

Counting of the עֶמֶר, Omer, 2026,

Day 17

by Marc Gravelle

marc@bondservantsofyeshua.ca

Psalms 119: 129-136

As the counting of the Omer proceeds, the Words of Yahweh take on deeper and deeper meanings for me, as I concentrate on what I believe He is telling us through His beautiful Words of Scripture. I like to think, that Yahweh's Holy Spirit, has been refining and altering my approach to the Word of Elohim. Now in an attempt to get a head start on the daily exercise of writing these little devotionals, I have been looking at the next day's text before falling asleep. Before I go to sleep every night, I ask Yahweh to increase His wisdom and understanding within me, His wisdom that can only be found in the Words of His Torah of Life. I often pray *Psalm 119:17-18 Deal bountifully with Your servant, that I may live, and keep Your Word (Torah). 18 Open You my eyes (and my understanding), that I may behold the wondrous things hidden in Your Torah (Law).* When I get a chance to sleep on Yahweh's Words, it's amazing what He does show me from time to time, and today I want to share with you what Yahweh has put on my heart. However, before sharing the light that was given to me to consider, please take the time to reflect on the following Psalm 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.*

The theme of this beautiful Psalm, **IS** the **Grace** of Elohim and the **Power** of His Word. We were all formed by Elohim, and Scripture makes it abundantly clear, that He loves each and every one of us with a perfect and infinite love, and He tells us in *Ezekiel 18:23 Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? Says Adonay Yahweh: and not that the wicked should **return from his wicked ways, and live?*** Furthermore, we can see the cry of our Father's heart in *Devariym 5:29* where He says: *O that there were such a heart in My People Yisrael, that they would fear Me, and **KEEP ALL My Commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!***

Since Scripture makes it very clear that the Father and the Son are **ONE**, it means that they have the same heart, which means that the heart of Messiah, echo's what is on the Father's heart. In *Matthew 23:37* we can hear the cry of Messiah's heart, when He says *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you that kill the prophets, and stone them who are **sent unto you, how often would I have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you would not!***

By, and through Yahweh's grace and mercy, He wants **ALL** of His children to be saved, therefore it behooves us, to at least try, and have a heart that mimics what is on our Father's heart, and we should pray that **ALL** of His children, would turn from their wicked ways, their Transgressions of the Words

of His Torah of Life, return to His Ways and Live, then I believe that the nations **WILL** be glad and sing for joy, because they will learn to **TRUST** Yahweh with all their hearts.

Psalms 119: 129 – 136

*Your Testimonies (Torah) are wonderful; therefore **my soul observes them**. The unfolding of Your Words (Torah) gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. I opened my mouth wide and panted, for I longed for Your Commandments (Torah). Turn to me and be gracious to me, after Your manner with those who love Your Name. Establish my footsteps in Your Word (Torah), and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me. Redeem me from the oppression of man, that I may keep Your Precepts (Torah). Make Your face shine upon Your servant, and teach me Your Statutes (Torah). My eyes shed streams of water, because they do not keep Your Torah (Law).*

As I read these verses in Psalm 119, I asked myself, why would my soul, want to **observe** the Testimonies, the Statutes, the Commandments and the Word of Yahweh? It is not an easy question to answer. While I know that Yahweh **IS** omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent, and that He is sovereign over all of the universe, which He created; I also know and understand that He wants all of His children, including me, to obey the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the words of His Torah of Life, and that, when I do obey them, I am the one that benefits, **BUT** why does my soul have this incredible desire to obey every Word that proceeds forth from the mouth of Elohim?

I became a believer in Messiah on June 15th, 2000, but before that, from the month of March through to June 15th I read the bible from cover to cover which was, I believe a miraculous event, for until that time, I had never even read one verse out of the bible. I was raised as a Catholic, and like most catholic boys, I was an altar boy, and I knew all of my prayers by heart, and in Latin to boot. When I gave my heart to Messiah in 2000, I had no idea that five or six years later, I would be teaching the Word of Elohim in my home, and simply loving every minute of it. Had someone told me back then, that I would be spending the amount of time that I now do in the Word of Elohim, to prepare for Shabat and for bible study, I would have told them to keep this job and put where the sun doesn't shine. However, Yahweh had other plans, for me, and as He worked on me, little by little, I started learning about who He is, and what He has, and is still doing for us, and the desires of my heart were ever so slowly changing from the things of this world, to the things that please my heavenly Father. This change happened right underneath my nose, and when I look back, I don't think I was even aware that it was happening. Yahweh took the desires of my heart that I had before, which was, sports, money, business, arrogance and pride, and turned them into something that He wants for my life. Don't get me wrong, I am no saint, and I have a very long journey ahead of me, before I can reach the goals that I believe Messiah Himself has set for me, but, the great thing is, that Elohim was able to change my heart to such an extent, that the desires of my heart, now line up with the desires of my Father's heart.

