

# The 40th Day-Ascension Day

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### The 40th Day-Ascension Day

This is the 40th day of Counting the Omer. It is the same day Yeshua ascended to heaven, with just 10 Days until the Holy Spirit was given on Shavuot. Today is Thursday, April 20, 2023, as I write this. I had posted the 40th Omer count last night and I had a couple of comments, or questions this past week, about the day Yeshua ascended up to heaven. But I did not give them much thought then.

Today is the fifth day of the sixth week of seven weeks, the fortieth day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

Psa 67:1 Elohim does favour us and bless us, Cause His face to shine upon us. Selah.

Psa 67:2 For Your way to be known on earth, Your deliverance among all nations.

Psa 67:3 Let the peoples praise You, O Elohim, Let all the peoples praise You.

Psa 67:4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You judge the peoples uprightly, And lead the nations on earth. Selah.

Psa 67:5 Let the peoples praise You, O Elohim; Let all the peoples praise You.

Psa 67:6 The earth shall give her increase; Elohim, our own Elohim, blesses us!

Psa 67:7 Elohim blesses us! And all the ends of the earth fear Him!

Day Forty | Yehovah, the Supreme King Psalm 99:1-9

Psa 99:1 Jehovah reigns; let the peoples tremble. He sits between the cherubs; let the earth quake.

Psa 99:2 Jehovah is great in Zion; and He is high above all the peoples.

Psa 99:3 Let them praise Your great and fearful name; it is holy.

Psa 99:4 The king's strength also loved judgment; You established uprightness; You worked judgment and righteousness in Jacob.

Psa 99:5 Praise Jehovah our God, and worship at His footstool; He is holy.

Psa 99:6 Moses and Aaron were among His priests, and Samuel among those who called on His name; they called on Jehovah, and He answered them.

Psa 99:7 He spoke to them in the cloudy pillar; they kept His testimonies and the ordinance that He gave them.

Psa 99:8 You answered them, O Jehovah our God; You were a God who forgave them, though You take vengeance for their deeds.

Psa 99:9 Praise Jehovah our God, and worship at His holy hill; for Jehovah our God is holy.

After I posted this, I then posted the account in Acts of Yehshua's Ascension. I was not really thinking about it. Just that it took place on this same 40th day of counting the Omer. Then as I fell asleep, I began to think about it. And this morning, when I woke up, my mind was racing the more I thought about it.

We fully expect the fulfilment of Shavuot to take place on Shavuot in the year 2033. This understanding comes from understanding Wave Sheaf Day during the Days of Unleavened Bread, as well as understanding Shmenini Atzeret and the meaning of the Jubilee Year.

2033 is the year that matches up with the Days of Noah year and the days of Lot year, as well as 2033 being the year that lines up with the fall Holy Days when laid out as years counting from 2045, the Jubilee year, as the 8th Day, Shemini Atzeret. Yes, I understand I am going fast with this explanation. Keep studying.

I continue to state, that in order to understand end-time prophecy, you MUST UNDERSTAND the Jubilee Cycles. The Sabbatical and Jubilee Cycles are the Key to understanding all end-time prophecies.

Ezekiel tells us a day for a year. 2024 is ten years before 2033 when the Saints will be raised on the day of Shavuot. 2024 is the first year in the 10 Days of Awe, the 10 days of Judgment, which are 10 years. Nimrod was judged in both the upper and lower courts of Egypt by Shem before being found guilty and then torn apart as his punishment and his body parts were sent to the leading cities of the world at that time as a warning that if they continued to follow Nimrod's teachings, the same would happen to them.

This period of judgment begins at Aviv in 2024.

What will we see in 2024?

Let's read Acts to learn about the day Yeshua left.

Act 1:1 Truly, O Theophilus, I made the first report as to all things that Jesus began both to do and teach

Act 1:2 until the day He was taken up, having given directions to the apostles whom He chose, through the Holy Spirit;

Act 1:3 to whom He also presented Himself living after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them through forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Act 1:4 And having met with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to await the promise of the Father which you heard from Me.

Act 1:5 For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized in the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

### **The Ascension**

Act 1:6 Then, indeed, these coming together, they asked Him, saying, Lord, do You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?

Act 1:7 And He said to them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father has put in His own authority.

