

Shavuot Service





Kindling the Lights

Baruch atah Adonai Elohenu Melech ha'olam asher kid'shanu b'dvaroh v'natan lanu et Yeshua Mishikenu v'tzivanu l'hilot or l'olam.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּדִבְרֶיךָ וְנָתַן לָנוּ אֶת יֵשׁוּעַ מְשִׁיכֵנוּ וְצִוָּנוּ לְהִיֹּת אוֹר לְעוֹלָם

Blessed are You, Oh L-rd our G-d, King of the Universe. You have sanctified us by Your Word and given us Yeshua our Messiah, and commanded us to be a light to the world.

Opening Prayer

Chag Sameach! The season of Shavuot is the culmination of the fifty days of the Counting of the Omer, which started after Pesach. For each day of the Omer, there is a blessing. For the Day of Shavuot the blessing is:

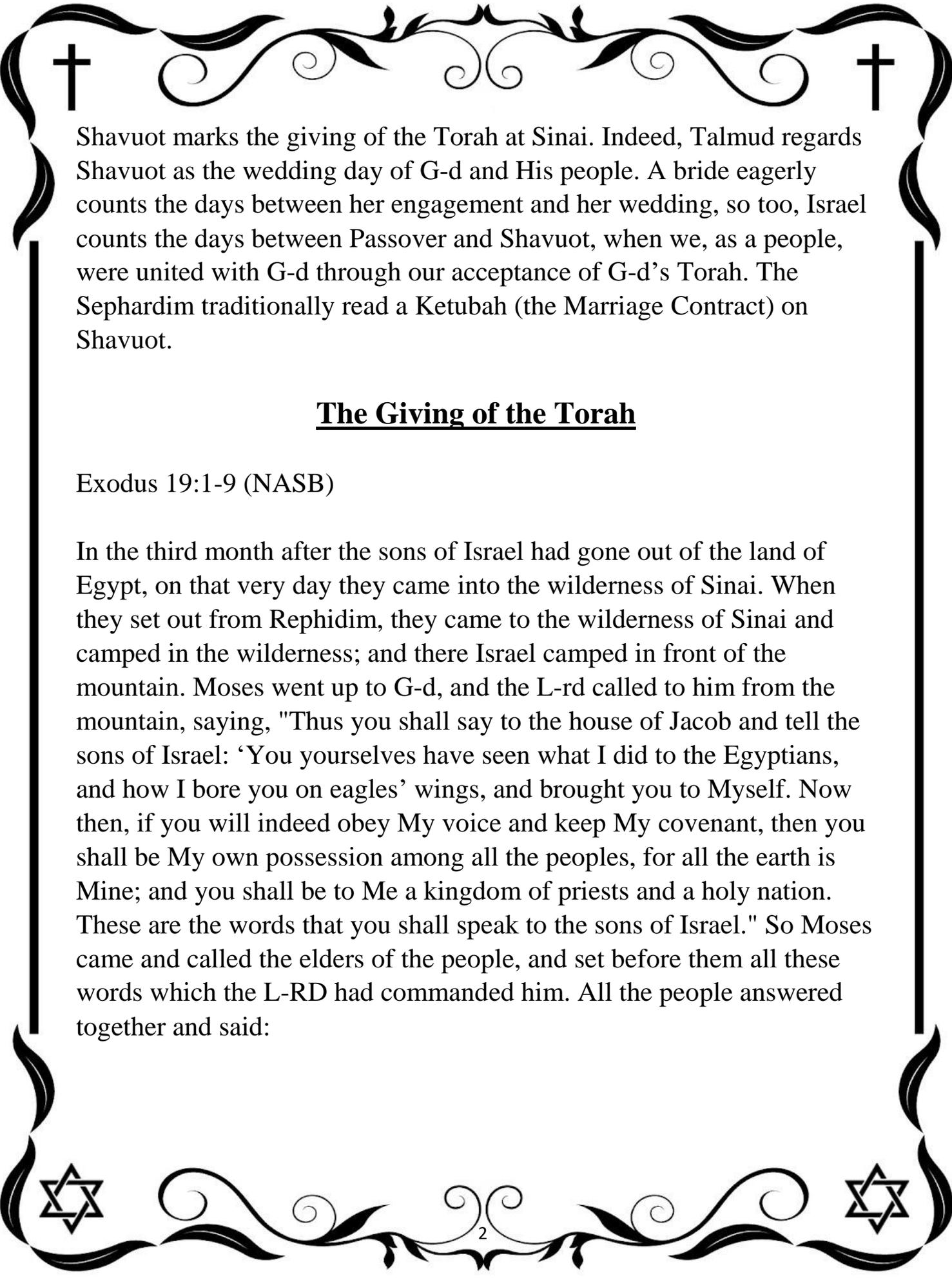
Kol han'shamah t'halel Yah hal'luyah.

