

The 1st Jubilee



Moses

The word “*Jubilee*” comes from the Hebrew *Yowbel*. A *Yowbel* is a ram’s horn trumpet. In Old Testament times Israel was commanded by YHWH to let the land rest every 7 years. After 7 cycles of 7 years a special year of release or freedom was celebrated the following year. (the 50th) Because the *Yowbel* or ram’s horn was blown at this time the term *Yowbel* or Jubilee has likely come to represent this special 50 year celebration.

There are two different schools of thought concerning how to count the Jubilee. One side claims the Jubilee is counted independent of the yearly Sabbath cycle. The other side claims the Jubilee cycle is synchronized with the yearly Sabbath cycle. In short the Jubilee count of the former is 50 years in length. Because the Jubilee count of the latter is synchronized with the Sabbath cycle the count is quite unique. The 1st Jubilee is 50 years the 2nd is 99, the 3rd is

148 and so on.... In this way the Jubilee is always 49 + 1 year. Practically speaking the Jubilee of this latter count is always celebrated in the 1st year of a new Sabbath cycle. You would have 7 cycles of 7 years always followed

3104 יֹבֵל *yowbel* {yo-bale’} or יָבֵל *yobel* {yob-ale’}
Meaning: 1) ram, ram’s horn, trumpet, cornet 1a) ram (only in combination)
1a1) ram’s horn, trumpet 1b) jubilee year (marked by the blowing of cornets)

by a Jubilee in the 1st year of the next Sabbath cycle. Please see the **Table 1.1** on the following pages for a complete explanation of the two methods of calculating the Jubilee.

So which Jubilee count is the correct one? Lets look at the Scripture to see what evidence we can find. In the Scriptural record the 1st occurrence of a word, many times, has added weight and symbolism. The first usage of the term Jubilee (*Yowbel*) confirms that rule. In Exodus 19 the children of Israel had arrived at Mt. Sinai. YHWH had commanded them to be ready against the “*third day*”. On this “*third day*” YHWH was to come down in the sight of all the people. When the “*trumpet soundeth long*” the children of Israel were to meet with YHWH. It was at this time that YHWH, in person, verbally gave the 10 commandments to Israel.

The phrase “*trumpet sounded*” is the 1st usage of the Hebrew word *Yowbel*. The next 13 occurrences of the word *Yowbel* are given in Leviticus 25 and are used in reference to the 50th year or Jubilee year. At first glance this 1st occurrence of the word *Yowbel* does not seem to have anything to do with a Jubilee. If we look a little deeper though, we will in fact find that this usage of *Yowbel* is very important to understanding the Jubilee cycle.

Exodus 19:1

In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai.

In Exodus 19 it states that Israel came into the wilderness of Sinai in the 3rd month on the “*same day*” they left the land of Egypt. Now in context this reference to the “*same day*” could have two possible meanings. The “*same day*” could be in reference to either the day of the month or the day of the week Israel left Egypt. According to the narrative of Exodus 19 this “*same day*” of Exo. 19:1 was the “*today*” of Exo. 19:10. YHWH told Moses to sanctify the people “*today*” and “*tomorrow*” and be ready against the “*third day*”. As we have already seen it was on this “*third day*” that YHWH came down to meet with the children of Israel.

Exodus 19:10-13

¹⁰ And YHWH said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes, ¹¹ And be ready against the third day: for the third day YHWH will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai. ¹² And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death: ¹³ There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount.

Table 1.1
The Jubilee Cycle
of Days and Years

Before we look closer at this chronology it is important to note that Israel's calendar was a lunar/solar calendar. The days of the lunar month were determined by the phases of the moon. It is believed by most that the 1st day of the lunar month was determined by sighting the 1st visible crescent of the moon. Some might argue that the 1st of the month was determined by "black ball" or new moon. Regardless we know the Israelites kept a lunar month. Today we know this month is 29.53 days in length. This means most months were 29 days in length and approximately every other month they were 30 days in length.

In order to determine which day of the 3rd month is being referenced here lets look a little closer at the chronology of the Exodus and the events leading up to this 3rd month. In Exodus 16 we have wonderful chronological detail that goes a long way to solving the timing of events in the 1st few months after the Exodus. After Israel left Egypt they traveled through the desert they came into the wilderness of Sin. Israel was complaining to Moses that they had no bread or meat. YHWH told Moses that in the evening He would send quail and the following morning He would send manna. (bread) YHWH goes on to tell them they must only gather this manna for 6 days and on the 7th day they must rest. So then, we see the next morning was the 1st day of manna or the start of the 1st day of the week. This information then allows us to synchronize the lunar month with the weekly cycle.

