

Learning to Trust in the Wilderness



This article was originally published as a Newsletter on Day 19 of Month 2 on the Creator's calendar, otherwise known as May 17, 2025 according to Roman reckoning. It was Day 33 of the Counting of the Omer and the 5th Sabbath in the count.

I hope that you all enjoyed your time of rest at the oasis. My hope is that you used it as a time to reflect and prepare for the journey ahead.

During this time of counting I always find it helpful to follow the path of Yisrael from bondage in Egypt to the wedding ceremony at Mount Sinai. It is a pattern that we look forward to participating in when the fulfillment finally happens through Yahushua the Messiah.

Therefore, those who follow Yahushua should be paying very close attention to the counting of the Omer that connects the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Feast of Shabuot.

Here is a screenshot from Torah Calendar¹ detailing our past week:

13 Omer Day 27	14 Omer Day 28 Pesach Sheni Second Passover Numbers 9:6-14 2 Chronicles 29:1-27 Second Passover	15 Omer Day 29	16 Omer Day 30	17 Omer Day 31	18 Omer Day 32	19 Omer Day 33 5th Sabbath Be-Chukotai
10 May 2025 C.E. sunset to 11 May 2025 C.E. sunset Julian: 2,460,807	11 May 2025 C.E. sunset to 12 May 2025 C.E. sunset Julian: 2,460,808	12 May 2025 C.E. sunset to 13 May 2025 C.E. sunset Julian: 2,460,809	13 May 2025 C.E. sunset to 14 May 2025 C.E. sunset Julian: 2,460,810	14 May 2025 C.E. sunset to 15 May 2025 C.E. sunset Julian: 2,460,811	15 May 2025 C.E. sunset to 16 May 2025 C.E. sunset Julian: 2,460,812	16 May 2025 C.E. sunset to 17 May 2025 C.E. sunset Julian: 2,460,813

And here is a screenshot from Torah Calendar showing the same week after Yisrael left Elim:

13 Omer Day 27	14 Omer Day 28 Wilderness of Sin Second Passover	15 Omer Day 29 Wilderness of Sin Israel Murders Exodus 16:1-12 Numbers 33:11	16 Omer Day 30 Wilderness of Sin Quail and Manna Sent Exodus 16:13-21	17 Omer Day 31	18 Omer Day 32 Wilderness of Sin People Gather Twice as Much Exodus 16:22-26	19 Omer Day 33 5th Sabbath Wilderness of Sin Some Look for Manna Exodus 16:27-34 Emor
11 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset to 12 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset Julian: 1,196,691	12 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset to 13 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset Julian: 1,196,692	13 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset to 14 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset Julian: 1,196,693	14 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset to 15 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset Julian: 1,196,694	15 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset to 16 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset Julian: 1,196,695	16 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset to 17 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset Julian: 1,196,696	17 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset to 18 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset Julian: 1,196,697

Did you notice how the week days and the count are aligned?

So, we can essentially be rehearsing in “real time” throughout the count.

Here is a screenshot of the patterns that we will be examining next week so that you can walk it out for yourself.

¹ www.torahcalendar.com

20 Omer Day 34 Dophkah	21 Omer Day 35 Alush	22 Omer Day 36	23 Omer Day 37 Rephidim	24 Omer Day 38 Rephidim	25 Omer Day 39 Rephidim	26 Omer Day 40 6th Sabbath
Numbers 33:12-13A	Numbers 33:13B-14A		Moses Smites Rock Exodus 17:1-7 Numbers 33:14B-15A Seder Olam 5	Amalek Attacks Israel Exodus 17:8-9	Israel Fights Amalek Exodus 17:10-16	Be-Har, Be-Chukotal Shabbat Mevarekhin
18 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset to 19 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset Julian: 1,196,698	19 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset to 20 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset Julian: 1,196,699	20 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset to 21 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset Julian: 1,196,700	21 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset to 22 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset Julian: 1,196,701	22 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset to 23 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset Julian: 1,196,702	23 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset to 24 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset Julian: 1,196,703	24 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset to 25 May 1437 B.C.E. sunset Julian: 1,196,704

Again, these are all patterns provided for those who anticipate a future fulfillment. So, these ancient events are very relevant for those of us who follow אָרְיָה today.

