

Counting of the Omer, 2024

Day 12

by Marc Gravelle

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Psalms 119: 89-96

I hope that today you feel as I do, and that you can say, that so far, the counting the Omer עֹמֵר has been a delight. When I first began this exercise of reading these *verses*, I did it in obedience, and I was simply trying to encourage others to consider following this model for daily Scripture meditation during the count up to Shavuot. However, as a result of my daily readings and meditation, I have been overwhelmed with Yahweh's faithfulness to draw me even closer into His confidence. As I have told a number of people, I sense that Yahweh is like a proud Father smiling from above because some of His children are actually taking His instruction manual, the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, seriously, and at least attempting to obey the Command to count the Omer. Consequently, in His delight of our obedience, I believe He is pouring out spiritual gifts from Heaven. I have no other way to explain it. But before I comment on today's selected *verses*, please take the time to read the following passages:

Psalm 1:1-6

*1 Blessed is the man that does **NOT** walk in the counsel of the ungodly, **NOR** stands in the way of Sinners, **NOR** sits in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight, **IS** in the Torah of Yahweh, in His Torah, does he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, a tree that brings forth his fruit in its season; his leaf also shall **NOT** wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper. 4 The ungodly are **NOT** so: **BUT** are like the chaff which the wind drives away. 5 Therefore the ungodly, shall **NOT** stand in the **judgment**, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Yahweh knows the way of the righteous: **BUT** the way of the ungodly, shall perish.*

This Psalm begins by telling us that the man that does **NOT** walk in the ways of the ungodly, **shall be BLESSED**. Well, I believe that the Psalmist is telling me and all of you, that **IF** we want to be **BLESSED**, we had had better learn **NOT** to walk in the ways of the רְשָׁעִים, Reshaiym, the ungodly, which means, that we are not to follow in the footsteps of the ungodly, we are not to do, advocate, nor support what they do, in any way. Therefore, it becomes very important for us to **KNOW** what the ways of the רְשָׁעִים, Reshaiym, the ungodly are, so that we do **NOT** walk as they do, nor do what they do. The word רְשָׁעִים, Reshaiym, is from the word Rasha, רָשָׁע, which means, to be wicked, act wickedly, declared guilty, he was found guilty, condemned as guilty, wicked, sinful, wicked sinner, guilty, wickedness, evil, iniquity, cruelty.

In Scripture, we are told that Sin, iniquity, wickedness is transgressions of the Words of the Father's Torah of Life. Therefore the **ungodly** are all the people who have chosen to **reject and refuse to obey any or all of the Words of Yahweh's Torah of Life**. Now, that that has been cleared up, it is, or should be very obvious that the ungodly, are the people that refuse to believe, follow and obey the Words of the Torah of Yahweh, for whatever reason they have, whether they believe in their hearts, that it has somehow been replaced by a man made oral torah, or that it has somehow been abolished and done away with, in whole or in part, or that all of it, has been nailed to the cross, and therefore, according to their flawed reasoning, they no longer have to obey it,

Furthermore, many, if not the majority of these people, actually feel compelled to accuse people who willingly and lovingly choose to believe, follow and obey the Words of the Torah of our heavenly Father, as we are commanded to do, are going back under the Law, and because of their choice to do so, they actually believe, that the people who choose to be ***under the Torah***, will be lost forever.

Now based on what it says in *Psalms 1*, it is up to you, whom you will believe, will you believe the Words of the Psalmist, whose words ***ARE*** based on the ***TRUTH*** that is found in the Torah of Mosheh, ***OR***, will you believe, man and his flawed finite wisdom, the very same wisdom that Yahweh calls foolishness? Choose carefully for your eternal life depends on it. Please read what it says in *Romans 7:1* ***Do you NOT KNOW, brethren, (for I speak to them that KNOW the Torah) how that the Torah has DOMINION over a man as long as he lives?***

Now read what Messiah had to say in *John 12:47-50* ***And IF any man hears My Words, and does NOT believe, I do NOT judge him: for I did NOT come to judge the world, BUT to Save the world. He that rejects Me, and does NOT receive My Words, has ONE that judges him: the WORD that I have spoken (the Words of the Torah of My heavenly Father), that same WORD, SHALL judge him in the last day. 49 For I, Messiah, have NOT spoken of Myself; BUT the Father, who sent Me, He, gave Me a Commandment, as to what I should say, and what I should speak. 50 And I KNOW, that His Commandment IS LIFE everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, EVEN AS THE FATHER SAID UNTO ME, SO I SPEAK.*** If these verses do ***NOT*** convince you that our heavenly Father's Torah of Life is still in full effect today, and that it is everlasting, then nothing will!

