

# 119

## MINISTRIES

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### **Parashah Points: Emor - Counting to Shavuot**

Welcome to another episode of Parashah Points—short thoughts from the weekly Torah Portion.

This week’s Parashah Point comes from Emor, which is Hebrew for “Speak,” and it goes from Leviticus 21:1 to Leviticus 24:23.

This Torah portion gives purity instructions for priests, lists each of God’s holy days that he commanded his people to observe, and then describes the preparations for the lamps and bread in the Tabernacle. The parashah concludes with a story of a blasphemer and his punishment.

There’s a lot we can talk about in this Torah Portion. Today we’re going to talk about the counting of the omer.

#### **Leviticus 23:15-16**

*You shall count seven full weeks from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering. You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath. Then you shall present a grain offering of new grain to the Lord [YHWH].*

What are these verses saying? Basically, between Passover and Shavuot, there’s a period of counting. We count fifty days from the firstfruits offering within the Passover week to the Feast of Shavuot or Pentecost.

See our teaching, **How to Calculate First Fruits**, for more information on this.

In biblical times, the period of counting was observed by bringing an omer of barley to the Temple and waving it before the Lord every day between Passover and Shavuot.

So this period of counting connects Passover to Shavuot. Why is this connection significant?

Well, Passover memorializes Israel’s deliverance from slavery in Egypt. And while Scripture doesn’t explicitly say it, tradition has long held that Shavuot was when God gave the Torah to Israel. So Shavuot

memorializes Israel receiving the Torah.

In other words, the festival of deliverance is connected to the festival of sanctification. Shavuot memorializes the giving of the Torah, and the Torah is God's means of sanctifying his people. Deliverance leads to sanctification and obedience. Thus, Passover is completed at Shavuot.

This period of counting—the counting of the omer—reminds us that even though we've been freed from Egypt, we are not *truly* free until we are walking in obedience to the Torah.

The Messiah, Yeshua, has set us free from our Egypt, from our slavery to sin and death. But our story does not end there. Now we receive the Torah and commit to walking in obedience. We have been set free so we can live as free people—and the Torah defines what that looks like.

Thank you for joining us for another Parashah Point!

*We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at [www.testeverything.net](http://www.testeverything.net)*

**Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.**

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