

## 7<sup>th</sup> day of the Omer at Sunset

**BA-RUCH ATAH ADONAI ELOHENU MELECH HAOLAM ASHER KIDESHANU  
BEMITZ-VOTAV VETZI VANU AL SEFI-RAT HA-OMER.**

**Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us concerning the counting of the Omer.**

**Why do we count the Omer? Because It's a Mitzvah, a commanded of Adonai:**

**Leviticus 23:15-17 (TLV).** "Then you are to count from the morrow after the Shabbat, from the day that you brought the omer of the wave offering, seven complete Shabbatot. <sup>16</sup> Until the morrow after the seventh Shabbat you are to count fifty days, and then present a new grain offering to Adonai. <sup>17</sup> You are to bring out of your houses two loaves of bread for a wave offering, made of two tenths of an ephah of fine flour. They are to be baked with hametz as firstfruits to Adonai.

**The "omer" is a designated measure, which is one-tenth of an ephah. An ephah is about one bushel so an omer is about two quarts. (not precise but fairly accurate). Counting of the 'omer is one of the most important observances. It's considered a repayment to God for the manna given in the wilderness, of which every Israelite collected the measure of an "Omer" daily!**

**The Omer is the counting of the 49 days until Shav'uat (which means weeks) or Pentecost. The Omer served as a countdown to the wheat harvest celebration, Shavuot. The Omer was also the period of Courtship between God and Israel after the Exodus, establishing relationship! While Israel was in Slavery Adonai did not talk to or reveal Himself, it was only at Mt Sinai! This 50 day period is one of building divine relationship! The Omer is counted for 49 days, 7 weeks plus one day which comes to 50.**

### Strange Fire

**Leviticus 10:1-3.** But Nadav and Avihu, sons of Aharon, each took his censer **(machtato: fire-holder, censer, firepan, snuff dish, a fire pan for live coals)**, put fire **(esh: fire)** in it, laid incense on it, and offered unauthorized **(zarah: strange, unauthorized, foreign, loathsome, profane, prostitute, commit adultery)** fire before ADONAI, something he had not ordered them to do. <sup>2</sup> At this, fire came forth from the presence of ADONAI and consumed them, so that they died in the presence of ADONAI. <sup>3</sup> Moshe said to Aharon, "This is what ADONAI said: 'Through those who are near me I will be consecrated, and before all the people I will be glorified.'" Aharon kept silent.

**Leviticus chapter 10 details the death of Nadav and Avihu when they brought strange fire to the altar. The brothers took their censers, their fire pans and placed some sort of fire fuel upon them, kindled a fire and offered it unto the Lord. This tragic event serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of**

following Adonai's commands and approaching Him with reverence and obedience. We honor God's holiness and following His commands with reverence, recognizing that even those who serve Him must do so according to His instructions to avoid bringing judgment upon themselves.

Let us ponder this verse and ask ourselves some challenging questions. Are we approaching Adonai with the utmost respect and reverence that He deserves? Are we following His commands diligently and wholeheartedly, or are we allowing our own desires, motivations, agendas, and intentions to lead us astray? God's holiness is not to be taken lightly; there are serious repercussions for those who fail to honor it.

The first glaring issue is that Adonai had not enjoined upon them, He did not command them to strike their own fire and present it as an offering. On the front of it, this seems rather harsh that Adonai struck them down for a ritual offense, yet it raises questions. What was their intention? Did they have a sincere heart to serve Adonai? Were they just over enthusiastic? Were they arrogant and prideful? Maybe young and impatient for Moshe and Aaron to die, for them to get out of the way so they could be in charge?

The first point we learn from the story of these two High Priests is this: The only legitimate worship is what's prescribed by Adonai. This isn't just a minor ritualistic rite error. They were sons of Aaron, set apart to minister to Adonai which is carried out and done through worship. Worship first appears in:

**Genesis 22:1-5.** After these things, God tested Avraham. He said to him, "Avraham!" and he answered, "Here I am." **(Hineni: a complex phrase which indicates readiness, alertness, attentiveness, receptivity, and responsiveness and obedience to instruction)** <sup>2</sup> He said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love, Yitz'chak; and go to the land of Moriyah. There you are to offer him as a burnt offering on a mountain that I will point out to you." <sup>3</sup> Avraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, together with Yitz'chak his son. He cut the wood for the burnt offering, departed and went toward the place God had told him about. <sup>4</sup> On the third day, Avraham raised his eyes and saw the place in the distance. <sup>5</sup> Avraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey. I and the boy will go there, worship **(venishta chaveh: prostrate, bow down, crouch, fall down flat, to live by, to declare, do reverence, stoop, worship)** and return to you."

