

HAVE YOU CLIMBED THE MOUNTAIN OF FAITH LATELY?



IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN ...

There are **two events** that are separated by thousands of years, that we will be experiencing again within a few days.

Both reveal the idea that YHVH wants to be “with” His people.

- ◆ Have you prepared your heart for this time?
- ◆ We are required to be in Jerusalem for these Feasts—will you be there?
- ◆ If you are not physically in Jerusalem, will you be there in the Spirit?

The Bible says!!!



Leviticus 23:15-17 *‘From the day after the day of rest — that is, from the day you bring the sheaf for waving — you are to count seven full weeks, until the day after the seventh week; you are to count fifty days; and then you are to present a new grain offering to ADONAI. You must bring bread from your homes for waving — two loaves made with one gallon of fine flour, baked with leaven — as firstfruits for ADONAI.’*

Acts 1:4-5 *“At one of these gatherings, He instructed them not to leave Yerushalayim but to “wait for what the Father Promised, which you heard about from Me. For Yochanan used to immerse people in water; but in a few days, you will be immersed in the Ruach HaKodesh!”*

Acts 1:6-8 *“When they were together, they asked Him, “Lord, are You at this time going to restore self-rule to Isra’el?” He answered, “You don’t need to know the dates or the times; the Father has kept these under His own authority. But you will receive power when the Ruach HaKodesh comes upon you; you will be My witnesses both in Yerushalayim and in all Y’hudah and Shomron, indeed to the ends of the earth!”*

We are all sons / daughters of Abraham ... the Jew and the gentile who has accepted the Yoke of the Covenant.

- ◆ Many years ago, Ruth reveals the voluntary nature of our commitment.
- ◆ YHVH gives us the freedom to make our own choices in life.
- ◆ We, each and everyone, needs to come to that place where we can say ...

Your GOD will be my GOD

There is therefore, no reason why you should not separate yourself from the day-to-day things of this world and ask yourself if you are still walking on the right track to reach your calling!

Numbers 15:15-16 *“For this community there will be the same law for you as for the foreigner living with you; this is a permanent regulation through all your generations; the foreigner is to be treated the same way before ADONAI as yourselves. The same Torah and standard of judgment will apply to both you and the foreigner living with you.”*

Have you stood before the Mountain of the Covenant?

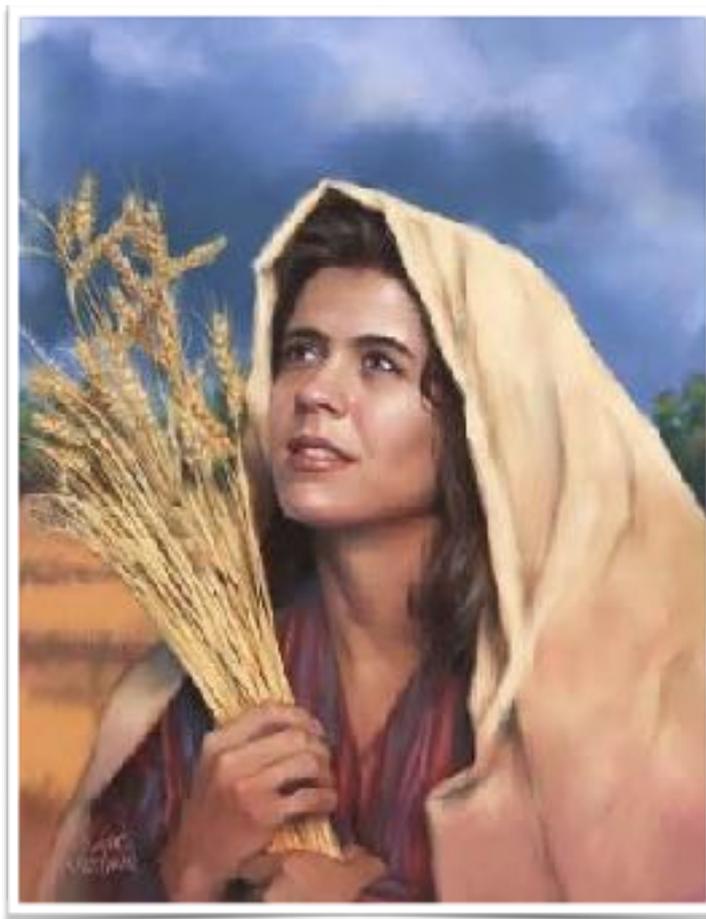
As I look at the description of this story, I see the image of the man, Moses walking to the mountain.

