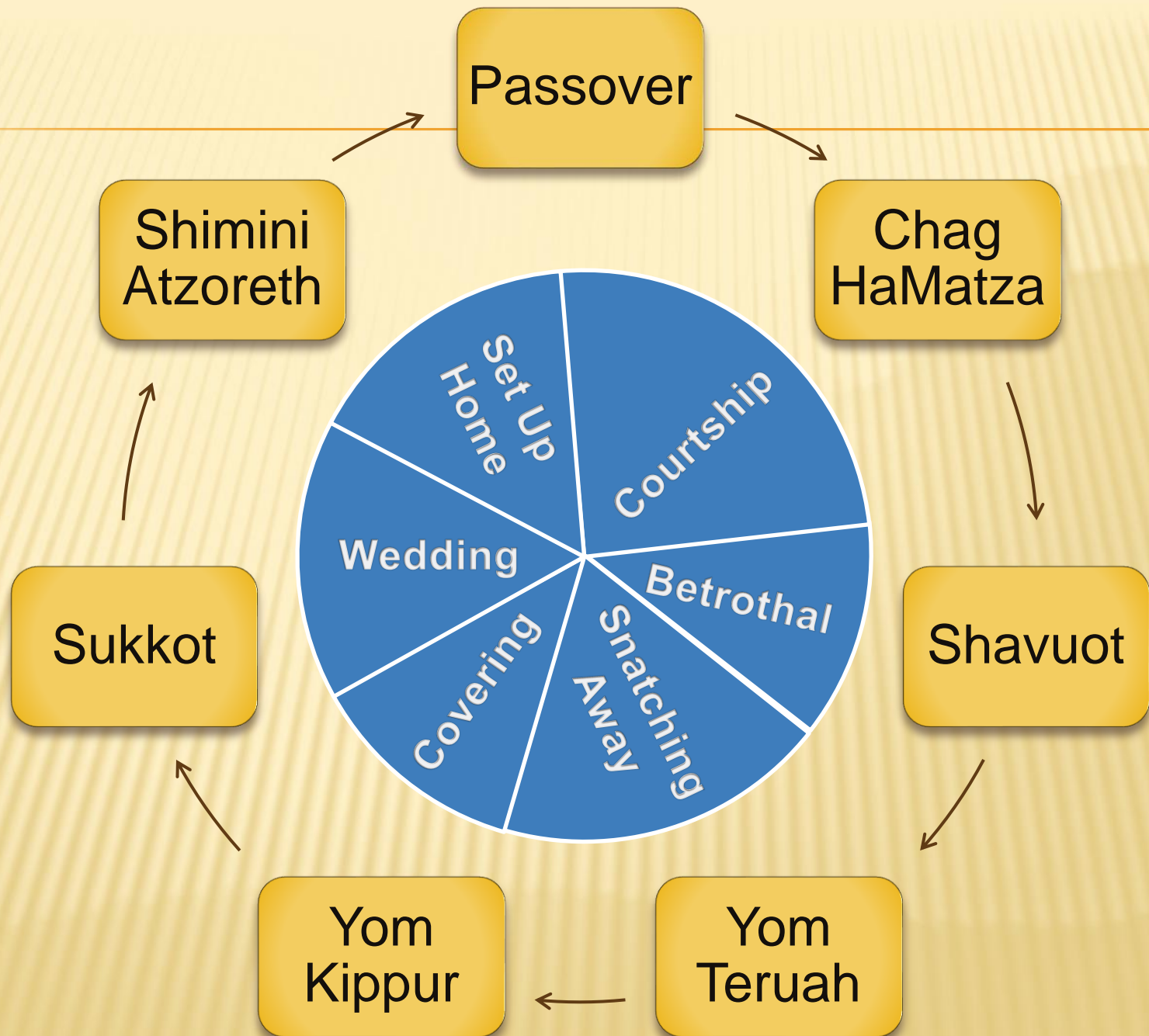


# THE FIRSTFRUITS

Understanding the Wave Sheaf Offering

by Tim Kelley





## THE PLAN . . .

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- ✘ Take a brief look at the harvest cycle and its associated festivals
- ✘ Identify who God calls 'firstfruits'
- ✘ Learn the mechanics of the wave sheaf offering
- ✘ Determine the purpose of the wave sheaf offering
- ✘ Link the festivals to the resurrections



Passover

Shimini

Chag

NKJ **Leviticus 23:1** And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup>  
"Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts  
of the LORD, which you shall proclaim *to be* holy  
convocations, these *are* My feasts. <sup>3</sup> ' Six days shall work be  
done, but the seventh day *is* a Sabbath of solemn rest, a  
holy convocation. You shall do no work *on it*; it *is* the  
Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings. <sup>4</sup> ' These *are* the  
feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall  
proclaim at their appointed times.

