



The Congregation Beth Adonai Intercessory Prayer Team invites you to join us as we count the *omer* leading up to *Shavuot*. We are commanded in Deuteronomy 16:9, 10:

"You shall count seven weeks for yourself; you shall begin to count seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the standing grain. Then you shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God with a tribute of a freewill offering of your hand, which you shall give just as the Lord your God blesses you."

See also Leviticus 23:10-16.

The purpose of counting is to remind us of the link between Passover, which commemorates the Exodus from Egypt and the bondage of slavery, to *Shavuot*, which commemorates the giving of the *Torah*. God physically freed the Israelites from their bondage in Egypt, then spiritually freed them from idolatry and immorality by giving them the *Torah* on Mount Sinai. Jewish tradition teaches that the Hebrews (the ancient Israelites) were told when they left Egypt that they would receive the *Torah* in seven weeks, and therefore they counted with great expectation. Today, the counting of the *omer* is a reminder that the redemption of the Hebrews from slavery was not complete until the people received the *Torah*.

In addition, this season holds great importance for us as Believers because we begin counting from the day that Yeshua freed us from sin with His blood on Passover to the day He sent the promised *Ruach HaKodesh* (which is our seal of freedom for all eternity) on *Shavuot*, also known as Pentecost. It was during this 49-day period that Yeshua preached to the spirits that were in prison (see 1 Peter 3:19), came out of the tomb, showed His resurrected body to others, and ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. At the end of this period, on the 50th day, the Comforter was sent to those who were waiting. (See Acts Chapter 2.)

We can also see a connection between the seven weeks we are to count and the seven days of the week. God created the universe in six days, and on the seventh He rested because He had completed His work. Likewise, the counting of the *omer* for seven weeks of seven days (49 days) represents the expectation of completion--the age of a universal "rest," which is the second coming of our Messiah and the ushering in of the Messianic Age. We, as believers in Messiah, should of all people be counting the days in blessed anticipation of Yeshua's return.

Bring an Offering

The Hebrew people were commanded to bring an agricultural tribute or freewill offering to the Lord as part of their celebration of *Shavuot* (Deut. 16:10). Since we are no longer an agricultural society, the CBA Intercessory Prayer Team encourages each of you instead to set aside \$1.00 per day during this special 50-day period as your offering to bring before Him on *Shavuot* as a way of demonstrating your thankfulness for the blessings He has bestowed upon you--and will continue to bestow upon you in the coming year.

Counting of the Omer

On each day leading up to *Shavuot* we count until we reach 50. There are five traditional steps to counting, which are listed below. We have also included prayer points for you to pray during each of the seven weeks of this 49-day period.

It is our desire and prayer that this guide will help you experience this season in a way that will bring more revelation of who God is and draw you even closer to our Lord.

-- The Congregation Beth Adonai Intercessory Prayer Team

Each day beginning on March 31, 2018, and concluding on May 19, 2018:

1. PREPARE TO COUNT THE OMER.

The following "Prayer of Covenant Renewal at *Shavuot*," penned by Messianic Rabbi Ed Rothman, is a great way to start—or use your own prayer. The important thing is to take a few moments to prepare yourself and allow the Lord to use this time to draw you closer to Him.

O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, we stand before you in humility and repentance, asking You in Your gracious goodness and tender mercy to renew with us Your covenant of love and righteousness.

Renew within us the call to be a Kingdom of Priests and a Holy Nation.

Renew within us the desire to be Your special treasure, separated and consecrated unto You for Your holy purpose.

Write Your Living Torah upon our hearts by Your Holy Spirit and enable us to be doers of Your engrafted Word, renewing our hearts and minds by the life-transforming power of Your grace.

Thank You for giving us a new heart and a new spirit, for imparting unto us Your resurrection life and supernatural anointing through our confession of faith in Yeshua as LORD and Messiah!

Renew within us a humble heart and a teachable spirit, and daily remind us to live out the revelation and responsibility of the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

We renew our covenant commitment to love You, O LORD our God, with all our heart, soul, mind and strength; and to love our neighbor, as we love ourselves.

We renew our commitment to be Your disciples.

You have commanded us to love one another as You have loved us; You said, "Greater love has no one than this, that we lay down our lives for our friends," and You taught us to pray for, to bless, and to forgive those who offend us.