כָּל הַנְּשָׁמָה תְּהַלֵּל יְיָ הַלְלוּיָהּ

Let everything that has breath praise the L-rd. Praise the L-rd! – Psalm 150:6

Adonai, as I enter in to Shavuot with great expectation, I give praise to Your Name. Pour out Your Ruach HaKodesh in power. Mold me into the vessel You desire me to be. So, as clay is in the hand of the potter, so am I in Your hand.





Shavuot marks the giving of the Torah at Sinai. Indeed, Talmud regards Shavuot as the wedding day of G-d and His people. A bride eagerly counts the days between her engagement and her wedding, so too, Israel counts the days between Passover and Shavuot, when we, as a people, were united with G-d through our acceptance of G-d's Torah. The Sephardim traditionally read a Ketubah (the Marriage Contract) on Shavuot.

The Giving of the Torah

Exodus 19:1-9 (NASB)

In the third month after the sons of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. When they set out from Rephidim, they came to the wilderness of Sinai and camped in the wilderness; and there Israel camped in front of the mountain. Moses went up to G-d, and the L-rd called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.'" So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the L-RD had commanded him. All the people answered together and said:



“Kol asher diber Adonai na’aseh”.

כָּל אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יְהוָה נַעֲשֶׂה

“All that the L-RD has spoken we will do!”

And Moses brought back the words of the people to the L-rd. The L-rd said to Moses, "Behold, I will come to you in a thick cloud, so that the people may hear when I speak with you and may also believe in you forever." Then Moses told the words of the people to the L-rd. Adonai call Moses back up the mountain and gave him all the instructions of Torah. The Decalogue, or 10 Commandments, is the foundation of all of G-d’s instructions to His people.

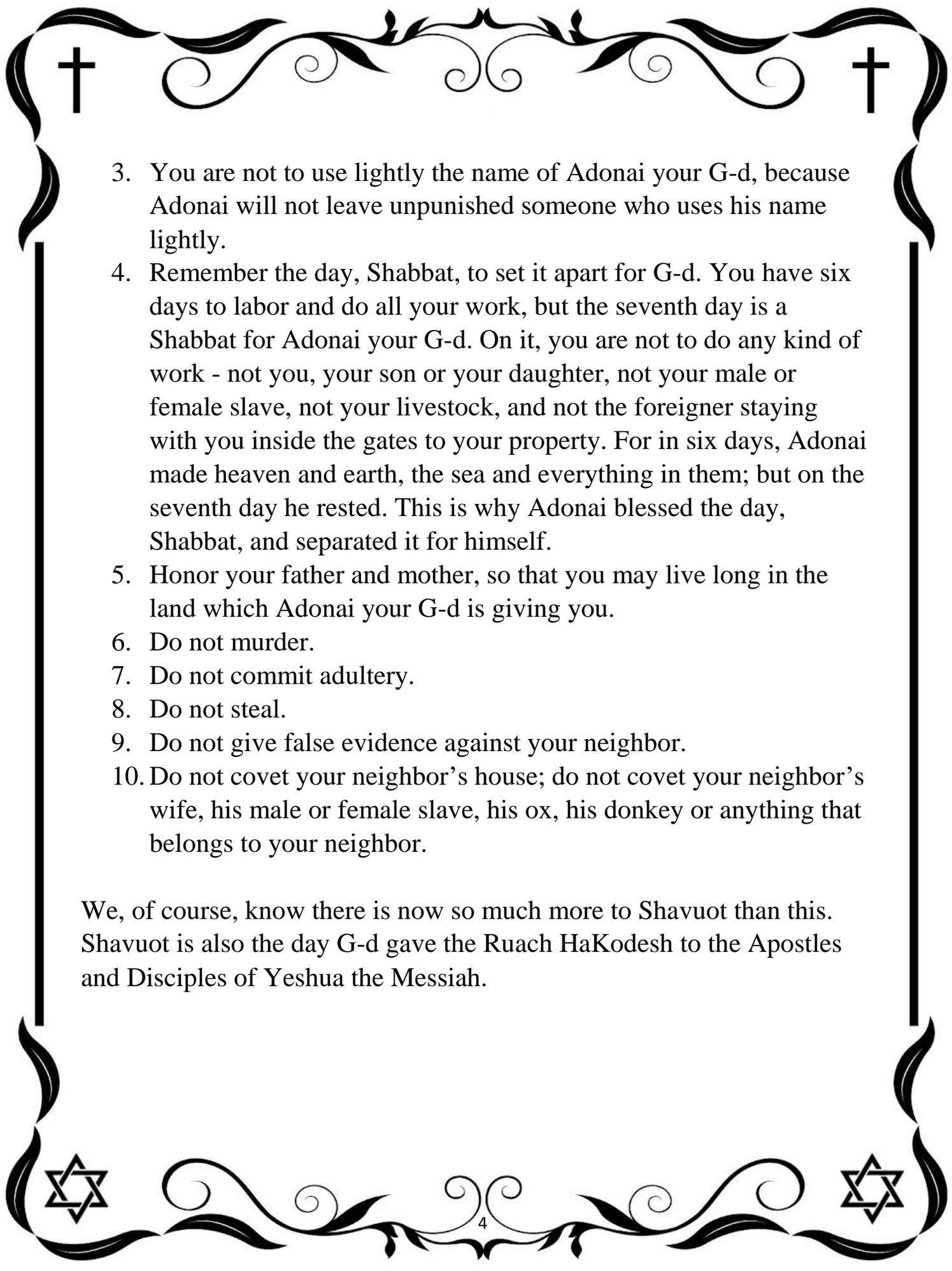
The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:2-17 (CJB)

