

Counting the Omer. 4/15/23

Sephirot HaOmer:

Lev. 23:15-16.

- I. This is an interesting Mitzvoth – it highlights the interval between the Spring Festivals of Pesach and Shavuot. Most people simply accept it as a means of ‘counting the Omer – or days’ between the two, yet fail to ask why aren’t the gaps between the other convocations (Except for the Shabbat) counted in the same manner? This ritual itself leads one to believe that Shavuot is indeed a unique, set-apart and holy convocation different from all the other Festivals - needing 50-days to create the Spiritual atmosphere necessary for truly celebrating it!

Having said that, most arguments regarding the ordinance involve when the specific count commences. In other words, after which Sabbath does the Omer count begin – the High Sabbath of Unleavened Bread or the Weekly Sabbath? Though my opinion leans toward the weekly Sabbath, for this study, we will only briefly touch the issue, while looking at some other hidden revelation.

ספירת העמר – Sephirot H’Omer

The Counting of the Omer: The fundamental explanation of why the need to count seems rooted in a purely agricultural explanation. For example: **Deut. 16: 9-12** tells us to count from the time the Barley harvest begins until the Wheat harvest is initiated, thereby marking the transition between the two and thus, allowing for this 49-day interval. But, there are far more profound spiritual reasons, which we will hope to reveal. To start, let’s look at the Hebrew words.

- Counting, **ספירת** Sephirot, from the root of **ספר** H#5608, Saphar, to count, relate, to rehearse. To scratch, scrape or inscribe letters, to write. To speak or utter words. Also to polish. The first occasion of this root is seen in **Gen. 15:5** *And He brought him forth abroad, and said, look now toward heaven, and tell – saphar - the stars, if thou be able to number – saphar - them: and He said unto him, so shall thy seed be.* This initial reference sets in motion how the word should be interpreted and couples the counting – Saphar – of the stars (Which entails reading their message) with this Counting – Saphar – of the Omer! By the way, we get our English word cipher from here! Can you De-Cipher the Omer?

- Sheaf, H#6016, עמר, `omer, a sheaf or heap, as in a dry measure, or bundle. To gather. The same letters can also indicate to manipulate or deal tyrannically with someone, to treat as a slave. To make merchandize of, to deal with as 'chattel'.

Could this 'Counting' entail the disciplined effort to understand the restored message of the stars? Could we finally be seeing the Truth of this SEASON as it was originally intended, a rehearsal that exposes an ancient ledger recording the hidden encoded message found in the DNA of those eternal stars as representing the Lost Sheep of the House of Israel – the Scattered Seed of Abraham – WE who're now, like a migrating fish or bird, somehow being drawn spiritually to the primordial begetting place? If so, for what purpose and just as importantly, does Shavuot somehow divulge the Begetting Place?

It is not an accident that the word 'omer' is etymologically cognate with the Hebrew word H#559, אמר, to speak, or bring to light, as in the act of speaking. This hints that a connection associating the interval between Pesach and Shavuot is also somehow linked to the Creation account where Amar – to speak - is first seen in Gen. 1:3. Moreover, it is interesting to look at Gen. 2 & 3 where we see another facet of the letters of עמר, `omer: Here we see the same letters rearranged to give us H#6191, ערם, awram, to be naked, to be subtle, shrewd, prudent, to be cunning. *Does the Omer Count hint at a restoration of the Edenic ability to procreate and fulfill the mandate to be fruitful, multiply, replenish, subdue and have dominion at the end of its count?* Do we need more of a textural voucher? Indeed, could the counting of the Omer both point us backward to Creation, as well as, toward a future demonstration? If so, where can we see this pattern in Genesis?

Shavuot in Eden:

The Sages teach that the mitzvot seen in each of the Holy Convocations serves as a Tikkun – תיקון – *a repairing of the World* that will lead us back to Eden. The Giving of Torah at Sinai relates to the Tree of Life which Adam – Israel has been cut off from! Since their expulsion out of Eden, after touching – NEGA - the Serpent / Nachash - Adam and Chavah, like Israel in Egypt, were in bondage, leprous and thus, unclean. It is here they lost the ability to procreate via the Spoken Word indulging the flesh, which inculcates Lashon Hara – the lying Tongue – their offspring now doomed to an existence as a leprous Colony that must be quarantined from the Presence of Elohiym until no longer manifesting a Body of

Death! *See **Rom. 7: 23,24** *But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*

I thought Pesach delivered me? Pesach delivers the Body out of Egypt while Shavuot delivers the Mind! It is the battle of the mind that determines how long you stay out!

