

# Counting to Sinai: The Meaning of the Omer

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The Omer and Ramadan  
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# Review

Agricultural Dimension

H istorical D im ension

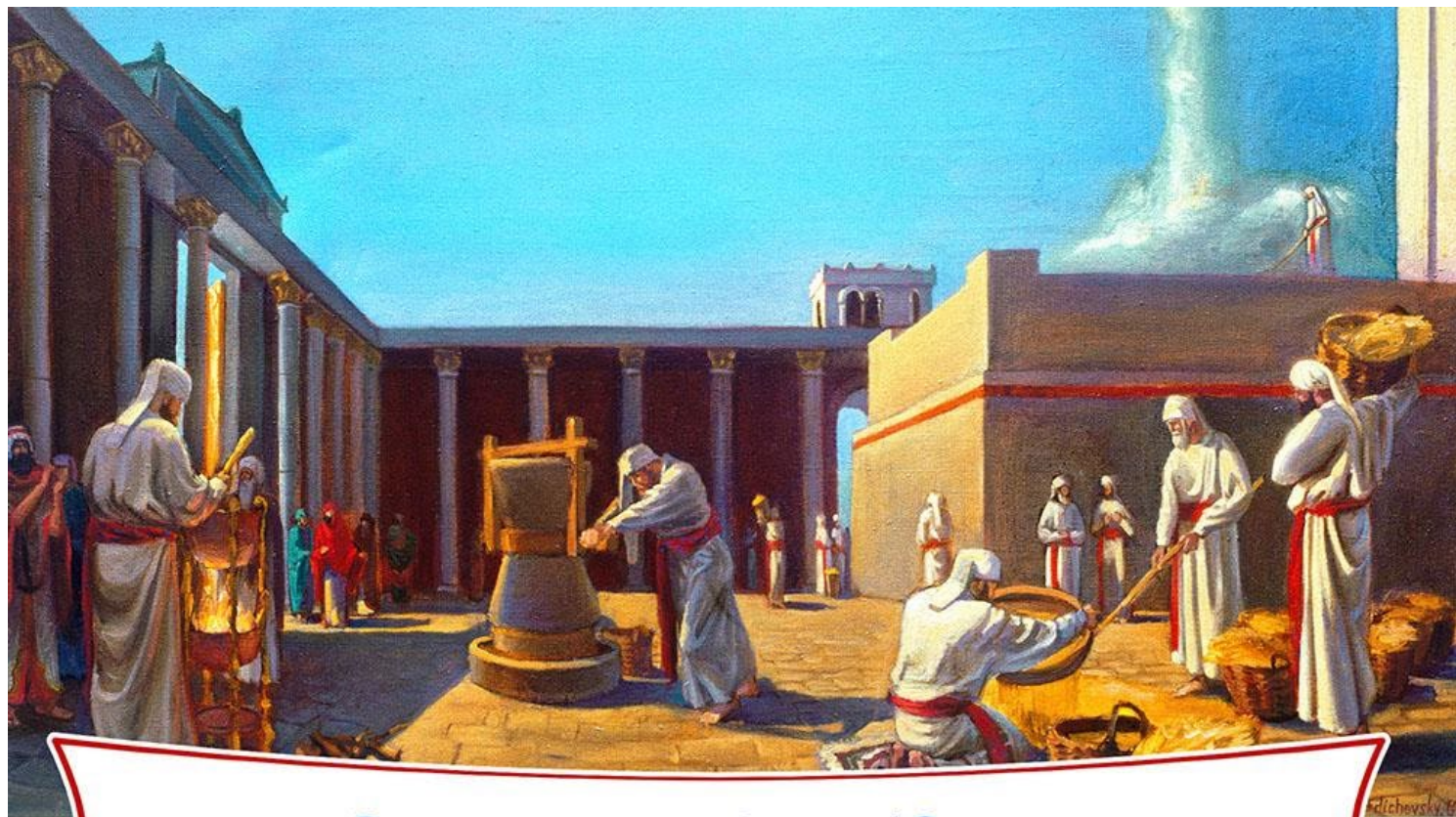
Spiritual D im ension

M odern C hanges



# The Barley Harvest





Sieving the Omer



Blessing of the First Fruits





Olive Oil & Frankincense



Waving the Omer





Handful Offerings





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## **Presentation of the Two Leavened Loaves**

**Any**  
**Questions...???**





Destruction of Jerusalem Temple 70 C.E.  
The Omer in the Rabbinic Period





Bar Kochva Revolt Against the Romans 134-136  
C.E.

## Changes during the Omer



Why?



