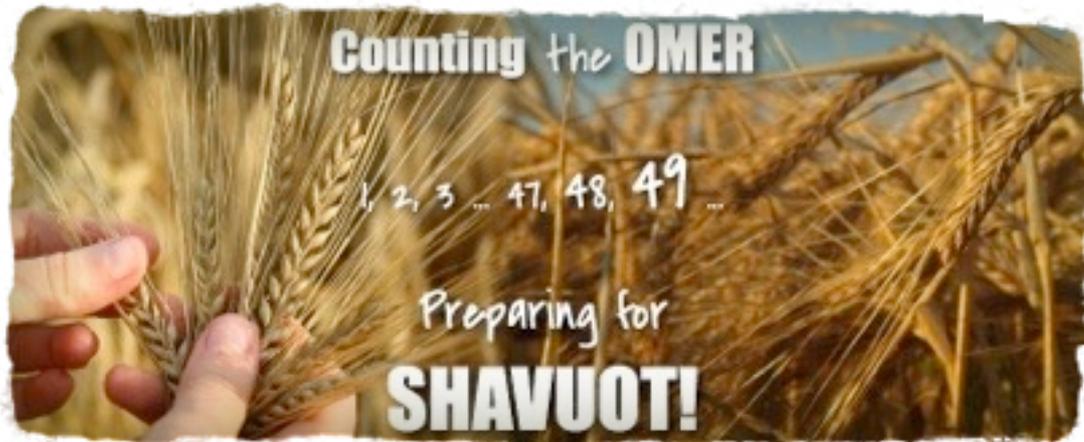


# FIFTH New Moon 2016<sup>1</sup>



Please note ... this Rosh Chodesh marks the beginning of the **SECOND** month, according to the Biblical Hebrew calendar ... with the season of Passover and Unleavened Bread over, we now **look forward** to **Shavuot/Pentecost** by counting the Omer. For more info, see the following download:

**A Journey Of Seven Weeks To Mount Sinai**

<http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=133>

## *Dates to diarize:*

- New Moon,
  - 6 May, 19:29 UT
- First Quarter Moon,
  - 13 May, 17:02 UT
- Full Moon,
  - 21 May, 21:14 UT
- Last Quarter Moon,
  - 29 May, 12:12 UT
- Next New Moon,
  - 5 June, 02:59 UT

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<sup>1</sup> Please note ... this moon prayer has been edited and revised from the monthly emails sent out by Steve Olumuyiwa [[steve@stremco.com](mailto:steve@stremco.com)]. We thank him for his emails and contribution ... and his heart to keep watch on the walls!

## New Moon prayers ...

Remember, the monthly New Moon prayers are *not* to be confused with astrology. The Scriptures clearly warn against any/all forms of astrology:

- *And when you look up to the sky and see the sun, the moon and the stars—all the heavenly array—do not be enticed into bowing down to them and worshiping things the LORD your GOD has apportioned to all the nations under heaven (**Deuteronomy 4:19**).*
- *... and contrary to my command has worshiped other gods, bowing down to them or to the sun or the moon or the stars of the sky (**Deuteronomy 17:3**).*
- *All the counsel you have received has only worn you out! Let your astrologers come forward, those stargazers who make predictions month by month, let them save you from what is coming upon you. Surely they are like stubble; the fire will burn them up. They cannot even save themselves from the power of the flame. Here are no coals to warm anyone; here is no fire to sit by. That is all they can do for you—these you have labored with and trafficked with since childhood. Each of them goes on in his error; there is not one that can save you (**Isaiah 47:13-15**).*
- *Hear what the LORD says to you, O house of Israel. This is what the LORD says: "Do not learn the ways of the nations or be terrified by signs in the sky, though the nations are terrified by them" (**Jeremiah 10:1-2**).*
- *In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom (**Daniel 1:20**).*

The New Moon prayers are to be used for PRAYER and warfare, as a guideline for prayer and intercession for the coming month, **as the Holy Spirit leads**. If you'd like more information on why we pray for the New Moon, we encourage you to read "**The Believer's Warfare In The Heavens**", available for order from the office or for download from the website.

In the New Moon prayers, we will often refer to "**possessing the GATES**". For more information on this, please see the following link:

<http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=299>

## This New Moon.

We bring you greetings in the Excellent Name of our precious Saviour and soon coming King – Y'shua Adonai (Lord Jesus). Thanks be to God for this season of Passover—our season of independence from bondage and blindness. We should all be in jubilee celebration for the victory of Passover. What an awesome thing it is to be free from captivity. What an awesome thing

to be children of God and partakers in the commonwealth of Israel!

This month of May is a very loaded season and full of many events in the heavens. The Lord is looking to us to watch with Him in this season of prayer over the nations and over His purposes. As is always reiterated when this newsletter is sent out, we, of course, should also watch over our own very lives also.

## *Issachar (as well as Counting the Omer<sup>2</sup>)*

Another important fact to note in prayer is that the month after Passover is the **month of Issachar** and the month of the SECOND PASSOVER as graciously provided by Elohim in **Numbers 9: 1-12**. Is this not AWESOME? He is the Elohim of a SECOND OPPORTUNITY. He does not want His children to miss out on His blessings.

So, if you have contentions over your full independence, the LORD calls you to come to Him this month of Issachar into the fullness of His Passover and deliverance. Pray and ask the Lord to judge the gods of Egypt and Babylon and the gods of this world. These are the powers of heavens, which the Lord God must shake so that you can be released from the grip of the evil taskmasters.

