

# HOW LONG, O LORD?



FIRST MELISSA

**How long**, O Lord? Will You  
forget me forever? **How long**  
will You hide Your face from me?  
**How long** shall I take counsel in  
my soul, having sorrow in my  
heart all the day? **How long** will  
my enemy be exalted over me?

Psalm 13:1-3



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# 2020 Calendar - Biblical Holidays

No.	English	Hebrew	days	equivalent
1	Nisan	ניסן	30	Mar - Apr
2	Iyar	אייר	29	Apr - May
3	Sivan	סיון	30	May - Jun
4	Tammuz	תמוז	29	Jun - Jul
5	Av	אב	30	Jul - Aug
6	Elul	אלול	29	Aug - Sep
7	Tishrei	תשרי	30	Sep - Oct
8	Cheshvan	חשוון	29/30	Oct - Nov
9	Kislev	כסליו	30/29	Nov - Dec
10	Tevet	טבת	29	Dec - Jan
11	Shevat	שבט	30	Jan - Feb
12L	Adar I	אדר א'	30	leap year
12	Adar	אדר	29	Feb - Mar

**1** Pesach April 9-16

**2** Shavuot May 29-30



Tish'a B'Av July 30

Rosh Hashana September 19-20

Yom Kippur September 28

**3** Sukkot October 3-9



# Shalosh Regalim שלוש רגלים

## Three Biblical pilgrimage festivals

“**Three times** in a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses, at the **Feast of Unleavened Bread** and at the **Feast of Weeks** and at the **Feast of Booths**, and they shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed. Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you.” Deuteronomy 16:16-17



# Shavuot / Pentecost

- **Shavuot** (Hebrew שבועות), known as the **Feast of Weeks** in English and as **Pentecost** (Πεντηκοστή) in Ancient Greek, is a biblical holiday that occurs in the Hebrew month of Sivan.
- Shavuot celebrates the revelation of the Five Books of the Torah by God to Moses and the Israelites at Mount Sinai, 49 days (7 weeks) after the Exodus from Egypt.
- Since Shavuot occurs 50 days after Passover, Hellenistic Jews gave it the name "Pentecost" (πεντηκοστή, "fiftieth day").
- Shavuot also marks the all-important wheat harvest in the Land of Israel (Exodus 34:22).



God said to Moses... “You shall celebrate the **Feast of Weeks** (Shavuot), that is, the first fruits of the wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the turn of the year. Three times a year all your males are to appear before the Lord God, the God of Israel.” Exodus 34:22-23



**What can the ancient  
biblical festival of Shavuot  
teach us in the midst of  
today's crises?**

**Acts 1 and 2**



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To these He [Jesus] also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” He said, “you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but **you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now.” Acts 1:3-5



So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **you shall be My witnesses** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” Acts 1:6-8



And after He had said these things, He was lifted up [ascension] while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, **will come in just the same way** as you have watched Him go into heaven.” Acts 1:9-11

