

# Counting of the עֹמֶר, Omer, 2024

## Day 15

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### *Psalms 119:113 – 120*

I have come to realize that the study of the Hebrew words of Scripture, allows me to picture in my mind's eye different aspects of our Creator, and, I asked myself, is it possible that the written Word of Yahweh has the ability to move people even more dramatically than what we can see on the surface of the stories that we encounter in Scripture? Could this be the reason why the Scripture themselves actually encourage us to memorize the Words that Yahweh has spoken to us, so that when His Words are internalized, they can actually move our spirits into a much more intimate relationship with Him? And, if we do that, if we can indeed internalize and or memorize His Words of Life, can these memorized words and verses, create actual images in our mind, images that will help us to remember and recall significant lessons that are found throughout Scripture? Certainly the teaching style that Messiah Himself employed and its effectiveness, is beyond comparison, but I am **NOT** Messiah, and I need to solicit Yahweh and His Holy Spirit's help, to better understand His **TRUTH**, the Words of His Torah of Life. But before commenting on these and other thoughts, I would like you to consider picturing in your own mind the priests at the altar in Jerusalem counting the Omer today, as they might have read these Psalms.

### *Psalms 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.*

Yesterday we spoke of the man that is like a tree that is planted by the rivers of water and produces fruit in its season, and we stopped there, but the verse continues on and says, His leaf will not wither, and whatsoever he does will prosper. What do you think the Psalmist means when he says וְעֵלְהוּ לְאֵי-יָבֹל, VeAlehu, and His leaves, Lo, will not, Yibol, from the word, Nabal, which means to wither, fade, drop down, wear away, **BUT** it also means, to be foolish, be senseless, be contemptible, he regarded or treated with contempt, despised, disgraced, he dirtied, polluted, to make an animal ritually forbidden by improper slaughtering, an impious or villainous person, an ignoble, disgraceful person, disgraceful, folly, wickedness, it also means skin bottle, jar, pitcher, it also means harp)

How do we know that Yahweh will judge all the peoples of the earth in a **JUST** manner? There are people in this world of ours, that have committed such atrocities, that it seems like they **DO NOT** deserve any mercy or even any justice, and I have to admit, that **IF** it were up to me, the only thing they would get, is the gallows, because of the atrocities that they have committed, and I would not give it a second thought to their demise, because, their consciences were seared with a hot iron

(1 Timothy 4:2), yet we are told here in *Psalm 67*, that *Yahweh will judge the people with UPRIGHTNESS*. Understood in the word **UPRIGHTNESS** is that Elohim's judgement will have **mercy, grace, and justice** for **ALL** peoples, regardless of what deeds, good or evil, they have done, and, **IF** they truly repent, as the thief on the cross, who was on the right side of Messiah, repented, then, because of the great love and mercy, that Messiah has, for all of Creation, He said, Verily I promise you today, you **SHALL** be with Me in paradise. Yahweh promises justice, yes, **BUT** Yahweh's **justice IS** tempered with **mercy, grace and forgiveness** for the truly repentant heart.

In *John 12:47* it says: *And IF any man hear My Words, and does NOT believe what I say, I DO NOT JUDGE: for I did NOT come to judge the world, I CAME TO SAVE THE WORLD. 48 He that rejects Me, and does NOT receive My Words, has One that judges him: THE WORDS (of the Torah) THAT I HAVE SPOKEN, THESE SAME WORDS SHALL JUDGE HIM IN THE LAST DAY.*

The Word of Elohim, **IS** His character, His heart, the whole of His being, therefore we can see and understand that **IT IS** the **Heart, the essence** of Elohim that will **Judge** all peoples of the world, and the **Heart** of Elohim **IS** filled with love, grace, mercy, compassion, understanding and forgiveness, **BUT**, most of all, His Heart **IS** filled with justice for all. Remember that next time you feel angry against anyone because of what they have done. Amein