Act 1:8 But you shall receive power, the Holy Spirit coming upon you. And you shall be witnesses to Me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Act 1:9 And saying these things, as they watched, He was taken up. And a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Act 1:10 And while they were looking intently into the heaven, He having gone, even behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them,

Act 1:11 who also said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into the heaven? **This same Jesus who is taken up from you into Heaven, will come in the way you have seen Him going into Heaven.**

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**This same Jesus who is taken up from you into Heaven, will come in the way you have seen Him going into Heaven.**

What does this mean? What are we being told by these two angels? If we take this as a day for a year in a prophetic sense, then what are we to make of it?

If our understanding of the Days of Noah, and the Days of Lot are correct in that the final judgment of Satan takes place at Atonement in 2033, and this also means the Saints will be raised up and those of us alive will be changed on Shavuot to meet Him in the air, because the 144,000 come out at the end of the Great Tribulation, then 10 years before this would be the 40th year, which is 2024. This then makes 1983 the first year and this is where I get confused again. What does 1983 mean? It was the year I was baptized into this walk. Other than that I got nothing.

Leaving that aside and looking only at the prophecy of the two angels in acts then we should be looking at 2024 for something in the clouds.

Joh 8:31 Then Jesus said to the Jews who believed on Him, If you continue in My Word, you are My disciples indeed.

Joh 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

If we are obeying the commandments then we should know the truth. He promised to be with us even now at the end of this age.

Mat 28:19 Therefore go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all things, whatever I commanded you. And, behold, I am with you all the days until the end of the world. Amen.

In 31 A.D., the Apostles were in that room when the Holy Spirit descended on them in tongues of fire. Today you have been called out of 8 Billion people on this earth, you and I have been called out. Why? Why us? We have not learned these things by our own intellect or cleverness. No, we have been led by the spirit.

2Pe 1:21 For prophecy was not borne at any time by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke being borne along by the Holy Spirit.

Yeshua went to heaven on that 40th day in order that the Holy Spirit would come on the 50th day. What is the significance of that? Why did He not wait until the 50th day and tell the spirit to come then? I do not know, just thinking out loud.

In John Yeshua spoke again about the Holy Spirit:

Joh 16:7 But I tell you the truth, it is expedient for you that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you. But if I depart, I will send Him to you.

Joh 16:8 And when that One comes, He will convict the world concerning sin, and concerning righteousness, and concerning judgment.

Joh 16:9 Concerning sin, because they do not believe on Me;

Joh 16:10 concerning righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;

Joh 16:11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Joh 16:12 I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

Joh 16:13 However, when He, the Spirit of Truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth. For He shall not speak of Himself, but whatever He hears, He shall speak. And He will announce to you things to come.

Joh 16:14 He will glorify Me, for He will receive of Mine and will announce it to you.

Joh 16:15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and will announce it to you.

I am going to give you the rest of John 16 to read as well, as it is also appropriate for our time now. Ask Him to understand.

Your Sorrow Will Turn into Joy

Joh 16:16 A little while and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father.

Joh 16:17 Then His disciples said to one another, What is this that He says to us, A little while and you will not see Me, and again a little and you will see Me? And, Because I go to the Father?

Joh 16:18 Therefore they said, What is this that He says, A little while? We do not know what He is saying.

Joh 16:19 Then Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and said to them, Do you seek answers with one another concerning this, because I said, A little while and you shall not see Me; and again a little while, and you shall see Me?

Joh 16:20 Truly, truly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. And you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.

Joh 16:21 The woman has grief when she bears, because her hour has come. But when she brings forth the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, because of the joy that a man is born into the world.

Joh 16:22 And therefore you now have sorrow. But I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

Joh 16:23 And in that day you shall ask Me nothing. Truly, truly, I say to you, Whatever you shall ask the Father in My name, He will give you.

Joh 16:24 Before now you have asked nothing in My name; ask and you shall receive, that your joy may be full.

I Have Overcome the World

Joh 16:25 I have spoken these things to you in parables, but the time is coming when I shall no more speak to you in parables, but I will show you plainly of the Father.

Joh 16:26 At that day you will ask in My name; and I do not say to you that I will pray to the Father for you,

Joh 16:27 for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came out from God.

Joh 16:28 I came forth from the Father, and have come into the world. Again I leave the world and go to the Father.

Joh 16:29 The disciples said to Him, Lo, now You speak plainly and speak no parable.

Joh 16:30 Now we know that You know all things and do not need that anyone should ask You. By this we believe that You have come forth from God.

Joh 16:31 Jesus answered them, Do you now believe?