Psalms 119: 89 – 96

Forever, O Yahweh, Your Word (Torah) is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations; You established the earth, and it stands. They stand this day according to Your ordinances (Torah), for ALL things are Your servants. If Your Torah (Law) had NOT been my delight, then I would have perished in my affliction. I will never forget Your Precepts (Torah), for by them You have revived me. I am Yours, save me; for I have sought Your Precepts (Torah). The wicked wait for me to destroy me; I shall diligently consider Your Testimonies (Torah). I have seen a limit to all perfection; Your Commandment is exceedingly broad."

Have you ever thought of what ***forever*** will be like? As for me, I have difficulty with ***forever***, because, I have trouble looking even one year into the future, ***BUT*** then, when I look at the past, it seems like it has zoomed by at warp speed, and my children are all grown and have children of their own, and I barely recognize the guy that I see in the mirror, and yet, our heavenly Father talks to us in terms of ***eternity***. How does one understand something that has no beginning and no end, when the average lifespan of man is 70 to 80 years, and then, man's life is over? In terms of eternity, 70 or 80 years, is not even a blip on the radar screen of ***forever***, or a hiccup in the space/time continuum.

Our heavenly Father has admonished us to ***prepare*** for eternity, and save up treasures that will ***NOT*** be eaten or burned up, treasures that will make it through eternity. Have you ever thought of what those ***treasures*** might be? Well, I have, I have spent some time considering what it is, that our heavenly Father meant when He said through Messiah, in *Matthew 6:19-20* ***Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust does corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves TREASURES IN HEAVEN, where neither moth nor rust does corrupt, and where***

thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your **TREASURE IS**, there will your heart be also.

If you will permit me, I would like to give you something to read, that will show you what our heavenly Father considers eternal treasures.

Matthew 5:2-16 And Messiah opened His mouth, and taught them, saying,

Blessed are the surrendered in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness (Torah): for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see Elohim.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of Elohim.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' (Torah) sake: for theirs is the **kingdom of heaven**.

Blessed are you, **when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake** (Messiah the Living Torah).

Verse 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: **for GREAT IS your reward, in the kingdom of heaven**: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. 13 **YOU** are the salt of the earth: **BUT IF** the salt has lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth **good for nothing, BUT** to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14 **YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, **BUT** on a candlestick; and it gives light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let **YOUR LIGHT** so shine before men, that they may see your **GOOD WORKS**, (obedience to Torah) and glorify your Father, who is in heaven.

Therefore the treasures that are eternal in the kingdom of Elohim **ARE**:

A surrendered spirit

A mournful heart for the brethren

A heart that is meek and not haughty

A heart that hungers for righteousness (a heart that willingly obeys the Torah of Yahweh)

A heart that is filled with mercy, as Elohim's heart is

A heart that is pure, according to Elohim's inerrant and everlasting Word, His Torah of Life

A heart that seeks peace for, and with, all peoples

An obedient heart that accepts persecution, for the sake of Yahweh's righteousness, His Torah

A heart that is willing to be spoken evil of, because it is being obedient to the Words of the Torah of Yahweh.

The word *blessed* is used **nine** times in this portion of the Sermon on the Mount, and the number **nine** in Scripture, speaks of, the fruit of the Spirit. This, my friends, **IS** the fruit that we, you and I, are to produce, **IF** we are to call ourselves believers that walk in the Ways of Yahweh.

At this time, when you are trying to be obedient to the Commandment of Yahweh, to *count the Omer* can you honestly say?

I have a surrendered heart to my heavenly Father,

I grieve for my brethren and intercede and pray for them constantly,

I am not prideful,
I hunger down deep in my soul for Elohim's righteousness, the Words of His Torah to take over my life,
I have a heart that is filled with mercy,
I have a pure heart, in every aspect of my life, and it is manifested in all my deeds,
I have a heart that seeks to mend fences, with all people including my enemies, and those that have spitefully used me and offended me,
I have a heart that is obedient to the Words of Yahweh's Torah of Life, and I am prepared to be persecuted for my beliefs, and not deny them,
I have a surrendered, obedient heart, that is ready and willing to accept, that evil things will be said about me, because I obey **ALL** of Elohim's Commandments, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life.

