

June 1, 2025

Shavuot Message

Shavuot (Feast of the Harvest of Wheat)

The Third Day

Exodus 19:1-16, Acts 2

Introduction

We as Messianic believers want to do the right thing in our lives and we want to live the closest to the Torah as we possibly can live. For years we have been told that Yehovah gave us the Torah on the exact day of Shavuot and that we emphatically celebrate it as that. However do you know where that comes from? Does it come from the Scripture or does it come from Rabbinical tradition? Lets just look as see where it comes from.

- According to the rabbinical calendar, both the annual Feast of Shavuot the "**Feast of Weeks**", also referred to in the Torah is the **Feast of the Harvest (Exodus 23:16)** and the **Day of the First Fruits** in (Num 28:26).
- The giving of the Torah to Israel are both fixed dates on the same day: the 6th of Sivan.

To be sure both of these events occur around the same time of the season and in fact the same month the third month of the biblical new year with Judaism calls Sivan.

- There is a problem though that we need to see and that is that Scripture does not set an explicit date for Shavuot. Instead it is arrived by the counting down of specific days after Passover (**Leviticus 23:15**).
- Unfortunately, since biblical months also do not have a fixed length this counting therefore cannot establish Shavuot's annual date. Biblically this means that there is a possible range of dates (as early as the fifth day of the third month) upon which Shavuot can fall each year.
- However is the date of the giving of the Torah one of them? The Account of the Torah begins in Exodus 19:1-16: Let's read it:
- A literal reading of the text then is clear. Israel arrived on the 1st day of the third month that they were told to stay pure "today and tomorrow" the 1st and 2nd day of the month and then Yehovah came down to give Israel the Torah "On the third day" the 3rd day of the month.
- How then does Judaism say that the Torah was given on the 6th day a full three days later? They do it by artificially stretching out the event of Exodus 19.
- According to HaRav Yaakov Medan the Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshiva Har Etzion (one of the largest Yeshivas in Israel) the Talmudic sages "in their midrashim address this difficulty and 'fill in' the first three days of Sivan in various ways.
- The question arises: why did (they) find it necessary to stretch out the time until (the giving of the Torah) mentioned nowhere in Scripture? Why not just squeeze it all as the

literal text would suggest in the first three days of the 3rd month?

- Answer? It's very clear you see they saw an opportunity to align the giving of the Torah with a major feast day. Despite there being no way whatsoever from the biblical text to make the two event occur on the same day they manipulated the calendar in order to satisfy Judaism's undue veneration of the Torah.
- However the true biblical theme of Shavuot actually has nothing to do with the giving of the Torah, but harvest (as fulfilled in Acts 2). The revelation of the reason we celebrate Shavuot is in Acts 2 which the giving of the Ruach HaKodesh and a harvest of 3,000 Souls (Acts 2:41).
- We can in fact teach with authority that believers can celebrate the giving of His Spirit on that day but for what reason...harvest. (Yochanan 4:35).
- The deceptive and forced interpretation of Shavuot as the anniversary of the giving of the Torah is a perfect example of how long established tradition, willful blindness, and biblical laziness can lead us to an incorrect understanding of the plain simple truth of Scripture. It wasn't until the Middle Ages that the Rabbis started to teaching that Shavuot was for the giving of the Torah.
- The fact that Messianic believers have taught this including (Myself) without looking really into this should make us reevaluate how we interpret the celebrating of Yehovah's perfect appointed times.

Events That Took Place On The Third Day

- Abraham was commanded to sacrifice his son after a 3-day journey to Mt. Moriah
- Baby Moses was hidden by his mother for 3 months
- Moses requests of Pharaoh that he let Moses take his people on a 3 day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifice to their God.
- The Theophany at Sinai was on the 3rd day after the people arrived.
- Jonah spent 3 days in the belly of the great fish (Jonah 1:17); Jonah took a 3 day journey across the city of Nineveh (Jonah 3:3)
- Yeshuas' ministry covered 3 Passovers
- Yeshua was missing for 3 days when He was twelve years old (Luke 2:46).
- Yeshua prophesized that He would arise from the dead on the 3rd day

Take Away

- Yehovah came down and gave the Torah to Moses on the 3rd day of the 3rd month
- Yehovah wants us to celebrate the Feasts from a Biblical perspective and not a Rabbinical one.
- Shavuot is **NOT** the giving of Torah. Shavuot is the Feast of the Harvest (of Wheat) and Firstfruits Festival. We can also celebrate the giving of the Ruach HaKodesh.

Application

- I will rejoice that I am part of the end times harvest of the Ruach HaKodesh and I will pray for more of a harvest to come.
- I will also rejoice during this time because I am a firstfruits of my family to walk in this way and I will not be the last of my family!
- I praise Yehovah for giving us the Ruach HaKodesh!

Beth Ohr Messianic Congregation

Torah Cycle 2024-2025