### ***Psalms 119: 113-120***

*I hate those who are double-minded, but I love Your Torah (Law). You are my hiding place and my shield; I wait for Your Word (Torah). Depart from me, evildoers, that I may observe the Commandments (Torah) of my Elohim. Sustain me according to Your Word (Torah), that I may live; and do not let me be ashamed of my hope (Torah). Uphold me that I may be safe, that I may have regard for Your Statutes (Torah) continually. You have rejected all those who wander from Your Statutes (Torah), for their deceitfulness IS useless. You have removed all the wicked of the earth like dross; therefore I love Your Testimonies (Torah). My flesh trembles for fear of You, and I am afraid of Your Judgments (Torah).*

As I read and understand more and more of Yahweh's beautiful Words, I am simply amazed at the warnings that He gives us on every page of Scripture. The mental image or picture that I get from these wonderful words, **IS** that of a loving, caring, compassionate Father, who is diligently watching over, and teaching His children, with the utmost care and attention. And He does that because of His great Love for us, a love that is tempered with compassion, grace and mercy. And because of His love for us, He constantly warns us against turning away from the Words of His Torah of Life, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Directives for everlasting Life. *You O Yahweh have rejected all those who wander from Your Statutes (the Words of Torah), for their deceitfulness IS useless.*

*Proverbs 28:9 He that turns away his ear from hearing the Words of Yahweh's Torah (Law), even his prayer shall be abomination to Yahweh.*

These are only two of the many hundreds of *verses* in Scripture that warn us against choosing to discard or reject **any or all** of the Words of Elohim's Torah of Life, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions. Just think of the vast implications of the statements in these two *verses*!

These are warnings my friends, warnings from a loving, caring, merciful and compassionate Father, who has emphatically stated in Scripture that **IT IS** His **WISH THAT NONE** of His children perish. In *Ezekiel 18:23* *Have I any pleasure at all that **THE WICKED** should die? Says Adonay Yahweh: and not that **he should return from his ways, and live?***

Please try and engrave this picture of our heavenly Father, being a compassionate loving Father, who does **NOT** want even one of his children to perish, on your mind, and know, without a shadow of a doubt, that our heavenly Father loves us **ALL**, and that means, that He loves **YOU, YOU** who are now reading these words according to His Commandment to do so. And know, that like any loving Father, He does not want any of His children to perish, so He gives us warning after warning in His manual for Life, the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, as to how we are to live Holy Lives as He is Holy.

I have quoted a few *verses* below to show you the power and grace of Yahweh's Word.

*Psalm 119:9* *Wherewithal shall a young man **cleanse** his way? By taking heed thereto, according to **YOUR WORD.***

**IT IS** the Living Word of Elohim, the Words of His Living Torah, **that cleanses us.**

*Psalm 119:11* ***Your Word** (Torah) have I hid in my heart, that I might **NOT SIN** against You.*

Fill your heart with the Words of Yahweh, the Words of His Torah of Life, for it will indeed **KEEP** you from sinning, from transgressing the Words of His Torah, for **SIN** according to *1John 3:4* **IS** transgression of the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life.

*Psalm 119:42* *So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproaches me: for I **TRUST** in **YOUR WORD** (Torah).*

Learn the Word of Yahweh, learn the Words of His Torah of Life, and then, make a commitment to apply what you have learned from His Word, into your daily life, and when you do that, I can guarantee you, that you **WILL** experience the positive results of living a Torah obedient life, and what is also very great, is that you will be able to give an answer of the hope that is in you, when and **IF** you are approached by other people.

*Psalm 119:101* *I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might **KEEP Your Word** (Torah).*

If you willingly **KEEP and DO** Yahweh's Word, His Torah, the Psalmist says, it will keep you from all evil. After all, that is what we pray for when we recite what has come to be known as the Lord's Prayer, *Let us **NOT** be lead into temptation, **BUT** deliver us from evil!*

*Psalm 119:105* ***Your Word** (Torah) is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

Yahweh's Word, His Torah, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, **WILL** enlighten the path that He wants all of us, His children, to walk on, in our daily lives, and His Light, the Light of the world, which of course is the exemplary Life that our Messiah lived, while He was here on earth with us, makes it easier for us to choose Yahweh's designated path, His **Path of righteousness.**

*Psalm 119:140 Your Word (Torah) is very pure: therefore Your servant loves it.*

Just like the consumption of pure, crystal clear water, is needed to sustain our Life, here on earth, so to are the Words of the Father's Torah of Life needed to sustain everlasting Life in the kingdom of Elohim.