Now, I grew up in Christianity hearing about the Bride of Christ and the Wedding Supper of the Lamb, but no one ever told me that the Old Testament texts provided me with all the rehearsals for that Wedding.

Also, nobody ever explained that those rehearsals also incorporate lessons that are intended to prepare us so that we can partake in that meal and join the set apart Covenant Assembly that represents the Bride.

That's why the Appointed Times begin with a blood covenant meal known as Passover and culminate with a seven day Feast, followed by the Eighth Day High Sabbath, representing the new beginnings for those who completed the covenant journey. The text of Revelation refers to them as "overcomers."²

And that is why Yahushua specifically renewed that blood Covenant on Passover - not the day before and not the day after. The Last Supper was a Passover meal and the future Wedding Feast will occur during an Appointed Time - not Christmas or Easter.

² See Revelation 2-3

We are all supposed to be learning and preparing, yet most organized religions fail to teach people how to follow the Messenger of Elohim and prepare for the Wedding.

Sadly, many people who want to get into the Feast won't be prepared and they will not get

The Spirit impressed Matthew 7:21-23 on me at a very young age. I distinctly remember sitting in a pew in the First Baptist Church looking up at Pastor Daniel Kolke reading that haunting warning from Yahushua:

"²¹ Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in Heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

I thought how awful it would be for those many people calling the Master "Lord." What a shock it will be to them. And then I considered what they claimed to be doing and I couldn't understand why they were rejected by the Messiah.

I don't remember if Pastor Kolke elaborated, and I don't recall anyone ever explaining that passage to me. The problem is that to accurately explain the words of Yahushua would expose a fundamental flaw in modern Christianity dominated by teachings of grace.

Well, you can listen to pastors preaching about grace until they're blue in the face, but I will defer to the words of Yahushua the Messiah Who specifically warned people about the results of lawlessness, which means that they were not following the Torah. Sadly, in modern Christianity, grace is often equated with lawlessness.

I wish that somebody had explained that to me as a young boy, but I am thankful that I discovered the truth later on in life. Since then, I feel that it has been my purpose to relay that truth to other Christians who have not received proper instruction.

I want to be ready and I want to help others be ready for the destiny that they are hoping for.

The “many” described by Yahushua were anticipating going to the wedding, but they were shut out. We know the reason for Yahushua’s warning, and we should be warning those who have been deceived.

And let’s be thankful that we have been provided with not only the invitation, but also the time, the location and the directions to the wedding.

By the way, that’s an important distinction.

Many people have heard “invitations” and been given “invitations” at church services and evangelical outreaches, but those invitations generally fall short. Altar calls, accepting Jesus, raising your hand, accepting Jesus into your heart or saying a prayer don’t get you to the wedding.

They may plant seeds and encourage a person to repent and turn to אֱלֹהִים. They may point a person to the wedding and even put an invitation in a person’s hand, but the typical Christian announcement lacks many of the important details. That is because they generally fail to point a person to the Covenant path that establishes the necessary relationship that leads to the wedding.

Thankfully, we have been given the details to the Appointed Times, and the teachings provided by Yahushua. But that doesn’t guarantee

our entrance. Knowledge alone will not suffice. We need to walk in the light and pass the tests of the wilderness.

The children of Yisrael passed the test of the Passover. They obeyed the Commandment concerning the Passover and the firstborn of Yisrael were saved and delivered.

Since Ephraim, the second son of Joseph, was elevated to the firstborn status of Yisrael, this is an important lesson for Ephraim scattered in Babylon, awaiting a return. As a result, Christians of all people should be focused like a laser on Passover since that is when Yahushua made new and renewed the Covenant through His broken body and shed blood.

We trust in that Covenant for our redemption and future deliverance. We trust in Him for our future resurrection, and trust is at the heart of our relationship.

