



The Congregation Beth Adonai Intercessory Prayer Team invites you to join us as we count the *omer* leading up to *Shavuot*, as we are commanded in Deut. 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.

Why We Count

It reinforces the link between Passover (when we commemorate the exodus from Egypt and bondage of slavery) and *Shavuot* (commemoration of the giving of the *Torah*). Adonai freed the Hebrew people twice: first from physical bondage in Egypt at Passover, then spiritually from idolatry and immorality by giving them the *Torah* on Mount Sinai at *Shavuot*. Jewish tradition teaches that when they left Egypt they were told by God that they would receive the *Torah* in seven weeks, so they counted with great expectation. We can therefore say that counting the *omer* is a reminder that the redemption of the Hebrews from slavery was not complete until the people received the *Torah*. The same can be said of us: our redemption is not complete until we receive God's Living Word--Yeshua, the Word made flesh (see John 1:1).

We begin counting the *omer* immediately after Passover (*i.e.*, the day after Yeshua freed us from our sin with His blood on Passover) and continue until the day He sent the promised *Ruach HaKodesh*, our seal of freedom for all eternity (*Shavuot/Pentecost*). During this 49-day period, 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. Then, on the 50th day, those who were waiting received the Comforter, the *Ruach HaKodesh* (see Acts 2).

There is an interesting 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 (a total of 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, of all people, should therefore be counting the days in jubilant expectation of Yeshua's return.

Bring an Offering

God commanded the ancient Israelites 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 these 50 days 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. Your *Shavuot* offering will be used to support missions work both here in the U.S. and in Israel.

How to Count

We count beginning with the number 1 on the day after Passover until we reach 50 on *Shavuot*. The traditional steps to counting, along with suggested additional suggested prayer points for you to pray during each of the seven weeks of this special 49-day period, follows on the next page.

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 and Savior, Messiah Yeshua.

-- THE CONGREGATION BETH ADONAI INTERCESSORY PRAYER TEAM

COUNTING THE OMER

Each evening beginning on Saturday, April 16, 2022, and concluding on the evening of Saturday, June 4, 2022:

1. 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*.

2. 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*.

3. READ PSALM 67

Psalm 67 (which consists of seven verses, and in the original Hebrew contains 49 words, the same number of days we are counting) 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.

4. CLOSE WITH A PRAYER

SUGGESTED PRAYER FOCUS

Week 1 (April 17-April 23): Pray for unity in the Body of Messiah, and intercede for one another's needs. **(Note: It was during this week, on the second day of counting the *omer*, that Messiah was resurrected.)**

Week 2 (April 24-April 30): Pray for our congregational families; e.g., for marriages, protection, wisdom, guidance, healing, finances, and Adonai's provision for all their needs.

Week 3 (May 1-May 7): Pray for our nation, including our citizens, government and military, and that we will once again turn back to the Lord.

Week 4 (May 8-May 14): Pray for Israel, including its citizens, government, and military, and especially that Messiah Yeshua would be revealed to all Israeli people, regardless of ethnicity.

Week 5 (May 15-May 21): 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 22-May 28): Pray that we will become more like Yeshua each day. Focus on the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:23 and 24: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. **(Note: It was during this week—40 days after His resurrection—that Yeshua ascended to His Father.)**

Week 7 (May 29-June 4): Pray for revival, and that people will have a true revelation of who God is and truly repent. Select two unbelievers you know and with whom you have a relationship, and pray for their salvation each day this week.

June 5th, the 50th day (begins the evening of June 4 at sunset): *Hag Shavuot*—the Feast of Weeks (or Pentecost, fiftieth), also known as First Fruits. **(Note: This is the day when those who were waiting in Jerusalem received the *Ruach HaKodesh*.)**