*Psalm 119:160 Your Word (Torah) is **TRUE** from the beginning: and every one of Your righteous judgments endures **FOR EVER**.*

The Word of Yahweh, His Torah, was **TRUE** before time began and **IT WILL BE TRUE EVEN AFTER TIME AS WE KNOW IT, STOPS**.

*John 17:14 I have given them Your Word (Torah); and the world has hated them, because they are **NOT** of the world, even as I am not of the world.*

Messiah gave us the Father's Word, the Words of the Father's Torah of Life, and Messiah says, that those that hate the Words of the Father's Torah, are of the world, but those who willingly choose to obey the Words of His Torah, as you are now doing, by obeying Him and counting the Omer, are **NOT** of this world. **NOW IT IS UP TO YOU, TO DECIDE** where you stand, do you stand with Messiah the Words of the Living Torah of our heavenly Father, made flesh, **OR**, do you stand with the world.

I have ended with *John 17:17* for it says: *Sanctify them through Your **TRUTH**: Your Word, Your Torah IS TRUTH*; because it expresses who our heavenly Father **IS**, **He IS TRUTH** and the sooner we realize, that **EVERYTHING** that comes forth out of the mouth of Elohim is **PURE TRUTH**, the sooner we will be able to seek first the kingdom of Elohim and His righteousness.

If you could learn to just memorize these *verses* and repeat them to yourself on a daily basis, then I believe that you would get the proper perspective of who our heavenly Father is, and how much he loves us.

Today, as you take the time out of your busy day to count the Omer and read these *verses*, please check your spirit, what **is it** telling you? Is it rejoicing in what you are doing, is it rejoicing in the fact that you are being obedient to the Word of Elohim, by choosing to count the Omer, as He has Commanded all of us to do? If you answered yes, then maybe, just maybe, **IF** we all willingly start obeying **ALL** of His Commandments, as we are meant to do, rather than choosing just the ones that we want to obey, as most of Elohim's people do, then, that feeling of joy, the feeling of well being, will be a permanent state of mind for each and every one of us. Amein

*113 I hate vain thoughts: **BUT** Your Torah (Law) do I love.*

Here the Psalmist says that he has hated his and other people's vain thoughts. The dictionary defines the word *vain* to mean *conceited, proud, narcissistic, arrogant, inflated, empty, hollow, hopeless unproductive, ineffective, futile, worthless*; therefore the Psalmist recognizes and understands that every thought that he has, that does **NOT** line up with the **WAYS** or the **WORDS** of the **TORAH** of our heavenly Father, **IS empty, unproductive, ineffective, hopeless, futile, worthless, prideful**,

*arrogant and conceited*, to name but a few attributes of those kind of thoughts. Since the Psalmist realizes this in his own heart, **IS** it any wonder that he states that he **HATES** these kind of thoughts?

Then the Psalmist says: **BUT** Your Torah Yahweh, **IS** what I love, **BECAUSE IT HAS NONE** of these destructive traits or attributes; Your Torah **IS PERFECT**, *converting the soul*, **YOUR TORAH IS SURE**, *making wise the simple*, **YOUR TORAH IS RIGHT**, *rejoicing the heart*, **YOUR TORAH IS PURE**, *enlightening the eyes*, **YOUR TORAH IS CLEAN**, *enduring for ever*, **YOUR TORAH IS TRUE and RIGHTEOUS** *altogether*, **YOUR TORAH IS TO BE DESIRED** *more than gold, yea, more than much fine gold, and YOUR TORAH IS SWEETER also than honey and the honeycomb.*  
*Psalm 19:7-10*