It's easy to say that you trust someone when everything is going great in your life. It's another thing to actually trust when your entire world has been turned upside down and you are hungry, thirsty, tired and scared.

It's easy to critique the ancient Yisraelites and we are supposed to so that we can learn from their mistakes. Please don't confuse my comments as judgment, because it's not my place to judge them. All I can do is pray that I respond differently if I find myself in their sandals. That is why it is important to pay attention and continue rehearsing during this very important time.

Over the past week, the lesson of trust continued as the children of Yisrael eventually left the oasis of Elim and continued their journey onward.

Here is the account:

"¹ And they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Yisrael came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt. ² Then the whole congregation of the children of Yisrael complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³ And the children of Yisrael said to them, Oh, that we had died by the Hand of אֱלֹהֵינוּ in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger. ⁴ Then אֱלֹהֵינוּ said to Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My Torah or not. ⁵ And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily. ⁶ Then Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Yisrael, At evening you shall know that אֱלֹהֵינוּ has brought you out of the land of Egypt. ⁷ And in the morning you shall see the glory of אֱלֹהֵינוּ; for He hears your complaints against אֱלֹהֵינוּ. But what are we, that you complain against us? ⁸ Also Moses said, This shall be seen when אֱלֹהֵינוּ gives you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full; for אֱלֹהֵינוּ hears your complaints which you make against Him. And what are we? Your complaints are not against us but against אֱלֹהֵינוּ. ⁹ Then Moses spoke to Aaron, Say to all the congregation of the children of Yisrael, Come near before אֱלֹהֵינוּ, for He has heard your complaints. ¹⁰ Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Yisrael, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory (kabod) of אֱלֹהֵינוּ appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ And אֱלֹהֵינוּ spoke to Moses, saying, ¹² I have heard the complaints of the children of Yisrael. Speak to them, saying, At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I am אֱלֹהֵינוּ your Elohim. ¹³ So it was that quails came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp. ¹⁴ And when the layer of dew

lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ So when the children of Yisrael saw it, they said to one another, 'What is it?' For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, This is the bread which אֱלֹהִים has given you to eat. ¹⁶ This is the word which אֱלֹהִים 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. ¹⁷ Then the children of Yisrael did so and gathered, some more, some less. ¹⁸ So when they measured it by omers, he who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man had gathered according to each one's need. ¹⁹ And Moses said, Let no one leave any of it till morning. ²⁰ Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. ²¹ So they gathered it every morning, every man according to his need. And when the sun became hot, it melted. ²² And so it was, on the sixth day, that they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one. And all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. ²³ Then he said to them, This is what אֱלֹהִים has said: Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a set apart Sabbath to אֱלֹהִים. Bake what you will bake today, and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning. ²⁴ So they laid it up till morning, as Moses commanded; and it did not stink, nor were there any worms in it. ²⁵ Then Moses said, Eat that today, for today is a Sabbath to אֱלֹהִים; today you will not find it in the field. ²⁶ Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none. ²⁷ Now it happened that some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none. ²⁸ And אֱלֹהִים said to Moses, How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My Torah? ²⁹ See! For אֱלֹהִים has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day. ³⁰ So the people rested on the seventh day. ³¹ And the House of Yisrael called its שֵׁם-name Manna. And it was like white coriander seed, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey. ³² Then Moses

said, This is the thing which אַלֹהִים has commanded: Fill an omer with it, to be kept for your generations, that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt. ³³ And Moses said to Aaron, Take a pot and put an omer of manna in it, and lay it up before אַלֹהִים, to be kept for your generations. ³⁴ As אַלֹהִים commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept. ³⁵ And the children of Yisrael ate manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan. ³⁶ Now an omer is one-tenth of an ephah.” Exodus 16:1-36

During this narrative that spanned the past week and culminated on the Sabbath, we see that Yisrael tested אַלֹהִים three more times.

Recall the Yisrael had previously failed to: 1) trust אַלֹהִים to protect them from Pharaoh and his army and they later, 2) complained about the bitter waters. They needed to trust that אַלֹהִים would provide for their thirst.

