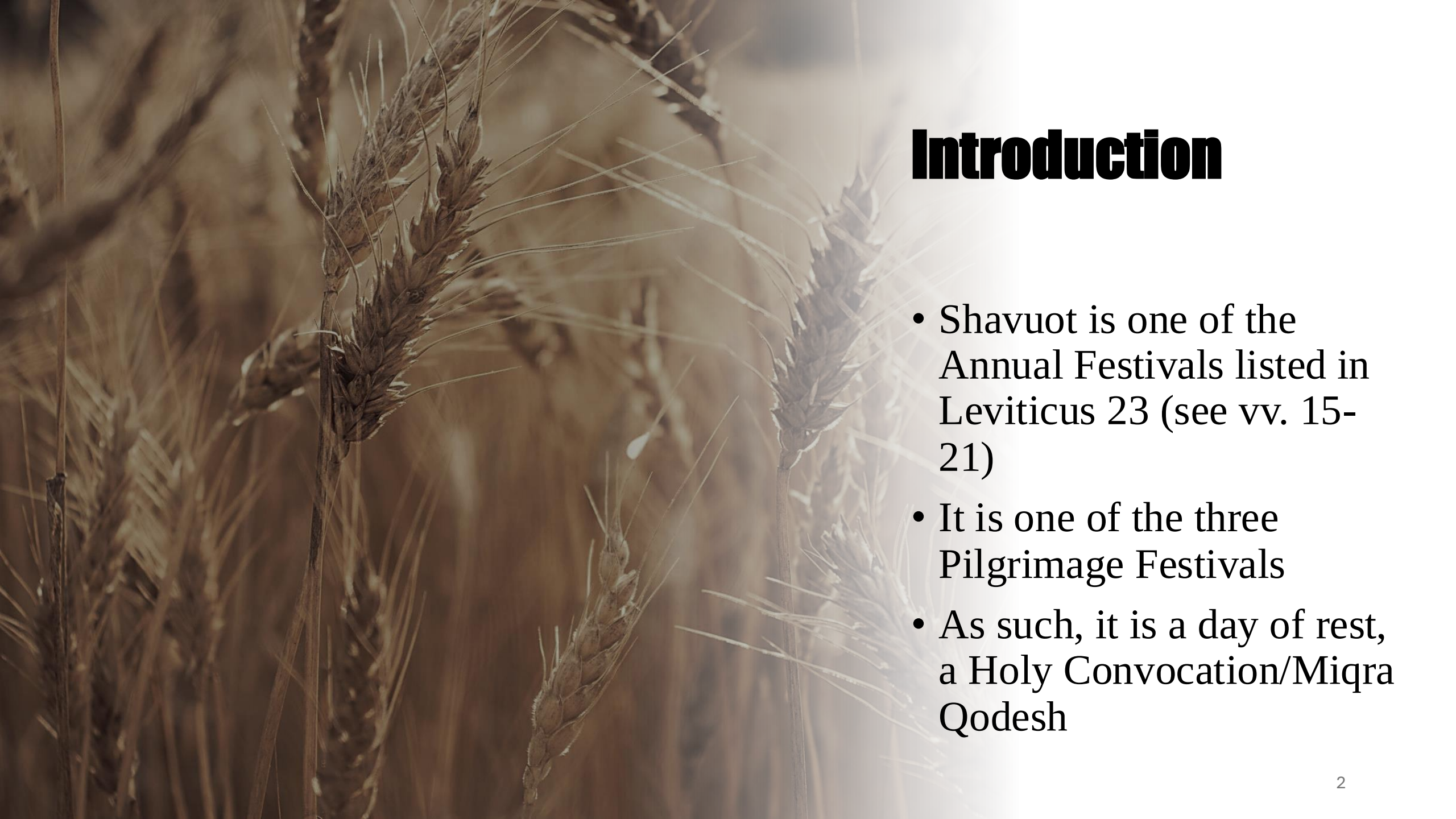




Chag HaShavuot

Festival of Weeks & Praise
for a successful wheat
harvest



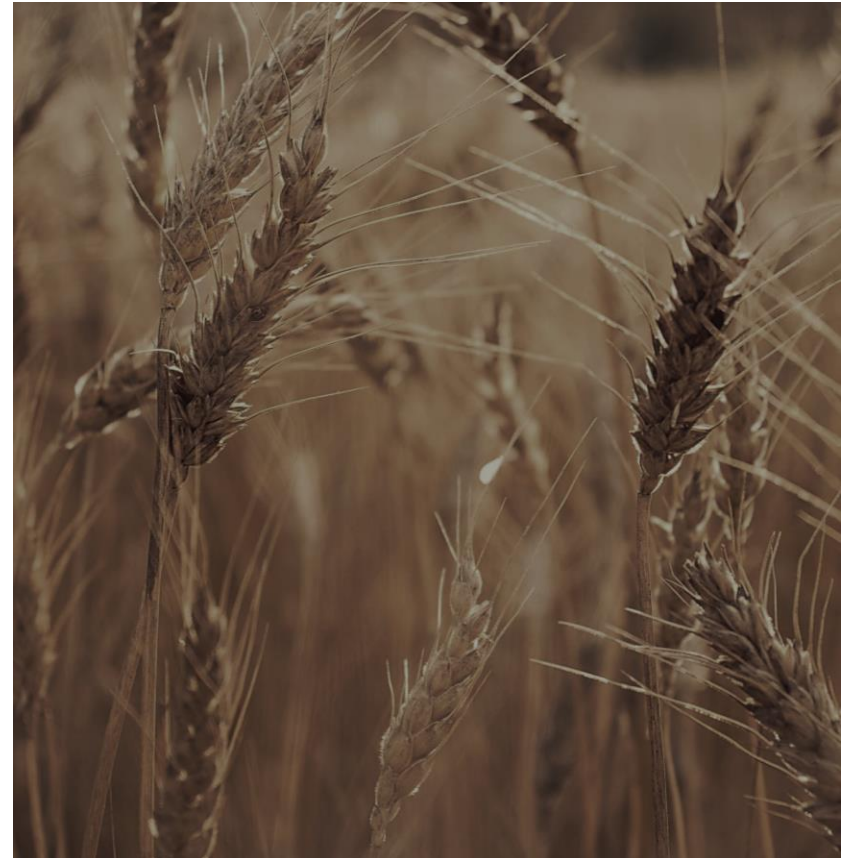
Introduction

- Shavuot is one of the Annual Festivals listed in Leviticus 23 (see vv. 15-21)
- It is one of the three Pilgrimage Festivals
- As such, it is a day of rest, a Holy Convocation/Miqra Qodesh