Ask the Lord to mercifully enforce your release. Pray from the following scriptures:

- **Psalm 82**
- **Isaiah 19:1, 25:6-9, 14:12-20, Chapter 47**
- **Ezekiel 29:2-7, 30:21-22, 32:3-8**
- **Jeremiah 46:11-25**
- **Revelation 12:11, Chapter 18**
- **Hebrews 2:14-15**

## *Blow the shofar!*

Proclaim **Exodus 15:1-21** and **Romans 8** over your life and situation. Ask the LORD to open your eyes so that you can see His Salvation and Deliverance in your life. Ask the LORD to release the blessings of Issachar into your life and situation.

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<sup>2</sup> Please see weekly articles on Counting the Omer <http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?category=37>

**Genesis 49:14-15** “14 Issachar is a strong-boned donkey crouching down between the sheepfolds. 15 And he saw that rest was good and that the land was pleasant; and he bowed his shoulder to bear [his burdens] and became a servant to tribute [subjected to forced labor].”

Pray for a release from ungodly servitude (Issachar...inclined his shoulder and became a servant unto tribute). Pray for an Issachar prophetic company — those who will know the times and the seasons.

**1 Chronicles 12:32** “From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. **All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take.**”

Pray for Issachar burden bearers (strong donkey anointing) who will bear the burden of the people and emphasize salvation, deliverance and healing in our suffering world today.

## Upcoming celestial<sup>3</sup> events:

Remember to apply the Blood of the Lamb of GOD into the heavens (**Colossians 1:19**) and command the heavens to declare the Righteousness and Glory of GOD (Psalm 97:6, Psalm 19:1-6) during the following events:

- ✓ New Moon, **6 May, 19:29 UT**
- ✓ 33<sup>rd</sup> hour of the Moon, 8 May, 04:30 UT

-Proclaim the death of Jesus (**Hebrews 2:14-15**) to nullify all 33<sup>rd</sup> degree enchantments and sorceries.

-Command the moon to declare the righteousness and glory of the LORD  
**Psalm 97:6, Psalm 19:1**

-Strong alignment involving the new moon and the star Aldebaran on **May 8**

- ✓ First crescent Moon, **8-10 May**. In esoteric circles, the first crescent moon is called “Diana’s Bow” and is invoked to shoot moon arrows for causing death to amass blood for healing and renewal. Ask the LORD to break the bows of the wicked in the heavens. Ask the LORD to rescue you and be your covering (Psalm 18, especially verses 19-34). Fasten the Blood of Y’shua into the heavens.
- ✓ Last crescent Moon, **3-5 June**, so-called “Hecate’s Sickle”:
  - ➔ Proclaim **Revelation 14:14** to break any evil bow or sickle programmed to shoot arrows of sickness and death ... INSTEAD, lift

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<sup>3</sup> Taken from <http://www.seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-calendar-2015.html> and Steve Olumuyiwa’s monthly New Moon report.

up Y'shua (Jesus), our KING Who sits on the white cloud with a sharpened sickle in His Hand (**Revelation 14:14**). Ask Y'shua (Jesus) to visit His enemies with His Special Righteous Sickle. Declare **Hebrews 2:14-15** and proclaim the defeat of satan and his hosts.

The fifth lunar season of 2016 began on **May 6** (19:29 UT, and it opened the door for two major premiere celestial events scheduled on **May 9**. The first is the transit of **Mercury** (the fastest planet). For those who remember, the last transit of Mercury occurred 9 and half years ago (November 8, 2006).

The Transit involves Mercury walking on the face of the Sun and crossing from the night sky side of the Sun to the morning side. The event will take place in the constellation called the **Ram**, a constellation that represents the Lamb of God – Y'shua, our Saviour.

The brightest planet, Venus, is also in the same constellation bearing witness to this rare celestial conjunction. Therefore, we must exalt the Lamb of Elohim who takes away the sins of the world. Let us humble ourselves with fasting and prayer and we lift up our Savior continuously through praise, prayer, and proclamation of His Word.

Please proclaim **Isaiah 53, Psalm 110 and Revelation 5, 12:11**.

**The second celestial event on May 9** concerns the planet **Jupiter** (the biggest planet), which has been moving in backward motion since January 7. On May 9, it will begin to move forward again in the constellation Leo-the Lion-a constellation which represents the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

Combining the two events of May 9, it is clear that the heavens are declaring the glory of Y'shua (Jesus) - the Lion and the Lamb. It is also clear that for those of us who are saved by the Lamb, this season marks the end of delay and retrogression.

As Jupiter resumes forward movement on May 9, our lives must resume progression in all facets that have been in delay or retrogression since the beginning of 2016. Indeed, we need to prophecy that our nations on the continent of Africa resume advance in the Kingdom purposes of our God for the continent.

As we apply the Blood of Y'shua (Jesus) into these celestial events, let us exalt the Lamb of God and the Lion of Judah:

Pray **Revelation 5** from the new moon to the end of the month.

There is a lot to pray in Revelation 5. It is a scripture illustrating:

- the Throne of God,
- the victory of Y'shua as the Lion and the Lamb,

- the release of end-time scrolls and seals,
- the universal and eternal worship of the Lion and the Lamb,
- the release of a company of kings and priests who will reign with King Jesus, etc.