Do I make mistakes, and revert back to my fleshly desires from time to time? Let me put it this way, by now I should be a pillar of salt hundreds of times over, but thanks to Yahweh's Grace, and His Mercy, I have been given a second, third, fourth, and actually I have been given multiple chances to learn to surrender **ALL** to Him, and I have to tell you that it is such a delight, that I cannot even put into words. To know, in my heart, that Elohim is pleased with what I am doing, and with how I am conducting my life, is so comforting. To know that He understands, when I make a mistake, and that

He is there at my side, to encourage me to start over again from where I left off, is simply overwhelming to me, and now with my new understanding of Scripture, I can see, that **IF** I am willing to accept it, He will fill me with His Holy Spirit who is tasked with **CAUSING** me, **IF** I will allow Him, to walk in and obey all the Words of His Torah of Life, *Ezekiel 36:26-27*.

The journey has been a very difficult one, and I won't bore you with all the details, but I wouldn't change even one thing that He has put me through, because it has drawn me closer to Him. If I continue to grow in His Word at the pace that He has set for me, I really don't know where it is going to take me, but I just can't wait to see what our heavenly Father has in store for me.

Please understand that this journey is **AVAILABLE to everyone**, for it is a **PERSONAL JOURNEY**, that our heavenly Father, in and through His grace and mercy, has made available to **ALL** people, who choose to surrender their will to His will. If you were to look at, and analyze my life, the way I lived before I met up with, and started surrendering my life to our heavenly Father, I would describe myself as a **CHIEF** sinner and no one could make me change. Believe me, many tried, but when Yahweh got my attention, He had so much patience with me, and He did things in such a way that I was not even aware that He was changing my heart, and believe me, if He can do that for me, more than likely, changing your heart will be as easy as pie.

So on this day, a day that you have been obedient to the Word of Elohim in counting the Omer; ask yourself the same question? Take the time to reflect on **WHY** you chose to obey the Word of Elohim, and maybe, just maybe, it will give you insights on what Yahweh has already done in your life, and what He wants to continue to do, and maybe, it will also give you some insight on some of the new things that He will bring your way, **IF** you continue to observe and obey His Words, of Life.

Your meditation project for today is to spend more time in the beautiful words of *Psalms 119:129-136* and try and understand what Yahweh is communicating to you through these beautiful words.

129 Your testimonies are wonderful: therefore does my soul keep them.

Throughout Scripture and especially here in *Psalms 119*, Yahweh talks of His Testimonies, Statutes, Commandments, Ordinances, Judgments, Precepts, His Word, and that all of them, make up the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life, His directives on how we are to live our lives, **IF** we want to spend eternity with Him. Here in this Psalm, the Psalmist states that Yahweh's Testimony **IS** wonderful and because of Yahweh's infinite wisdom found in His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Psalmist's heart and soul desires to **KEEP** and **OBEY** the Words of Yahweh's teaching and instructions, His Directives for Life, the Words of His Torah, for the Psalmist knows and understands, the heart of Yahweh, he understands, that Yahweh **IS** a Father to us, and that He wants nothing but the best for His children.

130 The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding unto the simple.

The word entrance is the Hebrew word Petach, פֶּתַח, and it means, *open, opening, door, opened, unfolding*. Therefore the Psalmist is telling us that the Word of Yahweh as it unfolds before us, becomes a **DOOR** to everlasting Life. The Psalmist says that this Word, the Word of Yahweh, gives Light. In other words, the Psalmist is saying, **IF** we willingly and lovingly choose to follow the Word of Yahweh, we will **NEVER** be in darkness, because Yahweh's Word, **IS a Lamp unto our**

feet, and a Light unto our path, Psalm 119:105. Furthermore it says that the Word of Yahweh gives understanding, even to the simple. This tells us, that the Word of Yahweh **IS NOT** complicated for those who are seeking **IT'S TRUTH** with surrendered, obedient and contrite hearts, for Yahweh Himself has promised that **IF** we seek Him with our whole hearts, **WE WILL FIND HIM**. Amein!

131 I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for Your Commandments.

Have you ever been on a long hike on a hot summer day, or done a chore in the hot sun and you just couldn't wait to quench your thirst with water or better yet, with a cold beer, because you were so thirsty? Well, that desire, when multiplied a thousand times, **IS** what the Psalmist is portraying to us here. The Psalmist's heart felt desire, **IS** to develop a better understanding of Yahweh's Torah, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, and therefore, he says, he **longs** for Yahweh's Commandments, he longs for the Water of Word of Yahweh's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, to be part of his everyday life, **so that it can satisfy his thirst for the TRUTH**. That my friends is a longing or a goal, that we should all try to emulate.

