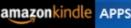
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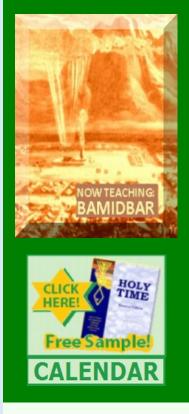


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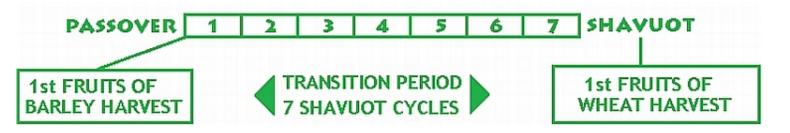
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### From Eliyahu

Hello friends,

We have arrived at a significant day on Yah's calendar. I'm going to explain a few things about this to you, so you can follow how this fits in with the Passover season as a whole.

Today is the seventh sabbath since the Passover, marking seven specific sabbath cycles - seven *shavuot* as these sabbath cycles are called in Hebrew. You may recognize that word, shavuot, as the name of the feast day that follows the seven shavuot cycles. That is the appointed day we will be observing tomorrow.



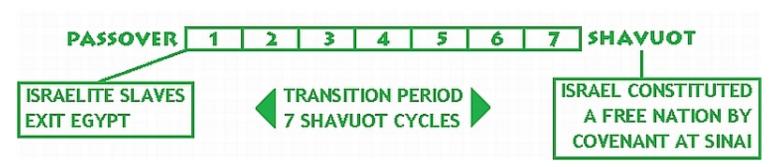
Agriculturally, the first day of the count of Shavuot cycles is the day when the first fruits of the barley harvest was to be offered before YHWH. Shavuot Day, the day after the completion of those seven sabbath cycles, marks their completion with the offering of the first fruits of the wheat harvest before YHWH. Of the two harvests, the wheat harvest is the larger harvest by far.

This agricultural cycle that happens each year was deliberately designed into the creation as a memorial of larger spiritually significant key events in Holy Time. As we observe nature during this time it reminds us of appointment days and their significance. For example, the Null family just arrived to join us for this Sabbath and Shavuot. They traveled from their home in the USA heartland, sometimes called "the breadbasket of the world." As they began their trip they drove by fields of wheat newly ripe for harvest, and they were pleased to observe how perfectly timed the new wheat is with our Shavuot celebration.

Now that we understand a little about this period agriculturally, let's consider some of the key events in the Great Plan of YHWH marked out by this time period.

### A Mob of Slaves to a Nation of Free Men

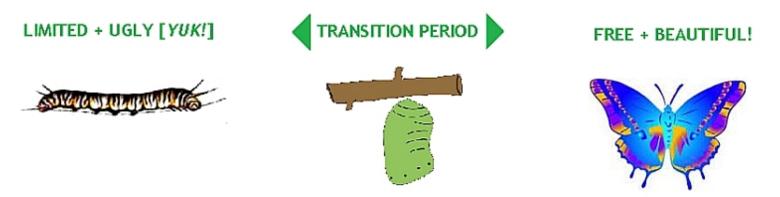
Passover was the day YHWH delivered Israel through the dreaded tenth plague. The day after Passover, the 15th day of Aviv, was the day Israel actually exited Egypt. The 15th of Aviv is the first day of the first shavuot cycle, the day when the counting of the seven shavuot cycles begins.



As those seven shavuot cycles were going by, what was happening? In a nutshell, Israel was literally traveling, while spiritually transitioning, from Egypt to Mount Sinai. In Egypt they were slaves. At Mount Sinai, on Shavuot Day, they entered into the Covenant with YHWH to be His Holy Nation, set free from the world to be wholly dedicated unto Him. The period in between, i.e. the seven shavuot cycles, was a holy transition period.

### Transition from Ugly to Beautiful

This transition period of Israel was much like the caterpillar in the cocoon that emerges (in this figure on Shavuot) as the splendid butterfly.



Shavuot celebrates the transition period of lowly Israel finally coming to fruition with Israel transformed into a free nation, dedicated to the glory of YHWH. That's why the butterfly is so beautiful!

#### **NEW SHAVUOT**

Well, that story is all great, but sadly, in actual history thereafter Israel [for the most part] did not live up to the awesome potential of butterfly life, preferring instead to ignore their wings [the Covenant] to continue to live more like caterpillars - if you get my drift.

That's why the faithful remnant of Israel needed a New Shavuot. Amazingly, we got one!

More about New Shavuot in tomorrow's special Shavuot edition of our TSIYON newsletter.

Shalom, Eliyahu ben David

tsiyon.org

PS - I'm so jazzed about Shavuot I forgot to tell you about our programming for this Sabbath. At the Tsiyon Tabernacle Dedication on Aviv 15 Dawn and I told our extensive Texas Story. The entire program was video recorded. We extracted the soundtrack to produce two ON the Road to Tsiyon programs telling our story. The first half was in last week's program. The rest is in the program released today. Both of these programs, the entire story, is now playing on Tsiyon Road. If you want to know the story behind Tsiyon, this is your chance.

One other thing. A lot is happening in the Middle East. See the articles below.

# The US and Iraqi and Syrian armies go to pieces against ISIS

### Israel, Jordan, Saudis are alarmed.

Reprint: DEBKAfile Special Report May 21, 2015

ISIS victory parade in Ramadi, Iraq

Ramadi	victory	parade
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The fall of Damascus and Baghdad, or large slices thereof, into the rapacious hands of the Islamic State, is no longer a debatable subject of strategic forecasts. Today, the capital cities of Syria and Iraq are within the Islamists' grasp. The Middle East is about to pay the price for President Barack Obama's single-minded obsession with a US détente with Tehran and a nuclear accord. It is the end product of Washington's insistence on playing down ISIS as a formidable opponent and contention that the meager US-led coalition air campaign destroyed much of its operational capabilities, which proved to be an illusion. Equally fallacious was Obama's trust in the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps and its terrorist arm, the Al Qods Brigades, to curtail the Islamist momentum.