Yom  
Kippur

Yom  
Teruah

God's Festivals – Not  
Jewish Festivals

Shimi

Chag

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Sabbath –  
The first festival

Yom  
Kippur

Yom  
Teruah



Passover

Shimini

Chag

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These *are* the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times.

Appointments –

“moed” ( מועד – St. 4150)

Days shall work be

solemn rest, a

on it; it is the

These are the

feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall

proclaim at their appointed times.

Yom  
Kippur

Yom  
Teruah

Passover

“moed” (מוֹעֵד – St. 4150)

“ya’ad” (יָעַד – St. 3259)

First occurrence translated  
“betroth” (Ex. 21:8)

Chag

NKJ

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Yom  
Kippur

Yom  
Teruah



Passover

Chag

Wedding Rehearsal

"miqra kodesh"

מִקְרָא קֹדֶשׁ

St. 4744 & 6944

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Yom  
Kippur

Yom  
Teruah

# WHO ARE THE FIRSTFRUITS?



NKJ **Genesis 30:1** Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister, and said to Jacob, "Give me children, or else I die!" <sup>2</sup> And Jacob's anger was aroused against Rachel, and he said, "*Am I* in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"

“periy”

פֶּרִי – St. 6529

“to the mouth goes the  
person’s hand

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# WHO ARE THE FIRSTFRUITS?

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NKJ **Psalm 1:1** Blessed *is* the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly . . . <sup>2</sup> But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD . . . <sup>3</sup> He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season . . .

# WHO ARE THE FIRSTFRUITS?



NKJ **Jeremiah 11:16** The  
LORD called your name,  
Green Olive Tree, Lovely  
*and* of Good Fruit.



# WHO ARE THE FIRSTFRUITS?



NKJ **John 15:5** "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing . . . <sup>8</sup>  
"By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."



# WHO ARE THE FIRSTFRUITS?



NKJ **Jeremiah 2:3** Israel was holiness to the LORD, The firstfruits of His increase.

“reshiyt”

רֵאשִׁית – St. 7225

“first, beginning, best”

# WHO ARE THE FIRSTFRUITS?



NKJ **Hosea 9:10** " I found Israel Like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers As the firstfruits on the fig tree in its first season. *But* they went to Baal Peor, And separated themselves *to that* shame; They became an abomination like the thing they loved.

"bikkowrah"

בְּכוֹרָה – St. 1061

"firstborn"

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NKJ **Exodus 4:22** "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel *is* My son, My firstborn.

"bikkowrah"

בְּכוֹרָה – St. 1061

"firstborn"



# THE WAVE SHEAF OFFERING



NKJ **Leviticus 23:10-14** . . . 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. <sup>11</sup> 'He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. <sup>12</sup> 'And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the LORD. <sup>13</sup> 'Its grain offering *shall be* two-tenths *of an ephah* of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the LORD, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering *shall be* of wine, one-fourth of a hin. <sup>14</sup> 'You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God.

# THE WAVE ~~SHEAF~~ OMER OFFERING



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עֹמֶר – St. 6016

“dry measure of grain”



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“li-r’zonchem”  
literally “to pleasure”, “to delight”, “to accept”

“ratson” - רָצוֹן – St. 7522



# THE WAVE OMER OFFERING



NKJ **Leviticus 23:10-14** . . . . . **Sacrifice of a male lamb required** . . . . . the land which I give to you, and reaper its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. <sup>11</sup> 'He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. <sup>12</sup> 'And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the LORD. <sup>13</sup> 'Its grain offering *shall be* two-tenths *of an ephah* of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the LORD, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering *shall be* of wine, one-fourth of a hin. <sup>14</sup> 'You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God.

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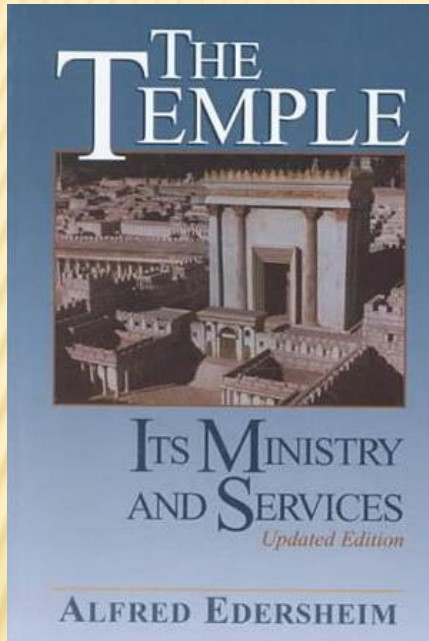


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The rest of the harvest may not be reaped until the wave omer offering is complete.



