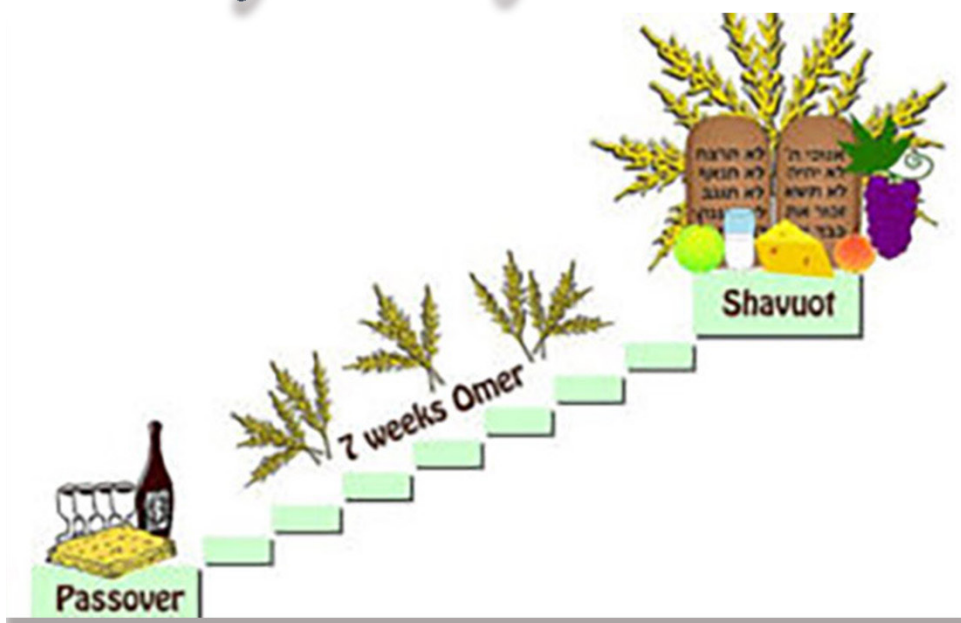


THE 8TH DAY COUNTING OF THE OMER

*Why do we wait
8 days to begin our count?*



Pastor. Shane Vaughn

I want to talk to you today about a subject that I believe will help you to understand things maybe from a different perspective than you've understood them before. I have found over my life a pattern of PROGRESSIVE REVELATION. The more you know and learn, the more He reveals. The Bible says "*he that hungers and thirsts after God shall be filled.*"

There are many people who have no hunger to know greater truth, greater understanding, and therefore, they do not receive it. But there are those, perhaps like you, who want to know more! We want to get it right. We want to understand. To those people, He will open up the mysteries of heaven. And one of those mysteries that we want to talk about today is something known as the "COUNTING OF THE OMER".

Now maybe you're watching me and you're not familiar with the Hebrew roots of the faith and perhaps that word just sounded like Greek to you. Well actually it's Hebrew. But it's really a beautiful commandment that Yahweh gave to his people, that they were to do something called "COUNTING THE OMER".

There are many groups, subcultures, in our movement that keep the day of Pentecost (50th day of Shavuot), or the last day of the Feast of Firstfruits at various times. The 50th day of Shavuot (The Day of Pentecost) will always be on a Sunday every year. I'll explain why in a moment. And many of the Messianics and Hebrew roots believers celebrated the 50th day of Shavuot yesterday. We at First Harvest Ministries did not celebrate yesterday. And I want to explain why. But before I do, a vast majority of the church-at-large actually celebrated this holy day two weeks ago, not yesterday, but two weeks ago.

First of all, we believe that Yahweh is a God of patterns and rhythm. He is a God that never changes. And the Old Testament, or the Tanakh in Hebrew, is the schoolmaster from which we learn the patterns of Yahweh and his perfect timing and his perfect plan. So it is my goal tonight to bring you back to the Old Testament, then bring you through the New Testament. And I believe I'm going to show you emphatic proof of why this coming Sunday is the correct day for the ending of Shavuot or the Feast of Firstfruits rather than the day most often celebrated by many of our brethren.

Leviticus 23:15. Now this whole chapter of Leviticus 23 starting with verse one is about the seven annual feast days. And it starts of course with Passover. Then it goes to Unleavened Bread. But there's something I want you to notice very carefully in these verses. Notice in verse 5 that the 14th day of the month is Yahweh's Passover. And then as you go down, we start another feast shortly thereafter, and this feast is known as the Unleavened Bread. Notice in verse 7, after this feast of Unleavened Bread has ended, it's over with.

Write this down in your notes: Unleavened Bread must end before the next feast can begin. There can not be an overlapping of the feasts. Passover is a total separate feast from Unleavened Bread even though it starts the next day. These are two separate, individual celebrations.