I have asked myself all of these questions, and I would love to tell you that I answered **YES**, to all of them, **BUT** the truth is, I fall short in **EVERY** category. On any given day, I can, and do sometimes break some or all of these beautiful attributes that show a heart that is fully surrendered to Yahweh. Yet, I am **NOT** discouraged, because I know, that like David, and like Paul, I have a heart that **WANTS to obey** our heavenly Father's Commandments, the Words of His Torah of Life, and I realize, that I am a work in progress, and, that my heavenly Father will help me to get all of these wonderful attributes, **IF** I will only begin to master the very first one, and that **IS**, surrender my heart, mind, soul, and strength to my heavenly Father in loving obedience.

As you do this analysis of your own life, don't be too hard on yourself, because even Paul said, in *Romans 7:15-16* speaking of his own life, *What I do, I do not understand, for I do **NOT** do what I want to do, **BUT** I do what I hate. 16 Now, **IF** I do what I do not want to do, I concur that the Torah (Law) **IS GOOD**.*

If you indeed fall short in some, or even in all of the areas mentioned above, concentrate on mastering the very first one, learn to truly surrender your will to our heavenly Father, and, because of His great love for you, He **WILL** do the rest for you, for He will fill you with His Holy Spirit, who in turn is tasked by our heavenly Father with **CAUSING** every surrendered willing heart, that will allow Him, to walk in His Ways, and obey all the Words of His Torah of Life. Amen

Remember this prayer found in *1John 5:14-15* *And this is **the confidence that we have in Him**, that, **IF** we **ASK ANY THING according to His WILL**, He hears us: 15 And **IF** we know that He hears us, then whatsoever we ask, **WE KNOW** that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.*

It is evident throughout Scripture that our heavenly Father's will **IS**, He wants each and every one of us, to willingly and lovingly surrender our hearts, minds, souls and strength to Him, therefore **IF** you pray the prayer that is found in *1John 5:14-15* on a regular basis, then I believe you will assure yourself, over a period of time, that Yahweh **WILL** indeed give you your petition. Don't get discouraged, if it doesn't happen in your timing, for Yahweh's Timing **IS** always perfect, while ours seldom is. Amen

For your meditation pleasure today, I would like you to go over each *verse* of *Psalms 119:89-96* and see for yourself what Yahweh will reveal to you.

89 For ever, O Yahweh, Your Word is established in heaven.

What we have to realize is that forever, means that Yahweh's Word, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life, **ARE UNENDING**, and when something is **UNENDING, IT MEANS, IT CANNOT BE ABOLISHED**, otherwise, **IT IS NOT UNENDING**.

Scripture makes it very clear, that all of the Words of Yahweh's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life, **ARE UNENDING. HOWEVER, IF** anyone chooses to believe that **part, or all of** His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life, **HAVE** somehow become obsolete, and or passed away, then, that person **IS** calling our heavenly Father and Yahweh, **LIARS**, because, these inspired Words come directly from the mouth of our heavenly Father, and Yahweh, and, it says that His Word, His Torah is **SETTLED** or **ESTABLISHED in heaven FOREVER**. The only place that the Word of Elohim, can and does become obsolete **IS IN THE HEARTS OF MEN**, in hearts, that have willingly and rebelliously turned away from His everlasting Word. We have to understand, that Yahweh has not entrusted the Words of His Torah of Life to man, for, since He is the One that formed us, He knows that the heart of man **IS** evil, wicked beyond measure, therefore, Yahweh sovereignly chose, to embed His Word, in His creation, in nature, in the heavens, in the sun, the moon, the stars and all the planets. As I said, **IT IS** only in the minds and hearts of finite human beings, that the Word of Yahweh can be extinguished, because, our **INFINITE Yahweh** has told us, that His Word **IS FOREVER**.

90 Your faithfulness is unto ALL generations: You have established the earth, and it abides.

Here the Psalmist tells us that Yahweh's faithfulness endures to all generations. What does that mean? What is Yahweh's faithfulness? The word translated as faithfulness, is the Hebrew word Emunah, אֱמוּנָה, and it means, *belief, truth, faithful, faithfulness, steady, truly, stability*. Therefore what the Psalmist **IS** saying, **IS**, Yahweh's **TRUTH**, His belief, His steadfastness, His stability, **WILL** last through **ALL** generations, and that means, that it will **NEVER DIMINISH**. His **TRUTH IS** for all generations, from Adam to whomever will be the last one to be born, before the end of the world as we know it, comes. Furthermore, Yahweh's **TRUTH IS FOR ALL OF US**, regardless of when we came into the world, and the Psalmist tells us that Yahweh's **TRUTH, abides, or is with us FOREVER**. *Exodus 19:9 And Yahweh said unto Mosheh, Lo, I come unto you in a thick cloud, so that the people MAY HEAR WHEN I SPEAK WITH YOU MOSHEH, AND BELIEVE YOU FOR EVER. And Mosheh told the words of the people unto Yahweh.*

Psalm 119:152 Concerning Your testimonies, I have known of old that You have founded them FOR EVER.