Let us read them together:

1. I am Adonai your G-d, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the abode of slavery. You are to have no other gods before me.
2. You are not to make for yourselves a carved image or any kind of representation of anything in heaven above, on the earth beneath or in the water below the shoreline. You are not to bow down to them or serve them; for I, Adonai your G-d, am a jealous G-d, punishing the children for the sins of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but displaying grace to the thousandth generation of those who love me and obey my mitzvot.



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3. You are not to use lightly the name of Adonai your G-d, because Adonai will not leave unpunished someone who uses his name lightly.
 4. Remember the day, Shabbat, to set it apart for G-d. You have six days to labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Shabbat for Adonai your G-d. On it, you are not to do any kind of work - not you, your son or your daughter, not your male or female slave, not your livestock, and not the foreigner staying with you inside the gates to your property. For in six days, Adonai made heaven and earth, the sea and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. This is why Adonai blessed the day, Shabbat, and separated it for himself.
 5. Honor your father and mother, so that you may live long in the land which Adonai your G-d is giving you.
 6. Do not murder.
 7. Do not commit adultery.
 8. Do not steal.
 9. Do not give false evidence against your neighbor.
 10. Do not covet your neighbor's house; do not covet your neighbor's wife, his male or female slave, his ox, his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

We, of course, know there is now so much more to Shavuot than this. Shavuot is also the day G-d gave the Ruach HaKodesh to the Apostles and Disciples of Yeshua the Messiah.



Acts 2

The festival of Shavuot arrived and the believers all gathered together in one place. Suddenly there came a sound from the sky like the roar of a violent wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire, which separated and came to rest on each one of them. They were all filled with the Ruach HaKodesh and began to talk in different languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak. Now there were staying in Yerushalayim religious Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered; they were confused because each one heard the believers speaking in his own language. Totally amazed, they asked, "How is this possible? Aren't all these people who are speaking from the Galil? How is it that we hear them speaking in our native languages? We are Parthians, Medes, Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Y'hudah, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, the parts of Libya near Cyrene, visitors from Rome; Jews by birth and proselytes; Cretans, Arabs...! How is it that we hear them speaking in our own languages about the great things G-d has done?" Amazed and confused, they all went on asking each other, "What can this mean?" But others made fun of them and said, "They've just had too much wine!" Then Kefa stood up with the Eleven and raised his voice to address them. "You Judeans, and all of you staying here in Yerushalayim! Let me tell you what this means! Listen carefully to me! These people aren't drunk, as you suppose - it's only nine in the morning. No, this is what was spoken about through the prophet Yo'el. Adonai says, "In the Last Days, I will pour out from my Spirit upon everyone. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.





