

Omer Counting ... to Fruitfulness
April 15 2023



David Zinn is an artist from Ann Arbor, Michigan. He runs around all day in the streets of Ann Arbor, with street construction, cracks, etc. on the road with chalk to create a lot of street fairy tales. [from Ted Alongi]



Outline

1. Procedures of counting
2. Importance of counting
3. Hazards during this counting
4. Relief of hazards
5. Augmentation of relief

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Lev 23.9-10

ADONAI said to Moshe, "Tell the people of Isra'el, 'After you enter the land I am giving you and harvest its ripe crops, you are to bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the cohen.

Lev 23.11-12

He is to wave the sheaf before ADONAI, so that you will be accepted; the cohen is to wave it on the day after the Shabbat. On the day that you wave the sheaf, you are to offer a male lamb without defect, in its first year, as a burnt offering for ADONAI.

Lev 23.15-16

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 ."

This is the ninth day, which makes one week and two days of the Omer count.

היום תשעה ימים שָׁהם

שְׁבוּעַת אֶחָד וּשְׁנַי יָמִים לְעֹמֶר:

*Ha-yom teesh-ah ya-meem, sheh-haym
sha-voo-ah eh-khad
oo-shnay yameem la-Omer.*

The Counting of the Omer begins on the second day of Passover (the 16th of Nisan) for Rabbinic Jews (Orthodox, Conservative, Reform), and after the weekly Shabbat during Passover for Karaite, Samaritan, Sadducean Jews.

Ethiopian Jews traditionally had yet another practice: they interpreted the "day of rest" to be the last day of Passover, rather than being the first day (as in rabbinic tradition) or else the Sabbath (as for Karaites).

The counting is preferably done at night, at the beginning of the Jewish day. If one realizes the next morning or afternoon that they have not yet counted, the count may still be made, but without a blessing.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counting_of_the_Omer]



Modern day wheat sheaves.
 Counting during the Omer gathering
*[Not actually counting the Omer, although this is the terminology.
 Most of us don't have any wheat to bundle into sheaves and count!]*

Below, some screenshots from my phone yesterday ...

Omer counting app, available at the Google play store, iPhone App Store..

OMER COUNTER
 Make every day count!

Download our free Omer counter app and make every day count!

Omer Count Log

- 6 days of the Omer Yesod ShebeChesed
- 7 days of the Omer Malchus ShebeChesed
- 8 days of the Omer Chesed ShebeGevurah
- 9 days of the Omer Gevurah ShebeGevurah
- 10 days of the Omer Tiferes ShebeGevurah
- 11 days of the Omer Netzah ShebeGevurah
- 12 days of the Omer Hod ShebeGevurah
- 13 days of the Omer Yesod ShebeGevurah

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| שְׁהַיִּם | יּוֹמִים | שְׁמוֹנֶה | הַיּוֹם |
| Shehaim | Yohmim | Shmonoh | Hayom |
| אֶחָד | וְיוֹם | אֶחָד | שְׁבוּעָה |
| Echohd | V'yom | Echohd | Shohvuah |
| לְעוֹמֵר | | | |
| Loh-omer | | | |

Today is eight days , which is one week and one day of the Omer



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A lot of things are counted in scripture.

- Counted people in the book of Numbers [Bamidbar in Hebrew]
- David numbered Israel, without the half shekel tax, and brought great trouble
[Hence the name: G-d treasures]
- Tehillim/Ps 46.12-14 **Walk through Tziyon, go all around it; count how many towers it has. Note its ramparts, pass through its citadels, so that you can tell generations to come that such is God, our God forever; he will guide us eternally. [Count blessings → praise]**
- T'hillim/Ps 79:8 **Don't count past iniquities against us, but let your compassion come quickly to meet us, for we have been brought very low.**
- Tehillim/Ps 90.12 **So teach us to count our days, so that we will become wise.**
[Stop here, count our days]
- T'hillim/Ps 22.17-18 **I can count every one of my bones, while they gaze at me and gloat. They divide my garments among themselves; for my clothing they throw dice.**

A prophetic picture of Yeshua's death by the execution stake.

[Count humiliation → death for our atonement.]

- Yn 21.10-11 Yeshua said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." Shim'on Kefa went up and dragged the net ashore. It was full of fish, **153 of them**.
How did he know, so fast?
You count the things you value.