The same thing is going to apply when we come to the Feast of Firstfruit, or Shavuot. It is A FEAST THAT FOLLOWS, it does not intermingle. It follows respectively the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Let's start at verse number 7 and read it.
Leviticus 23:7-11

7 In the first day you shall have a holy convocation, you shall do no servile work therein.

8 But you shall offer an offering made by fire unto Yahweh seven days, in the seventh day is a holy convocation, you shall do no servile work therein.

The feast of Unleavened Bread is a separate feast for seven days. That word “servile” simply means SERVITUDE OR EMPLOYMENT.

9 And Yahweh spake unto Moses, saying,

10 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them...

Now this is a total separate feast that follows in consecutive order, no overlapping here. This is a separate one.

When you be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest.

11 And he shall wave the sheaf before Yahweh, to be accepted for you, on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.

I want you to notice that word “*to be accepted for you*”. The firstfruit, the sheaf of the firstfruit must be accepted by Yahweh. It must meet a certain criteria and a certain guideline to be accepted by Yahweh. And what is the only thing that Yahweh accepts? **SOMETHING CLEAN**. He never accepts anything unclean. And he created a law (and I’ll read that to you in a moment), and from these laws, we must follow those patterns into the New Testament. There are no changing of Yah’s law or requirements in the New Testament.

Notice now in verse 11...that this offering must be accepted on the day after the weekly Shabbat. The priest shall wave it. So we know from this that this must happen on a Sunday because Sun-

day is the first day of the week and Sunday is the only day that this sacrifice, or this sheaf of Firstfruit, can be accepted.

So keep in mind three facts we've come to already.

1) Feast of Firstfruit cannot overlap the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

2) This offering must be accepted. And the only offering Yahweh accepts is a clean offering.

3) Very, very important! It must happen on a Sunday, the first day of the week, which is, in essence, the 8th day, which we'll talk more about in a moment.

Ok, so let's stop right there. Three facts that we have established. I want to go to a calendar and let's look closely; here is the 4th day of the week, the 15th (of Aviv). This is the day that Yahshua is crucified. Ok, now follow with me carefully. Most Hebrew Roots people come over here to where Yahshua is resurrected on the end of this Sabbath day. He did not rise on a Sunday morning. He rose at the end, after he rested, on the Sabbath, just before sunset

Now most Hebrew Roots people, right here, the next day, start counting the Omer (on the 19th of Abib, Sunday). This is why they are a week ahead of us at First Harvest Ministries in celebrating Shavuot. Most start counting from the morrow after the Sabbath (follow the above calendar). And they are right. It is supposed to be the morrow after the Sabbath. But look closely at the calendar. There's a problem here. The feast of Unleavened Bread is still going on and you cannot overlap the feasts of Yahweh. They are all separate.

Follow it to the end and then you can make a decision. So, you've got the feast of Unleavened Bread still going on the morrow after the Sabbath because Yahshua was resurrected during

the feast of Unleavened Bread. So if you start counting Omer the next day as most all Messianics have done, then you're still in the feast of Unleavened Bread. You do not have a separate feast as you are commanded to.

The Feast of Firstfruit is a 7-week feast and it does not overlap Unleavened Bread. So, let's go and look at where we start the counting of the Omer. Follow along.

We go all the way over here to THE NEXT SABBATH WHICH IS THE SABBATH FOLLOWING UNLEAVENED BREAD. And we start counting the Omer on this day which is THE 8TH DAY AFTER THE RESURRECTION (Sunday, Aviv 26) rather than the 1st day after the resurrection as most all others keep.

Now why the 8th day? Why do we start counting the 8th day? I promised to prove it to you from the scriptures. But before I do it, there's a couple of points I want to make to you. Remember Yahweh is a God of pattern and rhythm. The way He did it before is the way He will do it again. He changes not. The 8th day is very special to Yahweh.

First of all, in Biblical numerics, the number 8 is the number of new creation, the new beginning. Look at the number itself. It is an eternal number. It has no beginning. It has no end. I can show you where the number one (1) starts. I can show you where the number two (2) starts. I can show you where a three (3) starts. I cannot show you where an eight (8) begins or ends.

Turn that 8 on it's side and you have the infinity or the eternal number or symbol. 8 = Eternal. Beyond the constraints of the 7 days of time. 8 is special in the economy and the strategic paradigm of Yahweh.

Now remember the 8th day is the number of sanctification or cleanliness. Remember what we said earlier. This sin offering of our Messiah must be accepted and approved by Yahweh. And the only offering He accepts is A CLEAN OFFERING. Let's go to Leviticus. Here are the points.