# THE WAVE OMER OFFERING



“Already, on the 14th of Nisan, the spot whence the first sheaf was to be reaped had been marked out by delegates from the Sanhedrim, by tying together in bundles, while still standing, the barley that was to be cut down. Though, for obvious reasons, it was customary to choose for this purpose the sheltered Ashes-valley across Kedron, there was no restriction on that point, provided the barley had grown in an ordinary field—of course in Palestine itself—and not in garden or orchard land, and that

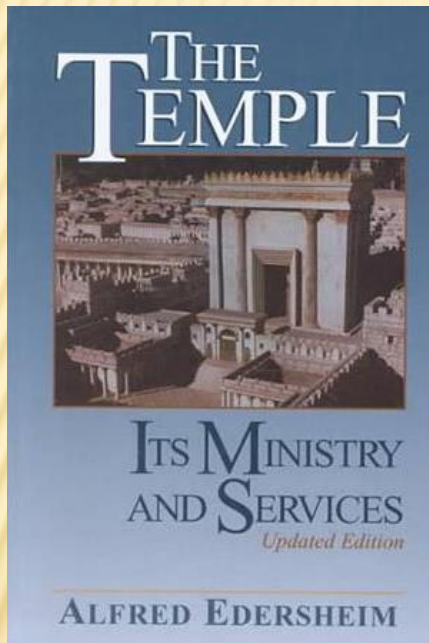
the soil had not been manured nor yet artificially watered (Mishnah, Menach. viii. 1, 2).

When the time for cutting the sheaf had arrived, that is, on the evening of the 15th of Nisan (even though it were a Sabbath, just as the sun went down, three men, each with a sickle and basket,

23 formally set to work.



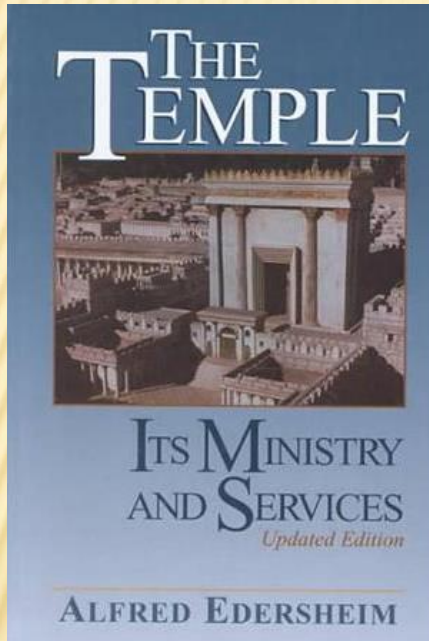
# THE WAVE OMER OFFERING



But in order clearly to bring out all that was distinctive in the ceremony, they first asked of the bystanders three times each of these questions: 'Has the sun gone down?' 'With this sickle?' 'Into this basket?' 'On this Sabbath (or first Passover-day)?'—and, lastly, 'Shall I reap?' Having each time been answered in the affirmative, they cut down barley to the amount of one ephah, or ten omers, or three seahs, which is equal to about three pecks and three pints of our English measure

The ears were brought into the Court of the Temple, and thrashed out with canes or stalks, so as not to injure the corn; then 'parched' on a pan perforated with holes, so that each grain might be touched by the fire, and finally exposed to the wind. The corn thus prepared was ground in a barley-mill, which left the hulls whole.

# THE WAVE OMER OFFERING

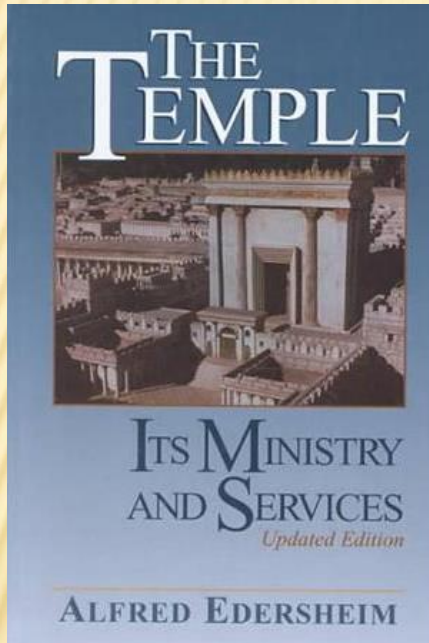


According to some, the flour was always successfully passed through thirteen sieves, each closer than the other. The statement of a rival authority, however, seems more rational—that it was only done till the flour was sufficiently fine (Men. vi. 6, 7), which was ascertained by one of the ‘Gizbarim’ (treasurers) plunging his hands into it, the sifting process being continued so long as any of the flour adhered to the hands (Men. viii. 2). Though one ephah, or ten omers, of barley was cut down, only one omer of flour, or about 5 1 pints of

