing, and then count the proper day:

*"Baruch Atah Ado-nai Elo-hai-nu Melech Ha-olam,
Asher Kid'shanu B'Mitzvotav V'tzi-vanu Al Sefirat Ha-Omer."*

*"Blessed are You, LORD our GOD, King of the Universe,
Who has made us holy with His Commandments, and encouraged us
concerning the counting of the Omer."*

2. Then we count the day saying:

"Today is one day (or two days, or three days, etc.) of the Omer."

Psalm 67 is also recited daily because it is composed of exactly 49 Hebrew words which correspond to the 49 days of the Omer count. The Psalm is seasonally appropriate because of its harvest motif. It is spiritually appropriate because it speaks clearly of GOD (YHVH)'s Salvation (Y'shua) being made known over all the earth.

Psalm 67 *"May GOD be merciful to us, and bless us, and cause His Face to shine on us. Selah. So that Your Way may be known on earth, Your Salvation among all nations. Let the nations praise You, O GOD — let all the nations thank You. O let the nations be glad and sing for joy; for You shall judge the peoples righteously and govern the nations on earth. Selah. Let the nations give thanks to You, O GOD — let all the nations praise You. The earth shall yield its increase; and GOD, our own GOD, shall bless us. GOD shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him."*

May the Father bless you as you count the Omer, and prepare for the Feast of Shavuot ... May we all be filled and refreshed by the Holy Spirit, that we may SH'MA (hear and obey) the Father in loving obedience!

The following two sections include traditional Jewish commentary and thoughts on the upcoming new month ...

PLEASE NOTE! There are MANY Jewish traditions, including those for celebrating the Feasts, the New Moons / months, as well as many other celebrations and customs ...

While there is NO problem in using the traditions, MANY of them are beautiful and can be used as guidelines for Feasts / celebrations ... it is IMPORTANT that we keep in mind they are only *TRADITIONS* and not *GOD-Given Instructions*.

We encourage everyone to FIRST study the Scriptures, to know / understand the Instructions the FATHER has given us.

Interestingly, often times you'll find that the Scriptures give very little Instruction as to HOW to celebrate or keep the Feasts (as in the case of Shabbat, where there are only a few direct Instructions given); this causes us to truly worship in Spirit AND Truth.

To study the Scriptures for the TRUTH (Instructions), and then to be led by the SPIRIT in how the *Father* would like us to celebrate / keep His Appointed Times ... this results in us having to develop and walk in **RELATIONSHIP** with our Father, which is His very Heart ... the reason mankind was created in the first place → to walk in **FELLOWSHIP** with GOD (YHVH), as back in the Garden.

So, if there are traditions you find helpful -- again, there is no problem in using the traditions ... we simply encourage everyone to research these traditions out (their history, origin, and meaning), and TEST them against Scriptures.

We need to be AWARE of and AVOID those traditions (including *BOTH* the Jewish and Constantine / “Christian” traditions / customs) that go AGAINST the Father's Instructions.

Keep in mind, this was OFTEN the argument Y'shua had with the Pharisees and religious leaders in the New Testament, where their traditions were going against and nullifying the *Father's* Instructions (Mark 7:1-13 for example).

Be *encouraged!* As you learn to discern and differentiate between what is MAN-MADE tradition, and MAN-MADE customs / doctrines ... you discover that the Father's Yoke truly is LIGHT and EASY.

That His Instructions are a BLESSING!

The third⁸ Hebrew month ...

May You give us long life, A life of peace ➡ Shalom,
A life of goodness ➡ Tovah,
A life of blessing ➡ Bracha,
A life of sustenance ➡ Parnassa,
A life of physical health ➡ Hilutz Atzamot,
A life in which there is a fear of heaven and fear of sin ➡ Yirat Shamayim ve'Yirat Chet,
A life in which there is no humiliation ➡ Ein Busha u'Chlimah,
A life of wealth and honor ➡ Osher ve'Kavod,
A life in which we will have love of Torah and awe and reverence of GOD (YHWH) ➡ Ahavat Torah ve'Yirat HaShem,
A life in which Adonai, the LORD, fulfills our heartfelt requests for good.

