

Shadows of Christ & His Bride

Lesson #37

Counting The Omer

October 29, 2025

Ruth 2:2-3 So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor [grace]." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

➤ Note: Willing to glean; spirit of humility; not assuming her right as a foreigner Then she left and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field *belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.*

Ruth 2:8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not?

Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women.

Important: Boaz is a type of Jesus Christ, our Kinsman Redeemer.

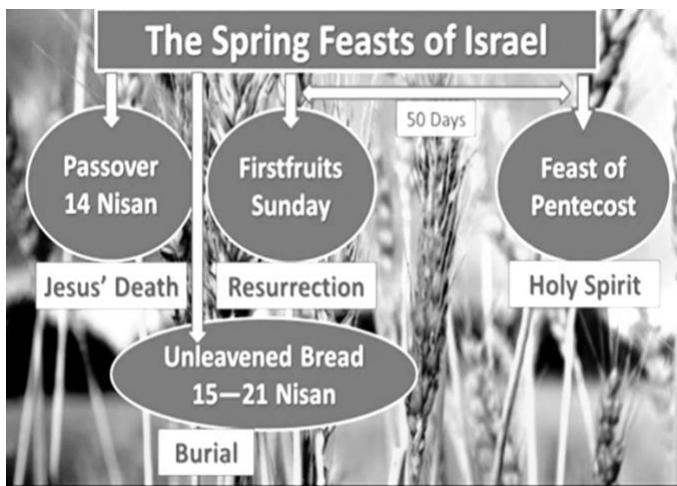
Ruth 2:21 Then Ruth the Moabitess said, "Furthermore, Boaz even told me to come back and stay with his servants until the entire harvest is completed."

This exchange occurs at the end of Ruth's first day of gleaning. It sets the stage for Ruth to stay and glean throughout both the barley and wheat harvests, all while living with Naomi.

Ruth 2:23 So Ruth worked alongside the women in Boaz's fields and gathered grain with them until the end of the barley harvest.

Then she continued working with them through the wheat harvest in early summer.

Important: Ruth gleans in the field during the Counting Of The Omer. Spiritual journey which begins with redemption and then growth to prepare to encounter God's Presence.



Wave Sheaf or Omer of Barley on
First Fruits Sunday Nissan 17.

Count 50 Days - Count the Omer
Count 50 Days to the day after
The 7th Sabbath

Feast of Weeks; Shavuot; Pentecost
Wave Offering - wheat
Sivan 6 - 3rd month [May or June]

Counting the Omer: Leviticus 23:15-17 You shall count from the day after the Sabbath, from the day when you brought in the sheaf [tied omer of barley; Nissan 17] of the wave offering; there shall be seven complete Sabbaths [seven full weeks]. You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall present a new grain [wheat] offering to the LORD. You shall bring from your dwelling places two loaves of bread as a wave offering, made of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour, baked with leaven. They are the first fruits unto the Lord.

Deut. 16:9-10 You shall count seven weeks for yourself; you shall begin to count seven weeks from the time you first put the sickle to the standing grain. ¹⁰ Then you shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks [Shavuot] to the Lord your God with a tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give [to Him] just as the Lord your God blesses you;

The freewill offering at the end of counting the Omer is commanded by God to be given as an act of gratitude for the blessings of the harvest and to celebrate the Feast of Weeks [Shavuot, Pentecost]. It is a voluntary and joyful expression of a grateful heart, connecting the joy of receiving God's provisions with the joy of receiving the Torah and the Holy Spirit.

Counting The Omer

As a unit of measure

- The omer was the tenth part of an ephah, a larger measure of grain.
- Used to measure food rations, like the manna miraculously provided to the Israelites in the wilderness. Each person daily received an omer's worth of food. [Ex. 16:16]
- The size is estimated to be about 2 quarts or roughly 10 dry cups.

Spiritual Journey: Daily Command of Spiritual Preparation

- It remembers the journey from Egypt to Mt. Sinai.
- It creates a countdown to Shavuot where they encountered God's presence.

Spiritual Journey of Counting the Omer to Feast of Weeks or Shavuot

Time period of 50 days of transformation that needed to take place for the Israelites as they came out of Egypt to encountering God at Mt. Sinai.