*114 You are my hiding place and my shield: I hope in Your Word.*

Here the Psalmist says that Yahweh **IS his hiding place**. A hiding place, **IS** where you go when you feel threatened so that you can be safe and protected from whatever it **IS** that coming at or for you. A shield **IS** a protective cover to keep you from harm, and finally the Psalmist says, I **HOPE** in your Word. What does it mean to **HOPE** in Yahweh's Word? Well to get a good understanding of what the Word of Yahweh will do for all people, who willingly choose to surrender their wills in obedience to our heavenly Father's Word, let us read what Paul said about the Word of Yahweh in *Ephesians 6:10-18* **Finally, my brethren, be strong in Yahweh, and in the power of HIS MIGHT. 11 Put on the WHOLE ARMOUR OF ELOHIM (His Word), that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do NOT wrestle against flesh and blood, BUT against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in heavenly places. 13 Therefore, take unto you the WHOLE ARMOUR OF ELOHIM** (every word that proceeds out of His mouth), *that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with TRUTH* (the Words of Yahweh's Torah), *and having on the breastplate of righteousness* (the Words of Yahweh's Torah of Life, *Deuteronomy 6:25*); *15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace* (Truth, *Ephesians 1:13*); *16 Above all, taking the SHIELD of belief, wherewith you shall be able to quench ALL the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the Helmet of Salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit, WHICH IS THE WORD OF ELOHIM: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.*

These verses tell us that the **WORD of YAHWEH's TORAH OF LIFE, WILL ALWAYS** protect those who willingly and lovingly choose **TO COMMIT TO OBEY IT**.

*115 Depart from me, you evildoers: for I WILL KEEP the Commandments of my Elohim.*

What is an evil **DOER** according to Scripture? An evil doer, **IS** anyone that walks contrary to the Words of Yahweh's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life. Here the Psalmist is telling **ALL** people that do **NOT** want to **SUBJECT themselves** to the Ways, or the Words of the Torah, (the Law) of Yahweh, **TO DEPART FROM HIM**. Why is the Psalmist so adamant on not having any relationship with these people? In Scripture we are told that a little leaven, leavens the whole loaf. That means that **SIN**, is like a communicable and very contagious disease, and when we come in close proximity to **SIN**, and do not consciously try to distance ourselves from it, there **IS** a very distinct possibility that we **WILL** indeed be infected by it, especially **IF** we linger near it for any length of time.

Furthermore, we are told by Paul, in *Romans 8:7* that ***IF we do NOT SUBJECT ourselves to the Words of the Torah of Yahweh, we are carnal***, which means, that we are walking in the flesh, which in turn means, we are walking in ***SIN***, and since the Psalmist understands that there is a very distinct possibility that he will be infected by these people, ***IF*** he spends any time with them, he ***COMMANDS THESE PEOPLE*** to depart from him, for he knows that in the state of mind that they are in, they ***CANNOT please Yahweh***, and all they can do therefore ***IS*** infect him, with their evil ways, their way of life, and turn him away from the Words of Yahweh's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions; that when obeyed with a loving surrendered heart, give him life, so he commands them to depart from him.

*116 Uphold (סָמְכֵנִי, Samkeniy) me according unto Your Word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope.*

The Psalmist knows the Word of Yahweh, and therefore he understands that Yahweh's Word is what upholds him, protects him and provides for him. Last week we studied the letter Samech of the Hebrew alphabet and we learned that the name Samech, סָמַךְ, means to *lean upon* and or *support*. Therefore, the Psalmist is asking Yahweh to make good on His Word, where it says it will *support* him, ***IF*** and when he learns to ***TRUST, LEAN ON*** or ***RELY*** on Yahweh's Word; for ***THIS IS*** what Yahweh has said He would ***DO*** for ***ALL*** the people who willingly choose to surrender their wills to His will. What the Psalmist understands ***IS*** that when Yahweh supports him, and or surrounds him with His protective covering, because of the Psalmists' surrendered obedience, then he will live and never have to be ashamed because of his love for Yahweh and his obedience to the Words of the Elohim of creation.