Amen. Selah.

The Feast of Shavuot

You shall count seven weeks; begin to count the seven weeks from the time the sickle is first put to the standing grain [barley harvest — Passover]. Then you shall keep the Festival of Weeks [Shavuot] for YHWH your GOD, contributing a freewill offering in proportion to the blessing that you have

⁸ Taken from the mailing list of Keren Hannah Pryor — “*Appointments With GOD*” — www.jcstudies.com.

received from YHWH your GOD (Deuteronomy 16:9-10).

Shavuot is also known as Chag HaKatzir, the Harvest Festival.

It is the second of the three major Pilgrimage Festivals appointed by GOD (YHVH), when the people of Israel would go up to Jerusalem to meet with Him at the Temple. This applied to men in particular but women and children accompanied them whenever possible. Usually, great and joyful processions would wend their way from every corner of the Land, all going up to the beautiful City of GOD (YHVH).



None travelled empty handed for, apart from all they needed for the journey, they carried baskets filled with the first fruits of their crops, which they would bring to the Temple as an offering of gratitude to the generous Giver of all. The seven weeks they had counted since Passover were almost at an end, they had harvested the wheat crop, and now, before the days of the fast approaching summer became too warm, they were gathering together in eager anticipation as one big family at the House of their Father to celebrate His goodness with offerings, music, dance, and feasting.

Shavuot is only a one day holiday in Israel, whereas Passover and Sukkot are each celebrated for a week. Counting the seven weeks of the Omer connects the springtime festivals of Passover, First Fruits, and Unleavened Bread with the climax of Shavuot, when, in a dramatic revelation of His Presence, GOD presented His Word to His people. This “chain” is reflected in the Fall Feasts beginning with the month of Elul, which is followed by Rosh HaShana, the ten Days of Awe, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles). This sequence culminates with the special celebration of Simchat Torah → rejoicing over the precious gift of GOD (YHVH)’s Word!

The Word

One of the central themes of the Bible is the revelation of Who GOD (YHVH) is and, as a result, who we are as His children created in His Image. As Shavuot primarily celebrates this revelation and the covenant relationship of GOD (YHVH) with His people, it is one of the key festivals in the cycle of GOD (YHVH)’s Appointed Times. At Passover we celebrated “so great a salvation.” GOD (YHVH) showed Himself, through signs and wonders, to be the mighty Redeemer of His enslaved people. Through the Blood of His Passover Lamb, Messiah, this salvation was made available for all peoples of the earth. He

opened the way, the door to life, for all. That was a wonderful beginning! Then He said, “Count the days! Wait in anticipation ... there is more!”

Seven weeks later, in a spectacular “sound-and-light” show, GOD (YHVH) revealed Himself on Mount Sinai before His waiting people. At the Red Sea, Moses had declared the understanding that the GOD of Israel was King. “*Adonai yimloch le’olam va’ed! The LORD, YHWH, will reign forever and ever!*” (**Exodus 15:18**).

Now, at Sinai, He would present the blueprint for life in His Kingdom; the Constitution, as it were, which would instruct His people on how to create a kingdom on earth in which GOD (YHVH) is King.

The gathered Israelites not only would receive their “identity cards” as members of His Kingdom, but they also would receive a declaration of His Love, a *Ketubah*, a betrothal document from a groom to a bride. They were both overwhelmed and terrified! The King knew, however, that this was not a one-time event. It was the start of an extended process ... the forging and developing of an eternal relationship that, like any covenant relationship, would require constant, ongoing dialogue and interaction.

By hearing, studying, and living this great gift of His Word, incarnated in Yeshua, we His people, are enabled to grow in knowledge and love of our Bridegroom-King. At the same time, we are enabled to grow in all the Kingdom potential He has planted within us.



At Shavuot on Mount Zion, the promised gift of the Holy Spirit came from Heaven as tongues of fire and rested upon the disciples of Yeshua, filling, empowering, inspiring them to “go forth into all the earth” as ambassadors for the Kingdom of GOD (YHVH) and His Messiah. They would carry the good news that the sacrifice had been made, the price was paid, and whosoever

would repent and turn in faith to the one GOD (YHVH) of Israel would be “children and heirs” in His Kingdom (**Romans 8:14-16**). That Shavuot was a new day for the extension of the Kingdom of GOD (YHVH) on earth, which, beginning at His Holy House in Jerusalem, would now reach out to the far corners of the earth.