Joh 16:32 Behold, the hour comes, yea, has now come, that you will be scattered, each man to his own things, and you will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.

Joh 16:33 I have spoken these things to you so that you might have peace in Me. In the world you shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world.

The number 40 is clearly associated with judgment, tests or trials. When Yehovah brought the flood in Noah's generation, it rained 40 days and nights. Moses was on Mount Sinai and received the ten commandments after 40 days and nights. He fasted that entire time. He then went back up another 40 days and 40 nights to get the second set of commandments after the golden calf event. The spies scouted out the Promised Land for 40 days. Then they were punished for 40 years, wandering in the wilderness for bringing back an evil report. Yehshua fasted 40 days before He faced off with Satan. We are now about to face off with Satan. Are we ready for what is about to begin?

Yeshua was here on earth for 40 days after His resurrection. He ascended to Heaven with just ten days to go to Shavuot. Is He about to return in 2024 to begin the 10 years of judgment on mankind? Is this what we are being told? This is the whole meaning of the 10 Days of Awe. They are the last 10 days before the final judgment on the Day of Atonement.

Are we watching for Him? Are you focused on watching for Him? The five foolish thought they were ready. But on the Feast of Trumpets, when He comes, they went out to buy oil. If they knew Him, they would know you are not to buy or sell on the Holy Day of the Feast of Trumpets. 2024 represents the Feast of Trumpets, the start of the 10 years of Judgment.

Sept 22, 2023, we fully expect to see some sort of Abomination set up on the corner of Mount Golgotha. Randy and I will be there. We will need your prayers and financial support. We are warned about this event by Yehshua. Pay attention to all He says as we are about to enter this time.

Mat 24:15 Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand).

Mat 24:16 Then let those in Judea flee into the mountains.

Mat 24:17 Let him on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house;

Mat 24:18 nor let him in the field turn back to take his clothes.

Mat 24:19 And woe to those who are with child, and to those who give suck in those days!

Mat 24:20 But pray that your flight is not in the winter, nor on the sabbath day;

Mat 24:21 for then shall be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world to this time; no, nor ever shall be.

Mat 24:22 And unless those days should be shortened, no flesh would be saved. But for the elect's sake, those days shall be shortened.

Mat 24:23 Then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ! Or, There! Do not believe it.

Mat 24:24 For false Christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders; so much so that, if it were possible, they would deceive even the elect.

Mat 24:25 Behold, I have told you beforehand.

Mat 24:26 Therefore if they shall say to you, Behold, He is in the desert! Do not go out. Behold, He is in the secret rooms! Do not believe it.

Mat 24:27 For as the lightning comes out of the east and shines even to the west, so also will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Mat 24:28 For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered.

After these events, we are told about the time when Yehovah will come.

Mat 24:29 And immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun shall be darkened and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from the heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.

Mat 24:30 And then the sign of the Son of Man shall appear in the heavens. And then all the tribes of the earth shall mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of the heaven with power and great glory.

Mat 24:31 And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

I read this and understand it is to take place at the end of the Tribulation in the year 2033. So, as I return to thinking about Acts 1:11 **This same Jesus who is taken up from you into Heaven, will come in the way you have seen Him going into Heaven.**

I am left to wonder about the meaning of this 40th day and its relationship to the 10 days or 10 years of Awe directly in front of us. What does it mean? What are we to be looking for? When are we to look for it? The Holy Spirit will lead us to understand when we ask.

Amos tells us that the prophet and Jehovah work together to warn the people.

Amo 3:3 Can two walk together unless they are agreed?

Amo 3:4 Will a lion roar in the forest when he has no prey for him? Will a young lion cry out of his den unless he has caught?

Amo 3:5 Will a bird fall into a trap on the ground, and there is no bait for it? Will a trap spring up from the ground, and nothing at all be caught?

Amo 3:6 If a ram's horn is blown in a city, will the people not also tremble? If there is a calamity in a city, has Jehovah not also done it?

**Amo 3:7 For the Lord Jehovah will do nothing unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.**

Amo 3:8 The lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord Jehovah has spoken; who will not prophesy?

Amo 3:9 Make it heard at the palaces of Ashdod, and the palaces in the land of Egypt, and say: Gather yourselves on the mountains of Samaria, and behold the great uproars in its midst, and the oppressed in its midst.

Amo 3:10 For they do not know to do right, says Jehovah, those who store up violence and robbery in their palaces.

