

Holy Week History 2026



A Missionary Classic
FIRST FRUITS
Zinzendorf and the Moravians



A PIVOTAL MOVEMENT IN CHURCH HISTORY.

תורה של פסח
The Family Participation Haggadah
A DIFFERENT NIGHT



By Noam Zion and Gavriel Dikhan

The Haggadah was meant to facilitate a time of joyful remembrance and deep study and discussion. Implementing the Haggadah with families can often be a challenge. ... written by "thoughtful" ... after the volume's release. ...

Come Celebrate Passover
April 3, 2026
7pm CST

The Holy Week

Should Christians Celebrate?

When Jesus died His blood became the blood that washed believers' sins away. He is the unblemished lamb that was sacrificed so that death may Passover believers today. Just as the Hebrews believe the blood on the posts would protect them from the angel of death, so Christians now believe that Jesus' death and blood protect us from everlasting death; only if we believe He is the Passover lamb, who shed His blood, and is the savior of the World.

The Passover

Passover is the fourteenth day of the month Nisan on God's calendar, which is April 1-9, 2026. Passover is celebrated in Jewish homes or synagogues. Messianic Jews, Christians and Orthodox Jews celebrate with a special meal known as a Seder. The story of Passover is often recounted during the Seder and read from a Haggadah (story book telling the story of the crossing over). Traditionally symbolic foods like Charoset (apples and honey) and Horseradish are eaten. The symbolic foods are placed on a specific plate called a Seder plate/tray. No leavened bread (made of yeast) or leavened foods are eaten during Passover. Leaven bread is made of yeast, which makes bread rise. The unleavened bread reminds us to remove sin from our lives, especially the sin of pride which rises within our flesh. The Passover Seder is a reminder to the Jewish families celebrating their ancestors suffering in Egypt and of the miraculous deliverance from their bondage. Passover remind Christians and Messianic Jews of Yeshua in how He died and became the sacrifice so that death Passover us forever spiritually and physically.



Seder – is the Passover meal. Usually held the first of the day of the week or the last day of the week or both. Christians and Messianic Jews alike share in a Seder meal. The Passover meal was first in Egypt and the last supper of Jesus Christ -- Matthew 26:15. Today the Seder is eaten with bitter herbs, unleavened bread, egg, wine, and a full meat; it is a festive occasion. It's a feast and celebration!

The Feast of Unleavened Bread

Feast of Unleavened Bread – April 1-9, was fulfilled by Christ and means to be rid pride and sin. Celebrated seven days beginning the day after Passover and coincides with the Feast of Weeks. One of the traditions of celebrating the Feast of Unleavened Bread, is the cleaning of one's house of all bread made with yeast. The house represents our body where our souls live and reminds us to also clean our physical bodies pride and sin. This feast was fulfilled by the righteous character and sinlessness life of Christ, and the blood offered upon his death. Leviticus 23:14 requires the celebration as it is a moedim of God (forever/Permanent feast). Jesus taught us to cleanse our physical house from sin and hatred to righteous living and love. This feast reminds us we are nothing but fifty rags and can do nothing without God's grace and mercy. It reminds us to remove pride, arrogance and strive to be perfect. God



loves drama and symbolism; the house symbolizes our bodies and the cleaning or removing all bread from our houses, is to remind us to clean our hearts and minds by getting rid of our pride and evil hearts.

During the Feast of Unleavened Bread, no food with leaven (yeast) is eaten. In the days leading up to Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread Jews and Christian families clean their homes of any leaven so as not to cause defilement during the feast and after, its annual cleansing. The unleavened bread eaten during the feast is called Matzo. Matzo is pronounced like "Ma-tzah". The first and seventh days are Holy Convocations in which no work is permitted. Therefore, Good Friday is considered a holy holiday. We clean our physical bodies from the yeast of pride, haughtiness, and all those things that makes us puffed up. This is a time to remember Jesus humbled himself when he took the whips, spit, cursing, mocking and hung on the cross for our sake. We celebrate with repentance and a new beginning.