As you pray this scripture, ask the Lord to grant His people wisdom and understanding as He releases new scrolls in the heavens for the new time and season:

*“I saw in the right hand of Him who was seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, closed and sealed with seven seals. <sup>2</sup> And I saw a strong angel announcing with a loud voice, “Who is worthy [having the authority and virtue] to open the scroll and to break its seals?” <sup>3</sup> And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth [in Hades, the realm of the dead] was able to open the scroll or look into it. <sup>4</sup> And I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or look into it. <sup>5</sup> Then one of the [twenty-four] elders said to me, “Stop weeping! Look closely, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome and conquered! He can open the scroll and [break] its seven seals.”*

*<sup>6</sup> And there between the throne (with the four living creatures) and among the elders I saw a Lamb (Christ) standing, [bearing scars and wounds] as though it had been slain, with seven horns (complete power) and with seven eyes (complete knowledge), which are the seven Spirits of God who have been sent [on duty] into all the earth. <sup>7</sup> And He came and took the scroll from the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. <sup>8</sup> And when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb (Christ), each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of fragrant incense, which are the prayers of the saints (God’s people). <sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song [of glorious redemption], saying,*

*“Worthy and deserving are You to take the scroll and to break its seals; for You were slain (sacrificed), and with Your Blood You purchased people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.*

*<sup>10</sup> “You have made them to be a kingdom [of royal subjects] and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.”*

#### **Angels Exalt the Lamb**

*<sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and [the voice] of the living creatures and the elders; and they numbered myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands (innumerable), <sup>12</sup> saying in a loud voice,*

*“Worthy and deserving is the Lamb that was sacrificed to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.”*

*<sup>13</sup> And I heard every created thing that is in heaven or on earth or under the earth [in Hades, the realm of the dead] or on the sea, and everything that is in them, saying [together],*

*“To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb (Christ), be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.”*

*<sup>14</sup> And the four living creatures kept saying, “Amen.” And the elders fell down and worshiped [Him who lives forever and ever].*

- **May 6 - New Moon.**
  - The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 19:29 UTC. This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere.
- **May 9 - Mercury Transit.**
  - Mercury takes some 7.5 hours to cross the sun's disk, and this transit of Mercury is entirely visible from the eastern half of North America, most of South America, Greenland, Iceland, far-western Africa, western and northern Europe, plus the Arctic.
  - The transit will begin at 11 UT and end at 18: 43 UT
- **May 9** Jupiter prograde/forward movement at 23:03 UT - pray for advancement (**Isaiah 44:26**)
- Ask the LORD to break all demonic bows in the moon and the heavens.
- **May 13 - First quarter moon.**
  - Alignment of Venus and Mercury
- **May 14**
  - Alignment of moon and Regulus, the king star (Revelation 5, Revelation 14:14ff)
- **May 15**
  - Alignment of moon and prograde/forward moving Jupiter
- **May 21 -Fool Moon.**
  - Second Passover. **Mercury** begins prograde/forward movement; pray for advancement (**Isaiah 44:26**): **Full moon** in alignment with backward moving **Mars and Saturn and also Antares**, the heart of the scorpion (**Isaiah 44:24-26**): **May 21-22**
- **June 5 - New Moon.**
  - The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 02:59 UTC. This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere.

## Let's PRAY:

Please organize all night prayer meetings to possess the gates of the times highlighted in this report. Pray also during the set times for the events. Remember, scripturally speaking, the summer is a time for harvest, battles and watching and praying!

- 🕊️ Praise and worship the Lord God Almighty (**Psalm 136, 148, 8**, etc.). Thank God for His mercies.
- 🕊️ Sound the shofar at new moon (**Psalm 81:1-6**)
- 🕊️ Declare the Lordship of Jesus over all things (**Colossians 1:15-16, Psalm 24:1**, etc.): yourself, family, community, job/business, the Church, thrones, altars, principalities, powers, witchcraft, occultism, water spirits, satanic princes and watchmen, the moon god allah, sun, moon, stars, mercury transit, retrograde and prograde movements of the planets, etc.
- 🕊️ Ask Elohim for mercy (**Psalm 51**).
- 🕊️ Proclaim Lamentations 5-pray for children especially the first-borns during this second Passover month.
- 🕊️ Apply the Blood of the Lamb (**Colossians 1:20, 2:14-15, Hebrews 9:12-14, 1 John 1:7**).
- 🕊️ Ask that the Voice of the Blood of Y'shua (Jesus) (**Hebrews 12:24**) will back your proclamation to the heavens to deprogram:
  - evil
  - darkness, shadows,
  - instability, slavery,
  - backwardness, delay,
  - wars, famine,
  - poverty, diseases,
  - and so forth
  - that the army of satan has programmed into the heavens during the planetary transits.
- 🕊️ Apply the Blood of Y'shua (Jesus) to blot out this evil handwriting **Colossians 2:14**.
- 🕊️ Pray **Colossians 2: 14-15** and ask the Lord to disarm the works of the army of satan over your life, family, the Church, your nation, etc.
- 🕊️ Sprinkle the Blood of Y'shua (Jesus) on the new moon, the sun, the transit of mercury, the forward movement motion of Jupiter.
- 🕊️ Ask the Lord Jesus, who is the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE to reign over the path and conjunctions of celestial bodies.
- 🕊️ Pray that the sun and the moon will bear witness against the army of satan who stand opposed to the counsel of the risen Messiah in matters

pertaining to the Church, you, your family, business, community, nation, etc.

