

## Harmony & Synchrony

[א] וַיֹּאמֶר יְיָ אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל־אַהֲרֹן בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לֵאמֹר:  
[ב] הַחֹדֶשׁ הַזֶּה לָכֶם רֹאשׁ חֹדֶשִׁים רִשׁוֹן הוּא לָכֶם לְחֹדְשֵׁי הַשָּׁנָה:

*Vayomer Adonay el-Moshe ve'el-Aharon be'erets Mitsrayim lemor. Hachodesh hazeh lachem rosh chodashim rishon hu lachem lechodeshey hashanah.*

*“Now Adonai spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt saying <sup>2</sup>“This month will mark the beginning of months (First Rosh Chodesh) for you; it is to be the first month of the year for you” (Ex 12:1-2).*

By virtue of the commandment in Exodus 12:2, the Jewish people (including us) were/are given *prowwess* (which is excellence; virtue; goodness; integrity) and *privilege* over the reckoning of Sacred Time. From that moment on the calendar with its cycle of Sabbaths (*Shabbatot*), High Holidays/Festivals (*chagim*) could exist only when human witnesses declared the new month. This signifies more than control over the determination of time and the everyday events of daily life. It represents the potential for change and renewal, for rebirth and growth, and for the waning and waxing of the moon each month. I believe this deserves our most special attention and safeguarding.

It is significant that to receive the *Blood of Lamb* in Exodus 12, one had to do so in a most public manner – by applying it to the outside of one’s home upon the door posts and lintels. This should remind us that we need to be public about our faith in our Passover Lamb – *Messiah Yeshua*. In the same way that by receiving the blood of the lamb each household was spared from death, so too those who receive *Yeshua’s* blood are spared from the consequences of death. Remember that immediately after the people kept the Passover, the Lord gathered them and brought them out of Egypt – the place of bondage – to freedom with Him. He began the journey that led the people into the land that *Adonai* had promised them. So too, after we receive *Yeshua*, *Adonai* begins a journey for the believer that will end with living in His Kingdom. Through the *Blood of Yeshua* we escape sin and the spiritual death that it brings & receive life.

In Judaism, Passover is called the Festival of Redemption. The word redemption involves a transfer of ownership. Passover should remind us as Believers that we have become *a purchased possession* of *Adonai* and we need to submit willingly to the Master’s instructions. All too often we tend to emphasize the *freedom* of Passover as giving us the opportunity to do what we want, rather than remembering that Biblically-speaking, Passover gave us the *liberty to serve Him*. How does your life reflect the fact that you are a servant of *Adonai*? Can other people see the effects of you receiving the *Blood of Lamb*?

Make no mistake about it – the Egyptians knew immediately who kept the Passover and who did not. For those who did not, their house had death within it. Remember that Biblically Speaking, death is related to sin. Therefore, those who reject *Yeshua*, the true Passover Lamb, are going to be living in the midst of sin, while those who have received *Yeshua* are going to be leaving sin behind, just as the Children of Israel left Egypt in a hurry. If one carefully reads the story of the Exodus from *Mitzrayim* one will find that there was joy in the homes of those who had kept the Passover and whom the Angel of death had not visited.

This year the feast of Firstfruits (of the barley harvest) coincided with last Sunday, which was Easter Sunday. In my 4-25-20 message entitled *Know the Truth* I shared that in modern Jewish Translations of the *Torah*, Lev. 23:11 has been altered to conveniently match the modern Jewish (Pharisaic) interpretation of when the day of Firstfruits takes place. Consider the literal, Bible-Ort (Orthodox, *Artscroll*), JPS 1917, KJV, TLV and the RVA’s translation of the Hebrew word *Shabbat* in Lev. 23:11 in the *TNK*:

[יא] וְהִנִּיף אֶת־הָעֶמֶר לִפְנֵי יְיָ לְרִצְוֹנְכֶם מִמִּזְוֹרֹת הַשֶּׁבֶת יְנִיפֵנִי הַכֹּהֵן:

*“Then he shall wave the sheaf before Adonai for your acceptance; on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it” (Literal). “He shall wave it in the motions prescribed for a wave offering to God, so that it will be*

acceptable for you. The priest shall make this wave offering on the *day after the first day of the [Passover] holiday*” (Bible.Ort). “And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you; on the *morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it*” (JPS 1917). “And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the *morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it* (KJV). “<sup>11</sup> He is to wave the omer before Adonai, to be accepted for you. On the *morrow after the Shabbat, the kohen is to wave it*” (TLV) “<sup>11</sup> El cual mecerá el omer delante de Jehová, para que seáis aceptos: *el siguiente día del sábado lo mecerá el sacerdote*” (RVA).