The Feast of First Fruits

Feast of First Fruits – 1st Day of the week after Passover **April 9**, (Numbers 28:26; Lev 23:11; Lev 23:14); not the month of January. During the months of January – March, the Jews plant trees preparing for harvest season. They place a string around the first trees to remember the first fruits of their crops is to be offered up to God as a thanksgiving offering for God being their provider. The word for First fruits (*HaBikkurim*) is a Hebrew term meaning "a promise to come" (<https://www.simkafoundation.org/pages/day-of-first-fruits>). God kept the promise and gave His only son as the First Fruit. Jesus fulfilled the Feast of First Fruits by being the sacrificial lamb and son of God. God gave His only begotten Son as a sacrificial offering. Today, Jews still celebrate First Fruits with their offerings and so do Christians. First Fruits is an individual decision. Believers may not have crops to bring as an offering but surely may bring a First Fruit offering of personal income. Remember, it's a personal individual decision, therefore each believer decide to give an hour's pay, a week's pay, a month's pay; it's up to the individual believer. Believers celebrate and give by faith believing God's word. First Fruits is one day not all year round and not in January; First Fruits are not monthly payments.



The Feast of Weeks



Feast of Weeks May 21 – May 23 Leviticus 23:15-21. Feast of Weeks commemorates the anniversary of the day God gave the Torah to the entire Israelite nation assembled at Mount Sinai. Exactly on the same day God gave the Torah as manna to the Hebrews, Jesus sent the Holy Ghost as promised. The Feast of Weeks was fulfilled by the birth of the Church and the Holy Ghost. Also known as Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks is to take place exactly seven Sabbaths and one day or fifty days total from First Fruits. In Hebrew Shavuot means "weeks". Shavuot is often called Pentecost which means "fifty" in Greek. Shavuot, like First Fruits, is a harvest festival in which the Israelites were to present an offering of new grain (in this case wheat) to the Lord in the Temple. Today Shavuot is celebrated in Israel by reading the account of the giving of the Law in Exodus chapters 19 and 20. The book of Ruth is also read because it is a book of harvest and redemption. It is customary to eat dairy foods like cheese during Shavuot. Shavuot is a Holy Convocation in which no work is permitted. The Feast of Weeks marks the conclusion of the **Counting of the Omer**; it is the last two days of the counting.

Counting of the Omer (April 6 – May 25) the Israelites counted the Omer to remind them of the Covenant God made with them at Mt Sinai. The Journey from the Red Sea to Mt. Sinai was 50 days, there they received the promise and the covenant. In like manner 50 days from Jesus's death, they received the promise of the Holy Ghost.

Today Jews and Christians alike count the Omer to remind believers of the new Covenant through Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Passover Lamb and the First Fruit; He fulfilled the Feast of weeks through His resurrection and sending the Holy Spirit. During this time, believers are to count out loud daily, meditating on scriptures reflecting who Jesus is and not so much what He has done; we thank God for Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Being reminded that believers can count on Jesus to save us from all. Jesus did not replace the law; He fulfilled the law.

During the feast of weeks, they offered two loaves of bread with yeast, which represented the Jews and Gentiles. Ephesians 2:11-16. Two loaves were to be offered on a single sheet. The Feast of Weeks [*Shavuot*] or Pentecost was

fulfilled and became the birthday of the Church, which is composed of both Jew and Gentile believers, united into one Body (Single Sheet). One loaf represents the Jews and one loaf represents the Gentiles, and the single sheet represents the fact that Jewish and Gentile believers are united into one Body ([Ephesians 2:11-16](#); [3:5-6](#)).

The Allowance of Leaven in the Feast – [Matthew 13:24-30](#) teach believers to observe from the Hebrew Scriptures in this feast that the two loaves were leaven bread ([Leviticus 23:17](#)). Leaven, when used symbolically in scripture, is a symbol of sin. It is Jewish and Gentile sinners who are saved by grace through faith and are brought into this one Body, now called the Church, the Body of Messiah.

