



# El Shaddai Ministries

## Feasts of the Lord in Prophecy Newsletter eNews!

1 May 2011, Vol IV, Issue 3



### Message from Pastor Mark

Shalom one and all!

Can you believe May is already here! At this time I am ministering in Sweden, Germany and Switzerland so keep us and these countries in your prayers! We are in the counting of the Omer and it won't be long till the Feast of Shavuot better known as Pentecost. As many of you know this was the time of the giving of the Torah. We will be celebrating our Shavuot service/picnic on Sunday June 12th. We will also be doing water baptisms.

The month of May in the history of Israel has been an exciting one. We have a calendar out for May that also has the counting of the Omer so the kids can have fun crossing out the days. Here is a link to our calendar to see some of the historic events: <http://click.icptrack.com/icp/rclick.php?d=file:///C:/Users/Web/Documents/Newsletter/may2011.html&destination=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.elshaddaiministries.us%2Fevents%2Fmaycalendar.pdf> and here is a link to the Omer chart <http://click.icptrack.com/icp/rclick.php?d=file:///C:/Users/Web/Documents/Newsletter/may2011.html&destination=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.elshaddaiministries.us%2Fevents%2Fcountingomer2011.pdf>.

In Hebrew the word for Passover is pronounced Pesach פסח. In Hebrew the letter pey פ means "mouth". The word sach סח means "speaking". So together we also have the "mouth speaking". So at Passover we need to hear what the Lord is speaking to us. The letters aleph-tav את are similar to the Alpha-Omega and midrashically represent God. Look at the following verse as there are differences you only see in the Hebrew. Twice the letters את are attached to the word for Pesach.

Numbers 9:2-5 Let the children of Israel also keep the Passover את-פסח at his appointed season. In the fourteenth day of this month, at even, ye shall keep it in his appointed season: according to all the rites of it, and according to all the ceremonies thereof, shall ye keep it. And Moses spoke unto the children of Israel, that they should keep the Passover פסח. And they kept the Passover את-פסח on the fourteenth day of the first month at even in the wilderness of Sinai: according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did the children of Israel.

It truly is the Lord's Passover and this month as we count the Omer let's have ears to hear what the Lord will speak to us!

We have a lot of exciting things happening including a tour to Israel this November. If you can, sign up here at <http://click.icptrack.com/icp/rclick.php?d=file:///C:/Users/Web/Documents/Newsletter/may2011.html&destination=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.unseensites.com%2F> it will be a trip of a lifetime!

We have added a link to our website that I believe will really help homeschoolers or just kids of all ages in general as they try to live in this world of immorality. We have linked up with Compedia Israel to provide an alternative called Bible Islands. It is a wonderfully positive edutainment learning environment that is safe for your kids to experience the best for them online - and they can learn their Hebrew letters too! It teaches not only the Bible stories but math and science. So go to this website to find out more and to register for your FREE PLAY WEEK and take advantage of this opportunity for kids or grandkids. To find out more, the link is on our homepage. (<http://click.icptrack.com/icp/rclick.php?d=file:///C:/Users/Web/Documents/Newsletter/may2011.html&destination=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.elshaddaiministries.us%2F>)

We need to keep the nation of Israel in our prayers as never before. I was reading an article from Israel's Arutz Sheva News Site that gave just a possible scenario for this fall. It was also discussed on the Tamar Yonah show of Israel National Radio. With the nations lining up to declare an independent Palestinian State arbitrarily this fall, it could prove to be disastrous. If this happens in the UN Security Council, passes the UN General Assembly, and the U.S. decides not to veto it but only abstains, then the Palestinians could request an evacuation of all Jews living in their "State". This would be a nightmare scenario for Israel. So this fall could be very pivotal prophetically, so stay tuned! I may not agree with everything in the article but it is interesting to look at how the Jewish people see the end of times unfolding and prophecy coming to pass from their point of view. They like to speculate just as much as Christians do. Here is a link to the actual detailed article: [http://click.icptrack.com/icp/rclick.php?d=file:///C:/Users/Web/Documents/Newsletter/may2011.html&destination=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.elshaddaiministries.us%2Fgetconnected%2Fan\\_invasion\\_of\\_israel.pdf](http://click.icptrack.com/icp/rclick.php?d=file:///C:/Users/Web/Documents/Newsletter/may2011.html&destination=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.elshaddaiministries.us%2Fgetconnected%2Fan_invasion_of_israel.pdf). The following link is also another article from Haaretz.com that confirms this: <http://click.icptrack.com/icp/rclick.php?d=file:///C:/Users/Web/Documents/Newsletter/may2011.html&destination=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.elshaddaiministries.us%2Fgetconnected%2F20110411abbas.pdf>



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Here is another reason why learning Hebrew is fun. You may know when Abraham and Sarah heard they would have a son they both laughed.




