

The Counting of the Omer



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At sunset on April 11, 2009 is/was Yom Hanafat Ha'omer (Day of the Waving of the Sheaf). When the Temple stood this day marked the official commencement of the grain harvest (Dt 16:7) and sheaves of barley were cut and brought to the Temple as a wave-offering (Lev 23:9-14). This day also marks the beginning of the 50-day count to Shavuot (Pentecost; Feast of Weeks). Yom Hanafat Ha'omer is counted as Day 1 and Shavuot as Day 50. Remember that the previous evening (at sunset on April 11th begins First Fruits and the count) is when the new day begins.

There are different methods of counting the 50 days. According to some the commandment "And you shall count for yourselves fifty days," means to simply observe the 50th day as Shavuot while others actually declare out loud the number on each of the fifty days. A medieval Karaite practice combines two different methods of declaring the daily count. The first method is the counting of seven weeks. Each day, the number of the week and the number of the day in the week are declared. So for example, the first day is 'first day of the first week'. The second counting method used is an overall number for each day. In this method Day one is 'the first day' and Day 25 is 'the twenty-fifth day'. These two methods are used to satisfy the commandment to count seven weeks (Dt 16:9) as well as the commandment to count fifty days (Lev 23:16). Below is a list of the counting for each day.

WEEK 1 *(The Count refers to Sunset on the listed date which begins the new day.)*

April 11, 2009—Day: 1

This day is the Feast of First Fruits. This day is the 1st day of the 1st week of seven weeks. This day is the 1st day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

April 12, 2009—Day: 2

This day is the 2nd day of the 1st week of seven weeks. This day is the 2nd day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

April 13, 2009—Day: 3

This day is the 3rd day of the 1st week of seven weeks. This day is the 3rd day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

April 14, 2009—Day: 4

This day is the 4th day of the 1st week of seven weeks. This day is the 4th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

April 15, 2009—Day: 5

This day is the 5th day of the 1st week of seven weeks. This day is the 5th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

April 16, 2009—Day: 6

This day is the 6th day of the 1st week of seven weeks. This day is the 6th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

April 17, 2009—Day: 7

This day is the 7th day of the 1st week of seven weeks. This day is the 7th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath. This day is Sabbath, the 1st Sabbath of seven Sabbaths. This day completes the 1st week of seven weeks.

WEEK 2

April 18, 2009—Day: 8

This day is the 1st day of the 2nd week of seven weeks. This day is the 8th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

April 19, 2009—Day: 9

This day is the 2nd day of the 2nd week of seven weeks. This day is the 9th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

April 20, 2009—Day: 10

This day is the 3rd day of the 2nd week of seven weeks. This day is the 10th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

April 21, 2009—Day: 11

This day is the 4th day of the 2nd week of seven weeks. This day is the 11th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

April 22, 2009—Day: 12

This day is the 5th day of the 2nd week of seven weeks. This day is the 12th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

April 23, 2009—Day: 13

This day is the 6th day of the 2nd week of seven weeks. This day is the 13th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

April 24, 2009—Day: 14

This day is the 7th day of the 2nd week of seven weeks. This day is the 14th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath. This day is Sabbath, the 2nd Sabbath of seven Sabbaths. This day completes the 2nd week of seven weeks.

WEEK 3

April 25, 2009—Day: 15

This day is the 1st day of the 3rd week of seven weeks. This day is the 15th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

April 26, 2009—Day: 16

This day is the 2nd day of the 3rd week of seven weeks. This day is the 16th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

April 27, 2009—Day: 17

This day is the 3rd day of the 3rd week of seven weeks. This day is the 17th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

April 28, 2009—Day: 18

This day is the 4th day of the 3rd week of seven weeks. This day is the 18th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

April 29, 2009—Day: 19

This day is the 5th day of the 3rd week of seven weeks. This day is the 19th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

April 30, 2009—Day: 20

This day is the 6th day of the 3rd week of seven weeks. This day is the 20th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 1, 2009—Day: 21

This day is the 7th day of the 3rd week of seven weeks. This day is the 21st day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath. This day is Sabbath, the 3rd Sabbath of seven Sabbaths. This day completes the 3rd week of seven weeks.