The Harvest → HaKatzir

The connection between Passover and Shavuot is also marked with the beginning and end of the wheat harvest. The ingathering of the whole harvest was a vital, busy time as the crop would provide a staple food for the nation, the lack of which would mean famine.

The centrality of the harvest is a feature in the book of Ruth, which is read and studied at Shavuot. It was due to a famine in the land that Naomi and her husband, and their two sons, left their town of Bethlehem for the neighboring country of Moab. After the death of her husband and sons in Moab, Naomi and one Moabite daughter-in-law, Ruth, returned to Bethlehem.

It was at the time of the wheat harvest and Ruth went to glean in the fields in order to support herself and her mother-in-law. Ruth was the “first fruits” of those from the nations who have and who will in the last days, as the prophet Zechariah describes, *...take hold of a Jew saying, “Let us go with you, for we have heard that GOD is with you” (8:23)*.

As Ruth said to Naomi: *“Do not entreat me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your GOD my GOD. Where you die, I will die — there will I be buried” (1:16-17)*.

Ruth’s faithfulness and demeanor earned her the admiration of the landowner Boaz and, to cut a long story short, a wedding ensued. To them a son was born, named Oved (servant of GOD (YHVH)), who in turn had a son, Jesse, who was the father of David, the king of Israel. From David’s line would come forth the Messiah, Yeshua, the future King of all kings; the one sent and anointed of GOD (YHVH) as the “bread of life.”

As Yeshua said, *“I am the living bread that came down from Heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh” (John 6:51)*. He gave his flesh as a sacrifice and then, in the power of the Father was raised from the grave as the first fruits of new resurrection life. *“Messiah has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died” (1 Corinthians 15:20)*.

At Shavuot on Mount Zion, GOD (YHVH) poured out the Gift of His Spirit of holiness. We now wait for the full and final harvest in the last days with longing and great anticipation, as Paul wrote, *“We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait*

for...the redemption of our bodies" (**Romans 8:22-23**).

The Wedding

The Shabbat before Shavuot is called Shabbat Kallah → the Sabbath of the Bride, which is comparable to the Sabbath celebrated by a Jewish bride prior to her wedding. On Erev Shavuot, the Eve of Shavuot, it is customary for an observant Jew to go to the mikveh (ritual bath) as a means of purification and preparation; as a bride does on the eve of her wedding, and as the Israelites prepared themselves at Sinai.

It is with this same sense of eager anticipation, albeit that our joy can be touched with some trepidation, that we count the final days of the Omer and arrive at the threshold of Shavuot. Our preparation will determine whether we will be ready to ascend the mount and enter the 'fiery cloud' of His Presence and hear the Voice of GOD (YHVH) that has special words to speak to each of His children.

Indeed, they are words of love as a bridegroom would whisper to his beloved bride. A very concrete example of this is enacted in Sephardic services on Shavuot. When the Ark is opened and before the Torah scroll is removed, a ketubah like document is read before the congregation. Some examples of which are as follows:

The Bridegroom [YHWH], Ruler of rulers, Prince of princes...Whose mouth is pleasing and all of Whom is delightful, said unto the pious, lovely and virtuous maiden [the people of Israel], who is beautiful as the moon, radiant as the sun, awesome as bannered hosts... Be thou My mate according to the law of Moses and Israel, and I will honor, support and maintain thee and be thy shelter and refuge in everlasting mercy...

The bride consented and became His spouse. Thus an eternal covenant, binding them forever, was established between them ... The dowry that this bride brought consists of an understanding heart that understands, ears that hearken, and eyes that see ... Thus, the sum total of the contract and dowry... amounts to the following: *"Revere YHWH and observe His commandments; this applied to all mankind"* (**Ecclesiastes 12:13**).

I invoke heaven and earth as reliable witnesses. May the Bridegroom rejoice with the bride whom He has taken as His portion and may the bride rejoice with her Husband ...while uttering words of praise.