- Remind them of the link between Passover which commemorates the Exodus and Shavuot or Feast of Weeks commemorates the formal giving of the Torah.
 - Symbolized a commitment and "marriage" between God and the Jewish people.
- Marks the moment the Israelites accepted the Torah's laws, signifying their transformation from a group of freed slaves into a people united by a shared covenant with God.

This was much more than a navigational journey through the desert. This was a spiritual ascent literally from being a terrible imprisoned people who were not ready at all to receive what God had to give them. They needed to go through a process of transformation.

- They had to learn to be free and to place value on being free.
- How did Israel use their freedom? to grumble; free to grumble

Truth: First necessary element of transformation from slave to free is gratitude.

Thank you to the one who set me free.

Truth: When problems and challenges arise, gratitude is replaced with wrong actions.

They needed to turn to the God who delivered them. They needed a new mindset.

- Attitude changes everything.

From Feast of First Fruits To Feast of Weeks: Count The Omer

- Nissan 10: God commanded the head of each household to select an unblemished young male lamb to be offered as a sacrifice to the LORD.
- Nissan 14: Slaughter the lamb and smear the blood on the doorposts and lintels of home.
- Nissan 15: Roast the lamb and eat with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.
- Nissan 15-21: Eat only unleavened bread.
- Nissan 15: God killed all the firstborn males in homes without the blood.
- Nissan 15: Over 600,000 adult males and families departed Egypt with a wealth of gold and silver.

Ex. 13:21 And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.

- Tangible and glorious guidance for this band of worn slaves trudging through the dry, rugged wilderness toward their goal of a Promised Land. [our abundant life]

Powerful Truth: God's presence and guidance is with them immediately in the journey.

- God led them to a place where the only way out was to trust God.
The location was chosen deliberately. God knew Pharaoh would believe the Israelites were "entangled in the land" and "hemmed in by the desert".
 - God allows Pharaoh to trap them. Shekinah glory of the LORD intervened.
- Nissan 17: God parted the Red Sea and drowned the Egyptian army
 - Purpose was to display the Power of God
 - This is a New Beginning for the nation of Israel.
- Nissan 20: Bitter waters at Marah. Moses cast the tree in and waters became sweet.
At Elim God provides 12 springs of water and 70 palm trees
God gives them some laws and promises to be their healer.

Interesting: They have been on the journey for 1 month.

Iyar means radiance or blossom. Associated with theme of natural growth.

- Iyar 15: Israelites are in the Desert of Sin; Complain: We are out of food!

Ex. 16:4 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Look, I'm going to rain down food from heaven for you.

Each day the people can go out and pick up as much food as they need for that day.

I will test them in this to see whether or not they will follow My instructions.

Ex. 16:16 This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Each one is to gather as much as he needs.

You shall take an omer for each person in your tent.

- Part of God's provision and test for the Israelites
- Teaching them reliance on His daily sustenance.

Symbolic and Theological Implications:

It represents God's provision and the sufficiency of His grace. The daily gathering of an omer of manna taught the Israelites to depend on God for their needs and to trust in His timing and provision. It also foreshadowed the spiritual sustenance found in Christ, the Bread of Life,

as Jesus later referenced manna in John 6:31-35, drawing a parallel between the physical nourishment provided in the wilderness and the spiritual nourishment He offers.

The following are days 32-44 in counting the omer. Iyar 16 >

➤ Next, the Jews began to settle at Rephidim where once again, there was no water.

Moses was commanded to take the elders to a rock at Sinai and strike it with his staff to miraculously bring forth water. [Ex. 17:1-7]

Ex. 17:7 And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ So he called the name of The place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Massah [testing] & Meribah [strife or quarrel]

- Tested God by demanding water. The name highlights a moment of disbelief and disobedience during the Israelites' journey through the wilderness.
 - It serves as a cautionary tale against testing God's faithfulness and provision.
 - The event symbolizes human frailty, doubt, and a lack of trust in God's guidance, especially in the face of adversity.
- While camped at Rephidim, the Amalekites [type of flesh, descendants of Esau] suddenly attacked them. God gave them the victory as Moses held up the staff of God over the battle.
- His arms were supported by Aaron [High Priest] and by Hur, type of Holy Spirit.
- God commanded them to never forget their adversaries. [Ex. 17:9-16]

➤ Sivan 1: After 45 days in the desert, on the new moon of Sivan, [Sivan 1] the Jews reached the desert of Sinai.