Furthermore, these loaves were to be made of wheat. Wheat and harvest are common symbols of evangelism and salvation in the Gospels. In [Matthew 3:11-12](#), the concepts of wheat and harvest are also connected with baptism of the Holy Spirit, which began on the Feast of Pentecost, and by which the Church came into existence. These symbols of wheat, evangelism, and salvation are found again in [Matthew 13:24-30](#). This parable is an elaboration of [Matthew 3:11-12](#) passage where wheat is again used as a symbol of evangelism and salvation which results in being unified into the Body of the Messiah, born on the Feast of Weeks [*Shavuot*] or Pentecost. Also see [John 4:35-38](#).

The Recap

- ▶ Passover was fulfilled by the death of the Messiah, spotless, truthful, sincere and having integrity.
- ▶ 2. The Feast of Unleavened Bread was fulfilled by the sinlessness of His blood sacrifice and blood offering.
- ▶ 3. Feast of First Fruits was fulfilled by the Resurrection of the Messiah.
- ▶ 4. The Feast of Weeks [*Shavuot*] or Pentecost was fulfilled by the birth of the Church the Body of Messiah, both Jew and Gentile in one body.

One may ask: Should Christians count the Omer? Why do Christians count the Omer? What is the significance of counting the Omer?

The idea of counting each day represents **spiritual preparation and anticipation for the giving of the Torah** which was given by God on Mount Sinai at the beginning of the month of Sivan, around the same time as the holiday of *Shavuot* or Pentecost.

We number off every day of the 49 days that separate Passover, our festival of freedom, from *Shavuot*, the day we celebrate the receiving of the Torah. Fifty (50) is the number of Jubilee a release, so the Omer also signifies the Season of Liberation, "You shall count from the eve of the second day of Pesach (Passover/Easter), when an Omer of grain is to be brought as an offering, seven complete weeks. The day after the seventh week of you counting will make fifty days, and you shall present a new meal offering to God" ([Leviticus 23:15-16](#)). Counting of the Omer is about being clothed with the *Ruach HaChodesh* (Holy Spirit), to encounter the resurrected Lord of Glory.

God is symbolic and He loves drama. Each feasts' preparation and celebration have a purpose symbolically pointing to our Savior Jesus Christ's birth, death, resurrection and return in some way. Today, everything believers of Christ do should point to the return of the Lord.

- The Hebrews counted 49 days from the crossing of the Red Sea to Mt Sinai to receive the Torah.
- The disciples counted 49 days after Jesus' death/resurrection, and received the Holy Spirit
- Believers now count 49 days from Passover looking for the return of Yeshua.

Did you know that all of Yeshua's appearances occurred during the 50 days of the counting of the Omer.

- On the first day of the Omer Yeshua appeared to Mary Magdalene Mark 16:9, John 20: 16-18; Other women Matthew 28:5-10; Simon Peter Luke 24:34; I Cor 15:5
- On the 2nd day of the Omer Yeshua appeared on the road to Damascus Luke 24:31; at evening on the same day to the 12 Mark 16:14, Luke 24:33-39, John 20:19
- A week later Yeshua appeared to the 12 again John 20:26, eight days later He appeared to Thomas, John 20:24-29, again He appeared to the 12 a third time John 21:1-14
 - Later He appeared to the 500 I Cor 15:6; then to James His half-brother I Cor 15:7.
- On the 4th day of the Omer, He appeared again and told His followers not to leave Jerusalem until the promised had been fulfilled during Shavuot Luke 24:49; Acts 1:9-12.
- On the 5th day the disciples received the Holy Ghost as promised and thus was born again and became Apostles Acts 2:1-4.

Everything God does is for a purpose, and it's for the believers' good. With so much evil running about in the world, believers should be happy and look towards celebrating the Holy Feasts and counting the Omer. It's a time to spend with God through the Ruach HaChodesh. It's a time to spend looking for Yeshua. Since believers don't know when He will return, believers should want to always watch, pray and prepare for His return. By doing these things, it helps to keep believers in retrospect; it helps to keep believers believing, faithful and Holy.

All in all, God kept His word to the Hebrews through Moses. God kept His word through Jesus Christ. God shall keep His word to the church through the New Covenant of the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Torah now becomes a matter of the heart. You either believe or not.

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