

Late Summer/Autumn

Rosh Hashana

Yom Kippur

Sukkot

Shemini Atzeret

Winter

Hannuka

Tu B'Shvat

Purim

Spring

Pesach

Omer Counting

Summer

Shavuot

9th B'av

Harvest

Pray for Rain

Soil preparation / planting

Pray for Dew

First Fruits / Harvest

Shavuot Festival of Weeks

300 Jews in the synagogue in Jerusalem on Shavuot 600 years ago, in 1440 CE!



Letter by the Rashbatz mentioning Jews celebrating Shavuot.



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Shavuot שבועות

Hebrew Date: 6th of Sivan after the 49-day Omer Count.

Different names for Shavuot

Shavu'ot English

שבועות Hebrew

Festival of Reaping

חג הקציר Chag HaKatzir

Festival of First Fruits

חג הבכורים Chag HaBikurim

Atzeret

חג עצרת Chag Atzeret

The Time of the Giving of our Torah

זמן מתן תורתנו Zman Matan Torahtenu

What is Shavuot?

Shavuot celebrates the awe-inspiring moment when the Jewish people received the Torah at Mount Sinai, 50 days after the Exodus from Egypt, and marks the shift from the barley harvest to the wheat harvest in the Land of Israel.



Dead Sea Scrolls with the 10 Commandments

Shavuot in Biblical Texts

Leviticus, VaYikra 23:15-21
Chag Shavuot, the **Festival of Weeks**, which refers to the 7-week count between Passover and Shavuot, when the offering of wheat was brought to the Temple.

Exodus, Shmot, 23:16 refers to Shavuot as *Chag Hakatzir*, the **Festival of Reaping**.

Deuteronomy, Devarim 26:1-11, mentions bringing the "Bikkurim" or **First Fruits**, consisting of the Seven Species, to the Temple.

The holiday is also mentioned in Numbers, BaMidbar.

The Book of Ruth: The story of Ruth and Boaz unfolds during the harvest, and a key part of the story takes place on a threshing floor, where grain is processed. **Ruth is the great-great-grandmother of King David**, and **Shavuot marks the anniversary of King David's passing.**



King David and his royal family were known as "The House of David." The Tel Dan Stele, discovered in 1993 and written over 2800 years ago, is the first and only reference outside the Bible to King David.



Why Does Shavuot Matter?



Spiritually: The Torah's laws and wisdom, which guide Jewish life, also provide **universal moral values** by which people, not just Jews, have lived around the world for thousands of years.



Ethically: It's a time to remember that **kindness and loyalty**, shown through the story of Ruth, form the foundation of Torah and Jewish life.



Agriculturally: We celebrate the food, such as wheat and barley, that grow in the Land of Israel, a reminder that **God constantly provides** for our well-being.

Key Rituals

1

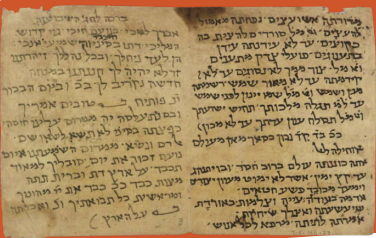
All-Night Study:

Many people stay awake all night long to study Torah.

2

Dairy Foods:

It is a tradition to eat dairy meals, like cheesecake or blintzes, on Shavuot.



A 1000-year-old Birkat Hamazon prayer for Shavuot.



Shavuot celebrates receiving the rules of the Torah. If you could write one "rule for life" that teaches people how to be kinder, what would it be?



Shavuot in Ancient Israel

Threshing Floor: Farmers would harvest their barley and wheat in the fields. People used stone threshing floors to separate the grain from the stalks—some of these floors found by archaeologists are 5,000 years old! The threshing floor is central in the story of Ruth and Boaz, who serve as models of extreme kindness.



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Ancient Threshing Floor in Israel.

Temple: On Shavuot, the Temple offering changed from barley to wheat with the "Shte HaLechem," two leavened loaves baked from the first wheat harvest and brought alongside the First Fruit offering.

Today in Israel – Modern Connections



If you're in **Jerusalem on Shavuot**, you'll see an amazing sight—thousands of people in white walking through the streets toward the Old City before dawn in order to pray at the Western Wall, the *Kotel*.



Communities often celebrate by looking back at ancient farming history, like **visiting old threshing floors** or archaeological sites.



For more information on Shavuot

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