- ◆ We see that the mountain is covered in a cloud, with fire and smoke.
- ◆ We can imagine that there was also a huge noise from all of the thunder.

1. You need COURAGE in order to approach this mountain.

- Ruth walked many miles across some desert-type land
- She had to face the Jordan river, then
- She had to climb the mountain that would take her to Bethlehem and
- Then she had to face a life living as a **“ger”** / a stranger in a foreign land

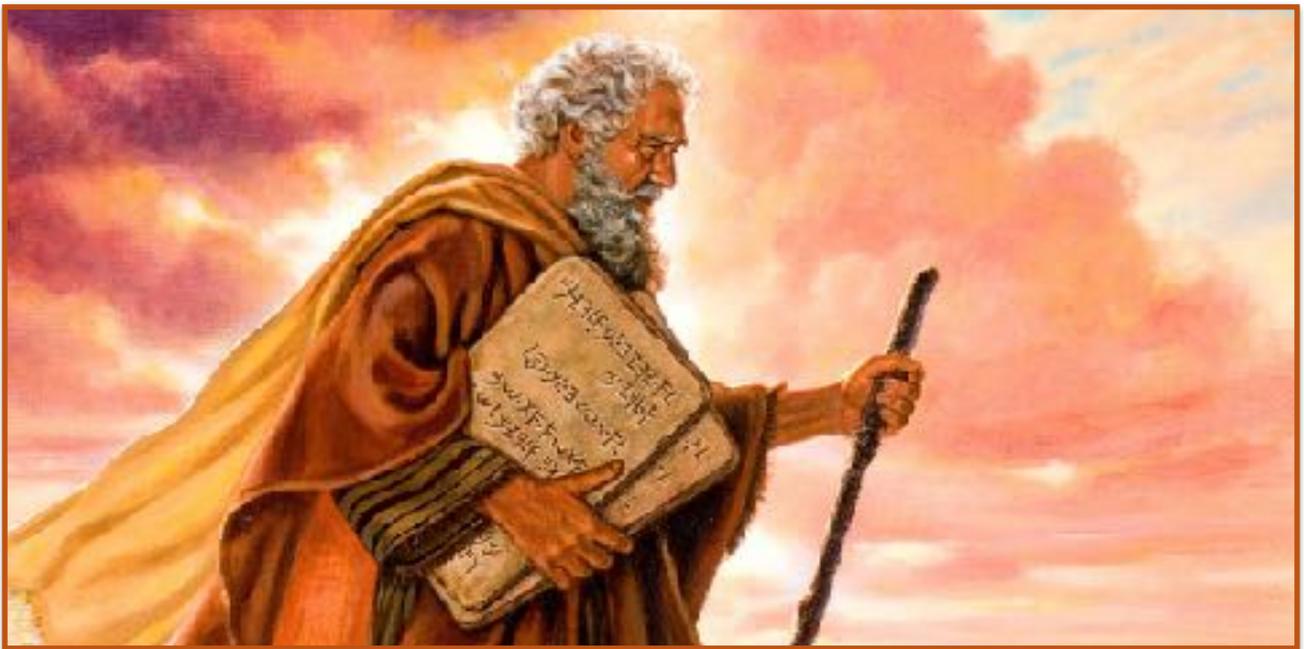
We need that same courage ... to face uncertain times in the economic, the political, and the social climates that make up our lives today.



If we give way to **fear** and continue to focus on the threats and the action of those who have no interest in the things of YHVH, then we will soon be unable to function as priests in a Living Stone Tabernacle.

