

## The Festival of *Shavu`oth* (= "weeks") before Acts 2

### EXODUS 34.22

**You shall observe the festival of weeks, the first fruits of wheat harvest, and the festival of ingathering at the turn of the year.**

### LEVITICUS 23.15-22

**And from the day after the sabbath, from the day on which you bring the sheaf of the elevation offering, you shall count off seven weeks;** they shall be complete. You shall count until the day after the seventh sabbath, fifty days; then you shall present an offering of new grain to YHWH. You shall bring from your settlements two loaves of bread as an elevation offering, each made of two-tenths of an ephah; they shall be of choice flour, baked with leaven, as first fruits to YHWH. You shall present with the bread seven lambs a year old without blemish, one young bull, and two rams; they shall be a burnt offering to YHWH, along with their grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering by fire of pleasing odor to YHWH. You shall also offer one male goat for a sin offering, and two male lambs a year old as a sacrifice of well-being. The priest shall raise them with the bread of the first fruits as an elevation offering before YHWH, together with the two lambs; they shall be holy to YHWH for the priest. On that same day you shall make proclamation; you shall hold a holy convocation; you shall not work at your occupations. This is a statute forever in all your settlements throughout your generations. When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor and for the alien: I am YHWH your God.

### DEUTERONOMY 16.8-11

For six days you shall continue to eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a solemn assembly for YHWH your God, when you shall do no work. **You shall count seven weeks; begin to count the seven weeks from the time the sickle is first put to the standing grain. Then you shall keep the festival of weeks** for YHWH your God, contributing a freewill offering in proportion to the blessing that you have received from YHWH your God. Rejoice before YHWH your God--you and your sons and your daughters, your male and female slaves, the Levites resident in your towns, as well as the strangers, the orphans, and the widows who are among you--**at the place that YHWH your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.**

### JOSEPHUS, *ANTIQUITIES*, 3.250, 252

On the second day of unleavened bread, that is to say the sixteenth, our people partake of the crops which they have reaped and which have not been touched till then, and esteeming it right first to do homage to God to whom they owe the abundance of these gifts, they offer to Him the first-fruits of the barley in the following wise... **When the seventh week following this sacrifice has elapsed--these are the forty-nine days of the (so-called) "Weeks"---On the fiftieth day,** which the Hebrews call *Asartha*, the word denoting "fiftieth," they present to God a loaf of two *assarons* of flour of wheat made with leaven and, as sacrifice, two lambs.