

Counting of the Omer 2024

Day 6

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Psalms 119: 41- 48

Today's suggested Scriptural reading for the counting the Omer has been particularly wonderful to meditate on. We see that the Psalmist tells us of the beautiful opportunity that each and every believer has to learn to actually delight themselves in the Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Law, His Torah of Life, which of course is given to us by our merciful forgiving Elohim, because of His great infinite love for all of us. But before sharing some additional thoughts about the hope of our salvation, let the Psalms speak to your hearts.

Psalm 23:1-7

1 Yahweh is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures: he leads me beside the still waters. 3 He restores my soul: he leads me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies: You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. 6 Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me, all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of Yahweh for ever.

Today I would like to talk about part of *verse 4*, where it says, Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. What is the Psalmist talking about here, what **IS** the Valley of the Shadow of death, that he is walking through? Well, according to what we have read so far, about this Psalmist, it is very clear that he wants to obey the Words of Yahweh's Torah of Life. Scripture tells us that those who willingly choose to believe, follow and obey the Words of Yahweh's Torah of Life, will experience everlasting Life. So the Psalmist is not talking about when He will be resurrected on Judgment day, only to be invited into the kingdom of Elohim and live forever, the Psalmist is talking about his and our physical lives here on earth, and that one day, we will all die. When you picture a valley, it is easy to see that there are hills or mountains on either side, and the valley is what lies between these two hills or mountains. Therefore, since the Psalmist calls it the **valley** of the Shadow of death, what picture do you think he wants us to see, and what message is he trying to convey to us through this description of a valley? A valley is where a pasture can be found, and the pasture represents, a peaceful protected life, with all that we need to live a comfortable life. The hills or mountains, on the other hand, can mean, governments, kingdoms, evil dictators, that can, and often do reign supreme over people, for a period of time. Therefore I believe that the valley of the Shadow of death, that the Psalmist is talking about, **IS** our physical lives, the valley represents, an area where Yahweh protects His obedient children, and provides what His children need for a long and prosperous life, as long as they continue to believe, follow and obey the Words of His Torah of Life.

The hills or the mountains on the other hand represent death, **BUT** it is only a shadow of death, and not real death, as long as His children remain in the valley under His protective covering. **BUT** if any of them wander out of the valley, away from Yahweh's protective covering, the Words of His Torah of Life, then, what was only a shadow of death, becomes real death, for the enemy has come to steal kill and destroy, everything that is Yahweh's, **BUT** the enemy cannot even hurt anyone that is under

the protective covering of the Creator of the universe, as long as they don't walk away from His protective covering, which **IS**, the Words of His Torah of Life.

The Psalmist is aware that the life that he is now living will come to an end, as it will for every one else, and he is OK with that fact, but only **IF** Yahweh is with him, on his journey through Life. And Scripture makes it very clear that Yahweh will be by the side of every soul that willingly chooses to walk in obedience to the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life, as Messiah did and taught us to do. Tomorrow, we will discuss how the realization that Yahweh was with him, made him feel.

Psalms 119: 41- 48

*May Your loving kindnesses also come to me, O Yahweh, Your salvation (Yeshuaty) according to Your Word (Torah); so I will have an answer for him who reproaches me, for I trust in, Your Word (Torah). And do not take the Word of Truth (Torah) utterly out of my mouth, for I wait for Your ordinances (Torah). So I will keep Your Torah continually, forever and ever. And I will walk at liberty, for I seek Your precepts (Torah) I will also speak of Your testimonies (Torah) before kings and shall **NOT** be ashamed. I shall delight in Your Commandments (Torah), which I love. And I shall lift up my hands to Your Commandments (Torah), which I love; and I will meditate on Your statutes (Torah)."*

Yesterday we read from *Psalm 119:33-40* and in *verse 40* it says, *Behold, I have longed after Your Precepts: quicken me in Your righteousness.* And today we start with *verse 41* which says, *May Your loving kindnesses also **COME TO ME**, O Yahweh, Your salvation (Yeshuaty) according to Your Word (Torah).*

We know that the word **righteousness** is synonymous with the word Torah, for that is what we are told in *Deuteronomy 6:25*, therefore, the Psalmist is saying in *verse 40*, *quicken me in Your Torah.* This tells me that the Psalmist is actually asking Yahweh, to teach him, the Words of His Torah of Life, so that he may internalize them, and live by them. In today's verse, the Psalmist begins with an exhortation, he asks our heavenly Father to pour His loving kindness upon him, to pour His salvation upon him according to His own Word, according to what He has promised to do in the Words of His Torah of Life.