Now we see them 3) complaining about hunger. And they weren't just complaining, they were alleging that it would have been better if they died by the Hand of אַלֹהִים in Egypt, because at least there they had full bellies.

So, essentially they did not trust that אַלֹהִים would feed them and they were indicating that they would have rather died as slaves in Egypt than live as hungry free people in the wilderness.

It's a ridiculous statement to make. Remember, they just left Elim. They were barely into an intermittent fast. They weren't anywhere close to starving to death. As with Marah, this is about appetites, not life or death. They simply weren't satisfied with how אַלֹהִים was caring for them and leading them.

Make no mistake about it, while they were complaining about Moses and Aaron, their complaints were actually against אֱלֹהִים, and Moses clarified that point to them.

Instead of simply remaining silent and being thankful that they weren't in Egypt any longer, all they could think about was their wants, and getting what they wanted, when and how they wanted it.

Does that sound familiar at all?

Again, this is a time to be introspective and assess ourselves. It's training.

One time I was watching a video on nutrition and I heard a fellow talk about taking a dose of Vitamin G every morning when we wake up. I was amazed that I had never heard of Vitamin G before, and then he indicated that he was referring to a dose of gratitude. It's good advice because it helps set our focus for the day.

Are we waking up thanking אֱלֹהִים for our homes, our beds, our sleep. Are we thanking Him that He watched over us through the night, kept us breathing and that we actually woke up to live another day.

That whole process is to remind us of death and resurrection.

When is the last time that you thanked Him for the hope that you have of being resurrected thanks to His Son?

Do you know how many people who live in hopelessness and despair?

And how about all of those people who are completely deceived and going to be in for the surprise of their lives if they don't stop living in lawlessness.

Do you understand how blessed you are and are you praising and thanking אֱלֹהֵינוּ every day for leading you and guiding you to truth?

Or do you take all of His provision for granted and simply ask Him for more? Do you focus on what you want and don't have, or are you content with His provision and thanking Him for all that you have?

We are preparing to be a faithful bride and an important part of that preparation involves trusting our husband. Trust is at the center of any healthy marriage. If you cannot trust your spouse to be faithful, there isn't much to build upon.

Also, the focus of each spouse needs to be on the other individual. It cannot simply be a relationship of two self-centered individuals. That is not a marriage, rather it is two people existing together. Sadly, I see a lot of that in my legal profession.

We need to understand that אֱלֹהֵינוּ knows our wants and needs and He has a plan to lead us and provide for us. We must trust Him and simply follow His lead. He sent His Son to lead us and that is why Yahushua said "Follow Me."

The question is whether people who claim to follow אֱלֹהֵינוּ actually trust in Him by following His Son without complaining. If not, this is a good time to get straightened out – before the wedding.

Despite their complaining, אֱלֹהֵינוּ did something special for the children of Yisrael. Thankfully, this wasn't "three strikes and you're out." Instead, as they looked toward the wilderness the kabod (כְּבוֹד) of אֱלֹהֵינוּ appeared in the cloud.

Now the cloud had been there all along, but this was something special. Remember what we read at the Red Sea encounter?

*“Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that אַיִן looked down upon the army of the Egyptians **through the pillar of fire and cloud**, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians.” Exodus 14:24*

I believe that the cloud was much more than simply mist or smoke. I believe that it was a sort of dimensional portal that literally connected the heavens, more specifically the Throne Room, with the earth. We see more evidence of that at Sinai.

So, by showing the children of Yisrael His kabod, אַיִן was essentially giving them a peek into His realm. That certainly should have boosted their morale, and their faith.

אַיִן then gave them the food that they desired as when they were in Egypt – meat in the evening and bread in the morning.

Remember that they came out of Egypt with “flocks and herds – a great deal of livestock.”³ They had meat in the camp. Nevertheless, אַיִן showed them that He could send them meat if He wanted, but He had something better waiting for them in the morning. He had a miracle in store for them. He was going to provide them with bread from heaven.

