Parsha Plug: Parshat Emor

Vayikra 23:15-22

15 And you shall count for yourselves, from the morrow of the rest day from the day you bring the omer as a wave offering seven weeks; they shall be complete. 16 You shall count until the day after the seventh week, [namely,] the fiftieth day, [on which] you shall bring a new meal offering to the Lord. 17 From your dwelling places, you shall bring bread, set aside, two [loaves] [made from] two tenths [of an ephah]; they shall be of fine flour, [and] they shall be baked leavened, the first offering to the Lord. 18 And associated with the bread, you shall bring seven unblemished lambs in their [first] year, one young bull, and two rams these shall be a burnt offering to the Lord, [along with] their meal offering and libations a fire offering [with] a spirit of satisfaction to the Lord. 19 And you shall offer up one he goat as a sin offering, and two lambs in their [first] year as a peace offering. 20 And the kohen shall wave them in conjunction with the first offering bread as a waving before the Lord, along with the two lambs. They shall be holy to the Lord, [and] belong to the kohen. 21 And you shall designate on this very day a holy occasion it shall be for you; you shall not perform any work of labor. [This is] an eternal statute in all your dwelling places throughout your generations. 22 When you reap the harvest of your Land, you shall not completely remove the corner of your field during your harvesting, and you shall not gather up the gleanings of your harvest. [Rather,] you shall leave these for the poor person and for the stranger. I am the Lord, your God.

(טו) וּספַרתַם לכֶם מַמחרָת השַׁבּת מִיּוֹם הבֵיאכֶם את־עמֶר התנוּפָה שֶׁבַע שַבּתוֹת תּמִימָת תּהיֵינה: (טז) עד מִמחרַת השַׁבּת השַבִיעת תספַרו חמשים יום והקרבתם מִנְחָה חֲדשָה לַיקוק: (יז) מְמוֹשְׁבֹתֵיכֶם תבֶיאוּן לְחם תנוּפֹּה שָׁתִים שָׁנֵי עשִׁרֹנִים תִהְיֶנְה חַמֶץ הֵאָפֶינַה בִּכּוּרִים ליקוק: (יח) והקרבָתָּם על־הלֹחם שָׁבַעת כָּבַשַּׁים תִּמִימִם בָּנֵי שַׁנַה וּפַר בַּן־בַּקר אַחָד ואַילָם שָׁנֵיִם יִהְיַוּ עלה לַיקוֹק וֹמִנְחתם וִנְסַכֵּיהֵם אִשֶּׁה רֵיחַ־נִיחָחַ לַיקוק: יט) וַעֲשִיתָם שָעִיר־עָזָים אַחְד לחַטַּאת וּשָׁנֵי כִבַשִּׂים בִּנֵי שַׁנָה לְזָבַח שִׁלֹמִים: (כ) והַנֵיף הַכּהָןוֹ אתם עַל לָחֵם הַבּכַּרִים תנופָה לִפְנֵי יְקוַק עַל־שָׁנֵי כִּבַשִִים קדשׁ יהיו לַיקוק לַכּהון: (כא) וקראתם בּעצַםו היום הזה מקרא־קדש יהנה לכם כל־ מַלָאכֶת עַבֹּדָה לָא תַעַשִוּ חַקָּת עוֹלִם (כב) לדרתיכם: בַּכל־מוֹשְבְתיכֶם וּבַקצַרכֵּם את־קצֵיר אַרצַכֵּם לא־תכַלֹּה פָּאַת שָּׁדְר בָּקּצְרֶד וְלָקֵט קּצִירְדָ לַא תְלַקֶּט ַלַעַנִי וַלַגֵּר תַּעַזַב אֹתַם אַנִי יְקֹנַק אֱלקיכֶם:

Rashi on Vayikra 23:15

They shall be complete: This comes to teach us that one must begin counting from the evening, because otherwise, they would not be "complete".