This brings us to a lesser-known name of Shavuot found in the Mishnah and the Talmud – ATZERET – **ערצת** - a word that contains the root of Tzarat indicating leprosy a malady said to derive from Lashon Ha'ra, an EVIL TONGUE! A Releasing of Words or Seed, or taking in Words or Seed that are not LIVING WORDS – TORAH! Thus, the Counting of the OMER pictures Adam tilling the ground from whence he was taken until a time when the BRIDE can return to the Ketubah - Gathered Words - Message Etched in the Heavens!

Adam's Exile is said to last 120 Jubilees (120x50) – 6000 years! A day is as a 1000-years: 50-days till Shavuots' jubilee, 120 jubilee seasons of 50-years until the final Shavuot! The Omer count begins that tilling! The Hebrew word for 'till' is **H#5647, עבד**, Abad, to serve, till, worship, etc. It has a value of 76, the same as **H#485, אלמה**, al-oom-maw, a BOUND SHEAF! It's root is awlam, to be silent as Yahshua was silent before His captors in **Is. 53:7** His tongue was a BOUND SHEAF – He was the first fruit offering restoring the Procreative Tongue of Creation to the Living Man! He counted the Omer before the Foundation of the World, **Rev. 13:8!**

Perhaps if you're ear is tuned properly you heard **אלמה**, almah instead and noted the etymological relation to **Is. 7:14** ...Behold a virgin – **H#5959, עלמה**, shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel...

Traditionally rendered 'virgin' we suggest a different etymology, namely, to derive the noun 'almah from the root **עלם**, to be concealed, hidden, a well-known fact in Hebrew. If this etymology proves to be correct, 'alem (masculine) and 'almah (feminine) would designate an betrothed couple, which would accordingly be rendered as "the concealed ones." During the period of betrothal, fiancés lived in their parents' homes, separated, secluded, forbidden from seeing one another. The feminine form, 'almah, may also be rendered "the concealed one" or even "the veiled one." The Counting of the Omer pulls back that Veil as she

prepares for her Husband at Shavuot! The Virgin Bride is the TWIN TO THE BOUND SHEAF – the Ezer K'negdo – who will become One Flesh – Basar Echad and produce Living Sons!

Considering the above, it seems this 'Counting of the Omer' as a rehearsal; reaches all the way back to Creation to an original Shavuot in order to remind us of a future Harvest or Gathering together – a SHAVUOT - which we can once again expect to occur. This group will be AMAR-ED seeded, brought to the light, i.e. unveiled to the world by the Word of Elohiym! Moreover, their STANDING having been Corrected – As the Last Ishah - they will be Naked and not ashamed before their Husband – The Last Adam - knowing full well their potential for being fruitful and multiplying, replenishing, subduing and having dominion over the Kingdom of Elohiym here on the earth!

Therefore, the Counting of the Omer is meant to stir the anticipation of those who have been redeemed through Pesach and are now undergoing a series of 7-days of ritual purification reminiscent of the wedding preparation called Erusin: Shavuot is 7-days x 7-days. Please note **Lev. 23:15** *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.*

- Complete, **H#8549**, תמיים, Tamiym, to be complete, without blemish or spot, to be finished! Mankind in general and Israel in particular, has been an Adulterous Bride! The From **Gen. 3** forward the Bride had been unclean. Like the cleansing of the leper, Israel presents herself at Sinai on the 3rd-day – 3000th year and is found still unclean! Because of her impure blood she cannot touch her husband, thus Mt. Sinai is cordoned off until she enters the Mikveh!

