The Time of the Harvest is a Time to Prepare

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We are in an important period between two Feasts that are focused on bread.

We started off by restricting ourselves to unleavened bread, and practically speaking, that unleavened bread would involve grain from the prior year’s harvest.

We then started counting while we ate unleavened bread.

We are counting days and weeks as we discussed last week up until the Feast of Weeks (Shavuot).

We know that we count weeks because of the following text:

“*9 You shall count seven weeks for yourself; begin to count the seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the grain. 10 Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to YHWH your Elohim with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as YHWH your Elohim blesses you*.” Deuteronomy 16:9-10

If you still have difficulty understanding the count, I suggest the article that I wrote titled [*When Do We Celebrate Shavuot*](https://cfe37ed8-7854-4a74-9ba0-067fa4cb39cb.filesusr.com/ugd/6e064f_a2227489452c4b84895a38fff0b515aa.pdf)*.*

Many refer to it as “the omer count” or “the counting of the omer” because it begins with an omer offering.

“*And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the et-omer of the wave offering . .* .” Leviticus 23:15

Did you notice the Aleph Taw (et) connected to the omer? The omer is a dry measure and it is intimately connected with the manna.

“*This is the thing which YHWH has commanded: Let every man gather it according to each one’s need, one omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent*.” Exodus 16:16

Of course Yahushua specifically connected Himself with the manna through His teachings.

“*32 Then Yahushua said to them, Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of Elohim is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. 34 Then they said to Him, Master, give us this bread always. 35 And Yahushua said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. 39 This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. 40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day*.” John 6:32-40

So the manna had a physical benefit that also had very spiritual implications through the Messiah. This is the case with most of the lessons in the Scriptures.

Just because they have a spiritual message does not mean that we neglect the physical rehearsals and obedience. That is the mistake that much of Christianity has done.

So we need to be counting, and when we count omers, we should be thinking about the sufficiency and provision afforded to those in the Covenant. We should also be celebrating the fact the we understand the fulfillment of this rehearsal through Yahushua.

The count begins with an offering made by the priest from the new barley crop.

The count continues through the grain harvest and concludes with the offering of two loaves of leavened wheat bread.

Here is the Commandment from the Septuagint.

“*15 And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven weeks shall be completed. 16 Count fifty days to the day after the seventh week; then you shall offer a new grain offering to YHWH. 17 You shall bring from your dwellings two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven. They are the firstfruits to YHWH. 18 And you shall offer with the bread seven lambs of the first year, without blemish, one young bull, and two rams. They shall be as a burnt offering to YHWH, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma to YHWH. 19 Then you shall sacrifice one kid of the goats as a sin offering, and two male lambs of the first year as a sacrifice of a peace offering. 20 The priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits as a wave offering before YHWH, with the two lambs. They shall be set apart to YHWH for the priest. 21 And you shall proclaim on the same day that it is a set apart convocation to you. You shall do no customary work on it. It shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.*” Leviticus 23:15-21

So as we continue to count, YHWH is keeping our focus on grain and bread.

The reason for this is because bread was traditionally the staple of everyone’s diet.

People would make fresh bread every day, and it was a lot of work.

Of course, most people living in Babylon barely give bread a second thought.

They just grab a loaf in the grocery store. It comes free with dinner at their local restaurant, and most of their fast food comes on a bun or in between slices of bread.

Very few actually make their own bread anymore, and as a result, they can lose the significance of this exercise.

We began this entire exercise focused on Egypt and the deliverance from slavery.

One of the primary events that involved the enslavement of the Egyptian people was described in the story of Joseph, involving a seven-year famine.

After the famine began. Joseph was revealed to his brothers and the tribe of Yisrael moved to Goshen at the behest of Joseph.

Here is a portion of the account.

