



Chag Shavuot Sameach!

The holiday of Shavuot begins at sundown on the 5th of Sivan and lasts until nightfall on the 7th of Sivan (May 19 - June 21 this year). In Israel it is a one-day holiday, ending at nightfall on the 6th of Sivan.

The word Shavuot means “weeks.” It marks the completion of the seven-week counting period between Passover and Shavuot.

The Torah was given by God to the Jewish people on Mount Sinai on Shavuot more than 3,300 years ago. Every year on the holiday of Shavuot we renew our acceptance of God’s gift, and God “re-gives” the Torah.

The giving of the Torah was a far-reaching spiritual event—one that touched the essence of the Jewish soul for all times. Our sages have compared it to a wedding between God and the Jewish people. Shavuot also means “oaths,” for on this day God swore eternal devotion to us, and we in turn pledged our everlasting loyalty.

In ancient times, two wheat loaves would be offered in Holy Temple on Shavuot. It was also at this time that people would begin to bring bikkurim, their first and choicest fruits, to thank God for Israel’s bounty.

SHAVUOT HOLIDAY SERVICES

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| Saturday evening, May 19 th | 7:00 p.m. | Mincha followed by refreshments, Torah celebration study, Ma’ariv and song! |
| Sunday morning, May 20 th | 9:00 a.m. | Morning services |
| Sunday evening | 6:00 p.m. | Evening services |
| Monday morning, May 21 st | 9:00 a.m. | Morning services, including Yizkor memorial service |
| Monday evening | 5:45 p.m. | Evening services |