Restrictions lifted on the 33<sup>rd</sup>  
Day of the Omer

# What does the 33<sup>rd</sup> day of the Omer commemorate?

- Termination of a plague afflicting Rabbi Akiva's students "because they did not act respectfully towards each other" (Yevamot 62b).
- Death Anniversary of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai (d. 160). Leading fighter against the Romans who hid from the Romans for 12 years.
- Rabbi Akiva's "soldiers" suffered defeat at the hands of the Romans during the Omer and on the 33<sup>rd</sup> day won a short-lived victory (E. Levi)



Rabbi Akiva  
(50-135)



# Counting the Omer

And you shall count unto yourself from the morrow after the day of rest (Passover? Shabbat?), from the day that you brought the sheaf of the waving; seven weeks shall there be complete; Even until the morrow after the seventh week you shall number fifty days; and you shall present a new meal-offering unto the LORD (Leviticus 23:15-16).



# Any Questions?



# Modern Additions to the Omer





## Omer 12: Holocaust Remembrance and Heroism Day

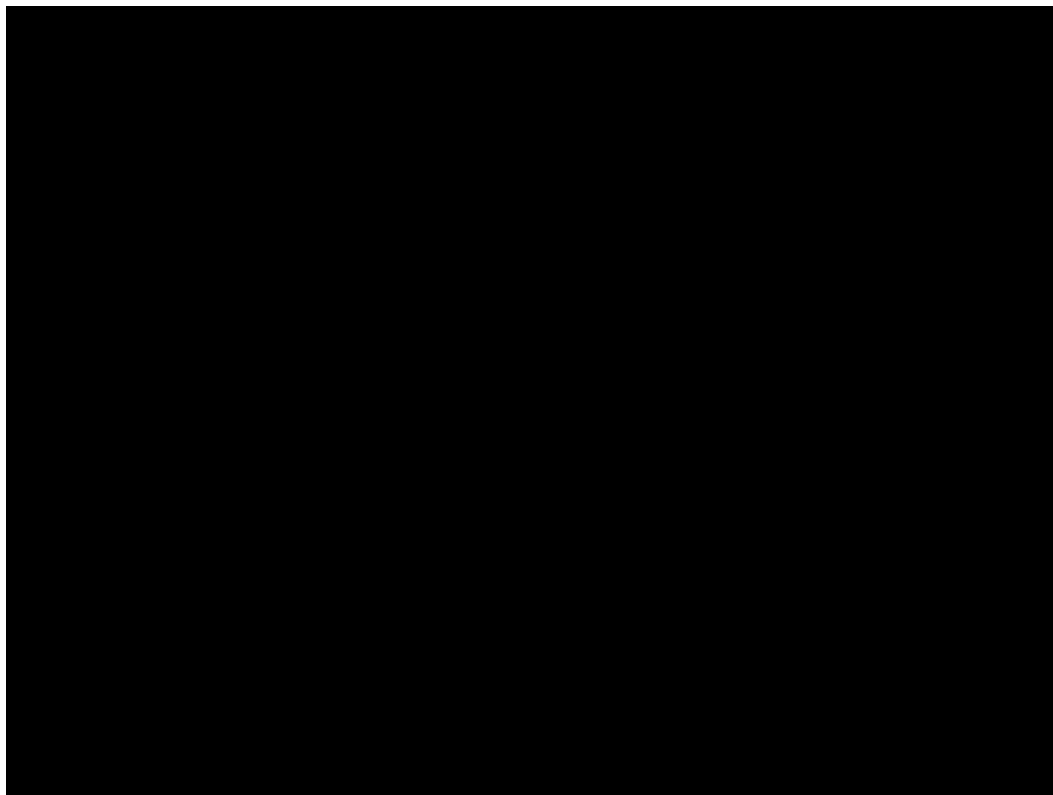


# Yom Hazikaron - Yom Haatzmaut

## Israel Memorial Day-Independence Day



# Rabbanit Rochelle Frankel



# Omer 43: Jerusalem Day





# Learning Torah During the Omer

י"ד:משנה אבות א'

מָה אֲנִי וְאִם לֹא, וּכְשֶׁאֲנִי לְעַצְמִי. מִי לִי, אִם אֵין אֲנִי לִי, הוּא הִיא אוֹמֵר  
אֵימָתִי, עֲכָשִׁיו

Pirkei Avot 1:14

He [Rabbi Hillel] used to say: If I am not for me,  
who will be for me? And when I am for myself alone,  
what am I? And if not now, then when?



# Omer 50: The Feast of Weeks

## The Time of the Giving of the Torah



**THANK YOU.....**

**DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ?**