They camped near the very mountain where Moses was first commissioned. [Ex. 19:1]

Note: They left on Nisan 15. Nisan has 30 days. So begin counting: Nisan -counted 15 days.

- Iyar, month 2 has 29 days = 15 + 29 = 44.
- Sivan, month 3. Children of Israel arrived on Sivan 1 with 6 days until count of 50.

➤ Sivan 2: God's Proposal & People's Acceptance: Day 46

➤ Moses ascended the mountain to receive God's word to the people.

- IF they obey the LORD and keep His covenant, THEN, they would be His Special treasure, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

They responded: All that the LORD has spoken, we shall do.

➤ Sivan 3-5: Days 47-49 Moses returned to the mountain and was told to command the people to sanctify themselves before the LORD descended on the mountain in 3 days.

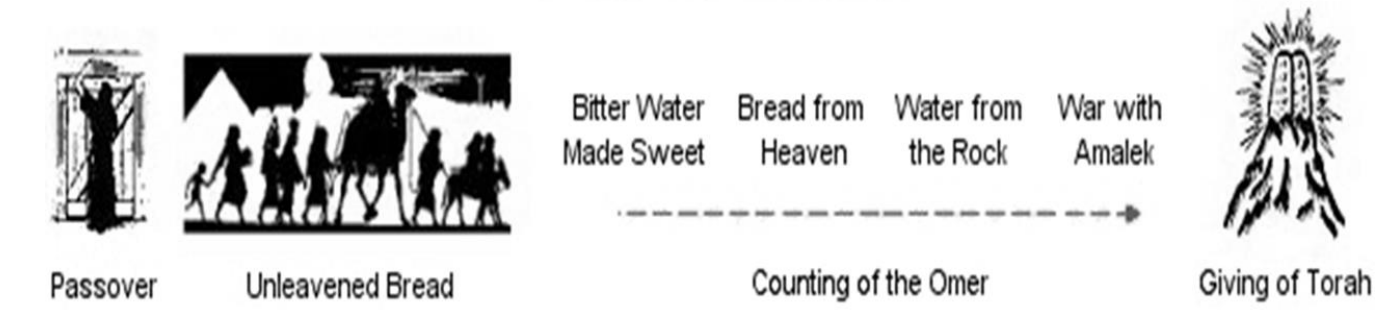
- Abstain from worldly comforts and do not touch the boundaries of the mountain.

➤ Sivan 6: On the morning of Sivan 6, Day 50 after the Exodus, they gathered at the foot of Mt. Sinai.

➤ The LORD descended amidst thunder, lightning, billowing smoke fire and the voluminous blast of the shofar.

- The sound of the shofar grew louder and louder until terror gripped the heart of the people.
- "I am the LORD Thy GOD who took you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me."
- The people stood far off while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

Seven Weeks to Sinai



This journey was a critical period where God revealed His holiness, guided them, and prepared them to become a holy nation with a role to play in the world.

Powerful Truth: Jesus is all you need for the journey from your redemption to encountering God's presence. Jesus transforms life's bitter experiences into sweet blessings.

He is the Bread of Life and the Living Water to sustain and nourish you in the journey. His power can defeat the flesh in you. This is the journey to living the abundant life in Jesus Christ. Thank you for the journey. Look where you have brought me. [Freewill offering of gratitude]

The Feast of Weeks was first observed at Mt. Sinai when God met His people with dramatic phenomena and presented them with His Law.

The Feast of Weeks/Shavuot/Pentecost was fulfilled in Acts 2 at Pentecost when God met His people with dramatic phenomena and they received The Holy Spirit.

There was a 50-day period in the Old Testament between the Feast of First fruits and the day of Pentecost/Shavuot/Weeks. There is also a 50-day period in the New Testament between the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead [First Fruits] and the day of Pentecost.

However, the NT 50-day period is divided into 2 parts: Jesus Christ remained on the earth after His resurrection for 40 days before He ascended into Heaven.