our measure, was offered in the Temple on the second Paschal, or 16th day of Nisan. The rest of the flour might be redeemed, and used for any purpose. The omer of flour was mixed with a ‘log,’ or very nearly three-fourths of a pint of oil, and a handful of frankincense put upon it, then waved before the Lord, and a



# THE WAVE OMER OFFERING

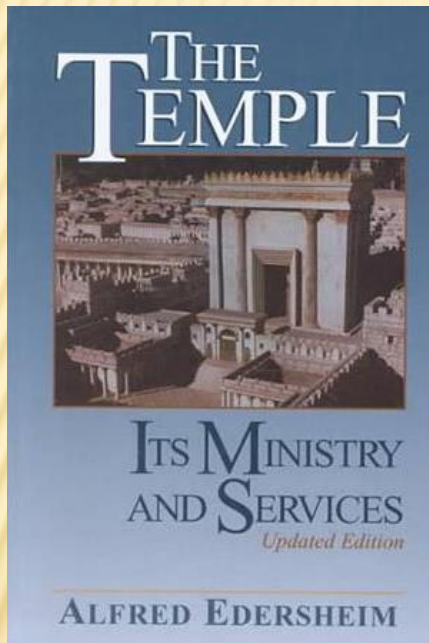


handful of frankincense put upon it, then waved before the Lord, and a handful taken out and burned on the altar.

The remainder belonged to the priest. This was what is popularly, though not very correctly, called ‘the presentation of the first or wave-sheaf’ on the second day of the Passover-feast, of the 16th of Nisan.”



# THE WAVE OMER OFFERING



Not a special field

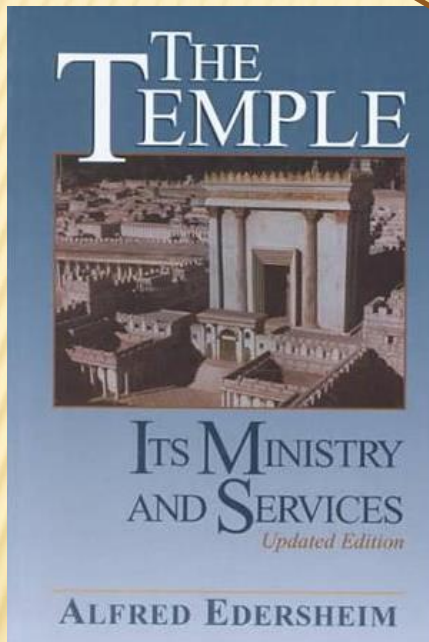
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Selected before  
Passover

## OFFERING



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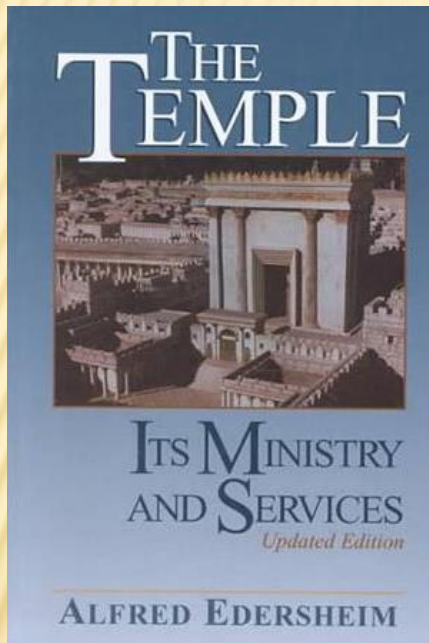
Not cut till after  
Passover