Amo 3:11 So the Lord Jehovah says this: An enemy! And he shall be all around the land; and he shall bring you down from your strength, and your palaces shall be plundered.

Amo 3:12 So says Jehovah: As the shepherd takes two legs out of the mouth of the lion, or a piece of an ear; so shall the sons of Israel be taken out, those who dwell in Samaria in the corner of a bed, and in Damascus on a couch.

Amo 3:13 Hear and testify in the house of Jacob, says the Lord Jehovah, the God of Hosts,

Amo 3:14 for in the day that I shall visit the transgressions of Israel on him, I will also visit the altars of Bethel. And the horns of the altar shall be cut off and shall fall to the ground.



Amo 3:15 And I will strike the winter house together with the summer house, and the houses of ivory shall perish. And the great houses shall be swept away, says Jehovah.



## Why Cain's Offering Was Rejected

Gen 4:1 And Adam knew Eve his wife. And she conceived and bore Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from Jehovah.

Gen 4:2 And she bore again, his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

Gen 4:3 And in the end of days, it happened, Cain brought to Jehovah an offering of the fruit of the ground.

Gen 4:4 And Abel also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat of it. And Jehovah had respect to Abel and to his offering,

Gen 4:5 but He did not have respect to Cain and to his offering. And Cain glowed with anger, and his face fell.

Gen 4:6 And Jehovah said to Cain, Why have you angrily glowed? And why did your face fall?

Gen 4:7 If you do well, shall you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin crouches at the door; and its desire is for you, and you shall rule over it.

Why was Cain's offering rejected? Was it because it was fruit from the ground?

Why was Abels offering accepted? Was it because it was an animal?

I would like to suggest it was because Cain did not honour the office of the King of all Creation, Yehovah.

Abel brought the first of his flocks. His first fruits. Cain's offering was not the first. It was common or from the entire crop, but it was not the first. Yehovah does accept crops as offerings. Look at the barley and the wheat.

This is why we are so determined to find the very first of the barley each year to begin the year. We do have a Temple to make the offering, but we strive to prepare the first fruits offering for the day when we do have a Temple. We have word this week the first fruits of the wheat are now ready. Imagine that. In spite of all the rain and cold temperatures, the wheat is still ready to harvest now, just one week before Shavuot. The very first of the wheat harvest.

Other groups will not be looking for wheat. They don't care. They don't understand. They are like Cain, offering the common wheat or the common barley from the crop. NOT THE FIRST FRUITS! It is important you understand this.

The barely Becca and Randy found was shattered and reseeded by the time the majority of the Karaites groups kept Passover in late March. Now the wheat is ready and Devorah is still looking for the barley to be Aviv so she can keep Passover in May.

I am asking you all to watch the video Becca posted and we shared above and for you to judge which one is the first fruits. Will your offering, the bullocks of your lips be accepted as Abels was or will it be rejected as Cains was? Understand why.



## **Prepare to Celebrate Shavuot**

While we here at Sighted Moon love to sit around the kitchen table and Study Yehovah's word, the Feast days are for Celebrating! Celebration is to bring joy and mirth, and what better time to express these emotions than at Shavuot, the remembrance and renewal of our betrothal to our beloved Bridegroom.

Now I know many of us are alone in our keeping of the feasts, and so the aspect of celebration is difficult, but we won't have the "feeling" of Joy unless we actively pursue it, and pursuing it means we have to get our noses out of a book, our eyes off the computer screen and get to work making our own space a celebration.

There are certain traditions that help bring the joyful feelings to the Shavuot Feast. I'll share a few and you choose which to participate in. Because Shavuot is a remembrance of the Betrothal event at Mount Sinai, this event encourages rich and delicious foods you would serve at a wedding, things like cheesecake or cheeses and fruit platter, creamy soups and fancy challah.