What is the significance of the number 40?

- It occurs in the Bible about 150 times.
- It is associated with a trial, a probation, testing or hardship which one must endure.
- It often represents a period of transition, purification, or preparation.
- The trial ends: If one passes his tests, he becomes more spiritually aware.

- The 40 days/nights of Noah's flood prepared the world for a new beginning. Gen. 7
- Moses spent 40 years in the wilderness being prepared to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and through the wilderness. The end of the 40 years marked a critical transition in his life from being a shepherd leader overseeing a flock of sheep to a shepherding leader who oversaw the people of God.
- The 40 years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness:
 - Prepare and Transition 2nd generation to enter the Promised Land
- Elijah was being prepared for his transition and new assignment as a prophet of God, during the 40 days he made his way to Mount Horeb. I Kings 19:6-8
- The angel gave the despairing prophet a jar of water and a cake baked on hot stones. I Kings 19:8 The food gave him enough strength to travel 40 days & 40 nights to Mount Sinai.
- Jesus Christ spent 40 days in the wilderness for His preparation and transition into the start of His earthly ministry.

Disciples had Passover meal with Jesus. He was crucified, buried and resurrected on Feast of First Fruits, Nisan 17. It was 50 days until Feast of Pentecost.

The 50 days would be divided: 40 days on earth > Ascension > 10 days wait until Pentecost

- The 40 days following the Resurrection were a pivotal part of God's plan.

This 40-day period was a time of confirmation and instruction, allowing the disciples to transition from fear and despair to boldness and witness.

- It aligned with the symbolic meaning of the number 40 in the Bible.

Jesus stayed on Earth for 40 days after His resurrection:

- to provide convincing proof of His physical resurrection
- to affirm the Truth of God's Word
- to strengthen and deepen the faith of His followers
- to teach them about the Kingdom of God; explained how OT prophecies pointed to Him.

He helped them understand the transition from expecting an earthly kingdom to preparing for a spiritual one, which would be empowered by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

- To prepare them for their future ministry by giving them the mission to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth.
- To prepare them for His future return

Note: The Church of Jesus Christ would be birthed and the lives of these disciples would never be the same again.

Remember: We are to count the omer from the Feast of First Fruits until Pentecost.

7 sabbaths = 49 days Day 50 = Pentecost

Acts 1:3 To these [men] He also showed Himself alive after His suffering [in Gethsemane and on the cross], by [a series of] many infallible proofs and unquestionable demonstrations, appearing to them over a *period of forty days* and talking to them about the things concerning the kingdom of God. [AMP]

It was during the counting of the omer that Jesus walked the earth in His resurrection body.

➤ All of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances fell within the days of the Omer count.

At the end of the 1st day of the Omer, He appeared to:

➤ First appeared to Mary Magdalene

Mark 16:9

➤ Two disciples on the road to Emmaus

Luke 24:13-35

Luke 24:16 But God kept them from recognizing Him.

The 2 disciples were sad and disheartened by Jesus's crucifixion and were discussing the events when a stranger (Jesus) approached them. They were surprised he seemed unaware of what had happened in Jerusalem and recounted the events of Jesus's death and the reports of his empty tomb to him. Today is the third day since these things were done.

Jesus, then explained how the Scriptures—from Moses and all the prophets—foretold that the Messiah would have to suffer these things to enter His glory.

They invited Jesus to eat with them. While dining, Jesus took bread, blessed it, and broke it.

Luke 24:31 Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him and He vanished.

Luke 24:33 And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem,

and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,

John 20:19 When the same day at evening, being the first day of the week,

when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews,

Luke 24:36 And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them,

and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

³⁷But they were terrified and afraid and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

³⁹ Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see;

for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as you see me have.

⁴¹And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered,

Luke 24:44-45 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you:

Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

[See also John 20:19-24 same account]

➤ Appeared to Peter

I Cor. 15:5 He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve.

Also Luke 24:34

During the counting,

➤ He appeared to the disciples & Thomas was present. "My Lord & My God" John 20:26-29

John 20:30-31 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book:

³¹ But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

➤ He appeared to 500 and then to James.