Ge 17:17 Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an **hundred** years old? and shall Sarah, that is **ninety** years old, bear?

Ge 18:12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?

So they named their son Isaac whose name means laughter.

Here is the root word:

#6711.  tsaw-khak' a primitive root; to laugh outright.

And what is so laughable about this? Well, in Hebrew the koof  has a numerical value of 100, (the age of Abraham). The chet  has a numerical value of 90 (the age of Sarah) when Isaac came to life! They come together with the letter tsade  which represents life and has the numerical value of 8 forming Isaac's name and that shows God's sense of humor and why Abraham and Sarah laughed!! 8 is the number for Yeshua as well!

May the Lord bless and keep all of you!

**-Pastor Mark**

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## THE COUNTING OF THE OMER

Compiled by Tom O'Haver  
From Pastor Mark's 2008 Teaching and Notes

Lev 23:15,16 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: Even unto the morrow after the seventh Sabbath shall you number fifty days; Counting in anticipation of an exciting event is quite understandable.

At one time or another, we've all probably said something like, "Grandma's coming to visit in a week and a half," or "Only 17 more days until my birthday!" But there's one subtle difference: The usual method is to count down toward the big day, whereas in the case of the Omer, we count up -- from one to 50. Why the difference? The answer is that the Jews were not yet spiritually equipped to receive the Torah. For over 200 years, they had been living in an Egyptian society known to be the world center for immorality and vice. The high-impact adventure of the Exodus -- 10 miraculous plagues and the splitting of the Red Sea -- launched the Jews into physical freedom. Any experience, as powerful as it is, does not permanently change anyone's character. That is only possible through practice and adjustment over time.

Why did God wait 50 days after the Jews left Egypt before giving the Torah? Why didn't He simply give it to them in Egypt, or immediately after their departure? You can take people out of Egypt, but you can't take Egypt out of the people. Think of wealthy people who steal. Or people who attend a seminar all psyched up but no permanent change in their life.

Lev 25:8,9 And thou shalt number seven Sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven Sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years. Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound....

### WHY COUNT THE OMER?

Because He told us to. Beginning on the day that the first omer of barley was harvested and brought to the Temple, a countdown to the next Biblical Festival began. The Israelites were commanded to count off 49 days and then celebrate the festival of Shavuot (Pentecost) on the 50th day.

Traditionally, the period of the Omer count is to be a time of spiritual introspection as the counters prepare themselves for Shavuot. Because it begins during Passover and concludes at Shavuot, it is a remembrance of the journey from Egypt to Mount Sinai. A remembrance of our journey from the world to a life walking in the Spirit. It is an expectation of a coming harvest and asking God to prepare us for it! The Counting of the Omer is a count up to Shavuot (Pentecost), the time of the giving of the Holy Spirit. It is a journey which is begun with Passover, the symbol of our Salvation in Yeshua, and completed at Pentecost, the symbol of our completion through the Spirit. The distance of days between the two events should be a time of spiritual reflection, growth, purification and preparation. The Master's resurrection makes the counting of the Omer a season of special significance and joy. For his disciples, it is a time to remember the resurrected Yeshua. All of his post-resurrection appearances and ascension fell within the days of the Omer count. On the first day of the Omer, Messiah Yeshua appeared to Miriam and to two of our number while they traveled to Emmaus then those gathered together.

Jn 20:18,19 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her. Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. On the ninth day of the Omer, he appeared to us again and Thomas was with us.