“*11 And Joseph situated his father and his brothers, and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded. 12 Then Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father’s household with bread, according to the number in their families. 13 Now there was no bread in all the land; for the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine. 14 And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, for the grain which they bought; and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh’s house. 15 So when the money failed in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, Give us bread, for why should we die in your presence? For the money has failed. 16  Then Joseph said, Give your livestock, and I will give you bread for your livestock, if the money is gone. 17 So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for the horses, the flocks, the cattle of the herds, and for the donkeys. Thus he fed them with bread in exchange for all their livestock that year. 18  When that year had ended, they came to him the next year and said to him, We will not hide from my master that our money is gone; my master also has our herds of livestock. There is nothing left in the sight of my master but our bodies and our lands. 19 Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants of Pharaoh; give us seed, that we may live and not die, that the land may not be desolate. 20 Then Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for every man of the Egyptians sold his field, because the famine was severe upon them. So the land became Pharaoh’s. 21 And as for the people, he moved them into the cities, from one end of the borders of Egypt to the other end. 22 Only the land of the priests he did not buy; for the priests had rations allotted to them by Pharaoh, and they ate their rations which Pharaoh gave them; therefore they did not sell their lands. 23 Then Joseph said to the people, Indeed I have bought you and your land this day for Pharaoh. Look, here is seed for you, and you shall sow the land. 24 And it shall come to pass in the harvest that you shall give one-fifth to Pharaoh. Four-fifths shall be your own, as seed for the field and for your food, for those of your households and as food for your little ones. 25 So they said, You have saved our lives; let us find favor in the sight of my master, and we will be Pharaoh’s servants. 26 And Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt to this day, that Pharaoh should have one-fifth, except for the land of the priests only, which did not become Pharaoh’s*.” Genesis 47:11-26

It was through this event that Pharaoh ultimately ended up owning everything in Egypt, including the people - all because he had inside information and acted upon it.

It was like “The Great Reset” being pushed upon the world that promotes the notion that you will own nothing and be happy. That is just a slick marketing campaign for global enslavement.

Interestingly, the Egyptian people went to Pharaoh for their daily bread when the money failed. They had no money left, because they spent it all on food.

We are currently witnessing the demise of the dollar as the world reserve currency. The money is inflating and failing.

Everyone reading this should take note. Someday, your money will be worthless. That is a guarantee. The US Dollar, otherwise known as a Federal Reserve Note, is a debt instrument. It will go the way of all fiat currencies – total collapse.

There is an interesting distinction that we can glean from the passage. The children of Yisrael did not need to go to Pharaoh for their bread, because they were provided bread from Joseph.

Joseph prepared, so they did not need to buy or sell. As a result, they did not become the slaves of Pharaoh, at that time.

Well guess what? You’ve got inside information as well, if you have eyes to see and ears to hear.

Severe food shortages appear to be right around the corner.

The question is: Are you prepared? Are you even trying to prepare? Are you being supplied bread from Joseph?

Remember that Yahushua the Messiah was the adopted son of a man named Joseph. That was no coincidence. YHWH planned it that way to send us a resounding message. A similar message was provided by the fact that He named His Son Yahushua (Joshua).

Remember the guy who came out of Egypt with Yisrael? He was first a servant of Moses, and then elevated to the Commander of Yisrael. He led them through the waters of the Jordan into the Covenant Land, and circumcised them. He officiated the first Passover in the Land and the transfer from the manna to the grain of the Land. He then destroyed the moon worshippers at Jericho and proceeded to conquer the Land. Do you see any patterns there? But I digress.

Yahushua said that He came for the lost sheep of the House of Yisrael, which is Joseph. He also instructed us to pray for our daily bread.

In other words, we do not need to buy from Pharaoh, when we receive our daily bread from YHWH.

Now consider the count that we are in. Today is day 20 in the count, so we are literally in the midst of the grain harvest.

Those of us who grew up in Christianity tend to spiritualize everything, but if we were in the Covenant Land, truly rehearsing, we would be working our butts off to ensure that our families had enough grain to provide our daily bread for the entire year.

So this period was a time of planning and preparing, harvesting and gathering.

Ultimately, the focus was to store up plenty of grain safely and securely, so you could draw from it throughout the year. You wanted to store up as much as possible.

This would be called “prepping” nowadays, but it was just part of everyday life for people in the past.

It was not a demonstration of a lack of faith to prepare during this time. Indeed, it was a necessary and integral part of life.

Just because they arrived in the Covenant Land, it did not mean they didn’t have to work. YHWH stopped the manna when they got to the Land. The manna was only for the wilderness, when they were on the move and not permanently settled.

Once in the Covenant Land, the people needed to obey and the people needed to work. There are incredible lessons embedded within the rehearsals that revolve around the harvests.

If you stayed in your home during this time while everyone was working, you would be considered a fool.

“*He who gathers in summer is a wise son; He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame*.” Proverbs 10:5

There was specific labor required at specific times and it all integrated together. Indeed, if you did not plow and plant seed, you would have nothing to harvest.

