

Spring Festivals 2020

What exciting times we find ourselves currently in, as we are in the midst of the Spring Festival season! The calendar of the Creator is laid out in detail in Leviticus 23. Not only are these festivals divine appointments with our King, they also serve as blueprints revealing the plan of Yahweh covering our past, present, and future, and they reveal the mind and heart of our Elohim! Each Feast reveals a facet of His character so that by our honoring and keeping of these festivals we discover who He is and we enter an intimate walk with our King that cannot be found any other way! It teaches us of redemption, deliverance, healing, restoration, growth, and renewal! Our focus now is where we find ourselves in this cycle! Having celebrated Pesach, and currently in the Week of Unleavened Bread, we now enter a unique season that becomes an unbreakable link to Shavuot, connecting the entire spring cycle together – the time of the counting of the omer!

Leviticus 23:15-16 – “And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto Yahweh.”

From Yom HaBikkurim, the Day/Feast of Early First Fruits which falls in the midst of Passover and Unleavened Bread celebrations, 7 Sabbaths are to be counted leading up to Shavuot (the 50th day)! This command is found strategically placed in Leviticus 23 where the Festival calendar of Yahweh is laid out. No other festival has a command attached to it like this, making this concept unique and enigmatic at the same time. It has become associated with a season of introspection, teshuva (repentance), cleansing, and preparation for the festival of Shavuot. What all does this season of counting entail?

Count: Strong's #5608 caphar כָּפַר to count, recount, relate; to rehearse, to speak or declare; can also infer to inscribe or to write; 2 letter root forms #5592 saph סָף threshold, doorway, sill, or even to be a doorkeeper; this root is connected to the letter כ = head, or mind

*We are commanded to “count the days”, yet a deeper connection is found within the Hebrew language! Upon the heels of our deliverance, we are to declare, speak, and rehearse His WORD, and by doing so it will be inscribed/written in our mind (renewing our mind) so that we are able to guard the threshold/be a doorkeeper!

Romans 12:2 – “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of Elohim.”

Phillipians 2:5 – “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Messiah Yahshua:”

It is also important to note the second root is Par פָּר meaning symbolically the fruit of the lips, or a young bull (one of the sacrificial animals).

*The word picture within the Hebrew language is that of one who guards and watches the threshold of what is passing across their lips – the words that are spoken! Why? Because what is declared (especially during this season) will become what identifies whose house/family you belong to, and if you are one who has the mind of Messiah!

Romans 8:5 – “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.”

What does it mean to guard the threshold/be a doorkeeper?

In Psalms 84:10 this position stands in stark contrast to being one who dwells in the tents of the wicked! **Psalm 84:10** – “For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.”

Doorkeeper: Strong's #5605 caphaph פָּרַץ to stand or guard at the threshold; word picture is one who speaks (פ) at the threshold! Could this be the significance of this season leading up to Shavuot? It is the Season where we are matured, trained, inscribed, our minds are renewed so that we now have the mind of Messiah, so that are capable of functioning as a doorkeeper in His House – one who declares and speaks forth the Living WORD at the threshold!

We can't possibly understand the weight of the above statement without digging further into these connections, and understanding what takes place at Passover in connection with the threshold!

The first reference of this term saph/threshold is found in **Exodus 12:22** – “And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the bason (saph), and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the bason (saph); and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning.”

The threshold of a family dwelling is the earliest and most ancient form of an altar! To cross over a threshold where the blood had been applied, was symbolic of a covenant being established. This is a concept Israel would have been familiar with and understood when commanded to partake of this very act!

It is interesting that this seems to establish the fact that altars and thresholds are synonymous – altars are thresholds and thresholds are altars! When you come to the altar, it is a threshold/doorway, which will allow access to the one you've come to meet with, and whoever crosses that altar threshold you've now entered into covenant with...hence the significance of operating as a doorkeeper – making sure you don't enter into covenant with the wrong person! And also understanding the power of the words spoken at the threshold, those words are calling forth who's going to cross that threshold!

Genesis 12:7 – “And Yahweh appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the Yahweh, who appeared unto him.”

Psalms 22:3 – “But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.”

Deuteronomy 6:9 – “And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.” (Gates, Doors, Thresholds all are synonymous!)

*As a side note, notice that the focus currently among so many is the building of the 3rd Temple, the institution of another altar and the sacrifices.

Regardless of what your view may be regarding what the sacrifices mean in relation with our Messiah, this connection cannot be excused! If the altar is a threshold, we must ask ourselves who will cross this threshold therefore causing all who partake of it to be in covenant with him? It is not Yahshua who crosses the threshold of this altar...

I dare say it would seem that the counting of the omer season, where we learn to guard the threshold, is imperative for this generation more so than any other before us!

Its no accident that during this Passover in Egypt, there were two choices for what/who would cross the threshold!

Exodus 12:23 – “For Yahweh will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, Yahweh will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.”