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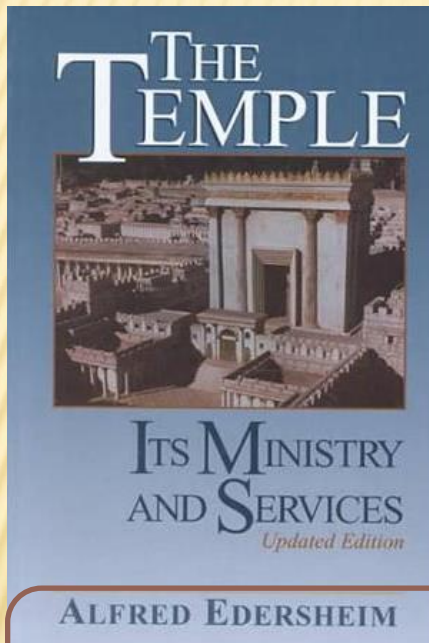


But in order clearly to bring out all that was distinctive in the ceremony, they first asked of the bystanders three times each of these questions: 'Has the sun gone down?' 'With this sickle?' 'Into this basket?' 'On this Sabbath (or first Passover-day)?'—and, 'Refined in the fire and blown by the wind'—each time been answered in the affirmative, they cut down barley to the amount of one ephah, or ten omers, or three seahs, which is equal to about three pecks and three pints of our English measure.

The ears were brought into the Court of the Temple, and thrashed out with canes or stalks, so as not to injure the corn; then 'parched' on a pan perforated with holes, so that each grain might be touched by the fire, and finally exposed to the wind. The corn thus prepared was ground in a barley-mill, which left the hulls whole.



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More cut than used

highly refined

Though one ephah, or ten omers, of barley was cut down, only one omer of flour, or about 5 1 pints of our measure, was offered in the Temple on the second Paschal, or 16th day of Nisan. The rest of the flour might be redeemed, and used for any purpose. The omer of flour was mixed with a 'log,' or very nearly three-fourths of a pint of oil, and a handful of frankincense put upon it, then waved before the Lord, and a

# REVIEW

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- ✘ The festivals help us learn about how YHVH intends to build his kingdom.
  - + The festivals parallel the Hebrew wedding
  - + The festivals parallel the three annual harvests
- ✘ Israel is His firstfruits as well as His firstborn
- ✘ Wave Omer barley comes from anywhere in the land.
- ✘ refining the grain must wait for Passover sacrifice
- ✘ refining process includes being blown by the wind
- ✘ More grain was chosen than was actually used.
- ✘ The offering must be accompanied by a one-year-old male lamb without blemish

שְׁלֹמֹם לָכֶם

Shalom Aleichem

*Peace be Unto You*



# REVIEW

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  - + The festivals parallel the Hebrew wedding
  - + The festivals parallel the three annual harvests
- ✘ Israel is His firstfruits as well as His firstborn
  - + (Ex. 4:22, Jer. 2:3, Hos. 9:10)
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# THE WAVE OMER OFFERING



NKJ **Leviticus 2:1** 'When anyone offers a grain offering to the LORD, his offering shall be *of* fine flour. And he shall pour oil on it, and put frankincense on it. <sup>2</sup> 'He shall bring it to Aaron's sons, the priests, one of whom shall take from it his handful of fine flour and oil with all the frankincense. And the priest shall burn *it* as a memorial on the altar, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD. <sup>3</sup> 'The rest of the grain offering *shall be* Aaron's and his sons'. *It is* most holy of the offerings to the LORD made by fire.

the “azkarah” (Strong’s 234)  
‘Memorial Portion’  
burned on the altar

# THE WAVE OMER OFFERING



NKJ **Leviticus 2:14 & 16** If you offer a grain offering of your firstfruits to the LORD, you shall offer for the grain offering of your firstfruits green heads of grain roasted on the fire, grain beaten from full heads . . . <sup>16</sup> then the priest shall burn the memorial portion: *part* of its beaten grain and *part* of its oil, with all the frankincense, as an offering made by fire to the LORD.

the “azkarah”  
Part of the firstfruits, but  
not waved, instead - burned  
on the altar



# WHAT DOES IT REPRESENT?



NKJ **Romans 8:9-11** But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. <sup>10</sup> And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.



# WHAT DOES IT REPRESENT?



NKJ **Romans 8:18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.



# WHAT DOES IT REPRESENT?



NKJ **Romans 8:18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

NKJ **Romans 8:19** For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.





# WHAT DOES IT REPRESENT?

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NKJ **Exodus 4:22** "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel *is* My son, My firstborn.

# WHAT DOES IT REPRESENT?

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NKJ **Romans 8:18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

NKJ **Romans 8:19** For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

NKJ **Isaiah 44:23** Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done *it!* Shout, you lower parts of the earth; Break forth into singing, you mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, And glorified Himself in Israel.