Washington's trust has since faded. Tehran too has cooled to the idea.

In March, a group of Iraqi Shiite militias commanded by Al Qods chief Gen. Qassem Soleimani, managed to snatch parts of the Sunni Iraqi town of Tikrit from Islamist grasp. That was Iran's first and last engagement against ISIS in Iraq. After that, supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei decided to pull back from engaging Sunni Muslims in an overt sectarian showdown. It was clear to him, that the battlefield was not Iran's forte, but rather subversion, clandestine warfare and limited support for local Shiite surrogates.

As the Islamists advanced, therefore, Tehran cut back on further military intervention in Syria and Iraq and turned instead to Yemen and the Houthi rebellion as its vehicle. This is a smaller arena, which is no less strategically valuable than Iraq and Syria, thanks to its command of the globally important Gulf of Aden and the Strait of Bab el-Mandeb to world shipping.

Khamenei also saw the US president had little appetite for fighting the Islamic State. He concluded that Tehran would be better off saving the Iranian army and Revolutionary Guards forces for defending its borders against potential ISIS assault from neighboring Iraq, instead of wearing them down in Iraq and Syria.

The Iranian leader also decided that if the United States could only afford a very minor-key air campaign against the Islamist terrorists, Iran's air force should not be called on for a greater effort.

All these circumstances combined to tip America over into the heart of the fiercely burning Middle sectarian conflict between Sunnis and Shiites. Washington's latest plan to send arms to Iraqis of both sects who are ready to defend Baghdad looks like a certain recipe for stoking the sectarian fire, or even pushing ISIS into an offensive to seize the city.

The Islamists have until now held back from an all-out offensive to capture Baghdad for a variety of tactical considerations. A city of this size is a bit too large for the Islamists to swallow, hold and administer. It suits the jihadists better to hold the town to siege and under constant terrorist harassment.

The most knowledgeable sources in the region can't explain what part the US Central Command is playing as a military factor in any of these conflicts – in particular, Gen. John Allen, whom Obama last year named Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIS. Some account for their low-to-vanishing profile by their having been preoccupied in preparing a grand campaign for the recovery of Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, which is under ISIS rule.

Today, this plan looks like a pipe dream. ISIS has caused a Middle East earthquake after another by capturing Ramadi in Iraq and Palmyra in Syria in a matter of days. Their alarmed neighbors in **Jerusalem, Amman and Riyadh have been forced to conclude that their borders are in danger - not just from Iran, but also from ISIS, and they will have to confront these perils on their own.** 

## US and Hizballah coordinate spy drone flights over Qalamoun, share US combat intelligence

Reprint: DEBKAfile Exclusive Report May 23, 2015



Another strange pair of bedfellows has turned up in one of the most critical Middle East battlefields: the United States is helping Hizballah, Iran's Lebanese surrogate, in the battle for control of the strategic Qalamoun Mountains. debkafile's intelligence sources disclose that a US special operations unit, stationed at the Hamat air base on the coast of northern Lebanon, is directing unarmed Aerosonde MK 4.7 reconnaissance drone intelligence-gathering flights over the Qalamoun Mt arena, 100 km to the west.

Washington set up the base originally in line with an assurance to Beirut of military assistance for the next three years to counter any threatened invasion by extremist elements.

However, it turns out that the data the US drones pass to Lebanese army general staff in Beirut goes straight to Hizballah headquarters - and on to the Iranian officers in Syria running Bashar Assad's war effort.

The Aerosonde MK 4.7 can stay aloft for 10 to 12 hours at a stretch at an altitude of 4.5 km. It functions day or night, equipped with an advanced laser pointer capability. It is capable of carrying ordnance but US sources say that the aircraft in Lebanon are unarmed.

Since Hizballah is also operating Ababil-3 surveillance drones of its own over Qalamoun, coordination had become necessary between the American team and the Shiite group. The consequence is that for the first time, the US military is working directly with an internationally-designated terrorist organization – a development with earthshaking ramifications for Israel's security. This partnership has in fact become a game-changer for the worse in terms of Israel's security ties with the US and has caused an upheaval in its military and intelligence disposition in the region, in at least six respects:

- 1. To counter US-Hizballah intelligence collaboration, Israel is obliged to reshuffle the entire intelligence mechanism it maintains to protect its northern borders with Lebanon and Syria.
- 2. Israel finds itself forced to monitor the progress of the US special unit's interface with Hizballah, its avowed enemy.
- 3. Israel can no longer trust American intelligence coming in from Lebanon because it is likely tainted by Hizballah sources.
- 4. Hizballah is gaining firsthand insights into the operating methods of US special operations forces, which Israel's methods strongly resemble and must therefore revamp.
- 5. The Hizballah terrorist group is winning much needed prestige and enhanced status in the region from its collaboration with the US.
- 6. Hizballah's Ababil drones are in fact operated by the hostile Iranian Revolutionary Guards, which leaves Israel with no option but to overhaul from top to bottom the intelligence-gathering systems employed by its surveillance drones to track Iranian movements in the region.

At the Washington Adas Israel synagogue Friday, May 22, President Barack Obama wearing a kipah "forcefully" objected to suggestions that policy differences between his administration and the Israeli government signaled his lack of support for the longtime US ally.

This raises a question: How do Obama's repeated commitments to Israel's security square with close US military and intelligence cooperation with an organization whose vow to destroy Israel is backed by 100,000 missiles – all pointed south?

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