Jn 20:26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. 1 Cor

15:6a,7 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. During the counting, he appeared to seven of our number while they fished on the sea. (ref John 21:1-3)

On the 40th day of the Omer: Acts 1:3,4 To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. Acts 1:9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. They waited and counted the days. Forty-one, forty-two, forty-three, forty-four, forty-five, forty-six, forty-seven, forty-eight, forty-nine days of the Omer... "and when the day of Pentecost was fully come we were all together in one place." Let's work together this year as we keep the Counting the Omer. Let's express the resurrected life within us by spreading more joy.

Num 28:26 Also in the day of the firstfruits, when ye bring a new meat offering unto the LORD, after your weeks be out ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work:

"After your weeks be out" was after the seven weeks of counting the Omer. The Day of Pentecost or Shavout is the culmination of the counting of the Omer.

The fact that Yeshua rose during the counting of The Omer makes it significant.

It's very important to count the Omer and make the Omer Count.



Tom O'Haver is a Zaken (Elder), the IT Director and Webmaster for El Shaddai Ministries. He is also the Production Editor of this Newsletter.

## UPCOMING SPEAKERS AT EL SHADDAI MINISTRIES

**Nehemia Gordon is coming back to El Shaddai Ministries on Monday, May 16, 2011**



Nehemia Gordon holds a Masters Degree in Biblical Studies and a Bachelors Degree in Archeology from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Mr. Gordon has worked as a translator on the Dead Sea Scrolls and as a researcher deciphering ancient Hebrew manuscripts. He has been invited to speak in synagogues and churches around the world and has led groups of pilgrims and visitors on tours of biblical sites. Nehemia spoke at El Shaddai last year about his books *The Hebrew Yeshua vs. the Greek Jesus* and *A Prayer to Our FATHER: Hebrew origins of the Lord's Prayer*. We are looking forward to what he has to share with us in May. A native of Chicago, Nehemia has made his home in Jerusalem, Israel for the last fifteen years.

## READER COMMENTS

From Canada:

Shalom pastor Mark. I just want to say thanks for your Torah teaching. Someone told me about you a few weeks ago and since then it is on most of the day and evening to bed time. Thanks again. May God blessed you.

From Texas:

Thank you so much for the newsletter...My Son and I have learned so much from you and your teaching...We love the Jewish people and pray for them daily that he will keep them safe and prosper them without measure...With a glad heart we are looking for King Jesus to appear and take us all home...The Lord God bless you and your effort...Love has been hard for me to understand all my life and your letter let me see and understand what it means...Thank you Mike and Ray

This is the best eNewsletter ever! Thank you and God bless you all at El Shaddai!

From Australia:

Thank you for making your website (and newsletter) free to all who would partake. Devoid of any prerequisites, like the exclusiveness of registration, membership, cost, pin codes and personal information that is so often required more and more to enter many study sites. It has been a nourishing spring in the desert, and becoming a banqueting house for so many of us needing an

unconditional spiritual family to belong to. Please never change.

## YOUTH CORNER

Hello, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Nita Greene and I am the Torah Tots teacher. The children in my class range from the age of two all the way up to kindergarten. My heart's desire for the children is to bring the Torah to them at their level of understanding. So I have a story time that highlights the Torah teaching for that week along with using a felt board with colorful characters to illustrate the lesson. In my teaching time I also introduce the children to Hebrew words such as Elohim, Adonai, Shabbat, Yeshua, Ruach HaKodesh, etc. The children also do a project that goes along with the teaching. I believe that children not only learn by hearing but they also learn by hands on. In the Torah Tots class this is the beginning teaching of the Aleph Bet, the Hebrew alphabet. They learn the sight and sound of each letter. After the children finish their take-home project, they have a small snack and play time. I am so blessed to be able to be the Torah Tots teacher. The children in my class mean so much to me. Each one of them has a very special place in my heart. It is truly an honor to be a part of their lives.

Thank you,

Teacher Nita

Nita Green is a part of El Shaddai Ministries and a valued teacher of our children.

## FAST-FUN-FACTS

Did you know that when counting the Omer you don't count down but instead count up in anticipation of the day of Shavuot (Pentecost)?

Did you know that Yeshua rose from the grave on the 1st day of the Omer count and ascended on the 40th day of the Omer count?

