

PTDT

PhiloTorah D'var Torah

What's Shavuot?

Z'MAN MATAN TORATEINU!

Sorry, only partially correct. It is quite a bit more.

Let's go back to the Pesach Seder.

ILU, ILU HOTZI'ANU, HOTZI'ANU MIMITZRAYIM... DAYEINU!

God has bestowed many favors upon us...

Had He brought us out of Egypt, and not executed judgments against the Egyptians, we would have sufficient reason to thank Him -- Dayeinu.

...executed judgments against the Egyptians ... executed judgments against their gods ... put to death their firstborn ... given us their riches ... split the Sea for us ... led us through it on dry land ... sunk our foes in it ... -- Dayeinu!

These first eight "favors that G-d bestowed upon us" are all part of the Pesach story. They all are involved in Y'TZI'AT MITZRAYIM, our getting out of Egypt. PESACH.

The next two, thank G-d for sustaining us in the Midbar.

Then we come to Shabbat. And then our approach to Har Sinai. Then we sing about receiving the Torah.

Even though Shabbat preceded the Receiving of the Torah, we can include it with arrival at Har Sinai and KABALAT HATORAH.

And that gives us a Shavuot focus.

But we're not done yet, with Shavuot.

The last two items on the DAYEINU list, the last two items on the AL ACHAT KAMA V'KAMA list (How much more so...) - namely, being brought into Eretz Yisrael and the Building of the Beit HaMikdash - they too are related to Shavuot.

What began with the Exodus from Egypt (commemorated and celebrated on Pesach), culminated on Shavuot. It did not happen at once - our fault. Torah after seven weeks. Entry into Eretz Yisrael after 40 years. Mishkan here and there and eventually, the Beit HaMikdash in Yerushalayim, stretched out over many years. But it all is celebrated on Shavuot.

Yes, Z'MAN MATAN TORATEINU.

But also, YOM HABIKURIM, which points us to Eretz Yisrael, Yerushalayim, and the Beit HaMikdash, SHEYIBANEH BIMHEIRA B'YAMEINU, AMEIN.