- 1 Cor. 4.4-5 **I am not aware of anything against me, but this does not make me innocent. The one who is evaluating me is the Lord. So don't pronounce judgment prematurely, before the Lord comes; for he will bring to light what is now hidden in darkness; he will expose the motives of people's hearts.**

[Counting of himself: knows corruption of his heart

Sin offering Leviticus 1-6 for unintentional sins: corruption of our heart not intentional]

- Acts 2.1 **When the Day of Shavuot had fully come συμπλεροο**

soom-play-ro'-o

Definition συμπλεροο

- to fill completely, of the hold of a ship
- to complete entirely, be fulfilled: of time

[Ever done in the Messianic Scriptures?

Seemed talmidei Yeshua counted after He left

Seemed to work pretty well → Ruakh HaKodesh FILLING, IMMERSION

Our Shalikhim, primary founding leaders]

- Yeshua's followers were praying and counting up to Shavuot/Pentecost.
The Spirit came on that day of the Shavuot wheat harvest festival.



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In Israel, the omer period coincides with the final ripening period of wheat before it is harvested around Shavuot. In this period, the quality of the harvest is very sensitive, and can easily be ruined by bad weather. Thus, the omer period stresses human vulnerability and dependence on God.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counting_of_the_Omer]

Risky time of year: wheat crop is maturing, in danger of frost, hail, thunderstorm, insects “white to harvest”

^{1 Smu 12.17-19} **Now is wheat harvest time, isn't it? I am going to call on Adoni to send thunder and rain. Then you will understand and see how wicked from Adoni's viewpoint is the thing you have done in asking for a king.” Sh'mu'el called to Adoni, and Adoni sent thunder and rain that day. Then all the people became very much afraid of Adoni and Sh'mu'el. All the people said to Sh'mu'el, “Pray to Adoni your God for your servants, so that we won't die;**

[We lose our harvest.]

Time of semi-mourning: disasters especially first 33 days

- Holocaust Memorial 6 million
- Yom HaZikaron Israeli War dead

[In 2010 Yom HaZikaron, Israel honored the memory of 22,684 Israeli soldiers and pre-Israeli Palestinian Jews killed since 1860 in the line of duty for the independence, preservation and protection of the nation, and 3,971 civilian terror victims

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_casualties_of_war]

Rabbi Akiva, one of the greatest Sages of the Mishnah (the oral Torah) lived in approximately 50-135 CE. In the weeks between Passover and Shavuot, his 24,000 disciples died tragically. Because of this, the mourning practices that one would observe after the death of a family member are also observed during the Omer.

[<https://www.thepostathens.com/article/2023/04/opinion-haddy-the-hebrew-purpose-counting-omer>]

The Sephardic manuscript of Iggeret [letter] of Rabbi Sherira Gaon describes them as dying due to "persecution" (shmad), and based on this some modern scholars have suggested that they died in the Bar Kokhba revolt, as military heroes. Later Zionist view.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counting_of_the_Omer]

Among the Orthodox marriages and wedding celebrations are prohibited, as well as cutting one's hair, listening to instrumental music and purchasing and wearing new clothes or accessories. (We don't follow this, but FYI.)

[<https://www.thepostathens.com/article/2023/04/opinion-haddy-the-hebrew-purpose-counting-omer>]

Traditionally, the mourning is in memory of the death of Rabbi Akiva's 24,000 students, as described in the Talmud. (According to the Talmud they died in a "plague" as punishment for not honoring one another properly. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counting_of_the_Omer]



Are we in a risky time, as we count our way to Shavuot?

[11-minute video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_TMhHlqfrrA]



מַדְמֵי from it demonic shadim means the Destroyer those who bring death They tend to move the individual they possess from their nature or purpose. Gender, humanity. Bots. [Yuval Harrari and AI] מַדְמֵי Demons behind ancient gods.

Western Civilization was redeemed from these spirits in the early years of Christianity.

Mt 12 "Now when an unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places looking for rest and doesn't find it. Then it says, 'I'll go back home where I came from.'

Mt 12 And when it comes, it finds the house vacant, swept clean, and put in order. Then it goes and brings along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and live there. And that man's last condition becomes worse than the first. So also will it be for this evil generation."