*The English translation seems to infer that Yahweh passes over the houses of the Israelites entirely, yet with this understanding of the significance of the threshold covenant connections, we understand that Yahweh passed over/stepped over the threshold, honoring the covenant forged by the Lamb’s blood, and enters into the homes of the Israelites!

Destroyer: Strong’s #7843 shachath שָׁחַח to destroy, corrupt, go to ruin, decay, be rotted, or lay waste

*All previous uses of this term deal with the destruction of the flood and the destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah – both of these judgments being brought about due to boundaries/thresholds being crossed by fallen angelic beings and producing nephillim in the earth.

Could the connection then here in Exodus be about those being cut off who have attempted to pervert the WORD/SEED of Yahweh by welcoming others to cross the threshold? Now the fruit of their own choices brings about the laid waste condition as they are judged for not guarding the threshold nor choosing to honor the position of the doorkeeper!

*A further connection is seen here in regards to the threshold and altar...shachath/destroyer contains the שָׁח root, which is the same root as the

term chathah חָתַח to seize or snatch up, usually of fire or coals; hmm, could Passover be when Yahweh judges and shuts down the false altars (snatching up their fire) that have functioned as thresholds for the false gods/husbands that have enslaved the people, and by doing so this is what sets Israel free and enables us to once again possess the gates (thresholds/doors/altars) which is what we are called to do?

Gen 22:17 – “...and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;”

It is quite interesting to note that the term “destroyer”/shachath here is conjugated as “hamashchit” חָמַשְׁחִית – the root of it is quite similar to the word HaMashiyach/ the Messiah הַמְשִׁיחַ the difference is the moving of the letter ך and the addition of the letter ת – in Hebrew the ת suffix is the diminutive form, it modifies the word to convey a slighter degree of its root meaning, or to convey the smallness or unimportance of the object – hmm...could they have been guilty of considering the Messiah unimportant (hence their choosing not to welcome his arrival via the threshold covenant requirements) and due to this, instead of Yahshua entering their homes, destruction instead comes upon them?

*At the same time, the power and glory of our King is seen, because those who honored Him, those who chose to walk in covenant, and prepared their homes and hearts for the Mashiyach, are delivered out by a mighty hand!

Exodus 12:51 – “And it came to pass the selfsame day, that Yahweh did bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies.”

Selfsame: Strong’s #6106 ‘etsem עֲצָמָה bone, essence, substance; the moment Israel crosses that threshold with the blood there’s an identity change! They are now ‘etsem – bone of His bone and raised up as a mighty army that is capable of standing alongside their husband, defending the threshold/altar ensuring that the Messiah is honored and the gates are guarded!

***Ephesians 5:30** – “For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.”

This sets the pattern for what takes place in Ezekiel 37 with the valley of dry bones!

Ezekiel 37:10 – “So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.”

It is no accident that the root found within these 2 terms (Mashiyach & Mashchit) forms #7878 siyach שִׂיַח to put forth, to meditate, commune, speak, ponder, or sing; could this be a clue as to how we find ourselves prepared or unprepared? What we meditate on, speak forth, and sing out is an indicator of whether we have circumcised our hearts and are indeed bone of His bone, or if we have been guilty of allowing another to cross the threshold!

Psalm 119:15 – “I will meditate/siyach in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.”

Psalm 19:14 – “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Yahweh, my strength, and my redeemer.”

This powerful symbolism of the threshold covenant and altar connection is seen again and again, and is mirrored in the covenant of circumcision as well (the loins being symbolic of the doorway, and the blood of the circumcision representing the covenant that's now entered into – perhaps further reason why no one who is uncircumcised can partake of the Passover! **Ex. 12:48**) To circumcise our flesh (which goes beyond the natural to our hearts and our minds) represents that we are welcoming in the King to our homes and willingly entering into covenant!

*To enter by another means than prescribed is symbolic of declaring war and spurning the Covenant that is offered! To remain in a carnal uncircumcised condition and attempt to force your way in, indicates a declaration of war against Yahweh, and we are unable to possess the gates/guard the threshold while in this manner/state!

At Passover, Yahweh passes/crosses over (entering into) the homes of Israel, and a covenant is entered into – Israel is adopted, a marriage covenant has been cut! It is now imperative that Israel continues to honor and abide by the Covenant terms that have been set, lest they be seen as breaking covenant!

*Could this be why the need for/command of the season of counting the omer? It is a season where our minds are renewed as we are taught and trained and we put into practice what it means to be in this covenant with the King – we learn to guard the threshold, ensuring that another who does not belong does not cross the boundary! But also, it becomes a season where we learn what needs to be dealt with in our own hearts before crossing that threshold!

This becomes the season where now that the bondage has been broken off at Passover, and we have been grafted into a new bloodline/new name/new household, we begin to declare (caphar) His Word, and by doing so, we find our minds being renewed by that very WORD and it changes the way we think, make decisions, act and speak.

Proverbs 8:34 – “Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.”