Jamie Gellar has a page with suggested menu according to various themes  
<https://jamiiegellar.com/tag/shavuot-menu/>

And this page has lots of recipes you could serve for Shavuot. <https://mayihavethatrecipe.com/14-mouthwatering-recipes-to-make-on-shavuot/>

Now as I peruse these two web pages I'm reminded we are limited by the Shmittah this year, so use your creativity. Those beautiful fresh salads won't work this year, but we've all stored away some fruits and veggies. Imagine how you could serve a can of [fruit with a custard](#) for dessert, a yummy [peach cobbler](#) or turn some frozen [sweet potatoes and carrots](#) into a casserole or that wonderful [wheat salad](#) we make here on the prairies. Maybe you don't like to cook, maybe you prefer a catered affair, maybe ask a local deli to cater some meat and cheese platters for you. You can up scale it or down scale it, but make it special for you. The grocery store often has platters made up. Depending on how you are observing your Shmittah year, go with your guidelines, maybe a platter of fruits and veggies is within your personal understanding of the Shmittah. The point is, the very word FEAST implies FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD! So find a way to delight yourself with a bountiful days worth of delicacies.

Creating a beautiful Challah is one way to get into the joyful spirit of the Shavuot event, after all, it is also the time of the firstfruit of the Wheat. There is tradition to be creative with the design of the challah. This one I made in the shape of an open Torah scroll. It does not quite look like the pinterest version, but it was my own worshipful creation. Remember that our Abba Father has given us creative skills and talents as a means to worship Him, so don't fear imperfection, proudly bring Him the best your talents have to offer.



This challah was made as a sheaf of wheat to offer as the firstfruit offering. The whole purpose of symbols and images is not that we worship the created thing, but that we remember the details of what our worship of Him is about. Even the braiding of the challah bread is to remind us of a cord of three strands.

Ecclesiastes 4:12 And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

And that's why we have traditions that the whole community keeps, not that it's a commandment to make the challah, but that when we all do it, this binds us together in unity, reminding ourselves that we need each other, not just those sitting at your table, but all those who are entering into the Sabbath, all those who are keeping the Feasts



This Feast of Shavuot has so many wonderful themes we can work with. It is a betrothal event, it is the giving of the 10 Commandments, it is a first fruits offering, it is a remembrance of the giving of the Holy Spirit. The book of Ruth is filled with Shavuot themes



It's not just about Challah, We can be creative with all kinds of foods. I made these one year.



<https://busyinbrooklyn.com/torah-cannoli/>

In a Hebrew wedding, a chuppah is a symbol of the house the groom will provide for his bride. It's a symbol of the home, the comfort, the place to dwell together. It's a place of security. It is a picture of the cloud which set on top of Mount Sinai [Exodus 19:16](#) On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled.

We have taken this picture of the Chuppah and have renewed our covenant with Yehovah under the chuppah over the years. We build a chuppah from whatever we have available, Our first year we stood between bookshelves with a tallit stretched between the two. The next year we found some lumber in the garage and built a structure.



Under the chuppah we recite aloud our ketubah with our Bridegroom

## **Exodus 20**

### **The Ten Commandments**

**1** And God spoke all these words, saying,

**2** “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

**3** “You shall have no other gods before[\[a\]](#) me.

**4** “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. **5** You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, **6** but showing steadfast love to thousands[\[b\]](#) of those who love me and keep my commandments.

**7** “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

**8** “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. **9** Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, **10** but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you,

or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. **11** For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

**12** “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

**13** “You shall not murder.[\[c\]](#)

**14** “You shall not commit adultery.

**15** “You shall not steal.

**16** “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

**17** “You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.”

Exodus 19:8 All the people answered together and said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do.”





Another thing you could do under the chuppah is bless the children.

For the boys, may you be as Ephraim and Menasseh,

For the girls, May you be like Sarah Rebecca Rachel and Leah

May the Lord Bless you and keep you,

May He cause his face to shine upon you

May Yehovah turn His face toward you and give you peace.



As I look back at these photos from years ago, I see at least 4 of these kids have entered into their own marriages and started families.

Music is such a big part of making merry. Music truly lifts the spirit. Here's a few suggestions to get you into the mood.

[Fire In The Night by Rick Ridings- Shavuot \(Pentecost\)](#)

[MIQEDEM - PSALM 150 \(LIVE\)](#)

[Miqedem 2017 Dodili](#)

[Project of Love | Isaiah 44 - Sing Oh Heavens](#)

[Project of Love | Isaiah 25 - A Wonderful Feast](#)

[Project of Love | Isaiah 59 - My Covenant](#)

[Song of Ruth \(Wherever You Go\) sung by Bethany Paige](#)

[Ruth's Song \(Where You Go I Will Go\) Misha Goetz & Marty Goetz #LIVE from #Jerusalem \(Ruth 1:16\)](#)

[Ani L'dodi \(I Am My Beloved's\)](#)

I really encourage you to invest in planning to CELEBRATE this Feast day and really experience the feeling of a wedding, a Betrothal ceremony and speak the words of your Ketubah aloud. And of course, we'll see you at the Zoom meeting. We'll make it a Holy Convocation!