“*The lazy man will not plow because of winter; He will beg during harvest and have nothing*.” Proverbs 20:4

This brings up an important point. While we talk about springtime, the ancients did not recognize it as a unique season. The month of “the abib” was the time we refer to as spring, but it was really the transition between winter and summer in ancient times.

Here was the promise given to Noah:

“*While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease*.” Genesis 8:22

The Scriptures are clear that there are only two “seasons” built into creation.

“*16 The day is Yours, the night also is Yours; You have prepared the light and the sun. 17 You have set all the borders of the earth; You have made summer and winter.*” Psalm 74:16-17

Did you notice how the summer and winter are repeatedly compared to the day and the night?

That is because they both follow the same pattern built into creation.

Just as the daily cycle has night and day, the yearly cycle has winter and summer. The transition between night and day known as dawn, could be likened to spring. The transition between day and night known as twilight, could be likened to fall.

That is why we celebrate the harvest Feast of Sukkot at the “end,” also referred to as the “tequfah” or “turn.” (See Exodus 23:16 and 34:22)

Summer is ending and winter is beginning at the Feast of Ingathering. There we celebrate the fruit harvest and consider all of the bounty that YHWH has provided during the summer harvest. We have a great celebration, and traditionally pray for rain at the end of Sukkot, as we contemplate plowing and preparing for the next cycle of harvests.

The Yisraelites lives were focused and centered around food. They had to be, and YHWH even pegged His Appointed Times to their harvests. So He was all for it. He wanted them to work hard and stay on course - and on schedule.

That is why I stress the Calendar and the Appointed Times so much. I spent the first half of my like in a religious system that was completely oblivious to the schedule of the Creator. In fact, my religion specifically placed me out of synch with YHWH, and taught me to keep pagan holy days (Holidays).

We need to get into the rhythm and timing of the Creator and His Creation. This is why it is important to think like a Hebrew and view creation in patterns and cycles.

I was recently reviewing some of my Leaving Babylon video scripts as I am working on the book. Some of them are right on topic. If you haven’t seen them, you may find them helpful, particularly [*Understanding Hebrew Thought*](https://youtu.be/Gqz-Ad0tpS0) and [*Understanding the Calendar*](https://youtu.be/kYvnQhSzGwY).

I said all of that simply to make the point that much of what we learn in the Scriptures has a physical aspect that we walk out in real time. We cannot and should not spiritualize everything as some of us have been taught.

When we pray “give us this day our daily bread,” the purpose is not so a couple slices of toast miraculously appear on our breakfast plate every morning.

The prayer is all encompassing. We pray that He provides us with the needed rain to grow plentiful crops that yield a bountiful harvest. We want peace and security so that our storehouses remain filled and undisturbed.

We then need the strength and patience to grind our grain into flour. We need fresh clean water to mix with our flour, time for the dough to rise, and we need fire to cook it.

There are many factors involved in getting our daily bread, and we ask for YHWH to be involved in it all.

Otherwise, we’re going to need manna. Ultimately, I believe that there may come a time when He will do just that. Until then, we must be wise and remain steadfast. Like I said, the manna is for the wilderness. It is not for the lazy.

When I grew up in Boy Scouts, the motto was “Always be prepared.”

It’s good advice.

I’m getting ready to head back to Texas tomorrow where we are still planting and building infrastructure.

By the way, for people in South Texas, there is no question about what time it is. It’s summer for sure. If you don’t believe me, just ask my wife.

Speaking of South Texas, it’s really amazing to see the difference from last year. While there was an abundance of rain last year at the beginning of summer, much of the southwest is now in drought.

This would not be a good sign for people in ancient times, and it’s not a good sign now. Drought leads to famine.

There is a delayed response in modern culture due to the supply chains, and most people won’t understand the problem until it is too late. That is because they are so detached from the cycles built into Creation.

When the store shelves are empty and the food is unavailable, many may find themselves in the position of the 5 foolish virgins.

Remember how the foolish say to the wise - “Give us some of your oil.” The wise tell them “no way, we might not have enough. Go get your own.” (I’m paraphrasing)

Here is a portion of the parable:

“*1 Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. 6 And at midnight a cry was heard: Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him! 7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out. 9 But the wise answered, saying, No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves. 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.*” Matthew 25:1-10

Now this parable has a much deeper meaning than just olive oil, and it refers to light, not food, but it provides a stark warning regarding preparedness.

I want to be counted among the wise, and my prayer is that I not only have oil for light, but I want to have extra food to help those in need.

Actually, we have been doing that for years. Inflation and lack take their toll on the poor first, and usually the hardest.