How apropos that on the 3rd-day of Creation (**Gen.1: 9**) the first Mikveh or gathering of the waters is revealed in anticipation of seed being released after it's kind! What happens next on the 4th day? The Sun and The Moon His Reflection – His Bride, the Ezer K'negdo – the One Who Stands in Front – becomes the Tamiym Te'umim – Perfect Twin – is created, while the lesser Lights are set in the heavens as the eternal Ketubah recording the lineage long before the Sons of man were born! The Omer Count exposes the Ancestral DNA hidden for millennia in the heavens and prepares us to be examined at Sinai – Shavuot to see if we are without spot or blemish from our previous leprous condition! **Eph. 5:27** *That He might present her to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle or any such thing; But that she should be holy and without blemish!*

At the end of the 3rd-day Mikveh – Israel as the Bride - can present herself and touch Him. **Ex. 19:13** *There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount.* Now you know why Mary couldn't touch Yahshua in the Garden until He had presented Himself before YHVH!

Interestingly, looking back, the gematria of Tamiym is 490, the number of years that Israel went into bondage for not observing the Sabbath! The SHABBAT is the purification period – 7-days – where the menstrual blood keeps the bride from her husband until she immerses herself in the Mikveh – living Waters – of His Word! The same ritual for Leprosy! Daniel speaks of a future 490-years where the Exile is ended! **Hosea 6:1,2** *Come and let us return to YHVH: For He hath torn, and He will heal us; He hath smitten and He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us: In the third day He will raise us up, and we shall live in His sight!* 7x70? Can we expect a YOVEL OR JUBILEE soon?

Exactly what does a Yovel do?

All who have been in servitude are released. All debts are cancelled! All inheritances though formerly lost, stolen or sold must be restored! Fields are left fallow and El Shaddai becomes our Source! Shavuot is a Yovel! It is a season of FREEDOM not liberty. Liberty implies that your freedom is determined or controlled by the State! Freedom is the RIGHT OF THE LIVING MAN! Shavuot restores the Living Man's status!

- II. Though most of us fixate on the 50-days associated with the Omer count, many sadly depend on our Jewish brothers to tell us when to begin the count. Unfortunately, as mentioned earlier most religious Jews believe the '*Morrow after the Sabbath*' is a reference to the High Sabbath of Unleavened bread, which immediately follows the Passover. This is convenient for them and contrived to obfuscate the importance of the festival of Yom HaBikkurim, early first fruits – which occurs 3-days after Passover!

However, if the text more accurately points toward the morrow after the WEEKLY SABBATH as the point to begin the Omer count, then the prophetic significance of the festivals and the Omer Counting become even more powerful! It is my opinion that they begin the count early so that it cannot fit the *JESUS* narrative of offering the '*Firstfruits*' of the Barley harvest before the throne of Elohiym, that would have occurred between the evenings on Shabbat - SATURDAY – with the Omer

count beginning that sundown, the 1st-day of the week – Sunday. Though this may seem insignificant, that particular year as with the current one – 2023 – the dates lined up perfectly!

Thus, the Omer count serves as a marker: Pointing back toward Yom HaBikkurim/Pesach and forward to Shavuot! For confirmation we can see several other instances where the 17th of Nissan – Early First Fruits – became a powerful illustration of the Promise of Elohiym that was to come – Shavuot! Noah's Ark rested upon Mt. Ararat on the 17th of the 7th month (The counting of months changed in **Ex. 12** making the 7th month the 'Beginning of months' the 1st month) Israel crosses the Red Sea on the 17th of Nissan! The Manna ceases on the 17th of Nissan upon crossing Jordan. Israel is delivered from Haman on the 17th after the 3-day fast of Esther during Pesach – Nissan! If we can see the rehearsal of the earlier Festival in the above examples, then it follows that YHVH would, in each case, initiate a 'counting' in anticipation of the next Shavuot festival, else the pattern becomes inconsistent!

Yes, the ritual of the literal counting is important! But, the Omer Count *is not what is being spotlighted!* Rather, the 50-days are to accentuate what is being counted up to! SHAVUOT!