When describing the Kingdom of GOD (YHVH), in **chapter 25** of the gospel of **Matthew**, Yeshua shares a parable that describes the return of the eagerly awaited bridegroom for the wedding feast. In the gospel narrative it is clear that He, Messiah, is the Bridegroom. John the Baptizer confirms this when he describes himself in the role of a friend of the bridegroom:



John 3:29 *He who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled.*

In the parable, at a time unexpected, the bridegroom arrives. "At midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'" Some were prepared, others were not.

As we anticipate the arrival of our beloved Bridegroom and friend, let us be prepared, be alert, be looking out and listening for the proclamation of His Voice, "Come my beloved bride, the Feast is

ready!" Then, dear friends, our longing will be consummated and our joy truly will be fulfilled.

"He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love." (Song of Songs 2:4)

Leil Shavuot: The Eve of Shavuot

The anticipated time has arrived and we can celebrate the Jubilee of Shavuot! At nightfall, special festival candles can be lit with the blessing:

*Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha'Olam,
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav ve'tzivanu lehadlik ner shel Yom Tov.*

Blessed are You, O LORD our GOD, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us by His commandments and commanded us to light the Festival lights.

The She'hechianu blessing is then recited:

*Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha'Olam,
She'hechianu, ve'kiamanu, ve'higianu la'zman ha'zeh.*

*Blessed are You, O LORD our GOD, King of the Universe,
who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season.*

Study of Torah

At Shavuot we celebrate GOD (YHVH)'s giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai, and the gift of the Holy Spirit on Mount Zion. It is customary, in some Ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities, for children at three or four years of age to begin their study of the Torah at Shavuot.

In order to symbolize the sweetness of Torah, as expressed in the verse: "The knowledge of Torah is like milk and honey under the tongue," the teachers give each child a drop of honey, or candy, as they learn each new letter.

Whenever, we study GOD (YHVH)'s Word with all our heart, the sweetness is tasted and it is a moment of revelation and a celebration of GOD (YHVH)'s Gift at Sinai and in the person of His Son and Messiah, Yeshua.

At Shavuot the ten utterances of Creation in Genesis are echoed in the Ten Words → the Ten Commandments given at Mount Sinai. Through the gift of His Torah, GOD (YHVH) informs us as His children that what we do matters. He gives us His Guidance and Instructions on how to live in order to grow in His Likeness and to become the people He created us to be.

There is no other way to fulfill our potential and live a life that is meaningful and vibrant; a life of true peace and joy eternal, apart from His Way. All that is required from us is to do as the Israelites did at Mount Sinai ... to recognize that He is GOD (YHVH) and to say, "*We will do and we will hear!*"

Yeshua came and lived His Life as the Torah Incarnate, the perfect expression of the Father's holiness. An important aspect of His mission was to be the light of the world, to perfectly reflect the Divine Image and to lead us in our Father's Way of truth and righteousness; to walk in His Love with giving hearts. All that Yeshua did every day was in unity and harmony with the Father and was empowered by the Holy Spirit. He came to lead the way and to inspire his disciples to follow, to the glory of the Father.

John 5:19 *"Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise."*

John 15:10 *"If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love".*

Luke 4:1, 14 *"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness"... "Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee".*

The book of **Ruth** and the **Psalms** are the main focus of study at this season.

Shavuot is considered the day of the Psalmist King David's birth and death, and the link in lineage between Ruth, David and Messiah is celebrated.

Psalm 68 is considered a special psalm to be read at Shavuot. During synagogue services, the Hallel Psalms are read (**Psalms 113-118**).

In addition, there is a special reading of the Ten Commandments (**Exodus 19-20**), during which the congregation stands in order to reenact the receiving of the Torah at Sinai.

Sephardic Jews read a beautiful ketubah (wedding contract) following the opening of the Ark on Shavuot morning to honor GOD (YHVH) as the Groom and Israel as His bride. At the Temple on Mount Zion, the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the disciples of Yeshua, thus it is worthwhile to include a study of the gifts and fruit of the Spirit in our lives at Shavuot.