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She possessed the month of June.

she had a priesthood called the asinu or the kalu they were men who dressed

as women, some surgically transitioned. Some dancing in front of the goddess with scalpels, celebrating transition.

Transwoman Nashville shooter was one of those confused women.

the demon-possessed person dwelt in the hollows

Audrey Hale = the one who dwells in the hollows.

The number of the anti-Messiah 666.

She killed 6 people. Adults ages 60, 61, 60. She didn't know, but spirits did.

Three children: 9, 9, 9 inverted 6.
The demons are after the culture. After you and me.
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_TMhHlqfrrA]

Lela Gilbert, reporter for Tony Perkins January 16, 2023

Did you know that assaults, harassment, and vandalism against Jews take place in the United States seven times a day? Are you aware that **lies and distortions about religious Jews and their educational institutions** are being published in prestigious news publications, including *The New York Times*? Have you heard that Jews are targeted for more hate crimes in the U.S. than any other group?
[<https://washingtonstand.com/commentary/what-every-christian-needs-to-know-about-antisemitism->]



Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan told his Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raisi over the phone that the "Islamic world should be united against Israel's attacks in Palestine," Turkish media reported.

[https://images.prismic.io/vfi-news/982e67b3-bfa9-415c-9279-1915a30c5203_4.jpg?auto=compress,format&rect=0,0,1200,666&w=1200&h=666]
[https://vfinews.com/news/lucys-organs-were-donated-pa-will-pay-her-killers/muslim-world-must-unite-against-israel-erdogan-says?subscribed=true&mc_cid=71f6cbfc98&mc_eid=UNIQID]

UPDATE: Hostility against churches continues to grow.

2018: 50 acts of hostility
2019: 83 acts of hostility
2020: 54 acts of hostility
2021: 96 acts of hostility
2022: 191 acts of hostility

First quarter of 2023: 69 acts of hostility



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Lag BaOmer, the thirty-third day of the Omer, is considered to be the day on which **the students stopped dying**, so all the rules of mourning are lifted.

[<https://www.thepostathens.com/article/2023/04/opinion-haddy-the-hebrew-purpose-counting-omer>
Military victory, or cessation of the plague, or repentance of disrespect not known for sure.]

Lag BaOmer ל"ג = ל"ג = 33rd day of the Omer count

ל = 30

ג = 3

ל"ג = 33

Cessation of plague 24,000
battlefield gain,
repentance of disrespect.

Personal note

Since no weddings were allowed during the Omer Count, except during Lag B'Omer, before my Dad was shipped off to Saipan for WW II, he came back to NYC for a religious wedding on Lag B'Omer. *[They already had had a civil ceremony on an Army base in Kansas.]*



Irving and Miriam Wolkenfeld,
Lag B'Omer wedding 1943?

- In modern Israel, Lag BaOmer is "a symbol for the fighting Jewish spirit". Remembers the Bar Kokhba revolt against the Romans in 132 CE, successful for 3 years.
- Parades
- Barbecues
- Songs around bonfires

[Also, first haircut at age three, shooting arrows, visits to the tombs of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai in Meron, Israel, or at the Jerusalem grave of Shimon Hatzaddik for those who cannot travel to Meron. (15)]



Children watch Lag BaOmer bonfire in Tel Aviv, Israel.
Families go on picnics and outings.



[\[https://external-content.duckduckgo.com/iu/?u=http%3A%2F%2Fisraelforever.org%2Fisrael%2Fcelebrating%2FLag_BOmer_945x350.jpg&f=1&nofb=1&ipt=4650c1e101d7ff0451b23417e1317b9bd4a9b764091224781c14593738a071dc&ipo=images\]](https://external-content.duckduckgo.com/iu/?u=http%3A%2F%2Fisraelforever.org%2Fisrael%2Fcelebrating%2FLag_BOmer_945x350.jpg&f=1&nofb=1&ipt=4650c1e101d7ff0451b23417e1317b9bd4a9b764091224781c14593738a071dc&ipo=images)



Singing around the bonfire.

[<https://i.ytimg.com/vi-UuVjYcuiRA/maxresdefault.jpg>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UuVjYcuiRA>]



Or HaOlam Messianic Synagogue will have its **first Lag B'Omer bonfire barbecue** celebrating the victory of Messiah in preserving Israel, militarily and spiritually!
6 p.m. May 8th

Not the Kabbalistic meanings!