132 Look You upon me, and be merciful unto me, as You used to do unto those that love Your Name.

Here we can see that the Psalmist has experienced Yahweh's mercy in the past in his own life, and that he has also witnessed Yahweh's mercy towards other people, and now, he is quite confident that Yahweh will answer his request, because of the overwhelming evidence throughout Scripture, that tells all of us, of how truly merciful Yahweh **IS**. And because of that confidence, he feels secure in him asking Yahweh to extend His mercy upon him, because He knows that Yahweh is an Elohim that keeps His promises, and that **HE DOES NOT CHANGE**. The Scriptures tell us that **ALL** who call upon the Name of Yahweh with surrendered, repentant, contrite, loving hearts, **will be delivered**, and here we see that the Psalmist goes boldly before Elohim, and asks Yahweh to have **mercy** upon him, because he understands in his heart, that, that is what Yahweh wants. We have to get through our thick skulls that Yahweh wants to extend His love, mercy compassion and understanding towards **ALL** of us, **BUT** first, we must learn to humble ourselves before Him and ask for His unending mercy to be poured upon us. Amein!

*133 Order my steps in Your Word: and let **NOT any iniquity** (sin, torahlessness) have dominion over me.*

Here we can see that the Psalmist is absolutely convinced that the Word of Elohim **IS TRUTH**, and therefore, he asks Yahweh to order his steps in Yahweh's Words of Life, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah, His **TRUTH**. Sin, according to Scripture, **IS** transgression of the Torah, *1John 3:4* and here, the Psalmist asks Yahweh, to **NOT** allow **SIN, Torah transgressions, to have dominion over him**, therefore, that means that the Psalmist is asking Yahweh to have the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life, to **HAVE DOMINION OVER HIM** and thereby guide his every step. In other Words, the Psalmist wants Yahweh's **WILL** to take over his own will; he wants to seek first the kingdom of Elohim and His righteousness, for he knows that Yahweh will take care of the rest.

134 Deliver me from the oppression of man: so will I keep Your Precepts.

What is the oppression of man? The oppression of man is when mankind insists that we are to do

things according to man made secular or religious doctrines, and divest ourselves of the Words of Yahweh's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life. Since the will of Yahweh, dictates that He wants **ALL** of His children to **KEEP and DO** His inerrant and everlasting Word, His Torah of Life, then the request of the Psalmist for deliverance from mankind's oppression, will be honoured by Yahweh, and therefore, that means that the Psalmist **WILL** be keeping and doing Yahweh's Torah, **ALL** of it, including Yahweh's Precepts, for eternity. Amein

135 Make Your face Panim, פָּנִים, to shine upon Your servant; and teach me Your Statutes.

Here the Psalmist is asking Yahweh to have His Face, His Paniym, פָּנִים, illuminate his way of life. The word Paniym, פָּנִים, means *face, edge, display, in front, inside*, but it has a much deeper meaning, especially when it is talking about Yahweh's Face, it also means *the character and the presence of Yahweh*. Therefore the Psalmist is asking Yahweh to have His character and or His presence, the essence of Yahweh's heart, to shine or illuminate the Psalmist's mind and heart, so that his heart, will constantly remain open to receiving **ALL** of Yahweh's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, all the Words of His Torah of Life. Perhaps we should make the same prayer and ask Yahweh to place the wholeness of His character, His heart, His countenance upon us, so that we too, can learn to apply **ALL** of His Ways into our daily lives. Yahweh Commanded us to do this in the Aaronic blessing. *Numbers 6:24.*

*136 Rivers of waters run down My eyes, because they **DO NOT keep** Your Torah (Law)*

The Psalmist has learned to so love the Word of Yahweh, because of the beauty, love, grace, mercy, wisdom and righteousness that he has found embedded within it, and it truly pains him in the deepest recesses of his being, when people wilfully walk contrary to the Words of Yahweh's loving, righteous Torah. The tears that the Psalmist is shedding is **NOT** only for Yahweh's sake, but more appropriately, his tears are for those that will perish because of their rebellion against the Words of Elohim, for the Psalmist knows Yahweh's heart, and how it pains our heavenly Father to see His children perish, and that **IS** why I believe the Psalmist is shedding tears. The Psalmist has learned to love what Yahweh loves, and Yahweh loves **ALL** of His created beings, but especially mankind for we were originally created in His image. 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!