After a light celebratory dinner, Leil Shavuot, the night of Shavuot, is devoted to the study of Torah; an all night event for the stalwart! In Jerusalem, for example, study events with excellent teachers are set up all across the city throughout the night. I have sweet memories of moving with a group of friends from one preselected and timed study to another. Just before dawn, everyone started walking to the Kotel, the Western Wall, at the heart of the Old City.

As we walked, we could hear the steps and soft murmurings of more and more little streams of people joining with the growing 'river' that was flowing from all directions to the gathering place that represents the earthly, Holy House of GOD (YHVH). Suddenly time had no meaning; we became part of the innumerable processions that, through history, had made their way joyfully in response to His call to "come up" to His holy mountain to meet with Him at His appointed time.

Our hearts were filled with the beauty of His Word, our mouths were singing psalms of praise, and we rejoiced that we could stand together in His Presence in the place that He had chosen as His Dwelling Place forever. As we prayed and sang and watched the new day dawn with its ever-brightening golden light, our hearts were filled with hope and faith in the Salvation and Redemption of our GOD (YHVH), who has promised:

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: *"Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. YHWH, your GOD, is in your midst, a warrior who gives*

victory; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will renew you in his love; He will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. He will remove disaster from you..." (**Zephaniah 3:16-18**).

Day of the Firstfruits: Yom HaBikkurim

The central theme of the ingathering of the wheat harvest fifty days after the planting at Passover, and the offering of the first fruits to the Creator and Giver of all, is beautifully celebrated on the kibbutzim in restored Israel today. Again, I enjoy delightful memories of my time on a kibbutz in the swamp-turned-fertile-farmland valley of Jezreel.

Late morning, everyone would meet in the wheat fields where, in a form of dance, a group of men would reap the grain with huge sickles. I was invited to join the group of women, dressed in white and red, who danced behind them gathering the stalks and placing them together in a growing pile. What a prophetic, joyful dance!

John 4:35-36 *"Lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together"*.

We then walked to a large open area, happily led by the children who were dressed in white like little brides and grooms, bedecked with flowers in their hair and flowing colorful ribbons. There we rejoiced in GOD (YHVH)'s plentiful Provision as each department of the kibbutz would process with the fruits of their labors and display them. This was followed by further celebration in dance and communal song, until we all adjourned to the flower and greenery filled dining hall for a fresh and delicious dairy-based meal.



It is customary to eat dairy foods rather than meat at Shavuot, based on the verse quoted above, *"The knowledge of Torah is like milk and honey under the tongue"* (**Song of Songs 4:11**). Baked goods also feature, being the 'fruit' of the grain crops.

Extra large and longer challah bread is baked or purchased in recollection of the offering of the two loaves of bread waved by the priests at the Temple. They are a fitting symbol of the good and nourishing results of man's participation with GOD (YHVH) as he works with what is given by GOD (YHVH).

Things to Do at Home

- ✓ Decorate your home with special flowers and greenery to celebrate GOD (YHVH)'s gift of the beauty of the season.
- ✓ Make garlands of "flower crowns" for children to wear.
- ✓ Arrange a centerpiece for your table using meaningful symbols. Here I have used a silver platter embossed with fruit, to represent the silver of redemption and the Fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**). A single white candle represents the spotless Messiah Yeshua, the Torah made flesh who dwelt amongst us and who is the "light of the world" (**John 8:12**). Around the candle are decorative red and white bows.
- ✓ Red and white flowers also would be lovely. As the traditional colors of Pentecost, white reflects the purity of the Word and red the fiery flames of the Holy Spirit that are an indication of GOD (YHVH)'s Presence ... *"We must always give thanks to GOD for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the LORD, because GOD chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit [red] and through belief in the truth (white)" (2 Thessalonians 2:13).*
- ✓ Make a Ten Commandments Card. To help children understand the importance of the day of receiving GOD (YHVH)'s Word, help them make a decoration that can be displayed as a reminder. This is a simple example.