In *Psalm 119:160* the Psalmist says *Your Word is TRUE from the beginning: and EVERY ONE of Your righteous judgments endures FOR EVER.*

Now, it is up to each and every one of us, who are reading these words, to decide, **WHO IS RIGHT**. Do you believe the church fathers that tell us that **PART OR ALL OF THE WORDS OF YAHWEH, THE WORDS OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER'S TORAH of Life**, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, have somehow been partially or totally abolished, or do you believe the Jewish Rabbi's, who teach that their oral torah, supersedes part or all of Yahweh's Written Torah, **OR WILL YOU CHOOSE INSTEAD TO BELIEVE YAHWEH**, when He speaks directly to us, and says, **FOREVER My Word IS** established in heaven? It is really up to you to decide; for His **TRUTH** will reign forever, **EVEN IF ALL** the people of the world chose **NOT** to believe it. Amen

91 They continue this day according to Your ordinances: for all are Your servants.

Here the Psalmist is saying that the Torah of Yahweh, His Testimonies, His Statutes, His Precepts, His Judgements, His Word, His Commandments continue on, regardless of what the peoples of the world believe. The Psalmist goes even further and says: **ALL** of the Words of Yahweh's Torah, His Testimonies, Statutes, Precepts, Judgements, and or Commandments, **ARE HIS SERVANTS**.

Now this is **VERY** important for us to understand, because the implications of this statement **CAN CHANGE YOUR ENTIRE OUTLOOK ON THE SCRIPTURES**. Let me show you what I mean. In *John 1:1* John says: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was WITH Elohim, and the Word WAS Elohim. 2 The same was in the beginning with Elohim. 3 All things were made by Him; and without Him was NOT any thing made that was made. Verse 14 And the Word of Elohim was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and TRUTH.*

As you can see, John tells us that the Word of Elohim, which created **ALL** things, **IS** indeed Yahweh, and that this same Word, this Yahweh, became flesh and was manifested as our Messiah, the Living Word of the Father, He is the **ONLY** begotten One of the Father, full of **GRACE** and **TRUTH**. This tells us that Messiah, the Words of the Living Torah, **IS GRACE**, and that He **IS TRUTH**. And as you know, **TRUTH IS** everlasting, for if it is **NOT** everlasting then it cannot be called **TRUTH**.

Now back to what the Psalmist said, he said that Yahweh's ordinances, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, which he says, continue **FOREVER, ARE HIS SERVANTS**. Therefore that means that Messiah, who is the Living Word of the Father made flesh, **IS THE SERVANT of our heavenly Father** and as we know, a servant **CANNOT** and will **NOT** change His Master's Command, His master's Word. The Message that the Master has given the servant, **MUST** be given to the person that the Master sent Him to, without being altered in any way. In other Words, the Torah, our heavenly Father's inerrant and everlasting Word, **IS UNCHANGEABLE**, because our heavenly Father made it that way. He understands men's hearts, and therefore, He did **NOT** entrust His precious Word to man, instead, as I said above, He placed His inerrant and everlasting precious teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life, in the fabric of the universe, so that **ALL** generations could see His **TRUTH** for themselves, and **NOT** some perversion that man has created in His mind. The **WORDS** of our heavenly Father **ARE HIS SERVANTS** and **THEY HAVE AND WILL ALWAYS CONTINUE TO DO EXACTLY WHAT HE HAS COMMANDED THEM TO DO**, and that **IS**, teach mankind, Yahweh's Ways, His **PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS** and not the man made perversions that all the leaders of the man made religions of the world espouse, believe and teach. Amein

92 Unless Your Torah (Law) had been my delight, I should then have perished in my affliction.

Here the Psalmist tells us, that the Torah of Yahweh, the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Words of Life, have been, and continue to be, **HIS DELIGHT**. He then says, he realizes, that because they have become his delight, they have kept him, and continue to keep him **safe** and **secure**, especially when he is going through difficult times.

