

Omer Sources

Leviticus 23

15 וּסְפַרְתֶּם לָכֶם מִמַּחֲרַת הַשַּׁבָּת מִיּוֹם הַבִּיאְכֶם
אֶת-עֹמֶר הַתְּנוּפָה שִׁבְעַת שָׁבָתוֹת תְּמִימֹת תִּהְיֶינָה:

16 עַד מִמַּחֲרַת הַשַּׁבָּת הַשְּׁבִיעִית תִּסְפְּרוּ חֲמִשִּׁים יוֹם
וְהִקְרַבְתֶּם מִנְחָה חֲדָשָׁה לַיהוָה:

21 וּקְרַאתֶם בְּעֵצָם | הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה מִקְרָא-קֹדֶשׁ יִהְיֶה
לָכֶם כָּל-מְלֶאכֶת עֲבֹדָה לֹא תַעֲשׂוּ חֶקֶת עוֹלָם
בְּכָל-מוֹשְׁבֵיכֶם לְדֹרֹתֵיכֶם:

15 And you shall count for yourselves, from the day after the sabbath, from the day of your bringing the *omer* for waving, seven weeks. They shall be complete.

16 Until the day after the seventh sabbath you shall count fifty days. Then you shall bring a new offering to ADONAI.

<descriptions of sacrifices that are to be brought>

21 And you shall make a happening on that same day - it shall be a holy happening for you. No task of work shall you do, as a statute for eternity in all your settlements, throughout the generations.

Deuteronomy 16

9 שִׁבְעָה שָׁבָעַת תִּסְפְּרֶנּוּ מֵהַחֵל חֲרִמְשׁ בַּקֹּמֶה
תַּחֲלֵל לַסֹּפֵר שִׁבְעָה שָׁבָעוֹת:

10 וְעָשִׂיתָ חַג שָׁבָעוֹת לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ מִסֵּת נֹדֶבֶת יָדָךְ
אֲשֶׁר תִּתֶּן כְּאֲשֶׁר יְבָרַכְךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ:

9 Seven weeks you shall count for yourself. From when the sickle begins to cut the standing grain you shall begin to count the seven weeks.

10 Then you shall make the Festival of Weeks for ADONAI your God, offering your freewill contribution according as ADONAI your God has blessed you.

Joshua 5

10 וַיַּחֲנוּ בְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּגִלְגָּל וַיַּעֲשׂוּ אֶת-הַפֶּסַח
בְּאַרְבָּעָה עָשָׂר יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ בְּעָרֵב בְּעַרְבוֹת יְרִיחוֹ:

11 וַיֹּאכְלוּ מֵעֵבוֹר הָאָרֶץ מִמַּחֲרַת הַפֶּסַח מִצּוֹת
וְקִלּוֹי בְּעֵצָם הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה:

12 וַיִּשְׁבֹּת הַמָּן מִמַּחֲרַת בְּאֹכְלֵם מֵעֵבוֹר הָאָרֶץ
וְלֹא-הָיָה עוֹד לִבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִן וַיֹּאכְלוּ מִתְּבוּאֹת אֶרֶץ
כְּנָעַן בַּשָּׁנָה הַהִיא:

10 The Israelites encamped at Gilgal, and they made the passover offering on the fourteenth day of the month, in the evening, in the steppes of Jericho.

11 They ate of the produce of the land on the day after the passover offering - unleavened bread and parched grain - on that self-same day.

12 And the manna ceased on the day after their eating of the produce of the land, and there was never any more manna for the children of Israel. They ate from the yield of the land of Canaan in that year.

Counting the Omer: What are we counting? Where are we going?

Answer 1: Biblical - From the barley harvest to the wheat harvest.

Answer 2: Biblical - From [passover?] to the Festival of Weeks - Shavuot.

Answer 3: Rabbinic - From Egypt to Sinai.

Answer 4: Zoharic Mysticism - From spiritual contamination to spiritual purity - to be ready for “marriage” at Sinai.

Answer 5: Kabbalistic - From a broken world to reunification.

Answer 6: Hasidic - From barley (the animal soul) to wheat (the human soul).