If the day of the offering is the day after the first Day of Unleavened Bread [note that *Aviv 15* is called *Pesach* in modern Jewry], then the day of firstfruits is *fixed* in the Jewish calendar on *Aviv 16* and consequently *Shavuot* is always on the sixth day of the third month (*Sivan 6*). Since the *Torah* clearly states that the day of firstfruits is the day *after the Shabbat* during the week (there is always one Shabbat within any seven-day period) of the *Feast of Unleavened Bread*, then the day of Firstfruits varies on the date year-by-year based on the Jewish Calendar and requires counting (or at least some rudimentary math) to determine. This year the 50 days, or *seven complete Shabbatot* are from Sunday April 17, 2022 (*Aviv 16, 5782*) to Sunday June 5, 2022 (*Sivan 6, 5782*), which is when *Kol Simcha*, the Jewish Community, and the Christian Community will celebrate *Shavuot, Pentecost*.

[טו] וספרתם לכם ממזרת השבת מיום הביאכם את-עמר התנופה לבעל שבתות תמימות תהייתה:  
[טז] עד ממזרת השבת השביעית תספרו זמשים יום והקרבתם מנחה זדעה לני:

<sup>15</sup>You shall number to you from the next day after the sabbath, from the day you bring the sheaf of the wave offering: they shall be seven perfect (complete) sabbaths; <sup>16</sup>to the next day after the seventh sabbath, you shall number fifty days; and you shall bring near a new food offering to Adonai” (Literal Translation). “You shall then count *seven complete weeks* after the day following the [Passover] holiday when you brought the omer as a wave offering, until the day after the *seventh week*, when there will be [a total of] 50 days. [On that 50th day] you may present new grain as a meal offering to God” (Bible.Ort). “And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the day of rest, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the waving; seven weeks shall there be complete; even unto the morrow after the seventh week shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall present a new meal-offering unto the LORD” (JPS 1917). “<sup>15</sup>And ye shall count unto you from the *morrow after the sabbath*, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering: *seven sabbaths* shall be complete: <sup>16</sup>Even unto the *morrow after the seventh sabbath* shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the Lord” (KJV) “<sup>15</sup>Then you are to count from the *morrow after the Shabbat*, from the day that you brought the omer of the wave offering, *seven complete Shabbatot*. <sup>16</sup>Until the morrow after the *seventh Shabbat* you are to count fifty days, and then present a new grain offering to Adonai (TLV). “<sup>15</sup>Y os habéis de contar desde *el siguiente día del sábado*, desde el día en que ofrecisteis el omer de la ofrenda mecida; *siete semanas cumplidas serán*: <sup>16</sup>Hasta *el siguiente día del sábado séptimo* contaréis cincuenta días; entonces ofreceréis nuevo presente a Jehová” (RVA)

While this year everyone agrees as to when to count the Omer, and when will *Shavuot* arrive, the fact is that there should **NOT BE** any discrepancy between translations and the literal meaning of the *Torah*. No one should add or take away from what the Word of God says: **NO ONE!** Not the Catholic Church, nor the Orthodox Community, nor the greater Christian Community. *Yeshua* said: “<sup>31</sup>If you abide in My word, then you are truly My disciples. <sup>32</sup>You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free!” (John 8:31b-32). Which truths? **The Truth About the Messiah and the Scriptures** (*it is all Jewish*); **The Truth About Morality** (*A man’s morality dictates his theology, philosophy, behavior*); **The Truth About Bitterness and Forgiveness** (*Matthew 18:35 “Forgive so you can be forgiven”*); **The Truth About the Abundant Life in Yeshua** (*Jo. 10:10*) (*Does the world see something worth living & dying for?*) **The Truth About Authority** (*real power is influence and God always works with the ones under authority 1<sup>st</sup>*); **The Truth about the way I am designed – Self-Acceptance**: “If you had the power to change anything about your appearance or family, would you make any changes?”; and **The Truth about the Torah and the Mitzvot**.