There are several profound, heavenly revelations contained in these verses. Worship, Sha'cha, in verse 5, venishtachaveh is the first-time worship is mentioned in Torah. It is to bow down, kneel, prostrate in worship, in reverence of God. One of the root words is Ya're which is Fear of the Lord and reverence in Hebrew.

Those who worship and Fear the Lord hear the voice of the Lord. This is the first of several profound points. If you worship God in reverence and fear, **you hear His voice.**

**A true worshipper who hears the voice of God Will be tested. YOU WILL BE TESTED! We've experienced some deep testing the last 6 months. After Isaac was born God tests Avraham to check His trust, His faith, His covenant walk. Profoundly Avraham says to the servants in verse 5: I and the boy will go there, worship and return to you." Avraham doesn't say only he'll return, he says he and the boy will go up there and return. So they continue on in obedience.**

**Genesis 22:7-8.** Yitz'chak spoke to Avraham his father: "My father?" He answered, "Here I am, my son." He said, "I see the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup> Avraham replied, "God will provide **(Yir'ei: Provide, provision, root word ra'ah: look at, see, regard, learn, observe, watch, look upon, find out, consider, give attention to, discern to see)** himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son"; and they both went on together.

**Just as Avraham responded to God, so Avraham now responds to his son in the same manner, Hineni! A covenant response between covenant partners, first it was between Avraham (God's son) and God, now it's between Avraham and His son. Avraham gives a covenant reply to his son, God will supply the sacrifice Himself. Avraham acknowledges that Adonai is the provider, He is watching, He knows the situation and will provide. This can only be done in absolute trust and obedience.**

**Genesis 22:9-10.** They came to the place God had told him about; and Avraham built the altar there, set the wood in order, bound Yitz'chak his son and laid him on the altar, on the wood. <sup>10</sup> Then Avraham put out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.

**This is the final test, the binding of Yitz'chak and the coming of Messiah. The account of the binding known as the Akedah in Hebrew and is part of the daily prayers in synagogue. It is a reminder of God's favor and love toward His people Israel. The imagery of the Akedah is significant from our Messianic Perspective. Isaac, Avraham's unique son is a sign, the fruit, the tangible evidence of God's promise to Avraham that He will provide the sacrifice! It's also prophetic in that Adonai will provide the sacrifice for all humanity, His own Son, the El Ha'Sha, the Lamb of God, Yeshua that was sacrificed for all mankind in their place which we just celebrated through Passover this past week!**

**Genesis 22:11-12.** But the angel of ADONAI called to him out of heaven: "Avraham? Avraham!" He answered, "Here I am." <sup>12</sup> He said, "Don't lay your hand on the boy! Don't do anything to him! For now I know that you are a man who fears **(Ya're: Fear of the Lord, reverence, worships)** God, because you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

**Here is the next profound mystery revealed! Obedience to Adonai is true, authentic worship of the Lord! Abraham was known for his immediate compliance to Adonai's instructions! This is the basic, foundational level of all worship, obedience to the most-high God! Not lone wolf tactics in approaching**

**God or manmade, ritualistic, man-centered worship. Fear of the Lord is true worship of the Lord! True worship is sacrificial obedience!** Yeshua confirmed this is what Father wants:

**John 4:23.** But the time is coming -- indeed, it's here now -- when the true worshippers will worship the Father spiritually and truly, for these are the kind of people the Father wants worshipping him.

**Nadav and Avihu didn't just overstep a little and go too far in misguided piety, they acted in total disregard, total contempt of Adonai, they disobeyed His commands and mitzvahs. Unfortunately, this is not uncommon in Biblical history as we see with King Saul:**

**I Samuel 15:22-23.** Sh'mu'el said, "Does ADONAI take as much pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying what ADONAI says? Surely obeying is better than sacrifice, and heeding orders than the fat of rams. <sup>23</sup> "For rebellion is like the sin of sorcery, stubbornness like the crime of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of ADONAI, he too has rejected you as king."