In fact, the book of **Jubilees (6:17)** adds an interesting text to the narrative of the Rainbow Covenant between Noah and Elohiym: *For this reason it has been ordained and written on the heavenly tablets that they should celebrate the festival of weeks during this month – once a year – to renew the Covenant each and every year! ***Note Jubilees 6:18** This entire festival had been celebrated in heaven from the time of creation until the lifetime of Noah – for 26 Yovel and five weeks of years [1309] Then Noah and his sons kept it for 7 Yovel and one week of years until Noah's death [350 years] From the day of Noah's death his sons corrupted it until Abraham's lifetime and were eating blood. **6:19** Abraham alone kept it and his sons Isaac and Jacob kept it until your lifetime. During your lifetime the Israelites had forgotten until I renewed it for them at this mountain!*

Though I would be remiss to depreciate the importance of Pesach, Early First Fruits and the Festival of Unleavened Bread, there is without doubt, ample proof that Shavuot is to be regarded in an extraordinary fashion ABOVE THAT OF THE OTHER FESTIVALS! WHAT? WHY?

Milk and Honey

III. Before moving much further, one of the traditions of Shavuot's celebration involves milk (cheese) and honey. I find it interesting that YHVH promises Israel an inheritance that includes a land *'flowing with milk and honey'* while at the same time characterizing the Torah – the Words of the Bride - as follows: *Thy lips, O spouse, drop as the honey comb: Honey and milk are under thy tongue; and the smell of thy garments like the smell of Lebanon!* **Song of Songs: 4:11** Did you note that I said *"Words of the Bride"*? The Torah belongs to her! It was only an 11-day journey from Egypt to the Canaan; it was intended for Shavuot to be celebrated there in the PROMISED LAND!

From the above there is a discernable link between TORAH and THE PROMISED LAND! Both were intended as the inheritance of the Nation of Priests! Torah and Eretz, the Land, are inseparable!

- Torah, **תורה**, has a value of 611, while Eretz, **ארץ**, has a value of 291: The difference is 320, the value of the Hebrew word Omri - **עמרי**, as in MY SHEAF (Of grain). Could the Torah be the Ketubah detailing the entirety of the Bridal Price, part of which was the inheritance of the Land? Shavuot restores the Bride's Standing and renews the Covenant with her!

If we simply look at the definitions without investigating deeper into the Hebrew text then all we have are instructions for counting the days between the two festivals. However, if we look at the breakdown of the above two words from a Hebraic perspective, it seems this 50-day season is being afforded Israel in advance of the original Mt. Sinai encounter as a reminder that Creations' letters - words **which** had been inscribed in the heavens - would once again be spoken by YHVH as an eternal promise ensuring that Israel was never intended to be the Slaves of anyone! Now, remember our earlier look at the word for Counting – Saphar – and its' first usage in **Gen. 15:5** regarding Abraham's seed being numbered – Saphar – as the stars? Could this 50-day season give us an opportunity to lawfully put YHVH in remembrance of that Promise, especially seeing as we are the *'Seed of Abraham'*?

*Note **Is. 43:26** *Put me in remembrance: Let us plead together: Declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.*

- Remembrance, **H#2142**, **זכר**, zakar, to remember, to mark so as to be recognized, to be a Man!
- Plead, **H#8199**, **שפט**, Shaphat, to litigate a lawful suit in court.

- Declare, H#5608, ספר, Saphar, to count, number, to a record of.
- Justified, H#6663, צדק, Tzadeq, righteous, to be put in the RIGHT!

We are being told to take a count of Who We Are in relation to the MARKED MAN – YAHSHUA – The Last Adam – in order to be put in the Right, restored to our Lawful place! What Place? The Genealogical lineage of the Righteous King who has betrothed us to Himself! He has Covenanted – Oathed - SEVENED (7x7) Himself! This is our Season of Restoration! This occurs at Shavuot while the Omer Count gives us a period of reflection and self-examination to ensure that we have been ritually made Clean!

This is in stark contrast to the mindset cultivated over the last generations of Egyptian bondage! This Season sets in motion an opportunity to RENEW THE MIND *in preparation for receiving the Covenant* AND the means to GET EGYPT OUT OF ISRAEL!

Shavuot:

It would seem this 50-day count is singularly important to understanding the Holy Convocation that it points toward – Shavuot – which is often translated as ‘Festival of weeks’ commemorating the 7-weeks between Pesach and Pentecost. However, on a more mystical level **Shavuot can also mean OATHS!** It would seem that a message is found in this 50-day counting of the Omer unveiling hidden truths of this Shavuot Convocation.