Submitted by Tina Fallstead

## RECIPES

### Mother's Day Brunch

Submitted by Tina Fallstead

### Quiche

1 single refrigerator pie crust

4 eggs, lightly beaten

1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups half and half, light cream, or milk

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup chopped broccoli

$\frac{1}{4}$  tsp salt

1/8 tsp black pepper

1 cup chopped cooked chicken breast

1  $\frac{1}{2}$  shredded Swiss, Monterey Jack and or Havarti cheese

1 TB all purpose flour

Directions

Line a 9 inch pie plate with pastry according to package directions. Trim; crimp edge as desired. Line unpricked pastry with a double thickness of foil. Bake at 450 degrees for 8 minutes. Remove foil. Bake for 4-5 minutes more or until pastry is set and dry. Remove from oven. Reduce oven temperature to 325 degrees. Meanwhile, in medium bowl stir together eggs, half and half, broccoli, salt and pepper. Stir in chicken. In small bowl toss together the cheese and flour. Add to egg mixture and mix well. Pour egg mixture into hot, baked pastry crust. Bake at 325 degrees for 40-45 minutes or until knife inserted comes out clean. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Makes 6 servings.

### Spinach Salad

1 bag baby spinach leaves

6 ripe strawberries, sliced

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup fat free feta crumbles (any kind of feta is fine)

$\frac{1}{4}$  small red onion, thinly sliced

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup sliced almonds

Bottled raspberry vinaigrette, to taste

Toss ingredients in large bowl and serve.

Cookie Fruit Tart

1 roll refrigerator sugar cookie dough

1 package cream cheese

2 TB sugar

Assorted sliced fresh fruit such as, strawberries, kiwis, pears, etc.

Press cookie dough evenly into a pan. Prick the dough with a fork to allow steam to escape. Bake according to package directions.

Meanwhile thoroughly mix the sugar with the cream cheese. You can adjust the sweetness to your personal taste.

After the cookie has cooled completely spread the cream cheese evenly, arrange the cut fruit and serve.



Tina Fallstead is the Receptionist and Administrative Assistant at El Shaddai Ministries.

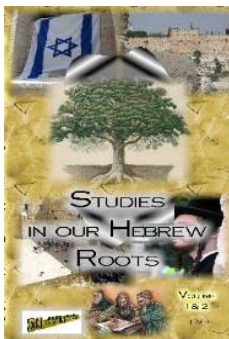
## RECOMMENDED READING

Did you know that you can WATCH all of our services on Vimeo or straight from our website? We are also making DVDs of guest speakers as well as some special individual teachings from Pastor Mark available for sale. Check them out in "Our Store".

### Studies in Our Hebrew Roots

#### Volume 1 & 2

By Pastor Mark Biltz

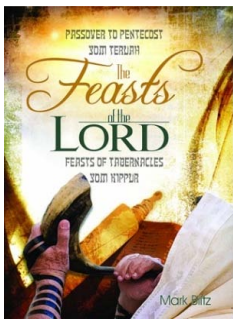


In answer to a cry for enlightened understanding of our connection to our Hebrew Roots, Pastor Mark Biltz has provided clear teaching. Fueled now by his passion for studies of literature written from a Jewish mindset he was humbled by the grace, wisdom and insight that poured forth. Studying our Hebrew heritage for over 25 years and realizing the Jews loved the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob he saw that they had been studying and mining the Tanakh for millennia looking for nuggets.

#### The Feasts of the Lord

By Pastor Mark Biltz

Through these 4 DVDs you will experience the wonders of the Feasts of the Lord and how they foreshadow prophecies yet to be fulfilled. You will discover how each of the Spring Feasts was fulfilled, not only to the very day, but to the very hour of major events in the life of Yeshua(Jesus) at his first coming. Then the prophetic adventure begins on how the Lord will fulfill each of the Fall Feasts to the very day of His second coming! Yeshua is the same yesterday, today and forever. Just as the Spring Feasts were fulfilled in order and to the very day, so will the Fall Feasts be fulfilled in order and to the very day. We don't know the exact time these



Feasts will be fulfilled, but with these DVDs you will know the seasons and the signs to look for so you won't be caught unaware! Don't miss the Divine Appointments that are scheduled for you!

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## RECOMMENDED VIDEOS

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## HOME SCHOOL LINKS

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