*117 Hold me up Yahweh, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto Your Statutes continually.*

Here the words *hold me up* are the Hebrew word Se'ad, סָעַד, which means to *hold up* and or *sustain* and it too starts with the letter Samech. The Psalmist understands that it is Yahweh who ***IS*** His Creator, Deliverer and Protector, and he also understands that ***IF*** Yahweh ***IS*** indeed his protection, then, he will be safe indeed. And therefore, the Psalmist makes an oath to Yahweh and says, since You, through Your great love for me, ***KEEP ME SAFE***, I will have respect unto Your Statutes ***CONTINUALLY***. The word respect, is the Hebrew word Sha'ah, שָׁאַה, which means to *care for, amazed at, look upon in awe*. So as you can see, the Psalmist ***IS*** totally overwhelmed at the beauty and the completeness by which the Word of Yahweh ***IS*** formed.

*118 You have trodden down all them that err from Your Statutes: for their deceit is falsehood.*

There is no room here to misunderstand what the Psalmist is saying. The Psalmist says that Yahweh has ***trodden under foot, ALL people that err from the Words of His Torah of Life***, the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions. Furthermore, he tells us that those people that do err from the Torah, are ***DECEIVED*** into believing the falsehood that they have been taught. The Psalmist is telling us that ***ANYTHING THAT DOES NOT LINE UP WITH THE WORD OF YAHWEH's Torah of Life***, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, ***IS FALSE AND DECEITFUL***.

*119 You put away all the wicked of the earth like dross: therefore I love Your testimonies.*

Here again we have to understand what it means to be wicked, **IF** we do not want to be put away like **dross**, which means to be discarded as something that is worthless, then we have to understand that Evil, according to Scripture, is **ANYTHING** and **EVERYTHING** that does **NOT** line up with the Word of the Torah of our heavenly Father, His Directives for everlasting Life. Therefore, believing that the Words of the Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life, have somehow been changed, replaced or abolished, in whole or in part, by some man made oral Torah, or the teaching of the Church fathers, **IS** what Yahweh calls **wickedness**. What **WE** have to understand, **IS** that the Words of the Father's Torah of Life, come directly from the Loving Heart of our heavenly Father, and that He, our infinite Elohiym, has designed His Torah, to be **A GUIDE** that will lead all who choose to believe, follow, and obey His Words of Life, onto everlasting life, and since He Loves us with a perfect and infinite love, and because it is His wish that **NONE** should perish, we can understand why He gets angry when we do **NOT** listen to and Shema His Word. Therefore it behooves us to **LOVE** what Father loves, which means that we are to Love the Father's Torah, His Words of everlasting life.

*120 My flesh trembles for **fear** of You; and I am **afraid** of Your judgments.*

The word *fear* used here is the Hebrew word, Pachad, פָּחַד, which means, *fear, dread, terror, to be in awe of, frightened*. Therefore the Psalmist understands that Yahweh has the power of life and death, and that He **IS** the Creator of **ALL** things, and that is why he is in awe of Yahweh and fears what Yahweh can do to him, **IF** he disobeys Yahweh's Word. Then the Psalmist says that he is afraid of Yahweh's Judgement, and here the word afraid is the Hebrew word Yiratiy, יִרְאַתִּי, which is from the word, Yirah, יִרְאָה, which means *to fear, terror, reverence, he honoured*, it is related to the word Yirah, יִרָה, which sounds the same, but means *to teach, instruct* and this word Yirah is also the root word, upon which the word Torah, תּוֹרָה is formed, and the Torah **IS** the Words of Yahweh's inerrant and everlasting **teaching** and **instructions**. Therefore the Psalmist is telling us, that he has willingly and lovingly **SURRENDERED HIS WILL IN OBEDIENCE TO ALL THE WORDS OF THE TORAH OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER**, His Life giving instructions, and he understands that going against the Words of the Torah of Yahweh, **IS** indeed futile and only leads to death, everlasting death. Amein

*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, שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵיכֶם, Shalom Aleykem. Amein!*