From our previous studies we’ve shown that the Message of Redemption in its’ entirety was originally written in the Stellar Luminaries. Shavuot, occurs during the constellational sign of Gemini translated as ‘Twins’ (Te’umim in Hebrew תאומים) this Sign and it’s festival season must contain a powerful message for a specific 50-day season to be set aside to ensure attention is paid to celebrating this Mo’ed. Though Te’umim is said to mean ‘twins’. *However, on a deeper level it hints at ‘One-ness’. In other words, different beings, physically separated yet, conjoined in a unique spiritual Union, where they literally resemble one another to the point that they become identical!* This is the Pattern of **Gen. 2** where Adam and Ishah become ONE! ECHAD!

Do you recall early on the mention of the Tav-Mem root stem? We saw it in 7-complete – תמיים – Tamiym – Sabbaths, also here in Te’umim as well. Perhaps you’ll remember the Urim and Thummim – Lights and Perfections? If Yahshua was/is the Light(s) could He have a TWIN reflection – a Thummim, Te’umim; a

Perfected Twin – a Bride who embodied His same DNA and with whom He would be UNITED made ONE FLESH (**Gen. 2:24**) Basar Echad?

Remember **Gen. 1:14** and the creation of the Sun and His TWIN? *Note the value of Basar Echad: 515, the same as **H#3424**, **ירשה**, Yereshah, meaning a possession or inheritance as well as, Yisharah, uprightness, the root YASHAR being the same as that of Israel – Y'sharEl. YHVH – Yahshua is the Possession or Inheritance of The Bride-Israel! It is not an accident that the Hebrew word for Moon has the same 2-letter root in **ירח**, Yareach, whose value of 218 is the same as the Hebrew word for the labor pains of Eve: **H#6093**, **עצבון**, its-tsaw-bone. Out of her sorrow and pain comes the Redemption provided by the Son on the Tree: Etz – Ben! Shavuot pictures that restoration!

Most focus on this sign – Gemini or Te'umim – as indicating twins. In fact, during this season we offer 'two' loaves of wheat bread as a wave offering and we received the Torah on 'two' tablets at Sinai, so I can understand the 'twins' aspect. However, I believe the emphasis here is intended to be upon the Groom and His Bride becoming One rather than 'twins'. In fact, this is the true message of the Zodiac of Dendera and the Sign known today as Gemini!

Twins?

- IV. One unique place where the Omer count is seen (*Sadly, by only a few who understand these rehearsals*) is in **John 20:26** where after Pesach and the festival of Yom H'Bikkurim – the Resurrection – and 8-days into the Omer count [*8 indicates new beginnings*] a meeting occurs where the remaining disciple who has not yet physically seen Yahshua after the resurrection is finally in attendance. This disciple is literally - HE WHO CAME AT THE LAST! WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

He is called both Thomas and Didymus: Thomas is from the Hebrew Te'am or Te'umim – Twin(s) while Didymus is the Greek equivalent! Thus, being inserted into this 2nd Upper Room encounter is a prophetic message where we find the SIGN OF TE'UMIM – THOMAS OR DIDYMUS – a.k.a. GEMINI – being revealed as pointing toward Shavuot. However, the Prophetic message is obscured because of poor KJV translations and subsequent assumptions that Thomas was a 'DOUBTER'. He was not!

The message behind the discourse with Thomas is that he was unwilling to swear loyalty to anyone proclaiming to be Messiah – Husband to Israel – as having been resurrected without absolute proof from the only one able to provide it! From early 1st-century documents what Thomas said could only have been construed as a trustworthy servant patiently waiting for the sign of recognition that only the TRUE LORD AND MASTER COULD PROVIDE! His is the picture of the Faithful Bride, who will never give herself to another who cannot prove He is the Resurrected Son of the Living Elohiym!