Now please consider this; that in the original writings of the Psalms, there are no *verse* numbers, nor chapter delineation, therefore, it is a continuous dialogue, and the Psalmist says in *verse 40* *quicken me in Your Torah*, and when You quicken me with Your Torah, then *Your loving kindnesses also come to me, O Yahweh, Your salvation (Yeshuaty) according to Your Word (Torah)*, for they, Your Words, Your instructions, are embedded in your Word, Your Torah.

Through *Psalm 119* the Psalmist expands on the beauty, the grace, the mercy, the compassion, and the salvation of Yahweh, and all of these things are found embedded in the Word of Elohim, His Living Torah.

This lines up with what we are told in *Ezekiel 36:27* *And I, Yahweh, **WILL PUT** My Holy Spirit within you, and **CAUSE YOU** to walk in **My Statutes** (Torah), and you shall **KEEP My Judgments (Torah)**, and **DO** them.*

This means that when we are **quicken**ed with and or by Yahweh's Torah, which of course **IS** the

Living Word of our heavenly Father, we are also indwelt, by the Spirit of Elohim, His Holy Spirit, for *Deuteronomy 6:4* tells us *Hear oh Yisrael, Yahweh your Elohim, Yahweh is One*; therefore, when you have the Living Word of Elohim, His Living Torah, our Messiah dwelling within you, you also have the Father and the Holy Spirit within you, for according to Scripture, they are **ONE**, they are Echad.

So today on this sixth day of the counting of the Omer, take some time to meditate on the *verses* of *Psalms 119*, and understand, that **IT IS** indeed by His loving kindness that He will place His Holy Spirit within everyone who willingly chooses to lovingly surrender their hearts, minds, souls and strength to Him, and according to *Ezekiel 36:27*, Yahweh's Holy Spirit will **CAUSE** every willing surrendered contrite obedient heart, that will **ALLOW** Him, to walk out and obey **ALL** the Words of His Torah, His loving inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions for a **righteous life**, in order that we can **BE A LIGHT ONTO ALL PEOPLES AROUND US** and to the nations of the world that are mired in darkness.

This is when we are to enter our prayer closet, and with a surrendered heart, we are to inquire of our heavenly Father. **IF** what the Psalmist **IS** saying here in *Psalms 119* and what *Ezekiel* said in *verse 36:27*, **IS TRUE**; and I can guarantee you, that **IF YOU DO SO**, our heavenly Father **WILL** indeed answer you, and when He does, your heart will soar, **BECAUSE, THEN** you will **KNOW** that you are in His Will, and, as the Scriptures tell us, you **WILL KNOW** the **TRUTH**, His **TRUTH**, His Torah **WILL** indeed set you **FREE**. Amen.

Your meditation project for today is to spend more time in the beautiful words of *Psalms 119:41-48* and try and understand what Yahweh is communicating to us through these beautiful words.

Verse 41 Let Your mercies come also unto me, O Yahweh, even Your salvation (Yeshuaty), according to Your Word.

Here the Psalmist asks Yahweh, to have His mercies fall upon him. We have been following this Psalmist now for *41 verses* in which he pledges to surrender His will to Yahweh and obey Him without doubting, and furthermore, he promises to delight in Yahweh's Commandments, delight in the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, and yet, even though he is being diligent in **TRYING TO OBEY** and walk in the Ways of Yahweh, **HE STILL ASKS** Yahweh, to have mercy upon him. That means that the Psalmist recognizes his own faults, and that no matter how hard he tries, and how much he wants to **obey** Yahweh all the time, there will be times in his life, where he will fall short of that commitment to obey the Words of Yahweh's Torah; and therefore, he asks Yahweh to have mercy upon him. Can you relate to what the Psalmist is going through? Are you like the Psalmist, do you also want Yahweh's mercy to fall upon you, when you err and Sin?

Verse 42 So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproaches me: for I TRUST in Your Word.