Main Discussion

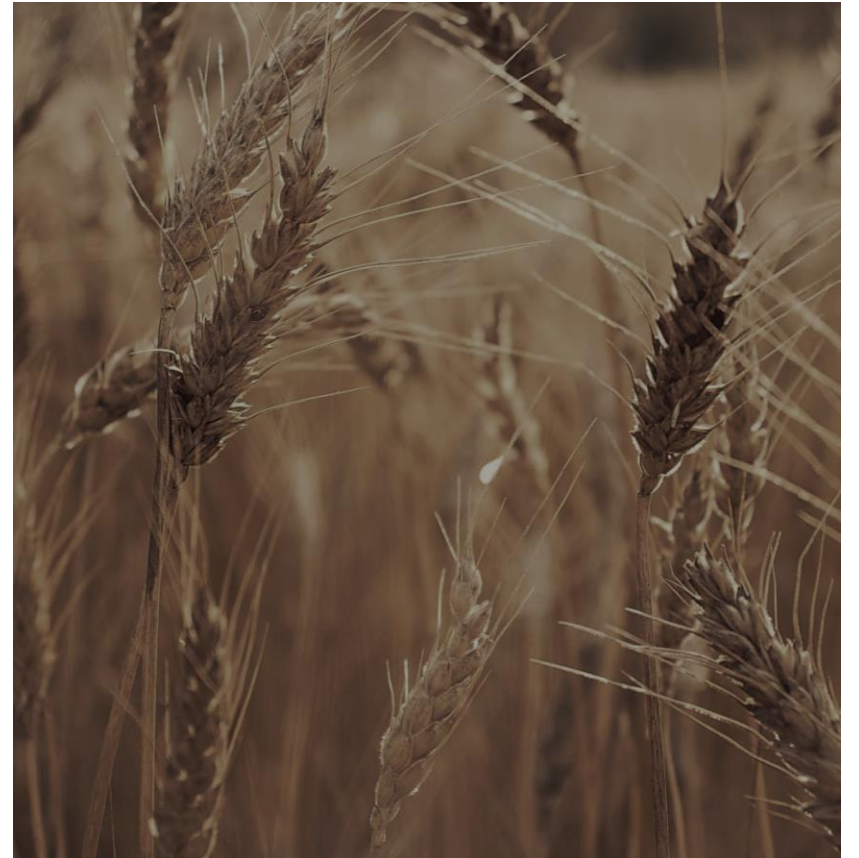
I. WHY DO WE CELEBRATE SHAVUOTH

- A. To Thank The Almighty And Praise Him For Choosing Us To Receive His Torah
 - 1. If we do the math, we can see that it is quite feasible to come to Sinai fifty days after leaving Egypt.
 - 2. The only other passage that alludes to this reason is found in Acts 2.
 - a. There was a mixed multitude at Sinai as well as on the Day of Shavuoth in Acts 2
 - b. Multiple languages were present at both
 - c. At Sinai, 3000 died
 - d. At Jerusalem, 3000 were “saved”
- B. To Thank The Almighty For A Bountiful And Successful Wheat Harvest
- C. Each of the pilgrimage festivals have a dual purpose
 - 1. Spiritual
 - 2. Agricultural



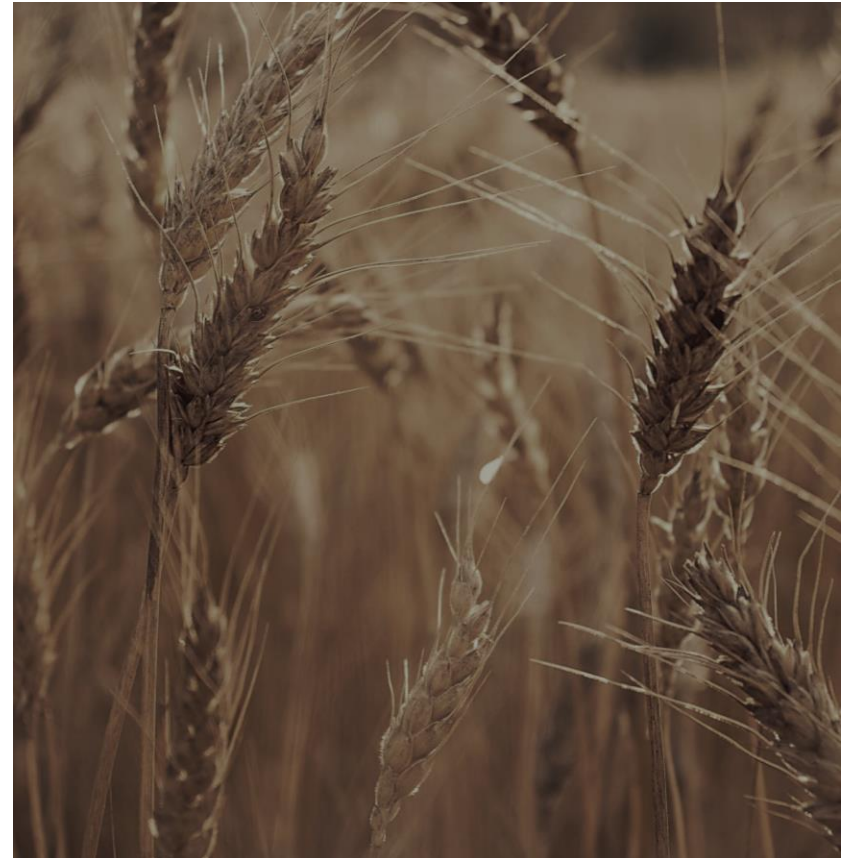
II. WHEN DO WE CELEBRATE SHAVUOTH

- A. After Seven Completed Weeks And One Day From The Morrow After The Shabbath
- B. As Rabbi Jay Pointed Out This Morning, The Debate Is On When To Start The Count.
 - 1. Mainstream Judaism starts the count on the 16th of Nisan/Aviv
 - 2. This means that Shavuoth will always occur on Sivan
- C. Our Congregation's Halacha Is To Begin The Count On The Day After The Weekly Shabbath That Falls Within Chag HaMatsot.
 - 1. This is because the first and last days of Chag HaMatsot are not called Sabbaths.
 - 2. Also, when to observe Shavuot is not given a calendar date in Torah
 - 3. If the first and last days of Unleaveneds are truly Shabbatot (sabbaths), which of the two should we count from?
 - 4. The only shabbath during Unleaveneds is the weekly Shabbath.
 - 5. This puts Shavuoth always on a First Day/Sunday
 - 6. The only command on when to observe Shavuot is to count fifty days from the morrow after the Shabbath



III. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF SHAVUOTH

- A. The Traditional Reason Given For The Celebration Of Shavuot Is To Recall The Giving Of Torah At Sinai
 - 1. If we do the math, we can see the possibility of this
 - 2. Interestingly, the only Biblical reference that alludes to this, by way of simile, is Acts 2
- B. The Torah Points To Shavuot Being A Celebration Of The Wheat Harvest.
 - 1. Lev 23:15-21
 - 2. Two loaves of bread were to be offered
 - a. They were to be made with 2/10 of an ephah fine flour with yeast
 - b. This is equivalent to 4.4 lbs (2 kg.) of flour each
 - c. I calculated the formula based on the formula for an Italian bread
 - d. The loaves were rather large

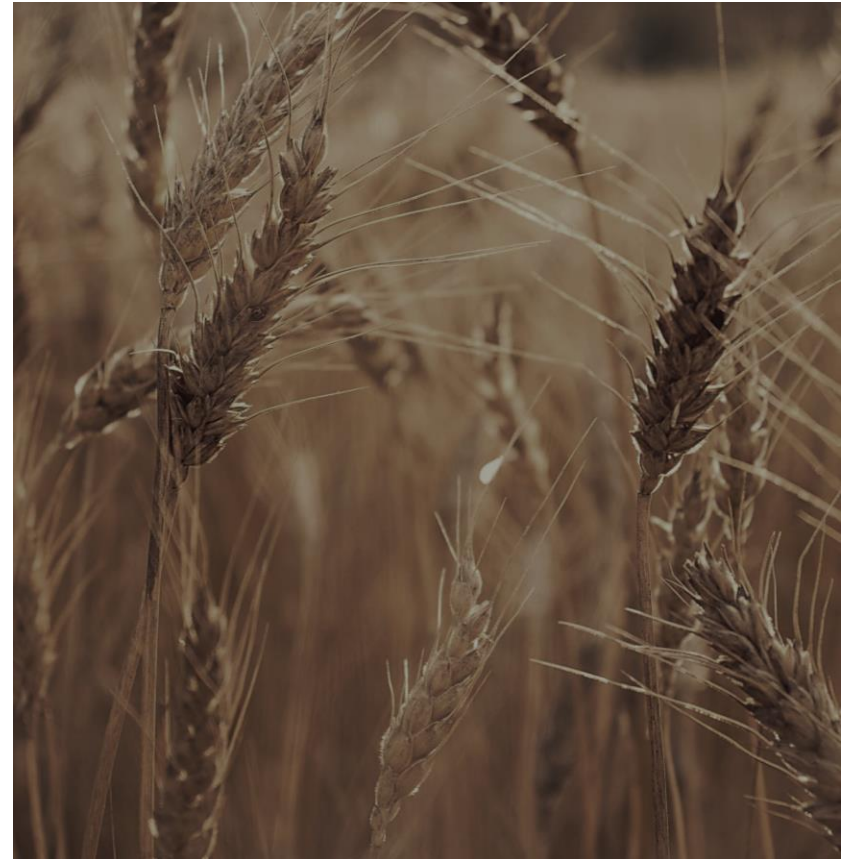


The Two Shavuoth Loaves



IV. How do we Celebrate/Observe Shavuoth?

- A. The Traditional Way Of Observing Shavuoth
 - 1. Reading the Book of Ruth
 - 2. Eating Dairy foods
 - 3. By resting from laborious work
 - 4. By gathering as a congregation (Miqra Qodesh)



Conclusion

- Let us remember how The Almighty has supplied our physical needs in a most perfect way
- Let us enjoy a time of fellowship
- Let us enjoy a day of rest
- Let us be thankful that He has given us His Torah as a guide for our daily lives