- 🕊️ Ask the Lord to strengthen the moon like the two witnesses in **Revelation 11:3ff**.
- 🕊️ Exalt the Ancient of Days, the Most High who sits on the throne (**Isaiah 6, Revelation 4**), the one who has the power to slay the boastful horn of satan represented as the fourth beast in **Daniel 7: 9ff**

*"I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him. Ten thousand times ten thousands stood before Him. The courts were seated, and the books were opened. I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame."*

- 🕊️ Praise Y'shua (Jesus) our Saviour-Redeemer, the worthy Lamb of God (**Revelation 5**), the One who has an everlasting Kingdom and dominion (**Daniel 7:13-14**):

*I watching in the night visions and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed."*

- 🕊️ **Pray from Psalm 2** The Bible proclaims that the earth and its fullness belong to God (**Psalm 24**).
- 🕊️ Command the elements to praise YHVH GOD, the Creator of Heaven and earth (**Genesis 1, Psalm 148**).
- 🕊️ Ask the Lord to visit all satanic altars in the heavens (the square and the compass of occultists, the pentagrams of witches, rolling stones, etc.) with fury, anger and fire.
- 🕊️ Let the Lord uproot and destroy them (**Isaiah 64:1-4, Psalm 144:5-6**, etc.)
- 🕊️ **Pray against shadow sorcery:**

The shadow of mercury will be cast as black dropping on the face of the sun as it crosses over from the night side to the morning side of the sun. Witches and occultists will bring out their "book of shadows" to program into this event. Release the Fire of God on these evil books. Pray against all manners of shadows and darkness. We shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty God (**Psalm 91**) and our inheritance will not be buried in shadows.  
Pray **Isaiah 60**-arise and shine

🕊️ Bring judgment on the:

- queen of heaven (**Is 47**),
- witchcraft spirit (**Micah 5:10-15, Ps 69:22-28, Nah 3, Ex 22:18, Micah 3:6-7**, etc.),
- idolatry (**Is 19:1**, etc.).

🕊️ Please ask the LORD of Hosts to confront water spirits that may be prepared to do havoc when the eclipse passes over the waters:

**Isaiah 27:1, Ezekiel 29:2-5, 32:2-8, Ezekiel 32, Zechariah 10:11, Psalm 29, 114**, etc:

🕊️ With the Key of David, shut the heavens against all satanic watchmen (**Revelation 3:7**).

🕊️ Receive the following promises from the Word of God:

**Deuteronomy 33:13-17, Psalm 121, Deuteronomy 28:1-14, Revelation 21:7**

🕊️ Pray for Israel. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (**Psalm 122**).

🕊️ Proclaim the kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ and He shall reign forever, Amen. (**Revelation 4, 5, 11:15**)

# Four reasons to blow the Shofar!



## **1. For the calling of the assemblies Numbers 10:2-4.**

This is therefore a season for GOD's saints to gather either as leadership or as groups in solemn assemblies unto the LORD to hear what the Spirit is saying unto the Body at this Appointed Time.

## **2. For the journeying of the camps Numbers 10:5-7.**

As Israel was compelled to keep moving forward in their journeying to their Land of Inheritance, so must we individually and collectively insist that in this period, there must be a moving forward in GOD's Purposes. Reject in this season every form of stagnation — spiritual, financial, material, as well as destiny and general fulfillment of GOD's Redemptive Purposes.

## **3. At the times of war to invite GOD into the battle, Numbers 10:9.**

As we pass through this so called ember seasons, we need to invite the LORD of Hosts as the LORD of the Battle into our personal and national battles as the Church in the nations, so that the LORD will remember us against the strong onslaught of the forces of satan and witchcraft.

## **4. At the times of our Feasts [solemn days] and start of new seasons, Numbers 10:10**

**Psalm 20** "MAY THE LORD answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the GOD of Jacob set you up on high [and defend you]; 2 Send you help from the sanctuary and support, refresh, and strengthen you from Zion; 3 Remember all your offerings and accept your burnt sacrifice. Selah [pause, and think of that]! 4 May He grant you according to your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans. 5 We will [shout in] triumph at your salvation and victory, and in the name of our GOD we will set up our banners. May the LORD fulfill all your petitions. 6 Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand. 7 Some trust in and boast of chariots and some of horses, but we will trust in and boast of the name of the LORD our GOD. 8 They are bowed down and fallen, but we are risen and stand upright. 9 O LORD, give victory; let the King answer us when we call."

- 🎙️ ***Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Pray that the Two Sticks of Judah and Ephraim will become ONE (Psalm 122, Ezekiel 37).***
- 🎙️ Let us pray that the on-going shakings in the Middle East will draw Jews to their True Messiah, our KING Y'shua (Jesus).
- 🎙️ Thank Him for His Shalom. He has not given us the spirit of fear, but of love, power and a sound mind. Cover your mind with the Blood of the Lamb and keep looking to Y'shua (Jesus), the Author and Finisher of your faith.
- 🎙️ Thank ABBA FATHER and bless His Name (**Psalm 105, 118**).
- 🎙️ He is called Faithful and True (**Revelation 19:11**).

*May Adonai Y'shua, the Chief Intercessor, bless you as you pray with the strength of EL Gibor (the Almighty GOD) and knowledge this season. SHALOM SHALOM!!*

The following two sections include traditional Jewish commentary and thoughts on the upcoming new month ...

**PLEASE NOTE!** There are MANY Jewish traditions -- including those for celebrating the Feasts, the New Moons/months, as well as many other celebrations and customs ...

While there is NO problem in using the traditions -- MANY of them are beautiful and can be used as guidelines for Feasts/celebrations -- it is IMPORTANT that we keep in mind they are only *TRADITIONS*, and not *GOD-Given Instructions*.