From the overflow of our life-giving relationship with You, anoint us and lead us to share the abundant life we enjoy in You with those who are spiritually lost and still walking in darkness.

We call upon You, O LORD our God, to fill us with Your holy fire! To endue us with Your power from on high! Holy Spirit of the Living God, come upon us now and fill our hearts with a deeper devotion to God and a greater love for all people. Cause us to grow in the grace & knowledge of our LORD Yeshua the Messiah, from faith to faith. Change us into His image from glory to glory.

We hunger and thirst for You. We seek first Your Kingdom and Your righteousness; as we surrender our lives to You today, come give us Your authority and power.

We give You all glory, honor, and praise for what You are going to do in and through our lives from this day forward.

In Yeshua's mighty name we pray, Amen!

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2. SAY THE BLESSING

Barukh atah Adonay Eloheynu mekor khayim asher kideshanu bemitzvotav vetzivanu al sefirat ha'omer.

Blessed are you, Eternal One our God, source of all life, who has made us holy with your mitzvot, and commanded us concerning the counting of the omer.

3. RECITE THE COUNT

Today is the ___ (e.g., first, second, third, etc.) day of the omer, which is ___ (e.g., one) week(s) and ___ (e.g., three) days of the omer.

4. READ PSALM 67

Psalm 67, which consists of seven verses--and in the original Hebrew 49 (like the number of days we are counting) words--is central to the counting of the *omer*, allowing us to see that the earth is already blessed and that people have come to this understanding in many different ways.

1. God, bless us with your grace and care, and make your face smile on us!
2. For then the earth will recognize your presence, and all the nations will know your saving power.
3. May all nations praise you, O God, may all nations praise you!
4. Let the nations shout and sing for joy, you grant justice to the peoples, on earth you guide the nations.
5. May all nations praise you, O God, may all nations praise you!
6. The soil has given its harvest; our God has blessed us.
7. May God continue to bless us; and let God be embraced to the very ends of the earth.

5. CLOSE WITH A PRAYER

Li-zekher yetzi'at mitzrayim yehi ratzon sheh-yishukhreru kol ha-shevuyim hen ba-guf, hen ba-nefesh vi-sheh-neshamesh ke'ezer lizro'a Elohim ha-netuyah likrat kherut.

In remembrance of the Exodus from Egypt, we pray that you release all whose bodies and spirits remain captive and enable us to extend Your outstretched arm in the process of liberation.

PRAYER FOCUS

The Congregation Beth Adonai Intercessory Prayer Team would also like you to join us as we add an additional focus on prayer to our daily *omer* count. We will focus on one of the following topics each week during the seven weeks of counting the *omer*.

Week 1 (March 31-April 6): Pray for our Messianic Congregations, that we will be unified, remain faithful, and have boldness to proclaim the Gospel. Intercede for one another. Pray that a movement of prayer will break forth with power for spiritual increase in Messiah. (Note: It was during this week, on the second day of counting the *omer*, that Messiah was resurrected.)

Week 2 (April 7-April 13): Pray for our families; *e.g.*, marriages, parents, youth, children, *etc.* Pray for their protection, wisdom, guidance, and healing.

Week 3 (April 14-April 20): Pray for our Nation, including our government and military, and that we will once again turn back to the Lord.

Week 4 (April 21-April 27): Pray for Israel's government and military, and that Messiah Yeshua would be revealed to all Israeli people, whether they are Jew, Arab, or people from other nations who now make Israel home.

Week 5 (April 28-May 4): Pray that the Body of Messiah worldwide will awaken from its slumber, return full-hearted to the Lord, serve one another, and that all members of the Body will consecrate themselves to prayer.

Week 6 (May 5-May 11): Pray that you will become more like Yeshua each day. Focus on the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:23, 23: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Note: It was during this week--on the 42nd day of counting the *omer*--that Messiah Yeshua ascended to His Father.)

Week 7 (May 12-May 19): Pray for revival and the lost, that people will have a revelation of who God is and that they will truly repent. Select two unbelievers you know and with whom you have a relationship. Pray each day this week that they will hear the Gospel message, repent, and receive the Messiah.

The 50th day (May 20): *Hag Shavuot*—the Feast of Weeks (or Pentecost, fiftieth), also known as First Fruits.