# WHAT DOES IT REPRESENT?



NKJ **Isaiah 10:19-22** <sup>19</sup> Then the rest of the trees of his forest  
Will be so few in number That a child may write them. <sup>20</sup> And  
it shall come to pass in that day *That* the remnant of Israel,  
And such as have escaped of the house of Jacob, Will never  
again depend on him who defeated them, But will depend on  
the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. <sup>21</sup> The remnant will  
return, the remnant of Jacob, To the Mighty God. <sup>22</sup> For  
though your people, O Israel, be as the sand of the sea, A  
remnant of them will return; The destruction decreed shall  
overflow with righteousness.



# WHAT DOES IT REPRESENT?

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ESV **Romans 8:22** For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

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For they *are* not all Israel who are of Israel . . .

NKJ **Romans 9:6**

# WHAT DOES IT REPRESENT?

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NJB **James 1:17-18** . . . all that is good, all that is perfect, is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow caused by change. <sup>18</sup> By his own choice he gave birth to us by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all his creation.



# WHAT DOES IT REPRESENT?



## **The Wave-Omer Offering**

- The stalks of grain can be harvest from anywhere in the land.
- Three sheaves of barley are cut, but only a small amount makes it through the process
- The grain goes through an extensive process before it is refined enough to be a part of the offering
- The wind helps separate the parched grain from the husk.
- The wave-omer offering requires the sacrifice of a male lamb without blemish.

## **Israel – the Firstfruits**

- Israel is gathered from the four corners of the earth
- Many are called, but few are chosen
- God's people go thru many trials in order to fulfill their calling
- The “ruach”, God's Holy Spirit helps us be separated from the world.
- Israel's redemption required a male lamb without blemish.

# WHAT DOES IT REPRESENT?

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NKJ **Romans 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which* is your reasonable service.

# WHAT DOES IT REPRESENT?



NKJ **1 Corinthians 5:7** Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.





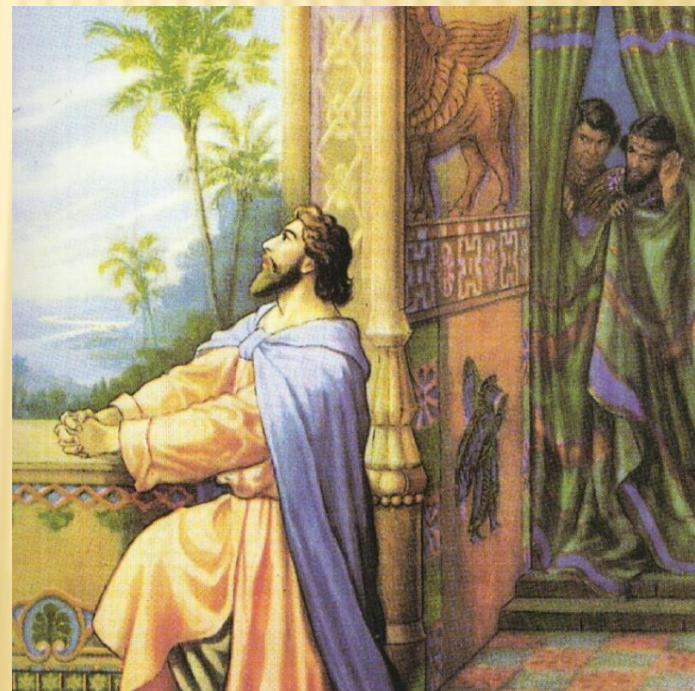


# **THE WAVE OMER OFFERING AND THE FESTIVALS**

# THE WAVE OMER AND THE FESTIVALS



NKJ **Daniel 7:13** " I was watching in the night visions, And behold, *One* like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. <sup>14</sup> Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom *the one* Which shall not be destroyed.





## THE WAVE OMER AND THE FESTIVALS



NKJ **Luke 1:26-33** <sup>26</sup> Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God . . . <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!" . . . <sup>31</sup> "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. <sup>32</sup> "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. <sup>33</sup> "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."



# THE **WAVE OMER** AND THE **FESTIVALS**

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NKJ **Matthew 6:33** "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

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NKJ **John 12:32** <sup>32</sup> "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all *peoples* to Myself."