Even on my slaves, both men and women, will I pour out from my Spirit in those days; and they will prophesy. I will perform miracles in the sky above and signs on the earth below - blood, fire and thick smoke. The sun will become dark and the moon blood before the great and fearful Day of Adonai comes. And then, whoever calls on the name of Adonai will be saved." Men of Israel! Listen to this! Yeshua from Natzeret was a man demonstrated to you to have been from G-d by the powerful works, miracles and signs that G-d performed through Him in your presence. You yourselves know this. This man was arrested in accordance with G-d's predetermined plan and foreknowledge; and through the agency of persons not bound by the Torah, you nailed Him up on a stake and killed Him! But G-d has raised Him up and freed Him from the suffering of death; it was impossible that death could keep its hold on Him. For David says this about Him, 'I saw Adonai always before me, for He is at my right hand, so that I will not be shaken. For this reason, my heart was glad; and my tongue rejoiced; and now my body, too will live on in the certain hope that you will not abandon me to Sheol or let your Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will fill me with joy by your presence.' Brothers, I know I can say to you frankly that the patriarch David died and was buried - his tomb is with us to this day. Therefore, since he was a prophet and knew that G-d had sworn an oath to him that one of his descendants would sit on his throne, he was speaking in advance about the resurrection of the Messiah, that it was he who was not abandoned in Sheol and whose flesh did not see decay. G-d raised up this Yeshua! And we are all witnesses of it! Moreover, he has been exalted to the right hand of G-d; has received from the Father what he promised, namely the Ruach HaKodesh; and has poured out this gift, which you are both seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend in to heaven.





But he says, 'Adonai said to my L-rd - Sit at my Right Hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your Feet.' Therefore, let the whole house of Israel know beyond doubt that G-d has made Him both L-rd and Messiah - this Yeshua, whom you executed on a stake!"

On hearing this, they were stung in their hearts; and they said to Kefa and other emissaries, "Brothers, what should we do?" Kefa answered them, "Turn from sin, return to G-d, and each of you be immersed on the authority of Yeshua the Messiah into forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Ruach HaKodesh! For the promise is for you, for your children, and for those far away - as many as Adonai our G-d may call!" He pressed his case with many other arguments and kept pleading with them, "Save yourselves from this perverse generation!" So those who accepted what he said were immersed, and there were added to the group that day about three thousand people.

Blessing of Challah

Baruch atah Adonai, Elohenu Melach ha'olam, asher kid'shanu b'dam haMashiach, v'tsivanu l'hafrish challah.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּדַם הַמָּשִׁיחַ וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַפְרִישׁ חֻלָּה

Blessed are You, Oh L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, Who has sanctified us in the blood of the Messiah, and commanded us to separate the challah.





Waving the Loaves

Baruch atah Adonai, Elohenu Melech ha'olam, hamotzi lechem min ha'aretz.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ אֲמֵן

Blessed are You, Oh L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth.

Baruch atah Adonai, Elohenu Melech ha'olam, asher kid'shanu b'dam haMashiach, v'tsivanu l'k'noch letem habichurim.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּדַם הַמָּשִׁיחַ וְצִוָּנוּ לְפָנֶיךָ לֶחֶם הַבְּכוּרִים

Blessed are You, Oh L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, Who has sanctified us in the blood of the Messiah, and commanded us to wave the bread of firstfruit.

Two loaves are waved. One loaf left to right and one loaf up and down over the first loaf.

Blessed are You, Oh L-rd, Who gave the Torah to our fathers from Mount Sinai in those days at this season and Who gave us Yeshua, Your blessed only begotten Son to fulfill the Torah, and Who sent Your Holy Spirit, the Ruach HaKodesh, as a firstfruit of the Resurrection of Yeshua.





Megilah

Ruth 4

Meanwhile, Boaz had gone up to the gate and had sat down there, when the redeemer of whom Boaz had spoken passed by. "Such-and-such," he said, "Come over, and sit down." So, he came over and sat down. He took ten of the city's leaders and said, "Sit down here", and they sat down. Then he said to the redeeming kinsman, "The parcel of land which used to belong to our relative Elimelech is being offered for sale by Naomi, who has returned from the plain of Mo'av. I thought I should tell you about it and say, 'Buy it in the presence of the people sitting here and in the presence of the leaders of my people. If you want to redeem it, redeem it. But if it is not to be redeemed, then tell me, so that I can know, because there is no one else in line to redeem it, and I'm after you.'" He said, "I want to redeem it." Then Boaz said, "The same day you buy the field from Naomi, you must also buy Ruth the woman from Mo'av, the wife of the deceased [son], in order to raise up in the name of the deceased an heir for his property."