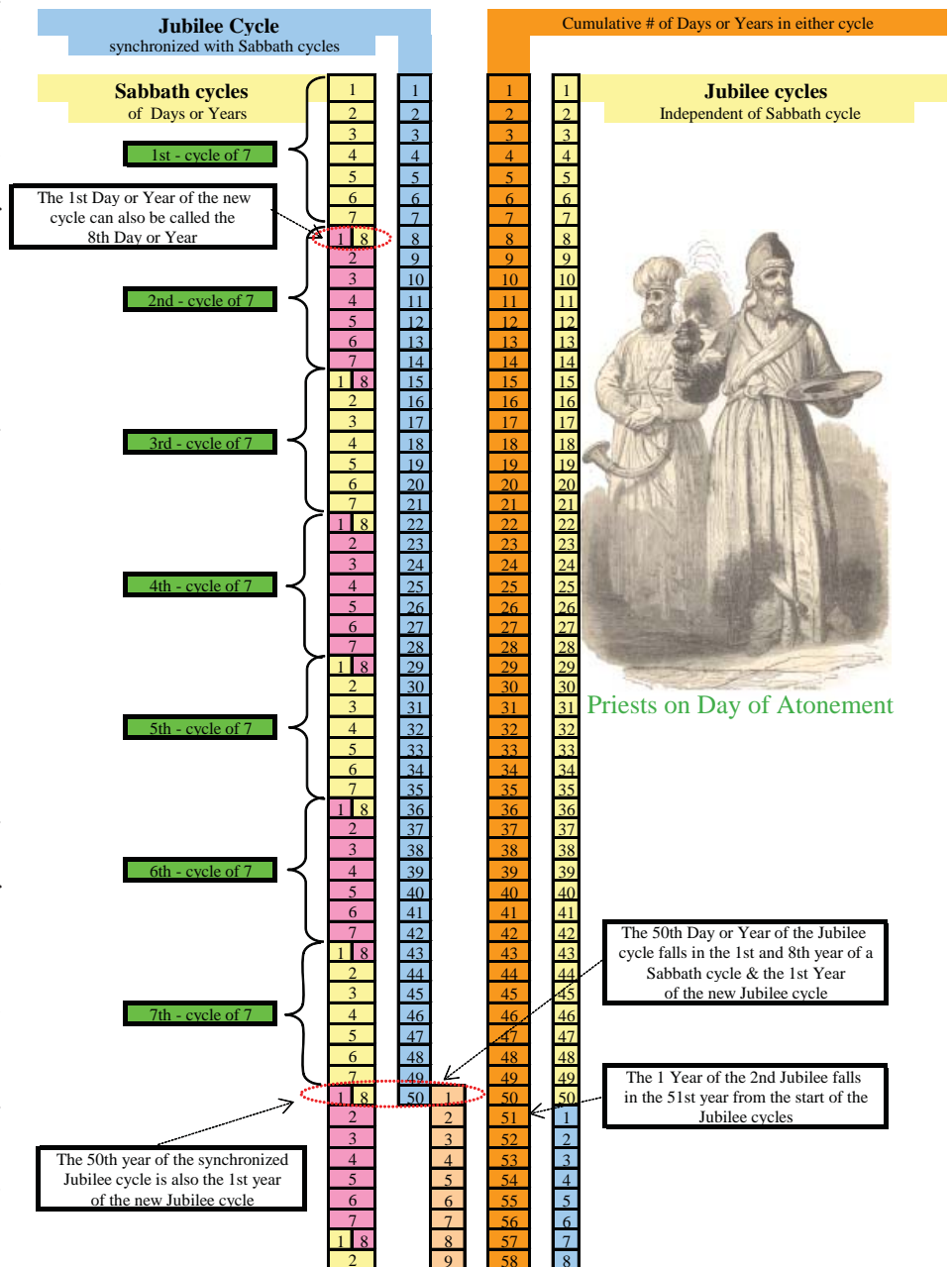
The Jubilee Cycle

Showing a Jubilee of both Days and Years

Also showing a comparison of the two methods of counting the Jubilee cycle

The synchronized method on the left and the independent method on the right

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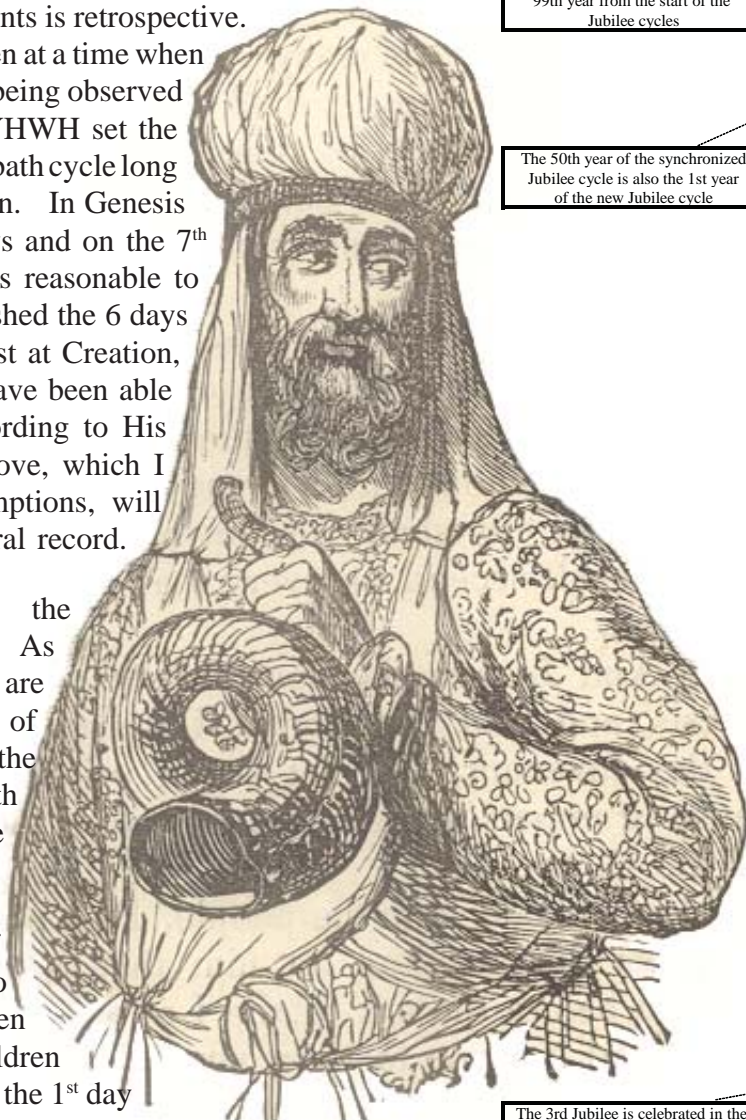
Exodus 16:1-2

And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt. ² And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:

Now using this information we can get a reasonably accurate idea of the days of the week during which these events transpired. So using Exodus 16 as a basis we can reasonably assume that the 16th day of the 2nd month was the 1st day of the week. Extrapolating this information backwards we find that Israel left Egypt on the 15th day of the 1st month which would have been the 6th day of the week.

Now before I go on, some might object to the idea of extrapolating the days of the week backwards to the 1st month since YHWH did not command the Sabbath to be kept until the 2nd month. This is a reasonable objection. First, I think it should be noted that this narration of events is retrospective. In other words it is being written at a time when the weekly cycle was already being observed as a historical account. 2nd YHWH set the precedence for the weekly Sabbath cycle long before in Genesis 1 at Creation. In Genesis we see that He labored 6 days and on the 7th day He rested. I believe it is reasonable to assume that if YHWH established the 6 days of labor and the 7th day of rest at Creation, He, at the very least would have been able to reestablish this cycle according to His pattern. And finally the above, which I believe are reasonable assumptions, will be confirmed later in Scriptural record.

Now lets look at the chronology of the 3rd month. As we noted in Exodus 19 there are two possibilities to the usage of the "same day" in reference to the 3rd month. (the day of the month or the day of the week.) In the **Table 2.1** below I have laid out the chronology as describe above. If the "same day" of Exodus 19 was in reference to the day of the weekly cycle then the day YHWH met with the children of Israel was the 50th day from the 1st day of the week following the Passover. The 1st Yowbel then was not a Jubilee of Years as described in Leviticus 25 but a Jubilee of Days.