**God had previously revealed that His Divine Presence alone would ignite the altar fire and consume the sacrifice. The descent of His Holy fire would signal His acceptance of the people's offerings, devotions and sacrifices to Him.**

**Aaron and his sons were consecrated according to Gods instruction for seven days, then they were then allowed to minister before Adonai on the eighth day. Where upon all the people of Israel gathered around the Mishkan as the offerings were presented. Certain parts of the animal along with grain offerings were placed upon the altar of sacrifice, the fat and grain offerings went up in smoke as a pleasing aroma unto the Lord. The people's peace offerings were slaughtered and presented to God. Then:**

**Leviticus 9:23-24.** Moshe and Aharon entered the tent of meeting, came out and blessed the people. Then the glory of ADONAI appeared to all the people! <sup>24</sup> Fire came forth from the presence of ADONAI consuming the burnt offering and the fat on the altar. When all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.

**Holy Fire came out of the presence of the Lord and consumed the sacrifice. The people actually see the presence of God descend upon their sacrifices! This was so shockingly powerful that they shout and fall down upon their faces! His visible presence with Holy Fire signaled His acceptance of the people's sacrifices. Apparently Nadav and Avihu tried to coax the divine fire into their own fire pans for what may have been an attempt to take control of God unto themselves. There is nothing new under the sun! Today, every religion, every denomination, every act of religion is an attempt to sequester and control God. Those who do so attempt to control and manipulate God so that they alone have him.**

**Every denomination state in their doxology that they alone are the right and only correct method in worshipping God. The Pope publicly stated several years ago that Catholicism was the only way. The reality is that it's all strange fire, it's all zarah, foreign, adulterous, and profane. No one can abrogate Gods commands and mitzvahs or put Him into a box to control or manipulate Him. As we read the results of Nadav and Avihu, the very fire they were trying to control and manipulate from the presence of God consumed them instead. The fire on the altar is a holy, divine fire from Adonai. They sought to overlay it with unholy fire. Thus it became to them a consuming fire, because they approached the Holy One in a profane spirit. They die for their arrogance, ignorance, or both.**

**Throughout the Tanach Fire and Brit Chadasha fire is associated with the presence of God. When Elijah challenges the 450 Priests of Ba'al and the 400 prophets of Asherah who ate at Jezebel's table, God answers Elijah's prayer and revealed Himself to Israel in fire:**

**I Kings 18:36-39.** Then, when it came time for offering the evening offering, Eliyahu the prophet approached and said, "ADONAI, God of Avraham, Yitz'chak and Isra'el, let it be known today that you are God in Isra'el, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. <sup>37</sup> Hear me, ADONAI, hear me, so that this people may know that you, ADONAI, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back to you." <sup>38</sup> Then the fire of ADONAI fell. It consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones and the dust; and it licked up the water in the trench. <sup>39</sup> When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "ADONAI is God! ADONAI is God!"

**Adonai reveals Himself to Israel when they are redeemed from slavery in Egypt in pillar of fire, to Moshe in Mt. Sinai as burning bush, and in the flame on the alter in Judges 13:20 and when Solomon dedicated God's temple fire came down from heaven.**

**II Chronicles. 7:1-3.** When Shlomo had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of ADONAI filled the house, <sup>2</sup> so that the cohanim could not enter the house of ADONAI; because the glory of ADONAI filled ADONAI's house. <sup>3</sup> All the people of Isra'el saw when the fire came down, and the glory of ADONAI was on the house; they bowed down with their faces to the ground on the flooring; prostrating themselves, they gave thanks to ADONAI, "for he is good, for his grace continues forever."