## **The Showbread: The How and Why of the Temple Bread Offering**

The bread of the Presence (also called the showbread or shewbread in some translations) was special bread always present on a table in the Tabernacle (and later in the temple). Leviticus 24:5–7 describes this bread:

Lev 24:5 And you shall take fine flour and bake twelve cakes of it. Two-tenth parts shall be in one cake.

Lev 24:6 And you shall set them in two rows, six on a row, on the pure table before Jehovah.

Lev 24:7 And you shall put pure frankincense on each row, so that it may be on the bread for a memorial, a fire offering to Jehovah.

This bread of the Presence was:

- 1) made of fine flour,
- 2) baked in 12 loaves,
- 3) arranged in two piles of six loaves each on a table of pure gold,

4) covered with frankincense, and

5) served as a memorial food offering to the Lord. The bread could only be eaten by Aaron and his sons in a holy place and was set out every Sabbath day (Leviticus 24:8–9).

Lev 24:8 Every sabbath he shall set it in order before Jehovah forever, from the sons of Israel by an everlasting covenant.

Lev 24:9 And it shall be Aaron's and his sons'. And they shall eat it in the holy place, for it is most holy to him of the fire offerings of Jehovah, by a never-ending statute.

The bread of the Presence is first mentioned in Exodus 25:30.

Exo 25:23 You shall also make a table of acacia-wood, its length two cubits, and its breadth a cubit, and its height a cubit and a half.

Exo 25:24 And you shall overlay it with pure gold, and make to this a crown of gold all around.

Exo 25:25 And you shall make to it a border of a hand's breadth round about. And you shall make a golden crown to the border of it, all around.

Exo 25:26 And you shall make for it four rings of gold, and put the rings in the four corners that are on the four feet of it.

Exo 25:27 The rings shall be adjoining the border as housings for the staves to carry the table.

Exo 25:28 And you shall make the staves of acacia-wood and overlay them with gold, so that the table may be carried with them.

Exo 25:29 And you shall make its dishes, and its spoons, and its pitchers, and its sacrificial cups with which a drink-offering is made. You shall make them of pure gold.

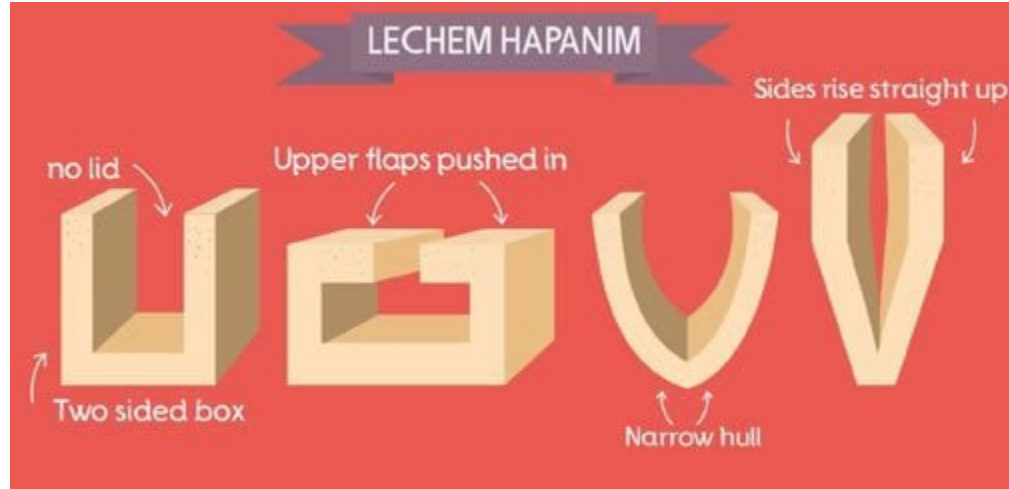
Exo 25:30 **And you shall set upon the table Bread of the Presence before Me always.**

The bread is also listed in the contributions for the tabernacle in Exodus 35:13 and noted as part of the completed tabernacle in Exodus 39:36. In Numbers 4 the Kohathites, who were sons of Levi, were given responsibility for the care of the table of showbread.

1Ch 9:32 And others of the sons of the Kohathites, from among their brothers, were over The Bread of Arrangement, to prepare sabbath by sabbath.