We encourage everyone to FIRST study the Scriptures, to know/understand the Instructions the FATHER has given us ...

Interestingly, often times you'll find that the Scriptures give very little instruction as to HOW to celebrate or keep the Feasts (as in the case of Shabbat, where there are only a few direct instructions given) -- this causes us to truly worship in Spirit AND Truth ...

To study the Scriptures for the TRUTH (Instructions), and then to be led by the SPIRIT in how the *Father* would like us to celebrate/keep His Appointed Times ... this results in us having to develop and walk in **RELATIONSHIP** with our Father, which is His very Heart ... the reason mankind was created in the first place -- to walk in **FELLOWSHIP** with GOD, as back in the Garden ...

So, if there are traditions you find helpful -- again, there is no problem in using the traditions ... we simply encourage everyone to research these traditions out (their history, origin, and meaning), and TEST them against Scriptures.

We need to be AWARE of and AVOID those traditions (including *BOTH* the Jewish and Constantine/"Christian" traditions/customs) that go AGAINST the Father's Instructions ...

Keep in mind, this was OFTEN the argument Y'shua had with the Pharisees and religious leaders in the New Testament, where their traditions were going against and nullifying the *Father's* Instructions (Mark 7:1-13 for example) ...

**Be encouraged!** As you learn to discern and differentiate between what is MAN-MADE tradition, and MAN-MADE customs/doctrines ... you discover that the Father's Yoke truly is LIGHT and EASY ...

***That His Instructions are a BLESSING!***

## Preparing for Shavuot (Pentecost).

For more information, please see the following links:

- A Journey Of Seven Weeks To Mount Sinai  
➔ <http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=133>
- On Which Day Is Shavuot?  
➔ <http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=150>
- Shavuot, the Story of Ruth  
➔ <http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=264>
- Counting the Omer - Week One  
➔ <http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=426>
- Counting the Omer - Week Two  
➔ <http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=430>

### Counting the Omer<sup>4</sup>

**Leviticus 23:15-16** "15 And you shall count from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, seven Sabbaths; [seven full weeks] shall they be. 16 Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall present a cereal offering of new grain to the Lord."

At one time or another, we've all probably said something like, "Grandma's coming to visit in a week and a half," or "Only seventeen more days until my birthday!" But there's one subtle difference — the usual method is to count down toward the big day, whereas in the case of the Omer, we count up ... from one to fifty. Why the difference?

The answer is that the people of Israel were not yet spiritually equipped to receive the Torah. For over two hundred years, they had been living in an Egyptian society known to be the world center for immorality and vice.

The high-impact adventure of the Exodus — ten miraculous plagues and the splitting of the Red Sea — launched the nation of Israel into physical freedom. Any experience, as powerful as it is, does not permanently change anyone's character. That is only possible through practice and adjustment over time.

Why did GOD wait fifty days after Israel left Egypt before giving the Torah? Why didn't He simply give it to them in Egypt, or immediately after their departure?

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<sup>4</sup> Taken from the email newsletter of Mark Biltz of *El Shaddai Ministries*, <http://www.elshaddaiministries.us/>.

You can take people out of Egypt, but you can't take Egypt out of the people. Think of wealthy people who steal. Or people who attend a seminar all psyched up but no permanent change in their life.

**Leviticus 25:8-9** “8 And you shall number seven sabbaths or weeks of years for you, seven times seven years, so the total time of the seven weeks of years shall be forty-nine years. 9 Then you shall sound abroad the loud trumpet on the tenth day of the seventh month [almost October]; on the Day of Atonement blow the trumpet in all your land.”

## Why count the Omer?

Because He told us to. Beginning on the day that the first Omer of barley was harvested and brought to the Temple, a countdown to the next Biblical Festival began. The Israelites were commanded to count off forty-nine days and then celebrate the Feast of Shavuot (Pentecost) on the fiftieth day.

Traditionally, the period of the Omer count is to be a time of spiritual introspection as the counters prepare themselves for Shavuot. Because it begins during Passover and concludes at Shavuot, it is a remembrance of the journey from Egypt to Mount Sinai. A remembrance of our journey from the world to a life of walking in the Spirit. It is an expectation of a coming harvest and asking GOD to prepare us for it!

The Counting of the Omer is a count up to Shavuot (Pentecost), the time of the giving of the Holy Spirit. It is a journey which is begun with Passover, the symbol of our Salvation in Messiah Y'shua [Jesus Christ], and completed at Shavuot (Pentecost), the symbol of our completion through the Spirit. The distance of days between the two events should be a time of spiritual reflection, growth, purification and preparation.

The Master's Resurrection makes the counting of the Omer a season of special significance and joy. For his disciples, it is a time to remember the resurrected Y'shua [Jesus]. All of His post-resurrection appearances and ascension fell within the days of the Omer count. On the first day of the Omer, Messiah Y'shua [Jesus] appeared to Miriam and to two of our number while they traveled to Emmaus, then those gathered together.

**John 20:18-19** “18 Away came Mary Magdalene, bringing the disciples news (word) that she had seen the Lord and that He had said these things to her. 19 Then on that same first day of the week, when it was evening, though the disciples were behind closed doors for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, Peace to you!”

## **On the ninth day of the Omer, Y'shua (Jesus) appeared again ...**

**John 20:26** “26 Eight days later His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, though they were behind closed doors, and stood among them and said, Peace to you!”

