

Counting of the Omer, עֶמֶר

Day 41

by Marc Gravelle

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Psalms 103: 1 – 22

This morning, as I read this incredibly beautiful Psalm, I am simply in awe of the Elohim we serve. This Psalm describes some of the wonderful attributes of our heavenly Father, and it is filled with the richness of His love, His Grace and Mercy towards His creation. It is an incredible love letter to all those who want to be in Covenant with the Creator of all things, those who want to be forgiven for past errors and seek to be One with their Creator, which I believe is at the heart of every single human being at one time or another in their lives. There is so much that can be said on this Psalm that one week of teaching would not be enough to describe the grace, mercy, love and beauty contained therein. But before we address some of the specifics of *Psalms 103*, perhaps if you are led, you can take the time to count the Omer with praise for all that you have been given from the earth, and ask that His face will shine upon you today as you once again, bless Yahweh!

Psalms 37: 31-40

*31 The Torah of his Elohim is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide. 32 The wicked watches the righteous, and seeks to slay him. 33 Yahweh will **NOT** leave him in his hand, **NOR** condemn him when he is judged. 34 Wait on Yahweh, and keep His Way, and He shall exalt you to inherit the Land: when the wicked are cut off, you shall see it. 35 I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. 36 Yet, he passed away, and, lo, he was **NOT**: yea, I sought him, but he could **NOT** be found. 37 Mark the **perfect man**, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace, Shalom. 38 But the transgressors, **SHALL** be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off. 39 But the salvation of the righteous is of Yahweh: He is their strength in the time of trouble. 40 And Yahweh shall help them, and deliver them: He shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they **TRUST** in Him.*

Today, I would like to talk about who a **Righteous person** is, and what is embedded in their hearts and souls, that compels them to walk on the Path of Yahweh's **Righteousness**. In *verse 31* the Psalmist says that the Torah of Yahweh is in the **righteous person's heart**. So let us analyze this statement by the Psalmist. **IF**, like the Psalmist says, the Torah of Yahweh Elohim **IS** indeed on a **Righteous person's heart**, then, that means, that **IF** someone rejects the Words of the Torah of Yahweh, because they have somehow been led to believe that the Torah has been, changed, or done away with in whole or in part, **CAN** that person be, a **RIGHTEOUS person**, **IF** the definition of a **Righteous person IS**, **that they have the Torah of Yahweh in their hearts?**

According to what we are told in *Genesis 3:15*, there are two seeds, the seed of the woman, which represents, Yisrael, Yahweh's one and only family, and the seed of the serpent, which is everyone that, like satan, willingly chooses to reject the Words of the Father's Torah of Life, because they have chosen to believe the Lies of the enemy, that the Torah has been somehow done away with, or that it is no longer relevant or valid for today's so called sophisticated society. If that is correct, then, that means that there are two categories, the **righteous** and the

wicked, and the Psalmist has told us that the **Righteous person** has the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah **IN their heart**; therefore that means, that the **wicked person IS** the person that does **NOT** have the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah in their hearts. Tomorrow we will talk about what the wicked would like to do, to the **Righteous person** that do indeed have the Torah of Yahweh **in their hearts**.

Psalms 103: 1 – 22

Bless Yahweh, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy Name 2 Bless Yahweh, O my soul, and do NOT forget all His benefits: 3 Who forgives all your iniquities; Who heals all your diseases; 4 Who redeems your life from destruction; Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies; 5 Who satisfies your mouth with good things; so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. 6 Yahweh executes righteousness and judgment for ALL that are oppressed. 7 He made known His Ways unto Mosheh, His Acts unto the children of Yisrael. 8 Yahweh is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. 9 He will not always chide: neither will He keep His anger for ever. 10 He has NOT dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. 11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His Mercy toward them that fear Him. 12 As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions of His Torah from us. 13 Like as a father pities his children, so Yahweh pities them that fear Him. 14 For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. 15 As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. 16 For the wind passes over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. 17 But the mercy of Yahweh is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto children's children; 18 To such as KEEP His Covenant, and to those that remember (Zakar, speak and act on behalf of) His Commandments TO DO THEM. 19 Yahweh has prepared His throne in the heavens; and His kingdom rules over all. 20 Bless Yahweh, you His angels, that excel in strength, that do His Commandments, hearkening (Shema) unto the Voice of His Word. 21 Bless you Yahweh, all you His hosts; you ministers of His, that do His pleasure. 22 Bless Yahweh, all His works in all places of His dominion: bless Yahweh, O my soul.