- ✓ Fold a piece of A4 paper in fourths and cut the top in a semi-circle so that it unfolds like the tablets of Torah. Fold left and right sides inwards. You can practice Hebrew by writing the first ten letters of the Aleph Bet, which represent numerals 1 through 10, or write the numerals. Paste a cutout red heart on the inside to show that the Word is written on our hearts. Enjoy selecting and writing relevant and meaningful Scripture verses, e.g. **Psalms 119:89, 97, 130; Luke 4:4**, and add further decoration.
- ✓ To add to the fun, have a sleepover party for the children, while the adults study the book of Ruth. As a "midnight feast," a treat of a special cake can

be enjoyed. Maybe a white cheesecake, ice-cream cake, or a cake with white icing, representing the sweetness, purity, and enjoyment of the Word. You could add twelve red birthday candles (representing the disciples receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit) and twelve red cherries or strawberries, representing the fruit of the Spirit. The children could all blow out the candles, making the sound of a “mighty, rushing wind”!

Chag Shavuot Sameach!!

A Blessed and Joyous Shavuot!!

Highlighted points⁹ regarding the THIRD month:

Every Hebrew month is TRADITIONALLY linked with:

- ◆ A letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
- ◆ A constellation sign. **Psalm 119:1-3** says that the heavens declare the Glory of GOD (YHVH). If we don't get into GOD (YHVH)'s Way of understanding the future, you will fall into either an occult way or your own way, called humanism.
- ◆ One of the Twelve Tribes of Israel.
- ◆ A development of “threes”.

The following points regarding this new month are based on these principles.

- ◆ The month of Zebulun. The “business month,” and the month of Pentecost (June 12–13). **Genesis 49:13** states, “Zebulun shall dwell by the haven of the sea; He shall become a haven for ships, and his border shall adjoin Sidon.” **Deuteronomy 33:19** states, “For they shall partake of the abundance of the seas and of treasures hidden in the sand.” We must defeat the mindset that it is we who earn our money, or that we earn our living because GOD (YHVH) wants us to know it is He who gives us the power to obtain wealth (**Deuteronomy 8:18**).
- ◆ A to review your giving processes. We need to find some kind of special offering. We have to learn to share revelation with the right people. Most of us think we need to teach our revelation to others. However, we need to share the revelation only with those we should share it with the right connections.
- ◆ A month of receiving new boundaries or new fields and watch for boundaries to be enlarged this month.

⁹ Taken from the materials of “*Glory of Zion*”. For more information, see the book “*A Time To Advance*” as well as the CD/DVD series “*Positioned For Advancement*”, from <http://gloryofzion.org/>

- ◆ A month of alignment. Notice worship and sound during this month. Unity is very important. When Moses, Aaron, and Miriam were in agreement, things moved ahead. Ask the Lord to show you any areas that are not in unity.
- ◆ This is a key month of Sabbath. Pentecost (June 12–13) is called the Feast of Weeks because it is seven weeks (fifty days) after the feast of First Fruits and Jesus's resurrection. Note that "7" is the number of completion / perfection. At Pentecost, GOD (YHVH) gives new provision, new revelation, and new power. We need this to come into completion / perfection. The 120 rested in the unity GOD (YHVH) gave them and He blessed them .
- ◆ The month of the Hebrew letter zayin—receiving mercy to complete certain things. Jesus had given his disciples the task of spreading the gospel to the whole world. But this was impossible to do without Holy Spirit. Let's remember the Lord has anointing for us to complete what He gives us to do.
- ◆ Zayin means both "the sword," and "sustenance or nourishment." Note how the word of GOD (YHVH) is both the Sword of the Spirit and the Bread of Life. Zayin also has a numerical value of "7," or "completion." We have just finished counting the omer → focusing for fifty days on "man lives by every word that comes out of the Mouth of GOD (YHVH)." Thus, we will now find that the word is a sword breaking us into victory.
- ◆ The month of the "transparent pane" so that you see clearly. Declare that heaven's window is over you. Nissan (the first month) was the month of the "window of heaven." Iyar (the second month) "connected" it so that now we can see. Therefore, expect that you can see better; also expect the Lord to make His secrets known to you.
- ◆ The "wedding month." Read ***Song of Solomon 5:2***. Think "covenant"; think "intimacy with the Lord." Be sure to take time to draw away with Him.
- ◆ Jacob or Esau month ... good inclination or evil inclination. We have to remember that there is an evil as well as a godly inheritance. Let's be sure to choose the godly inheritance.
- ◆ A month of "cause," rather than "effect." Become a catalyst that develops into a "cause."
- ◆ A month to continue on in God's way, instead of taking a wrong path. "Rejoice, Zebulun, in your going out, and Issachar in your tents! They shall call the peoples to the mountain; there they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness; for they shall partake of the abundance of the seas and of treasures hidden in the sand" (***Deuteronomy 33:18–19***).
- ◆ Connecting your speech to your walk. ***Proverbs 10:9*** reads, "He who walks with integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will become known." What you decree has to match your walk. If you don't walk it out, the decree will not help.
- ◆ Don't let the Western mindset fragment your thinking.