3	10	59	9
4	11	60	10
5	12	61	11
6	13	62	12
7	14	63	13
1 8	15	64	14
2	16	65	15
3	17	66	16
4	18	67	17
5	19	68	18
6	20	69	19
7	21	70	20
1 8	22	71	21
2	23	72	22
3	24	73	23
4	25	74	24
5	26	75	25
6	27	76	26
7	28	77	27
1 8	29	78	28
2	30	79	29
3	31	80	30
4	32	81	31
5	33	82	32
6	34	83	33
7	35	84	34
1 8	36	85	35
2	37	86	36
3	38	87	37
4	39	88	38
5	40	89	39
6	41	90	40
7	42	91	41
1 8	43	92	42
2	44	93	43
3	45	94	44
4	46	95	45
5	47	96	46
6	48	97	47
7	49	98	48
1 8	50	99	49
2	1	100	50
3	2	101	1
4	3	102	2
5	4	103	3
6	5	104	4
7	6	105	5
1 8	7	106	6
2	8	107	7
3	9	108	8
4	10	109	9
5	11	110	10
6	12	111	11
7	13	112	12
1 8	14	113	13
2	15	114	14
3	16	115	15
4	17	116	16
5	18	117	17
6	19	118	18
7	20	119	19
1 8	21	120	20
2	22	121	21
3	23	122	22
4	24	123	23
5	25	124	24
6	26	125	25
7	27	126	26
1 8	28	127	27
2	29	128	28
3	30	129	29
4	31	130	30
5	32	131	31
6	33	132	32
7	34	133	33
1 8	35	134	34
2	36	135	35
3	37	136	36
4	38	137	37
5	39	138	38
6	40	139	39
7	41	140	40
1 8	42	141	41
2	43	142	42
3	44	143	43
4	45	144	44
5	46	145	45
6	47	146	46
7	48	147	47
1 8	49	148	48
2	50	149	49
3	1	150	50
4	2	151	1
5	3	152	2
6	4	153	3
7	5	154	4
1 8	6	155	5

The 2nd Jubilee is celebrated in the 99th year from the start of the Jubilee cycles

The 50th year of the synchronized Jubilee cycle is also the 1st year of the new Jubilee cycle

The 3rd Jubilee is celebrated in the 148th year from the start of the Jubilee cycles

Table 1.2
The 1st Jubilee

The 1st Jubilee

Showing the 1st Jubilee was a Jubilee of Days

Also showing the Hebrew Lunar month synchronized with the Sabbath cycles.