## **The Showbread: The How and Why of the Temple Bread Offering**

By [Mendy Kaminker](#)



It was called bread, but it was matzah. It stood in the open air for a full week and didn't become stale. And its preparation required special expertise.

It was the showbread, the bread of the Tabernacle (the portable Temple) and, later, the Holy Temples.

## Bread for the Creator

When G-d commanded the children of Israel to make a Tabernacle, He gave a long, detailed list of all the vessels to be used in it. Among them was a golden table. The showbread was to be placed on the table: "On the table, the showbread should be placed before Me at all times."<sup>1</sup>

The Torah gives us more details about this mitzvah—how many loaves of bread there should be, their weight, and the day of the week on which they should be brought as an offering to the Creator:

Take the finest grade of wheat flour and bake it into 12 loaves. Each loaf will be made from two-tenths of an *eifah* (2.7 liters; 1 gallon). Arrange these loaves in two stacks, six loaves to a stack, on the pure table, before G-d. Put pure frankincense beside these stacks. This will be the memorial portion, a fire-offering to G-d. Every Shabbat these loaves should be placed before G-d—it is an eternal covenant that this must come from the children of Israel. The [bread] will be given to Aaron and his descendants to eat in a holy place, since it is a most holy fire-offering to G-d. This is an eternal law.<sup>2</sup>

From this passage we learn that the showbread was placed on the table in two stacks, each stack containing six loaves. Frankincense (resin extracted from the *Boswellia sacra* tree) was placed on the table with the showbread. Fresh loaves of bread replaced the old loaves on the table every Shabbat, and the Kohanim (priests) would eat the loaves that were removed from the table.

## Bread Artisans

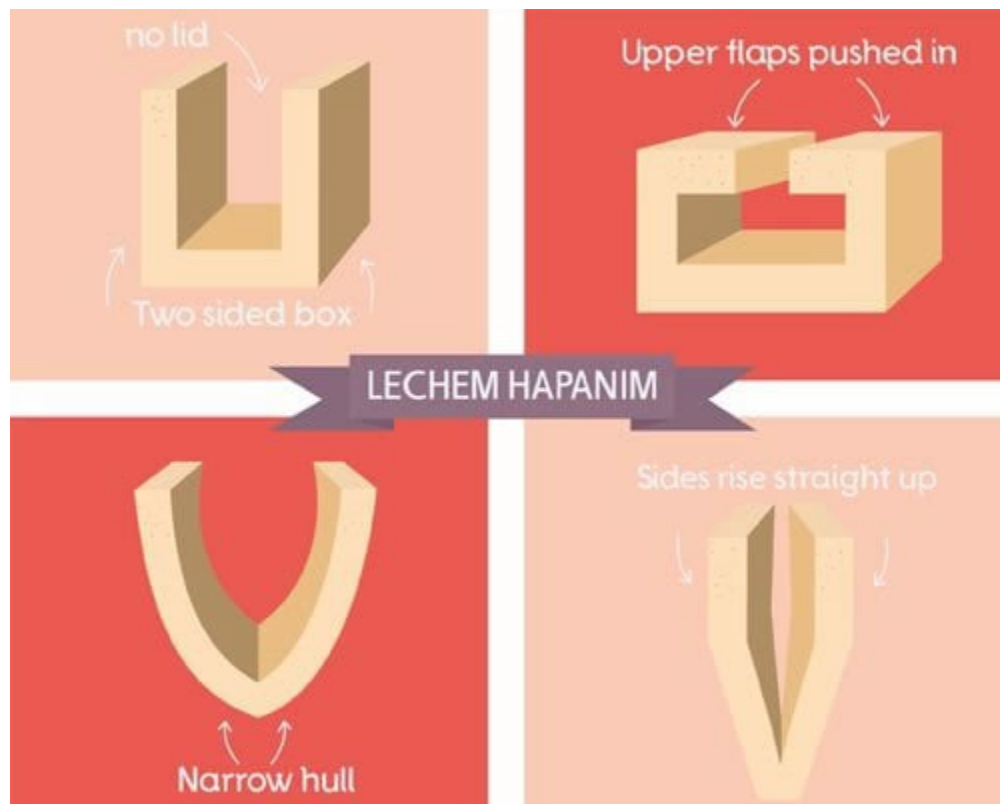
How did the loaves of showbread look? The Talmud cites different opinions.