**1 Corinthians 15:6-7** “6 Then later He showed Himself to more than five hundred brethren at one time, the majority of whom are still alive, but some have fallen asleep [in death]. 7 Afterward He was seen by James, then by all the apostles (the special messengers), [see also John 21:1-3].”

## **On the fortieth day of the Omer ...**

**Acts 1:3-4** “3 To them also He showed Himself alive after His passion (His suffering in the garden and on the cross) by [a series of] many convincing demonstrations [unquestionable evidences and infallible proofs], appearing to them during forty days and talking [to them] about the things of the kingdom of GOD. 4 And while being in their company and eating with them, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised, Of which [He said] you have heard Me speak. [John 14:16, 26; 15:26.]”

**Acts 1:9** “9 And when He had said this, even as they were looking [at Him], He was caught up, and a cloud received and carried Him away out of their sight.”

The disciples waited and counted the days ... forty-one, forty-two, forty-three, forty-four, forty-five, forty-six, forty-seven, forty-eight, forty-nine days of the Omer, up to the fiftieth day ...

**Acts 2:1-4** “AND WHEN the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all assembled together in one place, 2 When suddenly there came a sound from heaven like the rushing of a violent tempest blast, and it filled the whole house in which they were sitting. 3 And there appeared to them tongues resembling fire, which were separated and distributed and which settled on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled (diffused throughout their souls) with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other (different, foreign) languages (tongues), as the Spirit kept giving them clear and loud expression [in each tongue in appropriate words].”

## More information on Counting the Omer<sup>5</sup>

### **What is Counting the Omer?**

In Leviticus 23:15, which is in the third book of the Torah, it says: "*You shall count from the next day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be completed*". "Omer" is a Hebrew word that means "sheaves of a harvested crop" and in ancient times Jews brought the Omer to the temple as an offering on the day after the weekly Sabbath during Passover week. The Torah tells us to count seven weeks from the bringing of the Omer until the evening of Shavuot (Pentecost), hence the custom of counting the Omer. Although Jews no longer bring Omer to the Temple the forty-nine days are still called "the Omer." For further details regarding the day we start the counting of the Omer, see Pastor Mark's teaching at the following link:

<http://www.elshaddaiministries.us/torah5773/20130330.html>

### **Why should followers of Y'shua Ha-Mashiach (Jesus Christ) "count the Omer"?**

According to Jewish understanding, the counting of the Omer recounts the journey of the Israelites from Egypt, through the desert wastes, to the revelation of GOD at Mount Sinai, when the Torah was given. This step-by-step journey through the wilderness was a time of trial and testing.

GOD satisfied their hunger with manna from heaven (Exodus 16:15), revealed to His people the Sabbath (Exodus 16:23), caused water to spring forth from a rock (Exodus 17:6) and intervened to protect them from attacks from the Amalekites (Exodus 17:11).

### **How does this apply to the followers of Y'shua (Jesus), today?**

This journey through the wilderness is a TYPE of the Christian life of overcoming – from baptism and leaving sin behind (Egypt), marching and struggling through the spiritual wilderness (this evil world, and our human nature), until we reach the His Kingdom on earth.

As we go through our Christian lives, we meet obstacles, encounter problems, face trials and difficulties.

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<sup>5</sup> Taken from the email newsletter of Mark Biltz of *El Shaddai Ministries*, <http://www.elshaddaiministries.us/>.

All these are reflected in the “counting of the Omer,” a task which identifies with our progress in “overcoming” our sins, faults, and human nature, putting sin out of our lives, and developing the Holy Attributes of GOD, from the moment of conversion and baptism, until the coming of the Messiah.

At Passover we begin the march to freedom with GOD delivering us through supernatural miracles by the Hand of GOD. It took Israel fifty days to march to Mount Sinai. Shavuot then is the conclusion of the march to freedom. It is the concluding feast of liberty that is true freedom. It begins with Passover and ends with Shavuot/Pentecost.

How can we be free unless we are connected to GOD? It is vital to our freedom. This is why counting the Omer is important to arriving at Pentecost. And “counting the omer”, is becoming more and more “connected” to GOD, from the moment of our conversion and acceptance of Christ as our Savior until the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Before Y’shua ascended into heaven He told His disciples in Luke 24:49 — *“And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.”*

They waited as He instructed and on the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit fell!

### **Here’s how you can Count the Omer:**

Every day, you can say the following blessing, and then count the proper day:

*“Baruch Atah Ado-nai Elo-hai-nu Melech Ha-olam,  
Asher Kid’shanu B’Mitzvotav V’tzi-vanu Al Sefirat Ha-Omer.”*

*“Blessed are You, LORD our GOD, King of the Universe,  
Who has made us holy with His Commandments, and encouraged us  
concerning the counting of the Omer.”*

Then we count the day saying:

*“Today is one day (or two days, or three days, etc.) of the Omer.”*

Psalm 67 is also recited daily because it is composed of exactly 49 Hebrew words which correspond to the 49 days of the Omer count. The Psalm is seasonally appropriate because of its harvest motif. It is spiritually appropriate because it speaks clearly of GOD's salvation (Y’shua) being made known over all the earth.

**Psalm 67**

*"May GOD be merciful to us, and bless us, and cause His Face to shine on us. Selah. So that Your Way may be known on earth, Your Salvation among all nations. Let the nations praise You, O GOD — let all the nations thank You. O let the nations be glad and sing for joy; for You shall judge the peoples righteously and govern the nations on earth. Selah. Let the nations give thanks to You, O GOD — let all the nations praise You. The earth shall yield its increase; and GOD, our own GOD, shall bless us. GOD shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him."*

**MANY blessings!**

May the Father bless you as you count the Omer, and prepare for the Feast of Shavuot ... May we all be filled and refreshed by the Holy Spirit, that we may SH'MA [hear and obey] the Father in loving obedience!