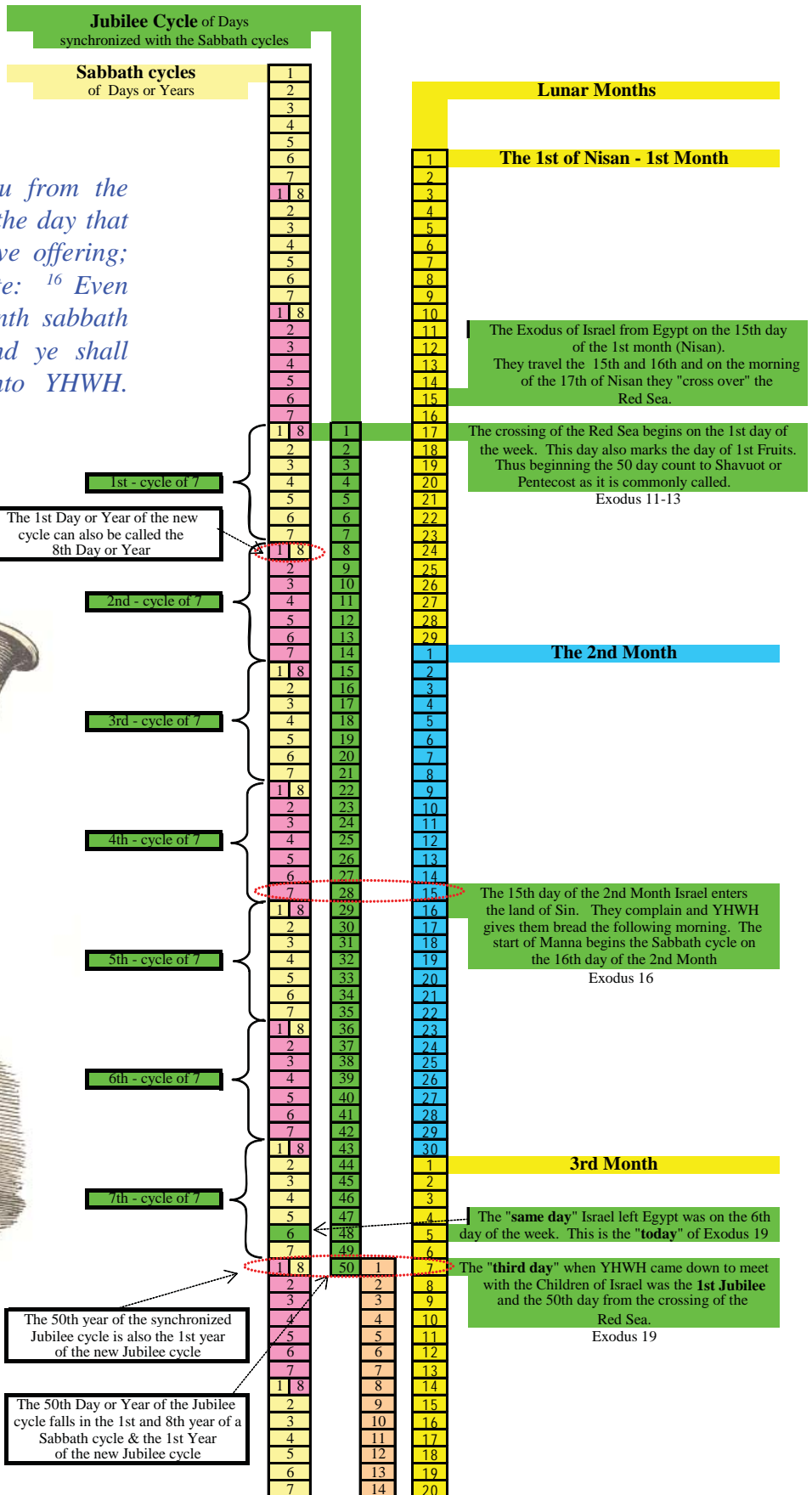
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Leviticus 23:15-16

15 And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: 16 Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto YHWH.



Priest Blowing a Silver Trumpet



1st - cycle of 7
The 1st Day or Year of the new cycle can also be called the 8th Day or Year

2nd - cycle of 7

3rd - cycle of 7

4th - cycle of 7

5th - cycle of 7

6th - cycle of 7

7th - cycle of 7

The 50th year of the synchronized Jubilee cycle is also the 1st year of the new Jubilee cycle

The 50th Day or Year of the Jubilee cycle falls in the 1st and 8th year of a Sabbath cycle & the 1st Year of the new Jubilee cycle

Lunar Months

The 1st of Nisan - 1st Month

The Exodus of Israel from Egypt on the 15th day of the 1st month (Nisan). They travel the 15th and 16th and on the morning of the 17th of Nisan they "cross over" the Red Sea.

The crossing of the Red Sea begins on the 1st day of the week. This day also marks the day of 1st Fruits. Thus beginning the 50 day count to Shavuot or Pentecost as it is commonly called. Exodus 11-13

The 2nd Month

The 15th day of the 2nd Month Israel enters the land of Sin. They complain and YHWH gives them bread the following morning. The start of Manna begins the Sabbath cycle on the 16th day of the 2nd Month Exodus 16

3rd Month

The "same day" Israel left Egypt was on the 6th day of the week. This is the "today" of Exodus 19

The "third day" when YHWH came down to meet with the Children of Israel was the 1st Jubilee and the 50th day from the crossing of the Red Sea. Exodus 19

As a final confirmation that a Jubilee of days is being described here in Exodus 19 lets look at the instructions for keeping Shavuot, or the Feast of Pentecost (50) as it is commonly called today. As described below in Leviticus 23:10-16, the instructions for the feast of Shavuot exactly fit the chronology of events that are described in Exodus 16 through 19. YHWH gave the verbal 10 commandments on the 50th day from the crossing of the Red Sea. YHWH so arrange the events of the Exodus so that they would fulfill the pattern of the Feast of Shavuot before the instructions to keep this feast were ever given to Israel.

It is of no less import that the 1st Jubilee of days celebrated after the resurrection of Yashua (Jesus) was marked by outpouring of the Spirit of YHWH. The disciples of Yashua were filled with the Spirit of YHWH and performed miracles and spoke in other peoples languages. At this time the Torah was not written on tables of stone by the finger of YHWH, but on the fleshy tables of the heart by His Spirit.