**Holy Fire resided on the heads of those from the upper room on Shavuot:**

**Acts 2:1-4.** The festival of Shavu'ot arrived, and the believers all gathered together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly there came a sound from the sky like the roar of a violent wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire, which separated and came to rest on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> They were all filled with the Ruach HaKodesh and began to talk in different languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

**Yet strange fire is alive and well, still at work today. There are all types of "strange things" in the body today. Strange, alien, unauthorized doctrines, strange practices, praise and worship, and strange thinking. To get to the bare bones Esh Zara, strange fire, unauthorized fire, loathsome, profane, prostituted, adulterous fire is anything that Adonai would not, could not, and did not put his stamp of holiness and approval on. There is an overwhelming amount of doctrine, thinking, and practices in the greater body of Messiah and in Judaism that God never put His Divine seal of approval upon.**

**Let me get more specific about Esh Zara. Schofield said Strange fire is using fleshly, means to kindle devotion and praise. Strange fire is intertwined with worship and religious services that are fleshly, emotional hype rather than God's divine presence. Strange fire rests in man's religion and guidance rather than Gods commands and instructions. Esh Zara disregards the Word of God, people or individuals worship their own way, with fire that they try to produce themselves vice receiving heavenly fire that descends upon the alter of God. Strange fire is counterfeit grace, counterfeit worship, and counterfeit doctrine such as replacement theology, suppersessionism, and even Anti-Semitism.**

**Let's go back to Nadav and Avihu. They were the wrong people, only the High Priest, their father Aaron was to present the offering, they used the wrong instruments, their own censers vice the temple censers, they offered it at the wrong time in defiance of Gods instructions, and they had the wrong motive. They weren't seeking to magnify and glorify God but themselves. God spoke to Aaron about this after Nadav and Avihu deaths.**

**Leviticus 10:3.** Moshe said to Aharon, "This is what ADONAI said: 'Through those who are near me I will be consecrated, and before all the people I will be glorified.'" Aharon kept silent.

**Nadav and Avihu didn't have Gods Glory in mind at all. We offer Esh Zara, strange fire when our actions, motives, pride, and flesh abrogate Gods commands and fail to glorify God in holiness and trembling fear.**

**The way you get rid of strange fire is to align ourselves with biblical truth and separate ourseves from nontruth. We can't have it both ways. Our praise, worship, and prayer practices must align with God's commands. We must avoid any form of worship that deviates from His prescribed methods, as it may lead to spiritual apostasy.**

**Approach God with reverence and holiness. Use prayers and praises that are seasoned with thanksgiving and not with pride, compulsion, or focused upon self. God is still a consuming fire, a jealous God.**

**Deuteronomy. 4:23-24.** Watch out for yourselves, so that you won't forget the covenant of ADONAI your God, which he made with you, and make yourself a carved image, a

representation of anything forbidden to you by ADONAI your God. <sup>24</sup> For ADONAI your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

**Avoid Esh Zara, strange fire and come to the altar of God in Spirit and in Truth. Come asking Adonai God for the pure, Holy fire of heaven to fall upon us once again. The fire can and will fall once more if we remove the strange fire! Very few ask or even know to ask God for a supernatural manifestation of His power. Seek the fire!**

**Mark 9:49.** Indeed, everyone is going to be salted with fire.

**This metaphor of salt and fire holds profound significance in biblical context. To be "salted with fire" is a biblical metaphor for the dual process of purification and testing. It emphasizes that God's refining discipline, though sometimes painful, is ultimately for our preservation, spiritual growth, and preparation for eternal life. The imagery of salt and fire together underscores the seriousness of discipleship, the necessity of covenant loyalty, and the transformative power of God's refining work in the life of every follower of Yeshua. Salt symbolizes purification and preservation, as seen in Leviticus 2:13, where it is used in offerings to symbolize the covenant with God.**

**Let us seek Adonai's divine Holy Fire in Spirit and Truth!! When the Holy Spirit came on the disciples on the day of Pentecost, it came as tongues of fire and they spoke with tongues (Acts 2:3). We need that same baptism so we can speak in new tongues.**

**Psalm 104:4.** You make winds your messengers, fiery flames your servants.

**God makes his ministers, His servants a fiery flame. God wants you to be fire bearers. When you carry the fire of the Ruach HaKodesh, it affects you in every way. We must seek to be mikvehed, immersed in divine Fresh Fire. When the Talmidim were filled with the Ruach HaKodesh fire came with it, it transformed their lives and set them ablaze to preach the Good News, perform miracles, to boldly confront false fire, to speak in new tongues, and operate in all the gifts of the Spirit. In this Laodicean age of the Body of Messiah, when many are lukewarm, cold and apathetic to the things of God, we need God's fresh fire to move in the supernatural and perform the works of the Kingdom.**