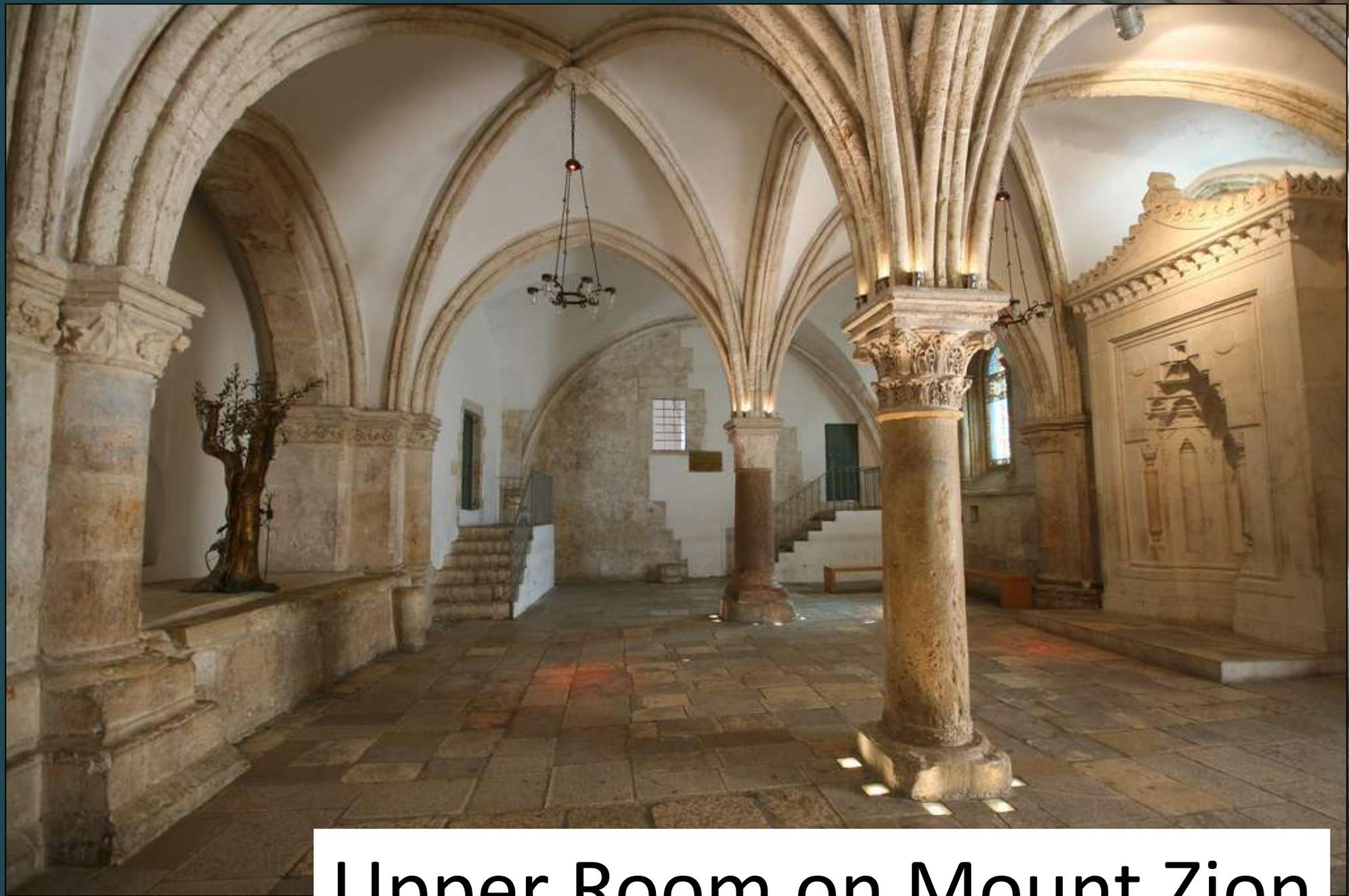


Then they [disciples] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went up to the **upper room** where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. Acts 1:12-14

“Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this man get all these things?”

Matthew 13:55-56

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were **all together** in one place.  
Acts 2:1



Upper Room on Mount Zion

When the day of **Pentecost** had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Acts 2:1-2

\*God chose the day of Shavuot to fulfill His promise of the giving of the Holy Spirit to those who believe in Jesus the Messiah [John 14:26]



The Lord said to Moses, “You shall also **count** for yourselves from the day after the sabbath, from the day when you brought in the sheaf (Hebrew עֹמֶר omer) of the wave offering; there shall be seven complete sabbaths. **You shall count fifty days** (Pentecost in Greek) to the day after the seventh sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to the Lord.” Leviticus 23:15-16

The counting period called **Sefirat HaOmer** (Counting the Omer)



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And there appeared to them tongues as of **fire** distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit [Ruach HaKodesh] and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

Acts 2:3-4

- The angel of the Lord appeared to him [Moses] in a **blazing fire** from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. Exodus 3:2
- Now Mount Sinai was all in smoke because the Lord descended upon it in **fire**; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently. Exodus 19:18



Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, **devout men from every nation under heaven**. And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. They were amazed and astonished, saying, “Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born?” Acts 2:5-8







And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others were mocking and saying, “They are full of sweet wine.” But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: “Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words. For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day;” Acts 2:12-15



“but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel [2:28-32]: ‘And it shall be in **the last days,**’ God says, ‘That **I will pour forth of My Spirit on all mankind;** and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on My bondslaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of My Spirit and they shall prophesy. And I will grant wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious day of the Lord shall come. And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Acts 2:16-21



“Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.” Acts 2:22-24



“For David says of Him [Psalm 16:8-11], ‘I saw the Lord always in my presence; for He is at my right hand, so that I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart was glad and my tongue exulted; moreover my flesh also will live in hope; because You will not abandon my soul to Hades, nor allow Your Holy One to undergo decay. You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of gladness with Your presence.’ Acts 2:25-28



“Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. And so, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants on his throne [Psalm 132:11], he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay.”

Acts 2:29-31



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Peter said, “This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says [Psalm 110:1]: ‘The Lord [God the Father] said to my Lord [God the Son], “Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.” ’ Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.” Acts 2:32-36



Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” Peter said to them, “**Repent**, and each of you be **baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.” Acts 2:37-39



And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!” So then, those who had received his word were **baptized**; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. Acts 2:40-41





A mikveh  
(Jewish ritual  
bath) near  
the Southern  
steps leading  
up to Temple  
Mount in  
Jerusalem



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They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' **teaching** and to **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** and to **prayer**. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were **sharing** them with all, as anyone might have need. Acts 2:42-45



Day by day continuing with **one mind** in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 2:46-47



# What should followers of Jesus do during these difficult days? (Acts 2:42-47)

1. Learn the apostles' teachings (God's Word)
2. Fellowship
3. Break bread together
4. Pray
5. Share with those in need
6. Praise God
7. Talk about the salvation found in Jesus
8. Do all these things with people who look like you and those who don't look like you



# How Long, O Lord?

What should followers of Jesus do during times of racial tension?



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We know these people spoke different languages and lived in different areas. We can assume they dressed differently and looked differently and had different skin colors.

Racism is evil and unbiblical and breaks the heart of God and can never be tolerated by those who profess to follow Jesus as Savior.

# Remember...

- All people are created equal
- All people are sinful and selfish
- All people need a Redeemer
- All life is valuable and a gift from God
- Murder by anyone of anyone is criminal
- Violence and crime are destructive
- Hate and evil are contagious
- Love and grace are contagious
- All people can speak truth and healing



## LAST WEEK

### What about us? What about now?

In the middle of a **pandemic**, as the world fears a disease and an economic collapse, the Lord is looking for willing people to send on a mission. The world needs a **vaccine** and the world needs **economic recovery**, but most of all, the world needs **revival**.



# THIS WEEK

## What about us? What about now?

In the middle of rioting and violence and senseless killings, the Lord is looking for willing people to send on a mission. The world needs racial reconciliation and the world needs competent police, but most of all, the world needs revival.



# How Long, O Lord?

Last week's answer...

**Until God's messengers have  
been prepared and sent on  
mission**

This week's answer...

**Until the world is united as  
disciples of Messiah Jesus**



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