



Prayer Focus

April 5-11, 2021

Walking in Freedom

Many of you are familiar with the concept of Jesus/Yeshua as the firstfruits – the first sheaf wave offering that the Priest waved before the Lord to signify the acceptance of the sacrifice.

Known as the Feast of First Fruits, it was commanded that the first sheaf of the harvest would be brought as a sacrifice to the Lord, and the Priest would wave it before God to be accepted on the peoples' behalf. Jesus arose, went to the Father, and presented Himself, the firstfruit of the harvest and His offering was accepted on our behalf.

“When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall waive it.” Leviticus 23:10-11

“²⁰But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. ²³But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.” 1 Corinthians 15:20-23

However, you may be less familiar with the counting of the omer, which begins on the second night of Passover and continues for seven complete weeks, thus the time between Passover and Shavuot/Pentecost (The Feast of Weeks).

“You shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be completed.

Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the Lord.” Leviticus 23:15-16

This practice of counting the sheafs was originally centered around the agricultural festival and offering that would be made at the Temple. Since the Temple no longer stands, Shavuot has also come to be a time of introspection, refining, and purification as one thinks about having left “Egypt,” a place of bondage and slavery and what it means to *walk in freedom*.

Have you fully embraced the Freedom that Yeshua/Jesus has given you?

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.” Galatians 5:1

“In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.” Ephesians 3:12

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8:36

Likewise, we know that after Jesus arose, He remained on the earth for 40 days and told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem. They had to wait until the full 50 days had been completed. Thus, on Pentecost/Shavuot, the Holy Spirit descended on and filled the disciples in fulfillment of Jeremiah 31:33, which promised that the law would be written on their hearts and in their minds. It was a new “giving of the law” through the Spirit.

“But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” Jeremiah 31:33

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” 2 Corinthians 3:17

“⁴⁶Then He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸And you are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.’” Luke 24:46-49

In this time between Passover/Resurrection Day and Shavuot/Pentecost, perhaps consider “*counting the omer*” – think about the refining and purification the Lord is doing as we walk in freedom and live by the Spirit.

Pray

- Every yoke of bondage to sin would be removed from the body of Messiah as we are preparing for our Bridegroom’s return.

- Thanksgiving that He has made us free indeed.
- For a greater revelation and knowledge that we are endowed with power from on high, being filled with the Holy Spirit.
- “May we experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then [we] will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.” Ephesians 3:19 NLT
- A compulsion to share boldly the fullness of the riches of the glories of heaven that we have received in Jesus.
- That we be filled “by the God of hope – with all joy and peace in believing, so that we will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” See Romans 15:13