Obviously, that was in the plan all along. Sadly, instead of waiting for the miracle they complained too soon.

Interestingly, the provision of manna was coupled with the commandment concerning the Sabbath. אַיִן was now providing daily bread and rest, but that provision required obedience and trust.

They had to trust אַיִן enough to only gather what they needed for one day five days out of the week. An omer was sufficient for every

³ Exodus 12:38

person, and that is what we are supposed to be remembering as we count the omer up to 50.

Do you trust אֵלֹהִים to provide you with daily bread, or do you feel the need to hoard for the future. Are you worried about inflation, empty shelves and food shortages, or are you confident that אֵלֹהִים can supply all your needs in times of plenty as well as in the wilderness where there are no grocery stores.

I recall one of my favorite songs during my college ministry days was *Jehovah Jireh* by Don Moen. The lyrics went in part: "Jehovah Jireh, my provider His grace is sufficient for me . . . My God shall supply all my needs, according to His riches and glory He will give His angels charge over me, Jehovah Jireh cares for me, for me, for me, Jehovah Jireh cares for me."

Of course, since then I figured out the Name and language issues, but the faith and trust imbued in the lyrics of that song is consistent with the lessons that all Yisrael is supposed to learn.

Now did you notice the distinction in the text of Exodus regarding the naming of the bread from Heaven?

While the children of Yisrael saw the manna, gathered the manna and ate the manna, the House of Yisrael "*called its* מָן *-name Manna*". I believe that is a prophetic hint that the House of Yisrael would take the Name of the Messiah, the One Who identified with the Manna.

Yahushua specifically stated: "*I am the bread which came down from heaven.*"⁴ And He multiplied bread in order to feed all of the sheep.

⁴ John 6:41

Also, did you notice the command not to leave any until morning? It was the same command concerning the Pesach – the Passover Lamb.⁵ We can clearly see the connection between the provision of the Lamb and the Manna.

So, we have the benefit of seeing the message behind all of these rehearsals. Only those who follow Yahushua and walk in the light of His Truth can truly count the omer. Only through Yahushua can you perform this Commandment with purpose and meaning.

Sadly, you have most Christians who claim to follow the Messiah proclaiming that they can't obey the Commandments.

You've got to be kidding me. They can't count to 50?

They can't see Yahushua in these rehearsals?

Can't or won't? That's the real question.

Anyone who follows the Messiah had better start counting and rehearsing. Otherwise they won't make it into the wedding.

Of course, that is why we are spending the time looking at the ten times that Yisrael tested אֱלֹהֵינוּ.

Those ten "tests" are the cumulative reason why they did not enter into the Land. An entire generation died in the wilderness, save two – Joshua and Caleb.

Joshua and Caleb were the two witnesses who trusted אֱלֹהֵינוּ to perform His promises.

So, we read the failures involving the manna and the Sabbath.

⁵ Exodus 12:10

They (4) collected more manna than they were supposed to and tried to store it,⁶ and they (5) attempted to collect manna on the Sabbath.⁷ These were in direct contravention to the specific commands of אַל תִּצְטַק.

Not only was it disobedience, but it demonstrated that they did not trust אַל תִּצְטַק to provide for their daily needs, and they did not trust Him enough to receive the gift of rest.

The prophet Isaiah provides a wonderful promise through a prophetic song to those who trust in אַל תִּצְטַק.

"¹ . . . We have a strong city; He sets up salvation (yashua) as walls and bulwarks. ² Open the gates, that the righteous Nation that keeps truth may enter in. ³ You keep him in perfect peace (shalom shalom) whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. ⁴ Trust in אַל תִּצְטַק forever, for Yah אַל תִּצְטַק Elohim is an everlasting rock." Isaiah 26:1-4

May He keep you in perfect peace as you learn to trust Him in the wilderness!

If this message was forwarded to you, you can sign up for the free email at www.shemayisrael.net.

⁶ Exodus 16:20

⁷ Exodus 16:27-29