

Counting of the Omer, עֶמֶר

Day 38

by Marc Gravelle

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Psalms 9: 1 – 11

The first Succoth celebration I went to with Janice, was in 2005 in Oklahoma, which was put on by Lion and Lamb ministries, and one of the great memories I have of that wonderful gathering and celebration is the dancing. I remember how impressed I was when I watched these people dance, and I thought to myself, they sure seem to be praising Yahweh with that style of dancing; every movement seemed to honour Yahweh and these people were caught up in their praises to the Creator of the universe. That first exposure to the Hebraic dancing has left such wonderful memories embedded on my mind, of how dancing and singing is a great way to praise our heavenly Father, and I am so pleased that we now sing and sometime dance at our Shabbat and Feast celebrations. It is a marvelous way of expressing *the Joy* one has in knowing **WHO** Yahweh is to us. However, before going any further with these thoughts, perhaps if you are led, you can take the time to read and reflect upon the following Psalm meditations, and let them sing to your own heart.

Psalms 37: 21-30

21 The wicked borrows, and does NOT pay again: but the righteous shews mercy, and gives 22 For such as be blessed of Him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of Him shall be cut off. 23 The steps of a good man are ordered by Yahweh: and He delights in his way. 24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for Yahweh upholds him with His Hand. 25 I have been young, and now am old; yet I have NOT seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. 26 He is ever merciful, and lends; and his seed is blessed. 27 Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore. 28 For Yahweh loves judgment, and does NOT forsake His saints; they are preserved for ever: BUT the seed of the wicked shall be cut off. 29 The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever. 30 The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, חַכְמָה, Chakmah, and his tongue talks of judgment, מִשְׁפָּט, Mishpat.

Today I would like to talk about the **RIGHTEOUS Person**, that the Psalmist is talking about here, in these verses, but before I do, we have to define what a **RIGHTEOUS Person IS**, or, how a person **CAN become a RIGHTEOUS Person**, according to Scripture. Let's begin by looking at:

Genesis 18:17 And Yahweh said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; 18 Seeing that Abraham SHALL surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall BE BLESSED IN HIM? 19 For I KNOW him, that he WILL Command his children and his household after him, and they shall KEEP The Way, the Torah of Yahweh, TO DO JUSTICE AND JUDGMENT; that Yahweh may bring upon Abraham that which He has spoken of him.

Genesis 26:2-5 And Yahweh appeared unto Yitzchaq, and said, do NOT go down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell you of: 3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you, and will bless you; for unto you, and unto your seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham your father; 4 And I will make your seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto your seed ALL these countries; and in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; 5 Because that Abraham OBEYED My Voice, and KEPT My Charge, My Commandments,

My Statutes, and My Torah.

*Deuteronomy 4:5-8 Behold, I Mosheh, have taught you Statutes and Judgments, even as Yahweh my Elohim Commanded me, that you, Yisrael, should do so in the land where you go to possess it. Keep therefore and **DO THEM**;*

WHY should we, the people of Yisrael DO, what Yahweh Elohim has Commanded us to do?

*For this **IS** your **WISDOM** and your **UNDERSTANDING** in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these Statutes, and say, **Surely** this great nation (Yisrael) **IS** a **WISE** and understanding people. For what nation is there so great, who has Elohim so near unto them, as Yahweh our Elohim **IS**, in **ALL** things that we call upon Him for? And what nation is there so **great**, that has Statutes and Judgments, so **RIGHTEOUS** as all the Words His Torah, which I, Mosheh set before you this day?*

*Deuteronomy 6:24-25 And Yahweh Commanded us **TO DO ALL** these Statutes, to fear Yahweh our Elohim, (the fear of Yahweh Elohim is the beginning of Wisdom) for our good always, that He might **preserve us alive**, as it is at this day. And it shall be our **RIGHTEOUSNESS, IF WE WILLINGLY CHOOSE TO OBSERVE TO DO ALL** these Commandments before Yahweh our Elohim, as He has Commanded us.*

There are many *verses* in Scripture that explain, and show us that **Righteousness IS** actually loving surrendered obedience to the Words of our heavenly Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life, and in *Genesis 15:6*, we are told that Abraham believed Yahweh; and Yahweh counted it to him for **RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

So when we put the theme of these *verses* together, it is quite clear, that to be, or become a **Righteous Person**, one **MUST** willingly and lovingly **choose**, to believe, follow and obey **ALL** the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life, and just in case some people have a little bit of difficulty with my assertion, that we **MUST** keep the Torah of our heavenly Father with a loving surrendered, contrite and obedient heart, in order to be, or become **Righteous**, let's read what John had to say about it in *1John 3:4 Whosoever commits Sin transgresses also the Torah: for Sin IS the transgression of the Torah*.

Now that we have established what the Scriptural definition of **Righteousness IS**, let us look at what the Psalmist said this **Righteous** person will do. The Psalmist says, in *verse 21*, the **Righteous shows mercy**, in *verse 23*, he says: *the steps of a good man are ordered by Yahweh, and Yahweh delights in his way*, in *verse 24*, it says: *Though the righteous man fall, he shall NOT be utterly cast down:*

WHY?

For Yahweh upholds him with His Hand, in verse 25, it says: the Righteous shall NOT be forsaken, NOR will his seed (children), have any need to beg for bread; in verse 26, it says: the Righteous person is ever merciful, and lends; and their seed (children) are blessed.