## *The second<sup>6</sup> Hebrew month ...*

*May You give us long life,  
A life of peace — Shalom,  
A life of goodness — Tovah,  
A life of blessing — Bracha,  
A life of sustenance — Parnassa,  
A life of physical health — Hilutz Atzamot,  
A life in which there is a fear of heaven and fear of sin  
— Yirat Shamayim ve'Yirat Chet,  
A life in which there is no humiliation — Ein Busha u'Chlimah,  
A life of wealth and honor — Osher ve'Kavod,  
A life in which we will have love of Torah and awe and reverence of GOD  
— Ahavat Torah ve'Yirat HaShem,  
A life in which Adonai, the LORD, fulfills our heartfelt requests for good.*

*Amen.*

*Selah.*

*Iyar* (pronounced ee'yar) is the month of the ripening harvest — counting the Omer in anticipation of Shavuot, the festival of Revelation. The Independence of the modern State of Israel was officially proclaimed on the 5th of this month in 1947 — a wondrous, historical reconnection of GOD's people with His Land.

A distinguishing feature of the month of Iyar is that the entire month falls within the time of the Counting of the Omer, *Sefirat ha'Omer*, which is the seven-week connection between Passover and Shavuot. Similarly, Iyar is like a bridge that connects the month of our Salvation (Nissan) and the month of the Revelation of GOD's Word and Spirit (Sivan).

In fact, this complete season is one that recognizes and celebrates the connection of one thing to another. The evidence of the Kingship of GOD is presented at Passover, in Nissan, and the establishment of His Kingdom with its laws, statutes and ordinances is accomplished at Shavuot, in Sivan.

The central and deepest connection is the one of relationship between GOD and His people. He delivered the Israelites from Egypt in order to bring them to Himself.

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<sup>6</sup> Taken from the mailing list of Keren Hannah Pryor — “*Appointments With GOD*” — [www.jcstudies.com](http://www.jcstudies.com).

Passover marks the time of the Bridegroom's choosing of His beloved and their betrothal (kiddushin) when they are set apart uniquely, one unto the other. Shavuot marks the occasion of their marriage (nissuin) when the relationship is sealed by the Ruach HaKodesh, the Holy Spirit. The interim period serves an important purpose; it provides the time to bring to completion what was begun. The betrothal is brought to completion by the marriage; redemption is brought to fullness by revelation, responsibility, and transformation.

Another connection to consider is that of sight and sound. At the exodus from Egypt, the Israelites witnessed the mighty miracles of GOD. They saw the wonders with their own eyes, and Moses instructed them,

*"... you shall remember what the LORD your GOD did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt, the great trials which your eyes saw, the signs, the wonders, the mighty hand, and the outstretched arm, by which the LORD your GOD brought you out..."*  
**(Exodus 7:18-19).**

At Mount Sinai, however, at Pentecost the emphasis is on hearing GOD. The people are rallied by the loud, piercing sound of a divine shofar. When they are assembled at the base of the mountain the Presence of GOD, concealed in a thick cloud that covers the peak, is signaled by the increasing volume of the sound.

*"And as the sound of the trumpet (shofar) grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and GOD answered him in thunder. And the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain..."* **(Exodus 19:19-20).**

Then GOD's voice thundered the Ten Words. These were His first words of instruction to His newly formed people. The powerful sounds they heard were overwhelming, and *"...the people were afraid and trembled; and they stood afar off, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will hear; but let not GOD speak to us, lest we die" (Exodus 20:18-19).*

Moses, the great prophet and teacher of GOD's people, knew the vital importance of hearing — the practice of listening in order to understand with the intention to act upon what is heard. When he eventually gathers the Israelites on the border of the Promised Land, he addresses them for the last time before his death. The keynote of his address is:

*"Shema Yisrael! Hear O Israel: The LORD our GOD, the LORD is one; and you shall love the LORD your GOD with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children..."*  
**(Deuteronomy 6:4-8).**

In every Torah scroll the final letter ayin of the word shema is enlarged. Interestingly, ayin means 'eye'; so although shema means 'hear' it implies, "Hear with the eyes of your understanding!" The final letter dalet of the word echad also is enlarged. This is the last word of the proclamation, "Hear O Israel! The YHVH is our GOD, YHVH is Echad/One".

The two enlarged letters, ayin and dalet, together form the word ed, meaning 'witness'! To be a true witness of the truth of GOD we need first to hear and to understand His Word. Then, once we "see" it, we can share it!

## **I Am YHVH, your Healer!**

The Hebrew letters that spell Iyar are aleph-yod-resh. They are an acronym for: "Ani YHVH Rofecha" — "I am the LORD your Healer!" This is GOD's Proclamation when He makes the powerful promise to His children during this month, shortly after the redemption from Egypt:

*"If you will diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD your GOD, and do that which is right in His eyes, and give heed to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases upon you which I put upon the Egyptians; for I am the LORD, your Healer" (Exodus 15:26).*

Iyar was a month of healing for the newly redeemed slaves. While they were being prepared spiritually to meet with GOD, they received healing of physical ailments. They would all stand strong and well in body at Mount Sinai, where they would receive the means to gain spiritual health and strength.