I Cor. 15:6a-7a After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once;

⁷ After that, he was seen of James;

➤ He appeared to seven of the disciples while they fished on the sea. John 21:1-14

Describes Jesus's third post-resurrection appearance to His disciples by the Sea of Galilee. After a miraculous catch of 153 fish, the disciples recognize Jesus at breakfast.

He reinstates Peter, asking him three times to affirm His love for him.

➤ John ends the chapter by affirming all the things Jesus did during this time were to encourage belief.

On the 40th day of the Omer, He led the disciples out to a hill near Bethany.

➤ They saw Him ascend to heaven. Luke 24:50-51

Before He ascended: 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. [Luke 24:49]

We 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.

Luke 24:52 So they worshipped Him and then returned to Jerusalem filled with great joy. ⁵³ And they spent all of their time in the Temple, praising God. [last 10 days of counting the omer]

Powerful Reminder of the transformative power of encountering the resurrected Jesus.

➤ Embraced God's Plan: obedience; praising; worshiping; blessing

Acts 2:1-4 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues [languages], as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Fifty days after His resurrection and after ascending to heaven to sit at the right hand of God, the Holy Spirit as promised to indwell the disciples and empower them for ministry.

II Cor. 3:2-3 The Apostle Paul referred to the believers as the epistle of Christ,

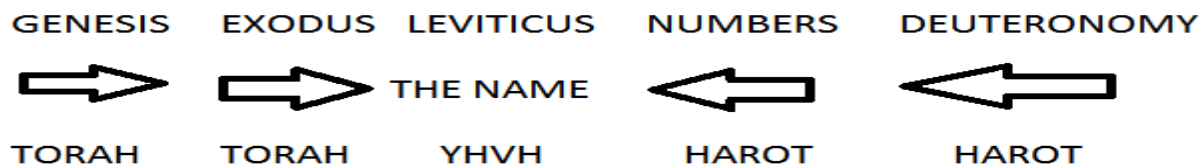
written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God,
not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts!

The Skipping Of Letters

The ancient Hebrew Rabbis believed through and through the Torah was God's inspired word to them, so they scoured it night and day looking for the mysteries that God had hidden there.

Rabbi Moses Cordevaro- "The secrets of the Torah are revealed...in the skipping of letters."

1. Torah in Hebrew is 4 letters = tau [T] vav [O], resh [R], heh [H]
2. Take the opening verses of Genesis in Hebrew.
3. If you find the 1st tau and count an interval of 49 letters, the next letter in the text is vav.
4. Count another 49 letters, and you find resh.
5. Count another 49 letters and you find heh.
6. This pattern is repeated in Exodus, but not Leviticus.
7. The pattern is repeated in Numbers and Deuteronomy, but the pattern is reversed.
8. Leviticus: The square root of 49 = 7. [foundation of the Word; all points to God]
 - a. If you go to the first yod and continue counting every 7 letters, it forms the name of God, YHWH. [YAHWEH]
 - b. It appears that the Torah always points to the Ineffable Name of God.



There are no vowels in YHWH, which in the Hebrew language means it goes on forever!
God literally has woven his fingerprints into His sacred text.

Of the seven feasts, the Feast of Weeks, Pentecost, is one of three that God commanded Israel to celebrate at the temple after it was established in Jerusalem.

➤ Deut 16:16-17 It was a "pilgrimage" feast.

The concept of pilgrimage is woven throughout the Bible, representing a journey of faith. Jesus declared, "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life," framing the Christian life as a spiritual pilgrimage toward God.

Ruth 2 begins at the beginning of the barley harvest & concludes with the end of the wheat harvest. This period initiates and concludes the counting of the omer.

➤ It Is A Time Of Growing In Grace & Knowledge Of The Lord Jesus Christ.

Counting the omer should be a time of spiritual preparation, reflection, purification, and growth to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit.

As we count from the Omer, we are like the wheat crops growing toward maturity, ultimately destined to become an abundant harvest for the Messiah.

Counting the omer is an opportunity to count each day and make each day count on our spiritual journey. It is a time for reassessing our lives...a time for inner transformation and personal growth.

Ps. 90:12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

It signifies an inner transformation where one understands the brevity of life and uses their time with purpose.