

The Wave Offering

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News Letter 5847-005

17th day of the 1st month 5847 years after the creation of Adam

The 5th day of Unleavened Bread

The 1st Month in the Second year of the third Sabbatical Cycle

The Third Sabbatical Cycle of the 119th Jubilee Cycle

**The Sabbatical Cycle of Earthquakes Famines, and Pestilences. April
23, 2011**

Shabbat Shalom Family,

It is at this time of year when our family reunions in the faith take place. The other time is at Sukkot. I find it very challenging as at this time is my wives birthday and at Sukkot is our anniversary, so we often are not together at these times.

But the Brethren are.

I cannot help myself and have this newsletter to give to you during these days of Unleavened Bread. I want to share with you the new brethren about the wave offering as I know many of you did not go to Passover Services with any group and this Newsletter is one of your sources of information.

Sunday April 24, 2011 is Yom Hanafat Ha'omer (Day of the Waving of the Sheaf). When the Temple stood this day marked the official commencement of the grain harvest (Dt 16:7) and sheaves of barley were cut and brought to the Temple as a wave offering (Lev 23:9-14). This day also marks the beginning of the 50-day count to Shavuot (Pentecost; Feast of Weeks).

Yom Hanafat Ha'omer is counted as Day 1 and Shavuot as Day 50.

Deu 16:5 "You are not allowed to slaughter the Passover within any of your gates which Yehovah your Elohim gives you, 6 but at the place where Yehovah your Elohim chooses to make His Name dwell, there you slaughter the Passover in the evening, at the going down of the sun, at the appointed time you came out of Mitsrayim. 7 "And you shall roast and eat it in the place which Yehovah your Elohim chooses, and in the morning you shall turn and go to your tents. 8 "Six days you eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there is a closing festival to Yehovah your Elohim – you do no work. 9 "Count seven weeks for yourself. Begin to count seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the grain. 10 "And you shall perform the Festival of Weeks to Yehovah your Elohim, according to the voluntary offering from your hand, which you give as Yehovah your Elohim blesses you. 11 "And you shall rejoice before Yehovah your Elohim, you and your son and your daughter, and your male servant and your female servant, and the Levite who is within your gates, and the stranger and

the fatherless and the widow who are in your midst, at the place where Yehovah your Elohim chooses to make His Name dwell. 12 “And you shall remember that you were a slave in Mitsrayim, and you shall guard and do these laws.

Lev 23:9 And Yehovah spoke to Mosheh, saying, 10 “Speak to the children of Yisra’el, and you shall say to them, ‘When you come into the land which I give you, and shall reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the first-fruits of your harvest to the priest. 11 ‘And he shall wave the sheaf before Yehovah, for your acceptance. On the morrow after the Sabbath the priest waves it. 12 ‘And on that day when you wave the sheaf, you shall prepare a male lamb a year old, a perfect one, as a burnt offering to Yehovah, 13 and its grain offering: two-tenths of an Ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to Yehovah, a sweet fragrance, and its drink offering: one-fourth of a hin of wine. 14 ‘And you do not eat bread or roasted grain or fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your Elohim – a law forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. 15 ‘And from the morrow after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, you shall count for yourselves: seven completed Sabbaths. 16 ‘Until the morrow after the seventh Sabbath you count fifty days, then you shall bring a new grain offering to Yehovah.

It is for this reason as described in Lev 23 that we must have Barley that is ripe, so we can make the wave offering on the morrow after the weekly Sabbath which is Sunday.

This year I am going to use a Bible Study lesson from <http://www.icogsfq.org/bs-wavsh.html> so that each of you can look up the scriptures in your own bible and learn the importance of this wave offering ceremony.

Scripture Reading: Leviticus 23:10-16.

Golden Text: 1 Cor 15:20-23

Yehovah’s annual holy day festivals are arranged around the harvest seasons and the first barley to become ripe was at Passover time. During the Passover season, which included the Days of Unleavened Bread, there was a special Wave Sheaf Ceremony that took place which had great significance. The Wave Sheaf Ceremony is described in Leviticus 23:10-14. The meaning of this ceremony is important; even though it is no longer performed since the Old Testament priesthood is no longer needed.

1. What is this sheaf called? (Leviticus 23:10).

Note: The sheaf is called the “sheaf of the firstfruits” or the “wave sheaf”.

