

Omer Sources

Leviticus 23

15 וְסִפְרַתּוֹם לְכֶם מִמְּחֻנָּת הַשְׁבָּת מֵיּוֹם הַבְּיאָכֶם
אֲתִ-עַמְּרָה מִתְנוּפָה שְׁבָע שְׁבָתוֹת תִּמְמִינָה תְּהִיאָה:
16 עַד מִמְּחֻנָּת הַשְׁבָּת הַשְׁבָּת הַסְּפָרוֹת מֵמִשְׁעִים יוֹם
וְהַקְרָבָתִים מִנְתָּה מִדָּשָׁה לִיהְיוֹה:

21 וְקָרְאָתָם בְּעֵצֶם | הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה מִקְרָא-קֹדֶשׁ יְהִי
לְךָם כָּל-מְלָאכָת עֲבֹתָה לֹא תַעֲשֶׂй תְּקַתְּעַל עַלְּךָם
בְּכָל-מוֹשָׁבֶתֶיכֶם לְדָרְתֵיכֶם:

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 שְׁבָעָה שְׁבָעַת תִּסְפְּרֶלֶךְ מִתְחַל פְּרִמְשָׁבְעָה
תְּחַל לְסִפְרָה שְׁבָעָה שְׁבָעָות:
10 וְעַשְׂתָּה חַג שְׁבָעוֹת לִיהְיוֹה אֱלֹהֵיךְ מִשְׁתַּדְבֵּת יְהִי
אֲשֶׁר תַּתְנוּ כַּאֲשֶׁר יָבֹרְכָּה יְהֹוָה אֱלֹהֵיךְ:

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-הַפְּסִחָה
בְּאֶרְבָּעָה עָשָׂר יוֹם לְחַדֵּשׁ בְּעֶרֶב בְּעִירּוֹת יְרִיחָה:
11 וַיַּאֲכְלוּ מִעֲבוֹר הָאָרֶץ מִמְּחֻנָּת הַפְּסִחָה מִצּוֹת
וְקָלָי בְּעֵצֶם הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה:
12 וַיָּשָׁבַת הַמּוֹן מִמְּחֻנָּת בְּאֶכְלָם מִעֲבוֹר הָאָרֶץ
וְלֹא-תְּהִיא עוֹד לְבַנֵּי יִשְׂרָאֵל מַן וַיַּאֲכְלוּ מִתְבָּרְאָת אֶרְץ
כְּנֻעַן בְּשָׁנָה 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).