תמימת תהיינה: מלמד שמתחיל ומונה מבערב, שאם לא כן אינן תמימות:

רש"י על ויקרא כג: טו

מסכות יבמות סב:

Masechet Yevamot 62b

It was said that Rebbe Akiva had twelve thousand pairs of disciples, from Gabbata to Antipatris; and all of them died at the same time because they did not treat each other with respect. The world remained desolate until Rebbe Akiva came to our masters in the South and taught the Torah to them. These were Rebbe Meir, Rebbe Yehudah, Rebbe Yossi, Rebbe Shimon, and Rebbe Eleazar ben Shammua; and it was they who revived the Torah at that time. A Tanna taught: All of them died between Pesach and Shavuot. Rav

אמרו: שנים עשר אלף זוגים תלמידים היו לו לרבי עקיבא, מגבת עד אנטיפרס, וכולן מתו בפרק אחד מפני שלא נהגו כבוד זה לזה, והיה העולם שמם, עד שבא ר"ע אצל רבותינו שבדרום, ושנאה להם ר"מ ור' יהודה ור' יוסי ורבי שמעון ורבי אלעזר בן שמוע, והם הם העמידו תורה אותה שעה. תנא: כולם מתו מפסח ועד עצרת. אמר רב חמא בר אבא, Chama bar Abba or, it might be said, Rebbe Chiyya bar Avin said: All of them died a cruel death. What was it? Rav Nahman replied: croup.

ואיתימא ר' חייא בר אבין: כולם מתו מיתה רעה. מאי היא? א"ר נחמן: אסכרה.

Rabbi Yaakov Chaim Sofer, Kaf HaChaim 493:26

Rabbi Chaim Vital wrote that the reason for the rejoicing [on Lag B'Omer] is for the students that Rabbi Akiva added afterwards, who did not die like those [first twenty-four thousand]...I wrote this to teach that there is a basis to the custom mentioned above [to go to Meron and celebrate on Lag B'Omer], particularly because Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai was one of the five great students of Rabbi Akiva, and therefore his time of happiness is Lag B'Omer.

מיהו הפר''ח...כתב הטעם שהשמחה היא על אותם תלמידים שהוסיף אח"כ ר''ע שלא מתו כאלו יעו"ש...וכתבתי כל זה להורות כי יש שורש במנהג הזה הנז' ובפרט כי רשב"י ע"ה הוא מה' תלמידיו גדולים של ר"ע ולכן זמן שמחתו ביום ל"ג לעומר...

חתם סופר יורה דעה רלג

רבי יעקב חיים סופר כף החיים תצג: כו

Chatam Sofer, Responsa, Yoreh Deah 233

It says in the Midrash that from the time the Jews finished the food that they brought out from Egypt they went for three days without bread, and afterwards the manna began to fall. [If we calculate the days] the manna therefore began to fall on Lag B'Omer.

וכפי דאי' במדרש שמיום שכלה החררה שהוציאו ממצרים הלכו ג' ימים בלא לחם ואח''כ ירד המן א''כ הי' הורדת המן ביום ל''ג בעומר.

Pesikta Zutarta 65b on Vayikra 23:22

[23:22] Why does Scripture place this [passage] in the very middle of [the laws regarding] the Festivals-with Passover and Shavuot on one side and Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot on the other? To teach that whoever gives יָּלֶהֶע, gleanings, שָּׁבְּחָה, forgotten sheaves, and פַּאָה, the corners, to the poor in the appropriate manner, is treated as if he had built the Holy Temple and offered up his sacrifices within it...

פסיקתא זוטרתא אמור דף סה עמוד ב

[כג:כב] אמר מה ראה הכתוב ליתנה למצוה הזאת באמצע הרגלים פסח ועצרת מכאן. ראש השנה ויום הכפורים מכאן. אלא ללמד שכל מי שהוציא לקט ושכחה ופאה ומעשרות עניים מעלה עליו הכתוב כאלו בית המקדש קיים והוא מקריב קרבנותיו לתוכו...

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, Emor (5768) - Counting Time

1. "Count off seven full weeks" 2. "Count off fifty days"...Within Judaism there are two kinds of time. One way of seeing this is in a Talmudic story...: They used to say about Shammai the elder that all his life he ate in honour of the Sabbath...But Hillel the elder had a different approach, for all his deeds were for the sake of heaven, as it is said, "Blessed be the Lord day by day" (Ps. 68: 20)...Shammai lived in teleological time, time as a journey toward a destination...Hillel, by contrast, lived each day in and for itself, without regard to what came before or what would come after...It follows that the counting of the Omer also has two temporal dimensions. On the one hand, it belongs to cyclical time. The forty-nine days represent the period of the grain harvest...[e]ach day brought forth its own blessing in the form of new grain, and each therefore called for its own act of thanksgiving. This is time as Hillel and R. Hai Gaon understood it. "Count off fifty

days"...But the Omer is also part of historical time. It represents the journey from Egypt to Sinai, from exodus to revelation...In this sense, the 49 days represent an unbroken historical sequence...Miss one stage, and one is in danger of losing everything. This is time as Halakhot Gedolot understood it: "Count off seven full weeks," with the emphasis on "full, complete, unbroken."