The eighth is a day a divine day of sanctity.

(1) All children were, according to the Law, in the uncleanness of their birth until the eighth day. Then they received circumcision, and thenceforward were recognized (or accepted) as holy, having the seal of the covenant or purification of God upon them. (Leviticus 12:2-3)

(2) The young of beasts in like manner, were ceremonially unclean before their eighth day. They were therefore unfit to be offered as sacrifices. But on the eighth day and thenceforward that unfitness ceased; they were accounted clean. (Leviticus 22:27)

Yahweh only accepts a clean offering on the 8th day. Remember Yahweh never changes. These immutable laws are the prototype by which all other things come from in the word of God. If you get outside of them, you'll mess your doctrines up. Notice they were unfit to be offered as a sacrifice. Oh your eyes are going to open up in a minute.

They were unfit to be offered as a sacrifice until the 8th day. Yahweh never changes! This is His rhythm. This is His pattern. Again, Yahweh only accepts A CLEAN OFFERING. And the sheaf of Firstfruits has to be accepted. You can't just wave it. It's got to be ACCEPTED AND APPROVED by Yahweh.

(3) Persons unclean through leprosy, or through any issue, or a Nazarite in case of accidental defilement by the dead, all had

to abide seven days in uncleanness. The eighth day, in all such cases, was memorable as that which they were accounted clean. (Leviticus 14:8-10, Leviticus 15:13-14, Numbers 6:9-10)

The dead? The dead. If you touched the dead, the grave, you were unclean for 7 days. Yahshua was in the grave with the dead and, therefore, this law kicks in.

There must be a 7-day waiting period before he can be accepted by Yahweh. And I'm going to show you this in the New Testament. Your eyes are really going to light up!

(4) So here, the tabernacle, the altar, all the vessels of the ministry, together with the priests, were seven days in the process of purification, and on the eighth day the purity of all became established.

Together with the priests. Who is Yahshua? The High Priest. And on the 8th day the purity of all (the priests) became established. Now here comes the high priest.

He cannot abide by any other law than the law that Yahweh gave to Moses in the Torah. You see? The priests wait for 7 days. Anything that's touched the death, the grave, waits for 7 days—God's perfect number of completeness.

Alright, now, what I'm going to show you is a few more instances about the 7th day that I think you will find interesting.

So why are we waiting 8 days to start counting?

—8 has a very powerful significance it represents the

ETERNAL DAY. The day of NO MORE FLESH, the day of us all being SPIRIT BODIES.

— Gen 17:12-13, 2 Chron 29:17, Luke 2:21, Luke 9:27-28, John 20:17, 26

Yahshua came up on the end of Sabbath.

— The SPIRIT BODY is our inheritance, it is our promised land. Right now we see through a glass darkly but soon face to face.

1 Cor 13:8-12, 1 Cor 15:39

— The High Priest presented HIMSELF to the Father on the day of Circumcision after HIS NEW BIRTH.

Now remember 8 represents the eternal day. What is that? It's the day of no more flesh. Remember during the millennium reign, flesh will be on the earth. There will be mortals still on the earth with the Elohim government ruling and reigning over them and training them in the ways of Yahweh. But there will still be death on earth. They will still die and there will still be children born during the millennium.

But after the 7th day, when the last enemy, death, has been placed under the feet of Yahshua, then Yahshua will turn and hand the restored planet back to the Father (that's in your Bible, go read it). When that happens, we enter into then the 8th day. The Eternal Day. No more flesh. Every person alive during the 8th day or in eternity will have a spirit body, not a flesh body, but a spirit-body. All flesh will be done away with at the end of the 7th day.

Let's go read in Genesis 17.

We're going to read quick because I'm almost to the point where I believe you might understand where we're coming from.

Genesis 17:12-13

12 And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed. Circumcised.

In other words, the flesh cut off. What happens during eternity? The flesh is cut off.

13 He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised, and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.

Circumcised. Bottom line we've got to get rid of the flesh factor. So this is a law established in the beginning. It will never change. The 8th day. The number of eternity. The number of a new covenant. The number of new beginnings. The number of the change of everything. Amen?

Now let's go to 2 Chronicles. We're going to follow this pattern all the way through the book. God never changes His pattern. Keep that in mind when you're studying the scriptures. Yahweh never changes the pattern ever, ever, ever!

Now this is the dedication of Yahweh's holy temple which Yahshua was his most holy temple.

2 Chronicles 29:17

Now they began on the first day of the first month to sanctify, and on the eighth day of the month came they to the porch of Yahweh, so they sanctified the house of Yahweh in eight days, and in the sixteenth day of the first month they made an end.