93 I will NEVER forget Your Precepts: for with them You have quickened me.

Here the Psalmist makes a promise of his own, and he says what should be on all of our hearts, he says **I WILL NEVER FORGET YOUR PRECEPTS**, for these Precepts, these Words that make up your

inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, Your Torah, **HAVE** given me Life, your **WORD** has quickened me. Through the Hebraic Scriptures, we are told that the Word of Yahweh, **IS LIFE** to us, and here the Psalmist simply affirms that eternal Truth.

94 I am Yours, save me; for I have sought Your precepts.

What do you think the Psalmist means when he says: I am yours? He means, that he has chosen to fully surrender his will to the Father's Will, which means, he has chosen to **FOLLOW AND OBEY ALL** the Words of our heavenly Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, His Precepts, Testimonies, Statutes, Judgements, Word, and or Commandments, because, the Psalmist understands, that salvation **IS a GIFT**, and He asks Yahweh to save him, but he also understands that to take advantage of this **GIFT**, one must surrender one's will to the Father in loving surrendered obedience to His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life.

95 The wicked have waited for me to destroy me: but I will consider Your Testimonies.

I don't know what you picture in your mind, when you read the words, the wicked, but I have a good idea as to what the world believes, makes a person wicked. However according to Scripture, the wicked persons, **ARE, ALL PEOPLE** who walk contrary to the Words of Yahweh's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life. **IF** that is indeed the case, and I truly believe it is, and **IF** we use that understanding, that definition, **as to what it means, to be wicked**, then, it means, that **MOST OF THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD FIT INTO THE CATEGORY OF BEING WICKED**, for even many of the people that profess to be of the houses of the Elohim of Abraham, Yitzchaq and Ya'aqov, have decided, in their finite wisdom, that the Words of the Torah of our heavenly Father, have somehow been set aside or abolished in whole or in part, while others believe that their oral torah, their own finite man made doctrines, somehow supersedes and or replaces part or **ALL** the Words of our heavenly Father, who has infinite intelligence and wisdom. Therefore, the Psalmist says, he will have nothing to do with anyone that **IS NOT** willing to surrender their will to our heavenly Father and become **SUBJECT** to the Torah, the Law of Yahweh.

96 I have seen an end, קֵץ, Qetz, of all perfection, תִּכְלָה, Tiklah: BUT Your Commandment is exceeding broad, רְחֹבָה, Rechavah.

Let us begin by taking out the word **BUT** from this *verse*, for it has been inserted by the scribes, and it changes the message of what the Psalmist is trying to say. The Psalmist says *I have seen an end of all perfection*. The word perfection is the Hebrew word Tikla, תִּכְלָה. This word means *goal*, and **IT IS** from the root word Kalah, which means *end*, and it also means, *bride*, for a bride completes a man. The next word we have to look at is the word *broad*, and this is translated from the Hebrew word, Rechava, רְחֹבָה, which is from the root word Rachav, רָחַב, which means, *broad, wide, large, at liberty*. In the Apostolic Scriptures we are told in *James 1:25 But whoso looks into the perfect Torah (Law) of Liberty, and continues therein, he NOT being a forgetful hearer, but a DOER of the Work, this man SHALL be blessed in his deed.*

James 2:12 So speak you, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the Torah (Law) of liberty.

Now that we have a better understanding of the meaning of the words that the Psalmist used, let us decipher what he truly said. The Psalmist says: I have seen the **Goal** that You Yahweh want all of us to accomplish, the **Goal** that we are **ALL** to strive to achieve, and that goal, **IS**, that you want all of us to

become the **SPOTLESS BRIDE of Messiah**, and, I now see, that that goal, can only be achieved by willingly choosing to obey **ALL** the Words of Your everlasting Commandments, **the perfect Torah (Law) of Liberty**.

When mankind decides to **KEEP** Your Commandments, these beautiful Words that cover every aspect of human life, the Way to salvation, will be broadened for us, and your **Goal** Father, that **NONE** of the people that you have created, would perish, and that all should become the Bride of Messiah, will be closer to being fulfilled. Furthermore **IF** we take the word Rachav, רַחַב, and reverse the order of the letters, we form the word Bachar, בָּחַר, which means, to choose or chosen. Therefore, we can see, that it is only by choosing the Ways of Yahweh as the Psalmist has decided to do, that we can indeed guarantee our chances to make it into the kingdom of Elohim. Seek first the kingdom of Elohim and His righteousness, **AND**, **ALL** these other things **WILL** be added onto you. Amein. *Shalom Alechem!*

Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.

*Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought,
and your every deed. Until we meet again. Amein*