According to Rabbi Chanina, the loaves were made “like an open ark,” but according to Rabbi Yochanan, they looked “like a dancing ship.”<sup>3</sup>

What do these images mean?

Rashi<sup>4</sup> opines that “an open ark” is like an upside down “*chet*” (ח, the eighth letter of the Hebrew alphabet). In other words, each loaf looked like a two-sided box with no lid. The Rambam (Maimonides),<sup>5</sup> on the other hand, says that the upper edges of the loaves were turned in, so that the loaves looked like a two-sided box whose upper flaps were slightly pushed in.

And what does “a dancing ship” look like? Rashi says that this refers to the shape of a ship whose hull is narrow where it touches the water, but wider towards the top. Since the ship stands on a narrow base, it’s not very stable, and so it “dances.” In his commentary on the Talmud, Rashi draws a picture that looks like the English letter V. However, the Ba’alei HaTosefot (another commentary on the Talmud) say that above the V shape, the sides of the loaves rose straight up.



Whatever shape it was, the baking of the showbread was a real art.

Remember that:

- The loaves were uniquely shaped, and they had to remain whole and unbroken during the baking and afterwards.
- The loaves were standing exposed to the air for a full week, and they must have been made according to a special recipe, because they never became moldy or dried out.
- The loaves had to be baked quickly so they wouldn't become *chametz* (leavened).
- The loaves were fairly large, each weighing almost five kilograms (11 lbs.).

The Talmud<sup>6</sup> tells us that there was a family named Garmu who were experts at preparing the showbread. The sages asked them to teach other people the secrets of preparing the showbread, but they refused and were fired. Specialists were brought from Alexandria, Egypt, who knew how to bake, but they did not know how to take the loaves from the oven as well as the Garmus did, and in spite of their many attempts, their loaves became moldy. The Garmus were summoned back to their job, and the showbread was once again offered. When they were asked why they wouldn't teach anyone else how to do the work, they said, "We know that the Temple will be destroyed, and we are concerned that an unworthy man will learn how to bake the showbread and use it to serve an idol."

In addition, the Garmu family was known to be honest. The showbread was made from clean flour that had been sifted many times. The family never ate bread made from fine flour, only simple, rough bread, so that no one would suspect them of using the *lechem hapanim* flour for their own meals.

## What Was Done with the Showbread?

The loaves of showbread were placed on the table in the Tabernacle and, later, in the Temple. They were placed in two stacks of six loaves each, with reeds separating the loaves.

Every Shabbat, after the Mincha (afternoon) sacrifice, the old loaves were replaced with new ones. The old loaves were given to Kohanim to eat.

## Reasons for the Name

In Hebrew, the showbread is called *lechem hapanim*, which translates literally as "face bread." The Talmud says that it was called *lechem hapanim* because it had many "faces," i.e., many sides.<sup>7</sup> The translation of the verse by Yonatan ben Uziel into Aramaic says that the showbread got its name because it was inside ("*p'nim*") the hall of the Tabernacle and the Temple.

## Why Showbread?

Maimonides says<sup>8</sup> that he wasn't able to find explanations for this [mitzvah](#). However, different explanations have been given over the years, and there is a central message that is similar in all the explanations: the showbread symbolizes the material abundance that G-d gives to the Jews. It's a continuous reminder that our livelihoods and food come only from G-d.

Three times a year, when the children of Israel made the pilgrimage to the Holy Temple—on Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot—they were shown the table and the showbread. “Look at how beloved you are by G-d!” the Kohanim would tell them, pointing to the showbread, which stayed hot and fresh even though it was left out for a whole week.<sup>9</sup>

The Talmud<sup>10</sup> tells us, “If a person wants to become rich, he should point his feet to the north when he prays.” The table was on the north side of the Temple, and the showbread was a perpetual reminder of G-d’s generosity, and the channel for abundance and prosperity.

#### FOOTNOTES

[1. Exodus 25:30.](#)

[2. Leviticus 24:5-9.](#)

[3.](#) These opinions are presented in Tractate Menachot 94b.

[4.](#) Ibid.

[5.](#) Laws of Tamids and Musafs, chapter 5.

[6.](#) Yoma 38a.

[7.](#) Mishnah, Tractate Menachot 11:4.

[8.](#) Guide for the Perplexed, part 3, chapter 45.

[9.](#) Menachot 29a.

[10.](#) Bava Basra 25b.