## THE WAVE OMER AND THE FESTIVALS



NKJ **John 20:19-22** <sup>19</sup> Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace *be* with you . . . , as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." <sup>22</sup> And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

# THE WAVE OMER AND THE RESURRECTIONS



NKJ **1 Corinthians 15:19-24** <sup>9</sup> If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. <sup>20</sup> But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming. <sup>24</sup> Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

Note:  
Comma (,) added by author

# THE WAVE OMER AND THE RESURRECTIONS



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# THE **WAVE OMER** AND THE **FESTIVALS**



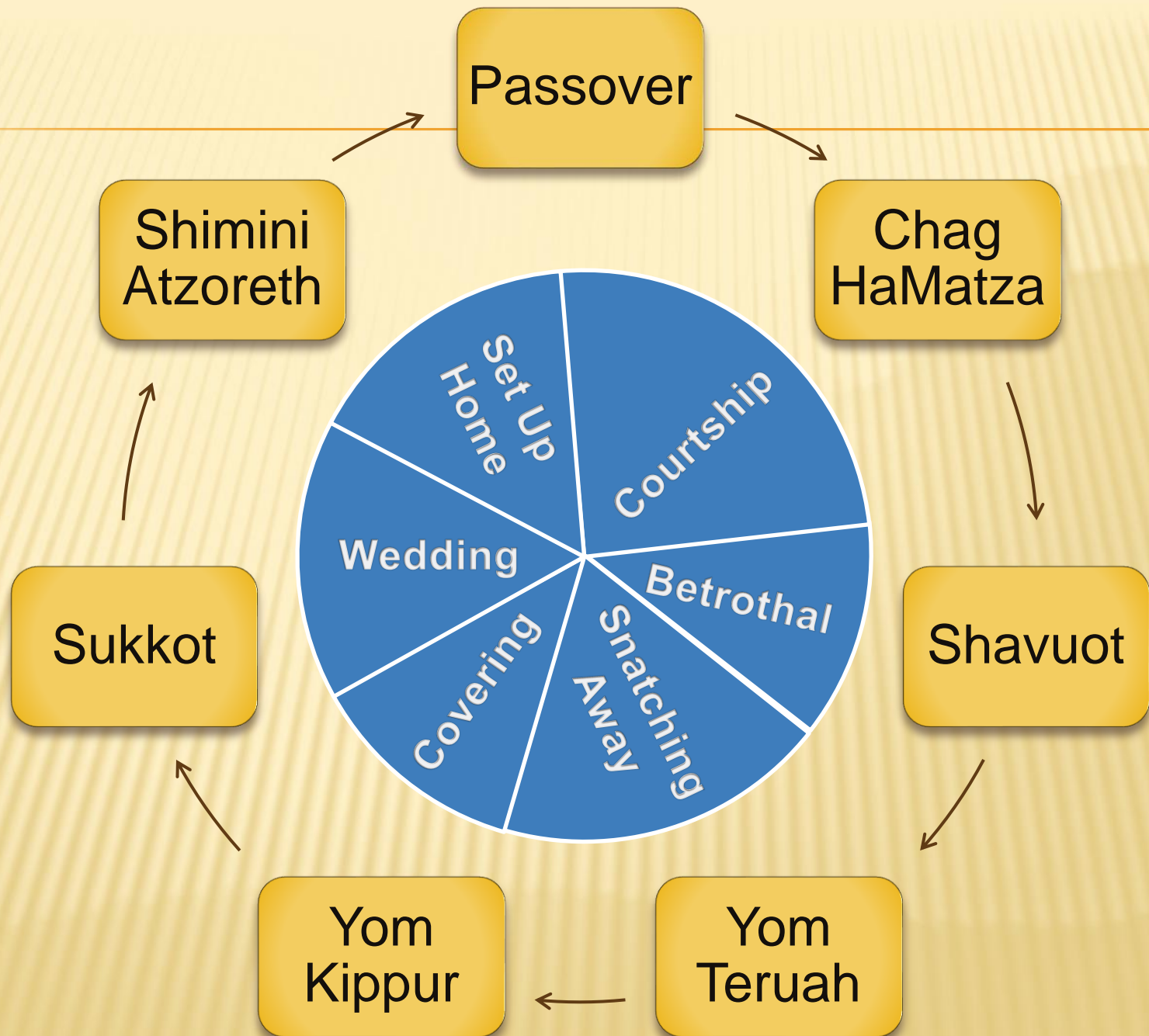
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## **Festival Season**

- Passover (barley)
- Shavuot (wheat)
- Tabernacles (fruit & vegetables)