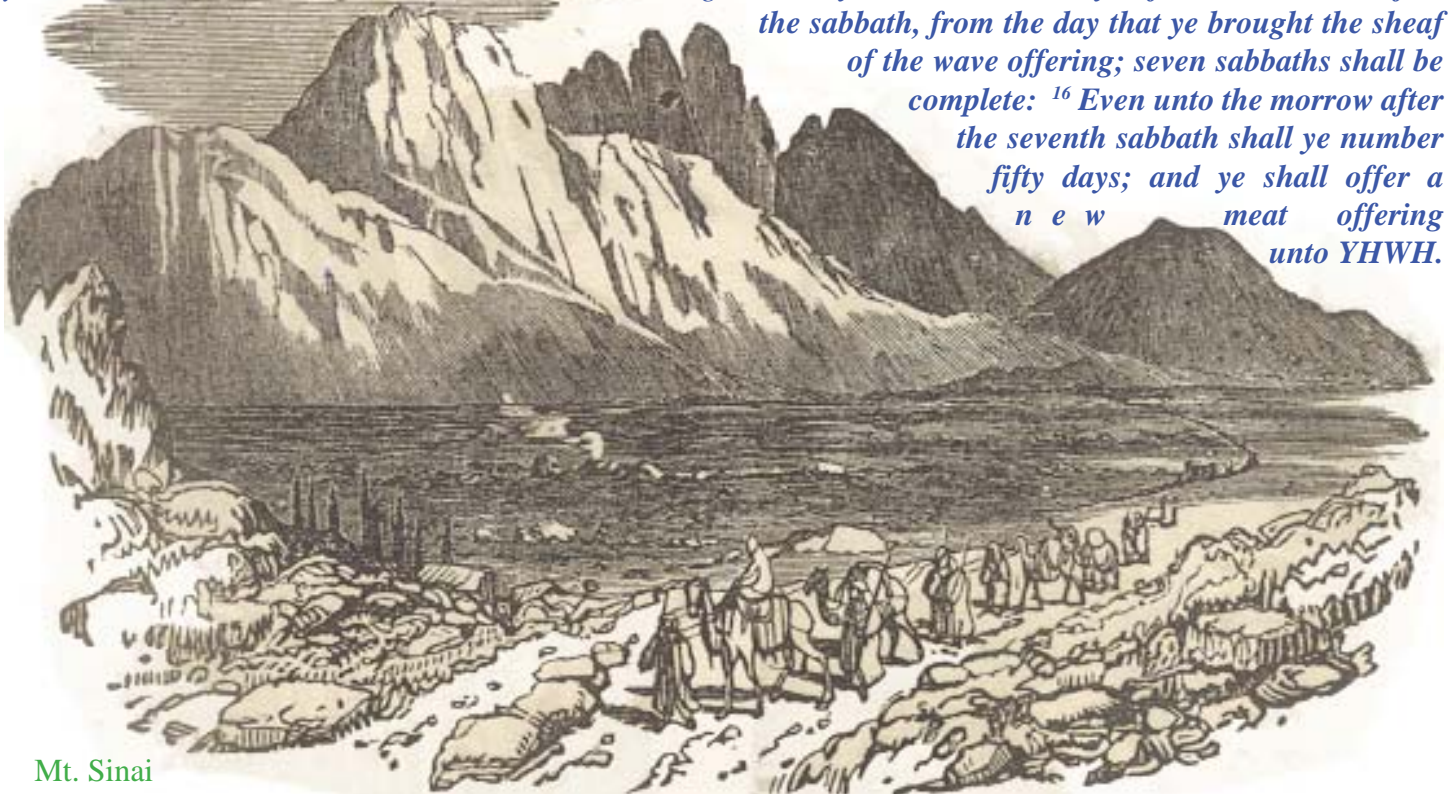
Acts 2:1-4

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Leviticus 23:10-16

¹⁰ Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: ¹¹ And he shall wave the sheaf before YHWH, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it. ¹² And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto YHWH. ¹³ And the meat offering thereof shall be two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto YHWH for a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof shall be of wine, the fourth part of an hin. ¹⁴ And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. ¹⁵ And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after

the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: ¹⁶ Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto YHWH.



Mt. Sinai