- ◆ GOD (YHVH) is moving through (not disconnecting) the months. He is tying each month into the next. Gather wisdom and move forward. This is the way not to waste the blessings of the previous months. Once you get moving in GOD (YHVH)'s timing, you move into and begin to see restoration and acceleration.

Shalom and “Chag Sameach” (a joyous Feast)!!

This month in History

MONTH	EVENT
3 (Month 3: Shivan)	• Moshe returned to Mount Sinai to report the public declaration of the Jewish people, affirming their desire to accept the Torah. • Beginning of Sh'loshet Y'mei Hagbala, the three days of preparation, during which the Jews were to purify themselves and abstain from uncleanness. • Crusaders massacred the Jews of Mayence, 1096. • Vespasian captured Jericho and killed its inhabitants 68C.E. • Anti-Jewish riots broke out in Warsaw, 1790. • Colonel David Marcus, the American Jewish defender of Jerusalem, was killed at Abu Ghosh six hours before a cease-fire was to go into effect, 1948.
4	• Moshe wrote the first part of the Torah, from B'reishit until Ma'amad Har Sinai. • Over 500 Jews were forcibly baptized in Clermont-Ferrand, France, 576. • The Pope issued an order calling on all Christian princes to send back to Spain the Jews who had fled from the Inquisition, 1481. • Bogdan Chmielnicki's anti-Polish warfare, which resulted in the massacre of more than 300,000 Jews, broke out, 1648.
6	• Bnei Yisrael received the Torah.

MONTH	EVENT
12	• Agudat Yisrael was founded, in Poland, 1912. • Jews of Ethiopia observed Shavuot on the 12th of Sivan, 50 days after Pesach. They did not interpret "from the day after Shabbat" as the Tzadokim did, but rather as traditional Judaism did. Except that they considered Shabbat to refer to the whole holiday of Pesach (or the last day of Yom Tov). It puts their Shavuot on the last day of our "fill in days" for Shavuot. Assumedly, when the Ethiopian Jews came to Israel, they readjusted their calendar.
13	• 30 Jews of Posing, Hungary, were charged with blood-ritual and burned, 1529.
14	• First attack on the Jewish community of Frankfort on the Main. The Jewish Quarter was destroyed and most of the Jews were massacred, 1241. • Germany's emperor rescinded an order to burn all Hebrew books found in Cologne and Frankfort, 1510. • Auto-da-fe claimed the lives of 24 Jews in Barcelona, 1588.
15	• Traditional date for the birth of Yehuda. • The Crusaders laid siege to Yerushalayim, 1099. • King of Poland denied the Jews of Vilna the right to deal in non-Jewish books, 1664. • Israeli forces crossed into Lebanon to destroy PLO bases, 1982.
16	• The beginning of a substantial Jewish settlement in Massachusetts, 1716. • French (Vichy) planes bombed Tel Aviv, 1941.
17	• No'ach's Ark rested on Mt. Ararat.
	• Chashmona'im captured and settled Migdal Tzur. The date was observed as a holiday.