Now after reading the attributes that a **Righteous** person possesses, and the blessings that he or she will receive from our heavenly Father, because of their **righteousness**, which means, because of their loving surrendered obedience to believe, follow and obey all the Words of our heavenly Father's

Torah of Life, I would like you, to look into your own heart, and ask and answer this question for yourself. According to definition of the Psalmist, Am I, a **Righteous Person**?

Well, while you are pondering this question, let me tell you what I think! If you are reading this lesson, on this the 38th Day of the Omer count, then, it means, that you are being obedient to Yahweh's Commandment to do so, which in turn, means, that you have a heart that is already surrendered to our heavenly Father, in obedience to the Words of His Torah, which is the necessary prerequisite, to becoming a **Righteous Person**. Keep up the good work!

Psalms 96: 1 – 13

*O sing unto Yahweh a new song: sing unto Yahweh, all the earth. 2 Sing unto Yahweh, bless His Name; show forth His salvation from day to day. 3 Declare His glory among the heathen, His wonders among all people. 4 For Yahweh is great, and greatly to be praised: He is to be feared above all gods (Elohim, mighty ones, judges). 5 For all the gods (Elohim, mighty ones, judges) of the nations are idols: **BUT** Yahweh made the heavens. 6 Honour and majesty are before Him: strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. 7 Give unto Yahweh, O you kindreds of the people, give unto Yahweh glory and strength. 8 Give unto Yahweh the glory due unto His Name: bring an offering, and come into His courts. 9 O worship Yahweh in the **beauty of holiness**: fear before Him, all the earth. 10 Say among the heathen that Yahweh reigns: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: He shall judge the people righteously. 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fullness thereof. 12 Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice 13 Before Yahweh: for He comes, for He comes to judge the earth: He shall judge the world with **righteousness**, and the people with His **TRUTH**, His Torah.*

Have you ever felt, or experienced, the **JOY** of Yahweh our Elohim? **IF** you have, then you will know in your heart, that nothing can really compare to it, for, it is a sense of fulfillment, accomplishment, security, euphoria, a sense of intimacy never before experienced, because, it is intimacy with the Creator of the universe. This is what the Psalmist is trying to relate to us in this Psalm, and in many others. Sing onto Yahweh, bless His Name, show forth His salvation everyday. How can any of us show forth Yahweh's salvation in our daily lives?

Furthermore, would you say, that everybody that you meet and spend time with, would, after your encounter with them was over, say of you, **NOW**, there goes a godly person that lives according to the principles found in the Words of Yahweh's Torah of Life, which is, a picture of love your neighbour as yourself? If the answer to that question, is like the answer that I gave, which **IS NO**, **NOT** everyone that I meet, believes I am a Godly man, then, that simply means that we have more work to do in our own lives, because, our heavenly mandate to be holy as He is Holy. My friends, as believers in the Elohim of Abraham, Yitzchaq and Ya'aqov, **WE ARE TO BE** the manifest image of Yahweh here on earth, and the only possible way that anyone can do that, **IS** by willingly and lovingly choosing to believe, follow and obey all the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life as Messiah did and taught us to do..

As believers, we have to understand, and accept, that we are actually Yahweh's ambassadors, which means, that we represent **ALL** that He stands for. And, as His ambassadors, we are to live exactly as He has Commanded all of us to live, and that means, that we **MUST** willingly and lovingly **KEEP** and **OBEY** the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His

Torah of Life, His directives for eternal life, with a cheerful heart, and be filled with love for our neighbours, as He is.

Now, we all have to understand, that like any other endeavor or career, to become an expert at anything, takes a lot of time, a lot of dedication and hard work. Therefore, **IF**, like me, you have fallen short of the glory of Yahweh, in any areas of your life, just remember, that Yahweh judges the heart, and that He **IS NOT** looking for perfect human beings, He is looking for people that are willing to surrender their hearts to Him, in loving obedience to the Words of His Torah of Life. He is looking for people **who are willing to be taught**. I guess what I am saying, **IS**, we are **ALL** works in progress, and we are **ALL** at different stages in that progress, so don't boast, nor be too hard on yourself, or on others for that matter, because, every believer wants to be close to Yahweh, but every path that individuals walk **IS** different, and some paths in life, are much harder than others, because many people are not willing to let go of their own will, and **TRUST** Yahweh in every aspect of their lives. This is what the Psalmist is conveying to us my friends, he is telling us that we **CAN TRUST** Yahweh; we can count on Him being there for us at all times, we can count on Him judging us with **RIGHTEOUSNESS** (His Torah), because, He loves us, and does not want any of us to perish.

If I could only communicate the beauty of His holiness, as I see it in my mind's eye, then **EVERYONE** would fall madly in love with our heavenly Father, for He is an Elohim of love, but unfortunately, I cannot seem to find the right words that would fully express how I feel about Yahweh. Mere words, for some reason, cannot describe what I feel, **IT IS** sense that one can only understand by experiencing it themselves.

If the beauty of Yahweh's **holiness** is something that you are seeking, then, I believe that you have taken a very important step in experiencing His **holiness** by deciding to obey Yahweh's Commandment to count the Omer. I am convinced that Yahweh will honour your obedience, and direct you to His Path of **Righteousness**, the Path that is paved with the Words of His Torah of Life, the path that **WILL** lead you to the beauty of His **HOLINESS**. Have a great journey, and let me know what you encounter on the way. Amen

May our hearts be in one accord as eventually the whole Creation will be in harmony with Him as He orchestrates His promised restoration!

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. Shalom Alechem!*