2. Before they could reap of the harvest, were they to bring a sheaf of the firstfruits to the priest (Leviticus 23:10).

Note: Most modern Bible translations use the word “sheaf”, however, the priests did not wave a sheaf. The word “sheaf” is translated from the Hebrew word “omer”, which means a

measurement of about two quarts or two liters. The Jews traditionally cut a sheaf, beat out the grain, then ground the first of the firstfruits into flour and offered an omer of that flour. (See Jewish Encyclopedia, article “Omer”.)

Note: Quoting from the book: “The Temple – Its Ministry and Services” by Alfred Edersheim, page 204-205: “When the time for the cutting the sheaf had arrived,.... just as the sun went down, three men, each with a sickle and basket, formally set to work. But in order clearly to bring out all that was distinctive in the ceremony, they first asked the bystanders three times each of these questions: ‘Has the sun gone down?’ ‘With this sickle?’ ‘Into this basket?’ ‘On this Sabbath (or first Passover-day)?’ – and lastly, ‘Shall I reap?’ Having each time been answered in the affirmative, they cut down barley to the amount of one ephah, or ten omers, or three seahs, which is equal to about three pecks and three pints of our English measure. ... Though one ephah, or ten omers, of barley was cut down, only one omer of flour, ... was offered in the Temple.”

3. Was the first part of the spring grain harvest to be waved before Yehovah to be accepted by Him? (Leviticus 23:11-12).

Note: The word “wave” should be translated as “lift up or elevate”. The Tanakh (The Jewish Bible) translation translates verses 11-12 as: “He (the priest) shall elevate the sheaf before the Lord for acceptance in your behalf; the priest shall elevate it on the day after the Sabbath. (12) On the day that you elevate the sheaf, you shall offer as a burnt offering to the Lord a lamb of the first year without blemish”

4. Was anyone permitted to eat of this early harvest before the wave sheaf was offered?(Leviticus 23:14).

Note: Now let’s notice the way in which Yehshua, the first of Yehovah’s spiritual harvest, became the fulfillment of the Wave Sheaf Offering.

5. Who was the first to be resurrected from the dead? (Acts 26:23). Was He the first of the first fruits of Yehovah’s spiritual harvest? (1 Cor. 15:20, 23; Col. 1:13-15, 18).

6. How did the Apostle Paul in the New Testament see this concept of “firstfruits?” (1 Cor15:20-23).

Note: This scripture says: “Yehshua is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” So, Yehshua was the very first to be “harvested” or “resurrected” from the dead.

7. David was a man after Yehovah’s own heart (Acts 13:22) and will be in the Kingdom (Heb11:32, 39). Had David already been resurrected and living in heaven before Yehshua had been resurrected? Acts 2:29-34. Note: David was still in his grave. Has any man ascended to heaven? (John 3:13).

Note: No man could precede Yehshua into the presence of Yehovah the Father. No man could be “harvested” before Yehshua was presented as the “firstfruits” from the dead.

8. Early in the morning after Yehshua had been resurrected, had Yehshua already ascended to the Father? (John 20:16-17). Notice that He told Mary not to touch Him because He had not yet ascended to Yehovah the Father.
9. Are the disciples allowed to touch Yehshua later on the same day? (Matthew 28:9). This makes it plain and clear that Yehshua had gone to the Father in heaven and presented Himself to the Father in the period of time from early in the morning when He wouldn't allow Mary to touch Him till this period of time that He was with His disciples.
10. When was the wave sheaf offered? (Leviticus 23:11).

Note: The wave sheaf was to be offered on the day after the Sabbath. At the same time that the priests lifted up the wave sheaf offering in the Temple, Yehshua had been lifted up to heaven (ascended), and was presented and accepted by Yehovah the Father. Like the wave sheaf offering, He was offered on our behalf.

11. Are Those who obey Yehovah also called firstfruits? (James 1:18, Revelation 14:4.) In Conclusion: The purpose of the Wave Sheaf Ceremony pertains as to when you start counting the fifty days in order to know when to celebrate the festival of Pentecost. The Feast of Weeks or Pentecost, which means "fiftieth", is always to be observed on a Sunday, which is the fiftieth day after the cutting of the wave sheaf during the Feast of the Days of Unleavened Bread. The cutting of the wave sheaf pictures when Yehshua was cut out of the earth (tomb) and was resurrected. The waving, lifting up or elevating of the wave sheaf "omer" pictures Yehshua' ascension to Yehovah the Father to be accepted by Him on our behalf. Yehshua is the first of the firstfruits.