MONTH	EVENT
18	• The city of Acco was captured by Muslims, 1291, bringing to an end the Christian domination of Eretz Yisrael. • The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America (parent organization of the Israel Center) was founded, 1898. • The Nazis in control of France ordered Jews to wear a yellow star with the word "Juif" on it, 1942. • Spain passed a law granting Jews and Protestants the right of public worship, including permission to mark their places of worship and advertise their religious services. This was the first such law since Ferdinand and Isabella proclaimed Catholicism as Spain's only religion. This law was passed in — guess the year — 1967. (Not 1697; 1967!)
19	• The first Jewish hospital in America — Jews' Hospital of New York — admitted its first patient, 1855. (The Jews of Berlin had a small hospital in the 16th century. Jews of Rome had their own hospital in the 17th century. Russian Jews had 112 hospitals prior to World War I. On the other hand, when the Jews of Bucharest petitioned the government for permission to build a hospital — this, following the death of a Jew who was denied admission into the city hospital — the petition was denied.)
20	• 34 Jewish men and 17 Jewish women were burned at the stake in Blois France, 1171, as a result of the first ritual-murder trial in Europe. Rabbeinu Tam declared a fast day to mark the event. The day was confirmed as a fast day centuries later, in Poland, following the murder of 6000 Jews of Niemirow during the Chmielnicki massacres, 1648. Many Siddurim have Slichot for Kaf Sivan. • Although Yom Yerushalayim is 28 Iyar, 20 Sivan marks the day that Israel annexed the Old City and officially untied all of Jerusalem, 1967.

MONTH	EVENT
21	- Mentioned by some sources as the day Miriam was afflicted with Tzoraat (others say the 22nd or the 23rd), as we read about in this week's sedra. (It is noteworthy when an event mentioned in the Torah is read approx. at the same time that it occurred.) - Muslim conqueror of Constantinople granted equal rights to Jews and other non-Muslims, 1453. This provided a haven for many Jews who fled Spain 39 years later. - Harvard created a professorship of Hebrew and Oriental languages, 1765.
22	The Pope ordered the Jews of Carpentras, France to wear distinctive yellow hats, 1525.
23	- King Yerovam stopped the Jews of the northern kingdom from bringing Bikurim to Yerushalayim. - Mordechai issued a royal decree calling upon the Jews of the kingdom to defend themselves against attack. (This is the oldest record of an organized Jewish self-defense in the Diaspora.) - Fast day of the Jewish community of Pesaro, Italy, to mark the murder of Jews following retreat of Napoleon's army, 1798.
25	Massacre of the Jews of Erfurt, Germany, 1221.
27	- End of Miriam's confinement in the Midbar. - The Romans stormed the Samaritan stronghold on Har Gerizim and killed 11,600 people, 67ce. - Second expulsion of Jews from France, 1322. - Purim of Florence, celebrating escape from massacre, 1790. - Memorial day for Lithuanian Jewry.
28	Bnei Yisra'el arrived in Midbar Paran.
29	- Moshe sent the Meraglim to survey Eretz Yisrael. - Follow the contrast: Chovevei Tzion was founded in America, 1897. Six years later, same date, Russia banned all Zionist meetings, 1903. - Germany occupied Kovno and Vilna, 1941.
30	- Residence tax on Hungarian Jews was abolished, 1846. - Numerous Jews were killed in a pogrom at Jassy, Rumania, 1941.

MONTH	EVENT
1 (Month 4: Tammuz)	• Yaakov and family went down to Mitzrayim (according to one source. This would be the establishment of the first voluntary Jewish settlement outside of Eretz Yisrael). • Many Jews were killed by a riotous mob in Seville, 1391. The riots spread throughout Spain. • Yahrzeit of Rabbi Shlomo Kluger, 1869. • Massacre of 2300 Lithuanian Jews by Lithuanians, 1941.
2	• Rabbi Shmuel b. Yechiel of Cologne was killed by Crusaders, 1096. Earthquake hits Eretz yisrael, 1927.

Priestly Blessing

“Y’varekh’kha YHVH v’yishmerekha.

May YHVH bless you and keep you.

Ya’er YHVH panav eleikha vichunekka.

May YHVH make His Face shine on you and show you His favour.

Yissa YHVH panav eleikha v’yasem l’kha shalom.

May YHVH lift up His Face toward you and give you peace.

In this way they are to put My Name on the people of Israel, so that I will bless them.”

Numbers 6:24-27