Shavuot is the season where the proof is provided in the Presence of the Living Word made flesh – the One Who is Handled – with His Promise confirmed in writing in the form of a Ketubah. Obviously it follows that Thomas looks for the *print of the nails in Yahshua's hands*:

- Hands, Gk. #5495, cheir, power, might, agency, by means of.
- Print, Gk. #5179, too`pos, a stroke, mark, blow or print. A manner of writing, contents of a letter. That which cast in a die or stamped. A resemblance, model or figure.
- Nails, Gk. #2247, hay`los, a nail. Ironically, this word is preceded by Gk. #2246, hay-lee-os, and a ray of the sun, as in a shaft or stylus or point of light!

Is it possible that the language here hides the fact that the Te`umim or TWIN – THOMAS – is a figure of the Bride who is looking for a lawful, printed/written, binding document [Ketubah] modeled after the Sinai Ketubah-Torah and Stellar Luminary Scroll depicted in Te`umim-Gemini (The Heavens) revealing Yahshua as the Bridegroom? This is the same Ketubah shown to Moshe and depicted as the Back Parts of YHVH! Moshe, like Thomas sought the wounds of the Husband as confirmation of Who He Was!

It is my opinion that Thomas did indeed present a figure of the Bride! Moreover, the Bride seems to be comprised of those Outcasts who've been scattered to the four corners of the earth. Additionally, in researching the lineage of the Apostles, though it is argued, it cannot be conclusively proven that Thomas was a Jew! I believe he was an Israelite! Why? Because later writings attributed to him (The Gospel of Thomas) treats the parable of the 99 sheep and the 1 that goes astray quite differently than the other Synoptic gospel accounts who simply deem the 1 lost sheep as a *'sinner who strayed'*. Thomas, however, treats the Lost Sheep as the House of Israel, for whom the Shepherd intentionally seeks which, by its' very nature is directly correlated to what Yahshua Himself declared.

As such: This is a direct fulfillment of **Ezekiel 34:16** *I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: But I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment.*

At Shavuot the Groom or His AGENT – The Ruach must be present and able to be touched! Which is exactly what Yahshua provided! The Omer Count punctuates the season between Resurrection and Shavuot and affords the Faithful the opportunity for a Status change! This is the season to prepare for Touching Yahshua! We cannot remain in an impure, leprous condition where the words of our mouths evincing a Lashon Ha'ra heart expose us as harlots! We must Manifest the Marked Man – putting YHVH in remembrance – in order to be numbered – Saphar – at the day of Betrothal – Shavuot!

Once more, John tells us the above incident occurred on the 8th-day of the Omer count. In Yahshua's day, like the current season, this would have been the 11th-day after the Passover! The Promised Land was an 11-day journey! Shavuot should have been celebrated in Canaan! In fact, as we've discussed, Shavuot is a mirror of the Count toward a Jubilee or Yovel! Will you – Can you feel it? This Shavuot is going to be different! We're going to celebrate in the Promised Land – The Torah of Milk and Honey!

Now, let me add another tidbit. Remember when Mary approaches Yahshua on the Resurrection or Yom H'Bikkurim? She is told NOT TO TOUCH HIM! This is remarkably similar to **Ex. 19: 10-13** where Israel is told to sanctify themselves and on the 3rd-day (Hmmm?) This is a rehearsal of Yom H'Bikkurim – Early First Fruits where YHVH will appear before them, yet they are NOT to touch the mountain until the TRUMPET (**Vs.13**) sounds a long blast! Israel was intended to be the BARLEY HARVEST OR FIRST FRUIT having been 'resurrected' upon crossing the Red Sea.

- Trumpet, **H#3104**, **יובל**, Yovel, it is from yabal, to bring or carry forth (From the grave). Thomas is surely aware of this ancient text and fully expects to 'touch the Mountain' – YHVH – Yahshua in the flesh on the exact 11th – day after leaving Egypt – prefigured by Yahshua's execution!

This makes the summation of the Counting of the Omer a practical rehearsal of both the Shemitah and Yovel cycles! Each of which points to a season of release

and restoration! The end of a cycle of bondage and a resurrection out of DEAD things!

The Rabbis focus on Shavuot as the '*Giving of the Torah*', but fail to understand it as a rehearsal of the Word Made Flesh who could only be handled by His TWIN – TE'UMIM – THOMAS – THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE SAY COME!