An important ingredient of this physical healing was the manna that first fell during this month. This indicates the important role of the stomach and of eating foods that are compatible with the bodies GOD created. The manna, provided supernaturally by GOD, was a "spiritual food in physical form, and therefore did not need to be naturally processed by the body." The weakened bodies of the slaves were restored to the good health that GOD intended for them.

Y'shua ha'Mashiach, Jesus the Messiah, as the Word of GOD made flesh was a type of manna, or Bread of Life, sent from Heaven. During his ministry on earth he brought physical healing as well as spiritual teaching to those he touched. After his death and resurrection, he appeared to his disciples in a body made perfect and filled with resurrection life. During the month of Iyar he broke bread, ate and talked with them and imparted deeper understanding of the will and heart of the Father.

Y'shua, anointed bearer of GOD's Word, opens the way, and enables the connection, for all to come into the Presence of the Almighty and Most High GOD. In him, all may come into a healed and fully restored relationship with our Father.

## The Tribe of Issachar

According to the order of encampments, Iyar corresponds to the tribe of Issachar. Issachar is a strong ass, crouching between the sheepfolds (or burdens); he saw that a resting place was good, and that the land was pleasant; so he bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant of tribute (labor) (**Genesis 49:14-15**).

Rashi, the renowned Torah commentator, describes how Issachar, like a strong donkey that carries a heavy burden, bears the yoke of Torah and carries it to his brothers. This fits the theme of connection associated with Iyar. A donkey serves to transport goods, or a rider, from one place to another. Issachar, as a teacher of Torah, commits his life to the study of GOD's Word and to share it with others. He thus serves to connect people with their GOD and unites them in an understanding of GOD's Will.

The precious stone on the High Priest's breastplate that represented Issachar was the sapphire (sapir). The word sapir is formed with the same letters found in s'fira, as in S'firat ha'Omer, the Counting of the Omer, providing another link with the month.

The beautiful blue of the sapphire, which reflects flashes of light, is comparable with the time of day that connects day and night — the deep blue of twilight or early dawn. It is therefore a fitting stone for this tribe who traditionally carry the truth of GOD to others, allowing light to penetrate the darkness, and who restore the connection between the sheep who are lost and have gone astray with the Good Shepherd of their souls.

During this month of Iyar, and the Counting of the Omer, may we strengthen our connection with GOD's Word and grow richly in spirit. May we also trust our faithful Healer for physical health and full restoration, for ourselves and for all Israel.

## Highlighted points<sup>7</sup> regarding the SECOND month:

Every Hebrew month is TRADITIONALLY linked with:

- A letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
- A constellation sign. **Psalm 119:1-3** says that the heavens declare the Glory of GOD. If we don't get into GOD's Way of understanding the future, you will fall into either an occult way or your own way, called humanism.
- One of the Twelve Tribes of Israel.
- A development of "threes".

The following points regarding this new month are based on these principles.

- The Issachar Month (**1 Chronicles 12:32**). The anointing of Issachar, "who understood the times and knew what Israel should do ..." Compare this with Ephesians 5:15-17, which enjoins us to understand our times. This enables us to keep moving ahead instead of just passing time. GOD wants us to see each day, each week, and each month as a new cycle of new things He wants to bring into our lives and bless us with. Look at the list of things accomplished for us at Passover and do prayer warfare in order that they grow in your life. A month to understand secrets (Issachar). Thank GOD that He will show you how to do new things this year.
- Iyar is a month linked with natural healing — GOD will just heal certain things naturally. Make a list of things you need to see healed, and expect them to be healed.
- A month where "I am GOD your Healer, Jehovah Rapha (**Exodus 15:26**)". You will see your snares. The main snare is murmuring and complaining. The Healer was manifested to help. Work hard on not murmuring. It is a poison and brings spiritual death. See Numbers 21:4-9.
- The "Vav" month — a month that links the Month of Redemption and the Month of Giving. Vav is "the tent peg." We can bring heaven to earth. Jael drove peg into Sisera's head (**Judges 4:21**) GOD's Judgment was executed through her.
- A month (the 49 days of counting the Omer) to deal with your soul (mind, will, and emotions). Make sure these are aligned with GOD. The month of thought. GOD permeates the mind (the thinking process of heart). If our emotions are messed up, we will not be able to think clearly. GOD will send healing to impregnate your thought processes.

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<sup>7</sup> Taken from the materials of "Glory of Zion". For more information, see the book "A Time To Advance" as well as the CD/DVD series "Positioned For Advancement", from <http://gloryofzion.org/>

- A month of walking in the fullness of the spirit. Make sure that you exercise your gifts, in order to bless the community.

*Shalom and blessings!*

# *The Priestly Blessing ...*

*Numbers 6:24-26*

“<sup>24</sup> The LORD bless thee, and keep thee:  
<sup>25</sup> The LORD make his face shine upon  
thee, and be gracious unto thee: <sup>26</sup> The  
LORD lift up his countenance upon thee,  
and give thee peace.”

# *The Priestly Blessing ...*

Hebraic Translation<sup>8</sup>

"YHVH will kneel before you presenting gifts, and He will guard you with a hedge of protection, YHVH will illuminate the wholeness of His Being toward you, bringing order, and He will provide you with love, sustenance, and friendship, YHVH will lift up the wholeness of His Being and look upon you, and He will set in place all you need to be whole and complete."

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<sup>8</sup> Translation by Jeff A. Benner, for more information, please see [http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/12\\_blessing.html](http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/12_blessing.html)