The redeemer said, "Then I can't redeem it for myself, because I might put my own inheritance at risk. You, take my right of redemption on yourself; because I can't redeem it." In the past, this is what was done in Israel to validate all transactions involving redemption and exchange: a man took off his shoe and gave it to the other party; this was the form of attestation in Israel. So, the redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself," and took off his shoe. Boaz addressed the leaders and all the people: "You are witnesses today that I am purchasing from Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Kilyon and Machlon. Also, I am acquiring as my wife Ruth the woman from Mo'av, the wife





of Machlon, in order to raise up in the name of the deceased an heir for his property; so that the name of the deceased will not be cut off from his kinsmen and from the gate of his place. You are witnesses today." All the people at the gate and the leaders said, "We are witnesses. May Adonai make the woman who has come into your house like Rachel and like Leah, who between them built up the house of Israel. Do worthy deeds in Efrat; become renowned in Beit-Lechem. May your house, because of the seed Adonai will give you from this young woman, become like the house of Peretz, whom Tamar bore to Y'hudah." So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. He had sexual relations with her, Adonai enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be Adonai, who today has provided you a redeemer! May his name be renowned in Israel. May he restore your life and provide for your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him." Naomi took the child, laid it on her breast and became its nurse. The women who were her neighbors gave it a name; they said, "A son has been born to Naomi," and called it Oved. He was the father of Yishai the father of David.

Here is the genealogy of Peretz: Peretz was the father of Hetzron, Hetzron was the father of Ram, Ram was the father of Amminadav, Amminadav was the father of Nachshon, Nachshon was the father of Salmon. Salmon was the father of Boaz, Boaz was the father of Oved, Oved was the father of Yishai, and Yishai was the father of David.





Responsive Reading

Minyan: Endless are Your revelations, Oh Eternal One, to every age and to all the peoples.

Chazzan: For Your revelations to the Messianic Community, the Assembly of HaShem, those of our first days, and those of these the latter days, and for the discoveries we make concerning Your Salvation and grace, we give You thanks.

Minyan: Deliver Your people Israel from the darkness of arrogance and pride, that they may see and know Messiah Yeshua with unclouded vision. Help them to discover and accept Messiah into their lives.

Chazzan: Teach us Your Torah, Yeshua, and enable us to hallow our lives with Your Mitzvot, Oh Source of Truth and Instruction. You are blessed for ever, Amen.

Minyan: Oh L-rd Yeshua, Your light shines continually upon the path of all who sincerely seek to know You and to do Your will. Help us always to search for You, always to listen for Your voice and to be led with the in-dwelling power of Your Ruach Ha Kodesh.





Chazzan: For the desire You have given us to seek after Your righteousness, and for the measure of truth that we have found, we praise Your Holy Name. May the observance of this Festival of Shavuot, giving of your Holy Spirit, inspire us to walk in Your ways, as it is written: "You shall be holy, for I, the L-rd your G-d, am holy."

Minyan: You are to be a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people.

Chazzan: For this commandment which I command you this day is not too difficult for you, nor too remote.

Minyan: No, the Word is very near to you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.

Chazzan: The days are coming, says the L-rd, when I will make a New Covenant (Brit Hadashah) with the House of Israel and the House of Judah.

Minyan: I will put my Torah within them, and engrave it on their hearts.

Chazzan: I will be their G-d, they shall be My People.

All: And then it shall come to pass, that I will pour out My spirit upon all flesh. Kol had'varim asher d'ber Adonai na'aseh. All the Words the L-rd has Spoken, We Shall Do.





Aaronic Benediction

Y'varechechah Adonai V'yishm'rechah. Ya'er Adonai panavelechah vichunekah. Yisah Adonai panavelechah v'yasem l'chah shalom.

יְבָרְכֶךָ יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמְרֶכָּ
יְאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחֲנֹךְ
יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

The L-rd bless you and keep you. The L-rd make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The L-rd lift up His face upon you and give you peace.

Ken y'hi ratzon.

כֵּן יְהִי רָצוֹן

Yes, may it be so.

Shabbat Shalom!

שַׁבַּת שְׁלוֹם