## **Resurrection**

- Messiah Yeshua
- The Firstfruits
- All those who are Yeshua's at His coming



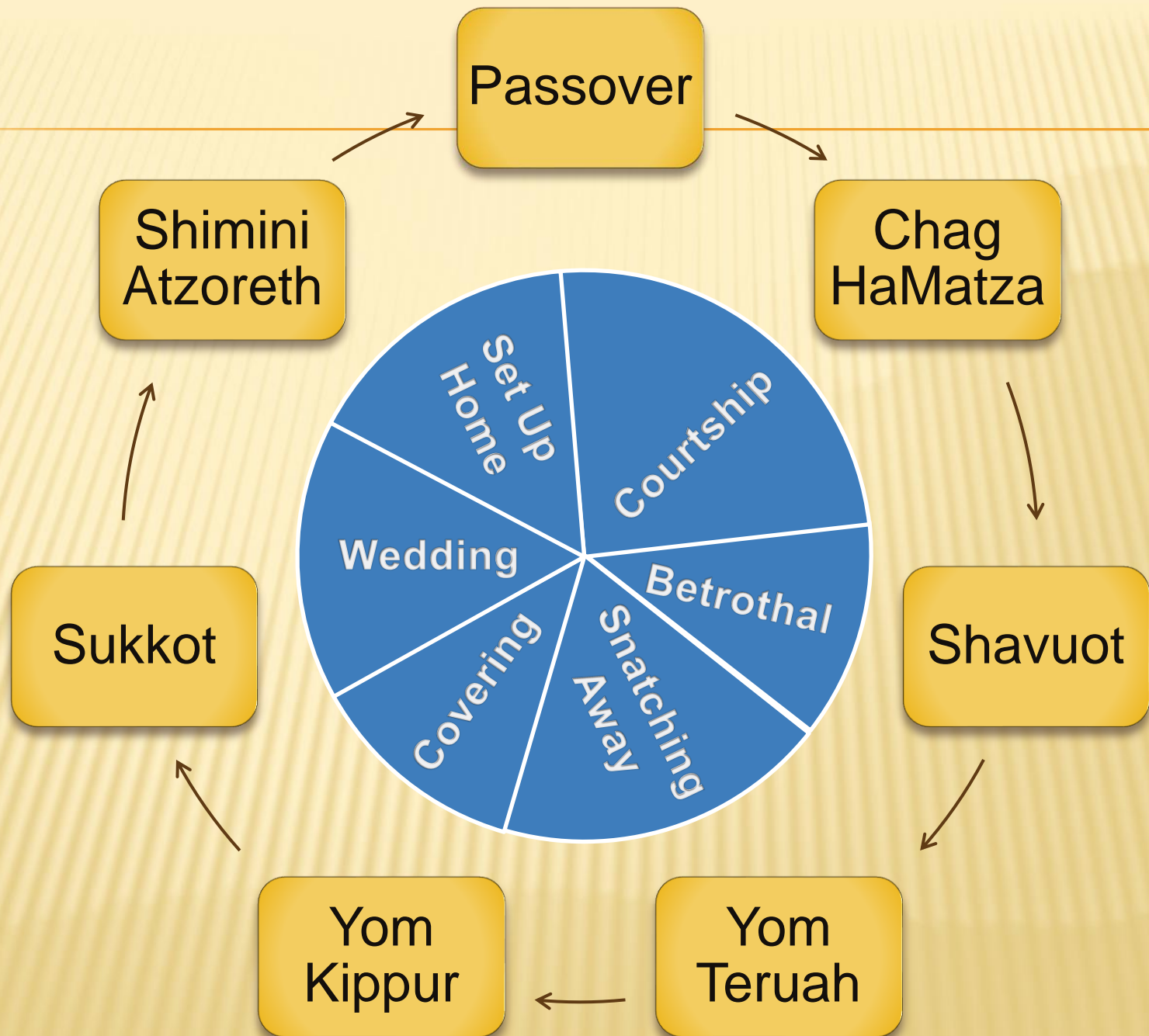
# THE WAVE OMER OFFERING

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NKJ **Exodus 4:23** "So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn." ' "





# THE WAVE OMER OFFERING

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NKJ **Proverbs 25:2** *It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.*

## THE REVIEW . . .

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- ✘ The harvest festivals are linked to the ancient Hebrew Wedding and the resurrection of the believers
- ✘ Israel has always held the title of firstfruits and firstborn
- ✘ The wave-omer offering resembles the process by which God's people come to serve him and fulfill their role
- ✘ The role of the firstfruits is to further the Kingdom of God
- ✘ The firstfruits share in a very special resurrection



## THE WAVE OMER OFFERING

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. . . **Well *done***, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.

NKJ **Matthew 25:23**

שְׁלֹמֹם לָכֶם

Shalom Aleichem

*Peace be Unto You*