Or HaOlam will have a combined Shavuot / Memorial Day Ingathering May 28, noon to 5 p.m.
 Shavuot, / Memorial Day May 28 [*"Ingathering" is a better term than outreach.*]

Shavuot, / Memorial Day May 28

1

Fest

Shavu'ot & Memorial Day
 ★music ★ food ★ fun ★

Ekhad with Israel

Sunday, May 28, noon-5 pm

Or HaOlam Messianic Synagogue
 9898 W. 95th, Overland Park, KS

- Bandshell
- Food truck
- Bounce house
- Vendors
- Prayer station
- Meeting 4/29
1:30 pm

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What is augmented about our Omer counting this year as we count our way with GREAT anticipation to Shavuot/Pentecost??

Shmuel and Chaya Birnbaum
Messianic leader, Bat Yam, Israel

On a Zoom prayer meeting Thursday, Shmuel longed for the conviction of sin that we, the alta menschen, not young men in the Zoom, experienced. He said it only comes by TIME spent before the Holy One, Yeshua. Yeshua is the Adoni of Isaiah 6. He is making intercession at the right hand of the father, and bids us to the same. Omer count in the first chapter of Acts was prayer. "These all devoted themselves single-mindedly to prayer."



Dan Juster

- Congregational leader for over 27 years
- Founding President (1979-1986) of the Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations (UMJC)
- General Secretary (1996-1998) of the UMJC
- Co-founder of Messianic Jewish Biblical Institute
- Juster is also a founding board member of Toward Jerusalem Council II.
- presently serves as the Founder and Director of Tikkun International, a network of congregations and ministries in the United States and abroad

dedicated to the restoration of Israel and the Church. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Juster]



The prophetic word given to Mike Bickle 40 years ago was that his calling was to raise up 100 million intercessors to pray for the salvation of Israel



in May 1983, and which led to a great fasting and prayer time. It was quite beyond him, for he did not even yet have clarity on the election of the Jewish people. Of course, over time Mike gained greater and greater clarity of his calling with regard to Israel.

A supernatural connection was made between Mike and the founding leaders of Tikkun in January 1990. We have walked in relationship for 33 years. The great announcement is that through networking and media not even to be conceived 40 years ago, intercessory ministries around the world have been joined together with IHOP to bring 100 million people into unified prayer and fasting for the salvation of Israel on May 28th. The 21 days leading up to this will also be days dedicated to fasting and prayer, a growing contingent estimated to include one million people. We in Israel are joining in these days of prayer. [<https://www.tikkunglobal.org/restorationfromzion/>]

Join over 100 million believers who will engage in **prayer for Israel for at least one hour a day for 21 days. For us, May 9-24.** for the increase of God's salvation promises and plans for Jerusalem and Israel and the diaspora Jews. Some will pray alone and others will pray with 2 or more virtually or in-person—in their home, office, dorm, or at their congregation, etc. During the Omer counting time, we will enter into Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 62

Yeshayahu/Is 62.6-7 On your walls, Jerusalem, I have set watchmen. All day and all night, they will never hold their peace. "You who remind Adoni, take no rest for yourselves, And give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

When to fast and pray?

- Fast as you choose: water, liquids, light fruit
- Pray one extra hour / day
- Meet Wednesdays?
- Visit the IHOPKC prayer room



Video 1.5 minutes

[https://video.wixstatic.com/video/c39fc4_7417427fc163421090c9b605f1ca64e7/1080p/mp4/file.mp4]

Isaiah 66:9 הֲאֲנִי אֲשַׁבֵּר וְלֹא אֹלֵיד יֹאמַר יי

“Will I bring to the breach and not cause to give birth?” says the LORD.

The word for bring to breach is maSHBiR. The word for crisis in Hebrew is maSHBeR מִשְׁבֵּר. The root is שֶׁבַר Sh-B-R meaning break. This is also the same root for broken, broken-hearted, breaking bread, provision.

Crisis is a moment to give birth. When we feel broken, God can bring a breakthrough.



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- 4. Relief of hazards [Ingathering]**
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- 1. Do you KNOW Yeshua and drinking the water of LIFE?**
- 2. Are you hearing daily from His Word?**
- 3. How are you applying what you heard?**
- 4. Are you offering that water of life to anyone?**