Just so you know, things have been rough in Africa for a long time, and they are getting much worse. We help orphans in a Torah based community in Africa, and I get my information first hand. I just sent more funds for food yesterday.

Next month, I will be involved in the [Battle Cry event](https://www.unitedinyah.org/battle-cry-event/) that is raising funds for widows and orphans with the goal of helping them self-sustain.

Here is what we may all expect in the not so distant future.

“*5 When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come and see.” So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.* ***6*** *And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine*.” Revelation 6:5-6

Another way that this can be interpreted is: “*A quart of wheat for a days wage, and three quarts of barley for a days wage.*” This is describing inflation, and people are barely going to be able to sustain on wages.

There is a message implied here. If you are counting on wages to pay for food, you may find yourself getting squeezed. On the other hand, if you work for yourself or grow your own food, you might reduce or minimize the impact of inflation.

Also, did you notice the directive not to harm the oil and the wine? The oil comes from olives, and the wine comes from grapes. These are both associated with the fruit harvest around the time of Sukkot. So there is going to be a distinction between these two harvests, and the availability of the produce associated with them.

This may mean that the famine is short-lived. It could also be describing the effects of an agricultural breakdown. Today, grains are largely produced on large scale industrial farms that require seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides on a massive scale each season. They also utilize vast amounts of fuel and machinery, and largescale transportation and supply chains. This is all starting to come unhinged as I write this message.

The grapes grow on vines, and the olives grow on trees in typically manageable vineyards and groves. They can continue to produce without much intervention. So while there may be reduced grain supplies, the olives and the grapes can continue unhindered.

Sadly, people dependent upon wages will not get beyond the grain. That is a physical matter with some very spiritual implications if you understand the Appointed Times.

Speaking of olive oil, I was visiting with some friends several days ago in their home. As we sat and talked at their kitchen table, they brought out some “home-made” olives in garlic and oil.

For those unfamiliar with olives, you cannot simply pick them from a tree and eat them like most fruit. Olives must first be picked after the rains to insure that they have sufficient oil. You then need to brine and cure them before they can be eaten.

My friend told me his technique, and they were definitely way better than store bought olives.

As we sat and ate the olives with bread and cheese, we were talking about the importance of preparing. It made me think of Joseph and the mark of the beast.

The threat of the mark of the beast is that no man can buy or sell without the mark.

“*16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*” Revelation 13:16-17

Here we go again with buying food. If you need to buy food, you are going to get caught in a predicament. Well, what if you don’t need to buy or sell anything?

What if you grow your own olives, crack them, cure them and brine them?

What if you worked hard to prepare and grow your own food? If you were self-sufficient, you wouldn’t need to buy or sell.

Of course, your diet would be much simpler, with a lot less variety, but maybe that would be a good thing. I think many of our health issues come from the fact that we eat so many processed food, and foods out of season, that our bodies never calibrate properly.

Of course, we know that Babylon breeds dependency on the beast. And Babylon tantalizes our taste buds, just like Egypt did with the Yisraelites.

Despite the fact that YHWH was providing them with daily bread, miraculously through manna, it wasn’t good enough for everyone who departed. Recall the reaction of the mixed multitude:

“*4 Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Yisrael also wept again and said: “Who will give us meat to eat? 5 We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; 6 but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes! 7 Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its color like the color of bdellium. 8 The people went about and gathered it, ground it on millstones or beat it in the mortar, cooked it in pans, and made cakes of it; and its taste was like the taste of pastry prepared with oil. 9 And when the dew fell on the camp in the night, the manna fell on it.*” Numbers 11:4-9

The manna sounds delicious to me, but we are all used to variety. Take heed that your cravings may be your undoing. Best to get control over your fleshly desires now.

Like I said earlier, there may be a time when we require the miracle of His daily bread from the heavens - His manna. The question is whether that will be good enough for you and satisfy your cravings. Will His portion (omer) of manna be sufficient?

That is one of the questions to consider as we count the omer, and focus on bread all the way to Shavuot.

So keep counting and keep preparing, because it all leads us to a wedding at the Mountain of Elohim! More on that next week.

Berakhot

Todd

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Shema Yisrael (Hear O Yisrael) are the words that Yahushua spoke when asked what was the First Command.

“*The first of all the Commandments is: ‘Hear, O Yisrael,*

*YHWH our Elohim, YHWH is one.’”*

*Mark 12:29*

“*He who has ears to hear, let him hear!*”

Matthew 11:15