WEEK 4

May 2, 2009—Day: 22

This day is the 1st day of the 4th week of seven weeks. This day is the 22nd day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 3, 2009—Day: 23

This day is the 2nd day of the 4th week of seven weeks. This day is the 23rd day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 4, 2009—Day: 24

This day is the 3rd day of the 4th week of seven weeks. This day is the 24th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 5, 2009—Day: 25

This day is the 4th day of the 4th week of seven weeks. This day is the 25th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 6, 2009—Day: 26

This day is the 5th day of the 4th week of seven weeks. This day is the 26th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 7, 2009—Day: 27

This day is the 6th day of the 4th week of seven weeks. This day is the 27th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 8, 2009—Day: 28

This day is the 7th day of the 4th week of seven weeks. This day is the 28th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath. This day is Sabbath, the 4th Sabbath of seven Sabbaths. This day completes the 4th week of seven weeks.

WEEK 5

May 9, 2009—Day: 29

This day is the 1st day of the 5th week of seven weeks. This day is the 29th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 10, 2009—Day: 30

This day is the 2nd day of the 5th week of seven weeks. This day is the 30th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 11, 2009—Day: 31

This day is the 3rd day of the 5th week of seven weeks. This day is the 31st day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 12, 2009—Day: 32

This day is the 4th day of the 5th week of seven weeks. This day is the 32nd day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 13, 2009—Day: 33

This day is the 5th day of the 5th week of seven weeks. This day is the 33rd day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 14, 2009—Day: 34

This day is the 6th day of the 5th week of seven weeks. This day is the 34th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 15, 2009—Day: 35

This day is the 7th day of the 5th week of seven weeks. This day is the 35th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath. This day is Sabbath, the 5th Sabbath of seven Sabbaths. This day completes the 5th week of seven weeks.

WEEK 6

May 16, 2009—Day: 36

This day is the 1st day of the 6th week of seven weeks. This day is the 36th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 17, 2009—Day: 37

This day is the 2nd day of the 6th week of seven weeks. This day is the 37th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 18, 2009—Day: 38

This day is the 3rd day of the 6th week of seven weeks. This day is the 38th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 19, 2009—Day: 39

This day is the 4th day of the 6th week of seven weeks. This day is the 39th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 20, 2009—Day: 40

This day is the 5th day of the 6th week of seven weeks. This day is the 40th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 21, 2009—Day: 41

This day is the 6th day of the 6th week of seven weeks. This day is the 41st day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 22, 2009—Day: 42

This day is the 7th day of the 6th week of seven weeks. This day is the 42nd day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath. This day is Sabbath, the 6th Sabbath of seven Sabbaths. This day completes the 6th week of seven weeks.

WEEK 7

May 23, 2009—Day: 43

This day is the 1st day of the 7th week of seven weeks. This day is the 43rd day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 24, 2009—Day: 44

This day is the 2nd day of the 7th week of seven weeks. This day is the 44th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 25, 2009—Day: 45

This day is the 3rd day of the 7th week of seven weeks. This day is the 45th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 26, 2009—Day: 46

This day is the 4th day of the 7th week of seven weeks. This day is the 46th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 27, 2009—Day: 47

This day is the 5th day of the 7th week of seven weeks. This day is the 47th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 28, 2009—Day: 48

This day is the 6th day of the 7th week of seven weeks. This day is the 48th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath.

May 29, 2009—Day: 49

This day is the 7th day of the 7th week of seven weeks. This day is the 49th day of the counting of fifty days from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath. This day is Sabbath, the 7th Sabbath of seven Sabbaths. This day completes the 7th week of seven weeks.

CHAG HA-SHAVUOT (Feast of Weeks)

Sunset, May 30, 2009 until Sunset, May 31, 2009—Day: 50

This day is the 50th day of the counting from the day of the waving of the Omer on the morrow after the Sabbath. This day is the morrow of the seven Sabbath, the Feast of Weeks, the Feast of Harvest, the Day of Firstfruits.