2. You need to be able to VISUALISE the Stone Tablets.

- Moses goes up the mountain.
- On his return (for us this means the second time), we will see him return with the tablets
- He had to chisel the second set of tablets
- He had to carry them up the mountain again
- YHVH would write on these stones
- But you have to prepare them - (your heart) - for Him



This analogy in the physical domain ... of cutting the stones to size, reveals the spiritual transformation that we undergo when we allow YHVH to circumcise our hearts.

This process may be painful.

But whatever YHVH prunes away is dead, and of no use to you.

- ◆ Allow HIM to revitalise your thinking
- ◆ Allow HIM to RENEW your mind

Deuteronomy 10:16 *“Therefore, circumcise the foreskin of your heart; and”*

Jeremiah 4:4 *“People of Y’hudah and inhabitants of Yerushalayim, circumcise yourselves for ADONAI, remove the foreskins of your heart! Otherwise My fury will lash out like fire, burning so hot that no one can quench it, because of how evil your actions are.”*

3. You need to look through the cuttings of the stones

The Bible tells us that the “Words” of the Covenant were cut entirely through the stone.

In other words, we could see through onto the other side of the stone.

Many times we read these Commandments, and see these as ritual, tradition, or just legalism.

Just as the stone on which they are found is lifeless, so too do these words become lifeless if we begin to apply them as ritual, and rules.

Unless we are able to transform these physical actions into a spiritual reality of praise and worship, we will be stuck looking for another physical Tabernacle.

Peter tells us that we are to become a Holy Priesthood in a New Tabernacle - one made up of Living Stones.

1 Peter 2:4-6 *“As you come to Him, the Living Stone, rejected by people but Chosen by GOD and precious to Him, you yourselves, as living stones, are being built into a Spiritual House to be cohanim set apart for GOD to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to Him through Yeshua the Messiah. This is why the Tanakh says, “Look! I am laying in Tziyon a stone, a chosen and precious Cornerstone; and whoever rests his trust on it will certainly not be humiliated.”*

The only way that we can stand before Y’shua, the Great High Priest in the Order of Melchizedek, is if we can worship in Spirit and in Truth.

1 Peter 2:11-12 *“Dear friends, I urge you as aliens and temporary residents, not to give in to the desires of your old nature, which keep warring against you; but to live such good lives among the pagans that even though they now speak against you as evil-doers, they will, as a result of seeing your good actions, give Glory to God on the Day of His coming.”*

4. You are to WAVE AN OFFERING of two loaves as evidence of the harvest



The harvest in the Land represented all types of food.

Things that YHVH had provided through the first and then the latter rains.

We have been empowered with gifts and talents and sent into this world to produce a harvest that will reflect your calling.

YHVH will come at the end of your life and enquire into the status of your harvest!

Do you have a first fruits, to show?

Can you produce two loaves baked with a little leaven?

Matthew 25:14-17 *“For it will be like a man about to leave home for a while, who entrusted his possessions to his servants. To one he gave five talents (equivalent to a hundred years’ wages); to another, two talents; and to another, one talent — to each according to his ability. Then he left. The one who had received five talents immediately went out, invested it and earned another five. Similarly, the one given two earned another two. But the one given one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.”*

Matthew 25:19-23 *“After a long time, the master of those servants returned to settle accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the other five and said, ‘Sir, you gave me five talents; here, I have made five more.’ His master said to him, ‘Excellent! You are a good and trustworthy servant. You have been faithful with a small amount, so I will put you in charge of a large amount. Come and join in your master’s happiness!’ Also the one who had received two came forward and said, ‘Sir, you gave me two talents; here, I have made two more.’ His master said to him, ‘Excellent! you are a good and trustworthy servant. You have been faithful with a small amount, so I will put you in charge of a large amount. Come and join in your master’s happiness!’*

A FINAL THOUGHT

- ❖ The Feast of Shavout is incredibly special.
- ❖ There is an air of the “AWE of YHVH” in the atmosphere.
- ❖ There is the tangible sense of expectancy as the crowd comes together at the wall to wait for the new day.
- ❖ We all are given a new day ... the question will be – *what will you do with this day / year this time around?*

This year Amanda and I will be in Jerusalem for Shavout.

We will walk those streets, and climb those stairs a few more times ... with an expectant heart.

We seek to hear from YHVH for this new season in our lives!

SHALOM

