

The Purpose of Counting the Omer

Leviticus 23:15

וּסְפַרְתֶּם לָכֶם מִמָּחֳרַת הַשַּׁבָּת...

... And you shall count for yourselves, from the morrow of the rest day

Maimonides Positive commandment #161

"And you shall count for yourselves from the day following the [first day of Passover]" —Leviticus 23:15.

We are commanded to count the omer. Each individual is commanded to count 49 days [from the day when the Omer Offering was brought in the Temple, on the second day of Passover], counting both the days and weeks that have elapsed.