The Psalmist is convinced in his heart, that **IF Elohim** has mercy upon him, and **IF** he can truly learn to **TRUST** Yahweh in every aspect of his life, then he believes that he will never have to be ashamed of anything that he does, for Elohim will constantly be lifting him up. That is the goal that we should all strive to achieve, total surrender and total **TRUST** in Yahweh.

*Verse 43 And do **NOT** take the Word of **TRUTH** utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in Your judgments.*

Here the Psalmist pleads with Yahweh, **NOT** to take His Words of **TRUTH** utterly out of his mouth. What the Psalmist is doing, **IS** pleading with Elohim to ensure that Yahweh's Words, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, be firmly entrenched in His heart, so much so, that the Father's Word never departs from him, for Scripture tells us that the mouth speaks what is on the heart. The Psalmist also tells Yahweh, that he has placed **ALL** of his hope on the Word or the inerrant and everlasting Directives of Elohim. Can you say that you have done the same?

Verse 44 So shall I keep Your Torah (Law) continually for ever and ever.

Here the Psalmist tells Yahweh, that **IF** Yahweh will indeed ensure that His inerrant and everlasting Words are firmly embedded in his heart, he will then be able to continually **KEEP** and **DO** Yahweh's Torah for ever and ever. If this **IS NOT** already your deepest desire, then I suggest that you try and **MAKE IT** your heart felt desire, so that you can continually **KEEP** Yahweh's directives for Life. Read *1Thessalonians 5:16-22*

Verse 45 And I will walk at liberty: for I seek Your precepts.

These words are very revealing, for the Psalmist knows that **IF** he can indeed **KEEP** and **DO** Yahweh's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, The Words of His Torah of Life, **THEN** he knows that he will walk in **LIBERTY**, because he seeks to follow Yahweh's Words, follow His precepts. Yahweh has told us in both the Hebraic and Apostolic Scriptures, that **IF** we walk according to His **TRUTH**, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, our walk will be a walk of **total freedom and peace**, because, Yahweh understands that the Word of Elohim, His Living Torah made flesh, has promised us, in *Matthew 11:28-30* and throughout Scripture, *Come unto Me, all you that labour and are heavy laden, and I WILL give you rest. 29 Take My yoke (Torah) upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and YOU SHALL FIND REST unto your souls. 30 For My yoke (Torah) IS EASY, and My BURDEN (obedience) IS LIGHT.* That is the formula for freedom my friends, **TRUST** and **OBEY** the Words of YHVH's Torah, **AND PUT ALL OF YOUR CARES UPON HIM.**

Verse 46 I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings, and WILL NOT BE ashamed.

Since the Scriptures tell us, that the mouth speaks what is on the heart, here the Psalmist **IS** telling Yahweh that he will speak out Yahweh's Testimonies before kings, governments, world leaders and local congregations, because the Word of Elohim **IS** firmly embedded in his heart, and he also says that he will **NEVER** be ashamed to speak the Word of Elohim. Are you able to say that, that, is your testimony also?

Verse 47 And I will delight myself in Your Commandments, which I have loved.

The end result of the Psalmist turning to Yahweh with a loving, surrendered and obedient heart, **IS**, that he will learn to love, delight in, and **DO ALL** of Yahweh's Commandments, for he knows in his heart, that each and every one of Yahweh's Commandments magnify Yahweh's love for all of His creation, and that each Commandment, when obeyed, has a blessing embedded in it, which **WILL**

manifest itself, **IF** and **WHEN** the Commandment **IS** obeyed with a loving, surrendered obedient heart.

Verse 48 My hands also will I lift up unto Your Commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in Your Statutes.

I am sure that you have done this also in the past, that **IS**, I am sure that you have raised your hands up to Yahweh in praise and worship, and here the Psalmist **IS** doing exactly that, he **IS** raising his hands to Yahweh to thank Him for the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of life; not only because he loves and delights in them, **BUT** because he knows what Elohim, in His infinite love, mercy and compassion, has embedded in His Commandments, and furthermore, the Psalmist commits to meditate in the Commandments and the Statutes of Yahweh on a regular basis. He willingly makes that commitment because he knows that doing so, **WILL NOT ONLY** benefit him, but it will benefit **ALL** of his family and **ALL** those that are around him, and furthermore, the Psalmist knows **THAT IT WILL** please Elohim, which **IS** the Psalmists deep seated heart felt desire, as it should be ours also. Amein

Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.

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