The temple! Who did Yahshua say he was? ...destroy this "temple" and in three days I will raise it...he was the temple of the

almighty Yahweh! And yet the pattern starts here. Eight days for the priests to be holy and for the temple to be cleaned from defilement from the dead!

Luke 2:21

And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called Yahshua, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

You don't get your name until you're sanctified. And remember, after the resurrection, Yahshua gets a new name, yes...remember the new name? He gets a new authority. Remember He said after the resurrection, *now all authority in heaven and earth has been given unto me*? The name denotes your position., So when He was born the first time, it took Him 8 days to be sanctified, and when he was born the second time through the tomb, we're going to find out the same thing applies. Has the light came on for you yet? Wait, it will after we get to these next two verses. Oh I love the word of Yahweh!

Now before I read verse 28 of Luke 9, in verse 27, Yahshua tells that he's about to show the kingdom to some of those disciples who were standing there with him. And we find that 8 days later, he shows them the kingdom. There's something special about this 8.

Luke 9:27-28

27 But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of Yahweh.

28 And it came to pass about eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray. He took Peter, John, and James and went up to the mountain and showed them the kingdom of God that was coming.

WHEN DID HE DO IT? ON THE 8TH DAY.

Now brothers and sisters, I want to show you the scripture that convinced me beyond the shadow of a doubt that we were previously counting Omer from the wrong day. We were counting it DURING THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD. You can't do that. But what is the missing piece? I believe the next verse is going to show us the missing piece.

Let's go to John 20:26. Remember when Yahshua came up from the grave, he told the ladies "don't touch me". Let's go to John 20:17

Yahshua saith unto her, Touch me not, for I am not yet ascended to my Father, but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father, and to my God, and your God.

Yahshua said to her; *do not touch me for I have not yet been presented to my Father*. Now that's interesting. We know that He was resurrected the evening before He met her. What is He doing? Is he just walking around kicking up dust? Why didn't He just go on to the Father? Why is He still walking around in the garden looking like a gardener?

Because even He knew it wasn't time yet. He understood the law. He understood that HE WAS THE PRIEST and He had been touched by death. And he must go through 7 days of purification. So He's dressed up like a gardener!

He said "*don't touch me*" ... *I've not been presented to the Father*. So I want to ask you brothers who are watching me. Where do you get your scriptural evidence that the counting of the Omer has to start the day after resurrection?

Because I'm showing here, the day after His resurrection which

was on a Sunday, He's still on the earth telling this woman "*I've not yet been waved before the Father.*" My question is WHY NOT? What's he waiting on? He's waiting on the right and holy and accepted time. He's always waiting on the perfect order of his Father. He said *go to my brethren and say unto them I ascend to my Father and your Father, to my God and to your God.*

Now please, hold on one moment. He tells the lady...don't touch me. Why? HE IS DEFILED. Remember you were not allowed to touch anyone who was what? Unclean. Oh it's so simple a child can understand this! But this next verse is going to be the nail in the coffin of what I believe has been a misunderstanding of the counting of the Omer.

Go with me now to verse 26 as we end this lesson. Remember, He's got to be presented to the Father, and remember He's still flesh whenever he tells Mary "*don't touch me*". But something very miraculous happens just a few days later.

He mysteriously appears out of nowhere to His disciples, He comes right through the walls, doesn't even knock on the door, comes right through in his spirit-body. The spirit-body—when the flesh has been cut away, HE'S BEEN CIRCUMCISED, HE'S BEEN ACCEPTED. And I wonder what day this happened on?!?

John 20:26

And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them, then came Yahshua, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

After 8 days!!! There's that number again. *Then came Yahshua, the doors were shut.* Nobody knows how he got in and stood in the midst and said peace be unto you. And then he reached his hands out and said...*Touch me! I'm clean. I've been accepted by*

my Father. And on what day was he accepted? ON THE 8TH DAY FOLLOWING PERFECTLY THE PATTERNS OF YAHWEH.

That is why we begin counting the Omer the Sunday, not after the resurrection, but the next Sunday on the 8th day when he appeared to his disciples. We have scriptural proof that it was on the 8th day that He came down from the Father, accepted and presented. The High Priest presented himself to the Father on the Day of Circumcision after He was “born again” from the tomb.

The tomb was his birthing. He comes forth. He’s defiled. And then now on the 8th day he will be accepted by Yahweh, thus fulfilling the Torah exactly.

I pray that this helps you to understand why we count the Omer from the 8th day after resurrection rather than during the Feast of Unleavened Bread the next day.

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to email me. My email address is brothervaughn@gmail.com. Our website for many more teaching videos is firstharvest.tv.



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