Where to begin? There is a lot said about blessing Yahweh in this Psalm, and that is something that a person automatically learns to do, as they get closer and closer to Yahweh. However what I would like to concentrate on today, is *verses 17 and 18*, where it says: *But the Mercy of Yahweh is from everlasting to everlasting* (מְעוֹלָם וְעַד-עוֹלָם, MeOlam VeAd Olam) *upon them that fear* (יִרְאַיִם, Yere'ayv) *Him, and His righteousness unto children's children; 18 To such as KEEP His Covenant, and to those that Remember* (לְזִכְרֵי, LeZikrey, from the word, Zakar, which means, to speak and act on behalf of) *His Commandments TO DO THEM.*

There are many people today, that profess to believe in, and obey the Elohim of Abraham, Yitzchaq and Ya'aqov, and they actually believe, that part or **ALL** of the Words of Yahweh's Torah of Life, have somehow been changed and replaced or superseded by what they call their man made oral torah, while others believe that the Words of the Father's Torah of Life, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, which they call, **His Law**, has somehow been miraculously done away with or abolished in whole or in part. Furthermore, the people that believe the Lie that the Torah has been abolished and done away with, actually teach, that the reason that the Torah of Yahweh, was done away with, **IS**, because, they have been taught by their church fathers, that **IT IS impossible for**

us mere mortals to keep and obey Yahweh's Directives for everlasting Life, which means that they actually believe, that it is impossible to follow and obey the Words of the Father's Torah of Life. Yet here in *Psalm 103* we read that Yahweh's **MERCY IS** from *everlasting to everlasting*. I am sure that I don't have to explain what *everlasting to everlasting* means, but, just in case there are some that may try to put a time frame on it, it means no beginning and no end. So, let us just stop and think about this for a moment, **IF Yahweh's Mercy has no beginning and no end, then His Mercy was there before He gave Yisrael, of whom we are a part of, the Words of His Torah. NOW, IF THAT IS INDEED CORRECT, THEN** our heavenly Father **must have incorporated His Mercy into the Words of His Torah**, the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, **His so called Law, since His Word IS also everlasting.**

Now based on this **FACT**, let me ask you a question, **IF Yahweh's MERCY IS** indeed embedded in the Words of His Torah of Life, as the Psalmist is telling us here, and **IF** any one, decides of their own accord, to actually **TOSS OUT PART OR ALL OF THE WORDS OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER'S TORAH**, His Law, as they call it, **ARE THEY NOT THEREFORE TOSSING OUT HIS MERCY ALSO**, since **HIS MERCY IS CONTAINED IN** the Words of His Torah of Life?

Furthermore, **IF** we believe what the Psalmist tells us, when he says, Yahweh's **MERCY IS** from *everlasting to everlasting*, and David says in *Psalm 119:89* *For ever, O Yahweh, Your Word (Torah) is settled in heaven*, and in the Hebrew text the word *everlasting* and *forever* are translated from the exact same Hebrew word, then His **MERCY and His Word, His Torah, His Law ARE intertwined**, and since they both use the exact same language, we **CANNOT** have one be *everlasting* and the other be *temporary*, they either have to, both be *everlasting*, or, both be *temporary*.

If we look at *verse 17* again, we see that Yahweh's **MERCY IS** from *everlasting to everlasting* and that His Mercy, **IS** placed on those that **FEAR** Yahweh, and the Psalmist goes on to say that Yahweh's **Righteousness IS** placed upon the children's children of those that **FEAR** Yahweh.

OK, what do you suppose that means? We have already discussed Yahweh's *Mercy*, but now, the Psalmist is bringing in Yahweh's **Righteousness**. To many people, the term *the righteousness of Yahweh* is a general term, which means that Yahweh *is good* and He *does good*, He is *righteous*, which is a bit of an abstract thought in the western mindset; **BUT**, in the Hebrew Scriptures, there is a definite concrete meaning to the word **Righteousness**, so that we do not have to wonder what the **Righteousness of Yahweh** means, but in the western mindset, if there are twelve, twenty or two hundred people present, then, that is how many opinions there would be, as to the definition of the word **Righteousness**.

Let me show you what **Righteousness really IS** according to Scripture.

Deuteronomy 4:5 Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as Yahweh my Elohim commanded me, that you should do so in the land where you go to possess it. **6 Keep therefore and DO them**; 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 is a **Wise** and **understanding** people. **7** For what nation is there so great, who hath Elohim so nigh unto them, as Yahweh our Elohim is in all things that we call upon Him for? **8** And what nation is there so great, that hath Statutes (Torah) and Judgments (Torah) so **RIGHTEOUS** as all this Torah (Law), which I set before you this day?

*Deuteronomy 6:25 And it **SHALL BE OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, IF** we observe to do **ALL** these commandments before Yahweh our Elohim, as He has Commanded us.*

According to these *verses*, **RIGHTEOUSNESS** and the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life, **ARE SYNONYMOUS** terms, therefore, when the Psalmist says: Yahweh's **RIGHTEOUSNESS IS PLACED** upon the children of Yisrael, it means that the Words of Yahweh's Torah, His life saving inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, **ARE** placed in the hearts of the children of Yahweh's Yisrael. There are countless stories in Scripture, of how the Word of Yahweh, has and will save much of mankind.

The reason that you are reading these *verses*, is because you **ARE** being obedient to the Commandments of Yahweh to count the Omer, and here in *verse 18* we are told that those who **Remember** the Word of Yahweh, the Hebrew word used here, for the word remember, is *Zakar*, which means, those that *speak and act on behalf of* My inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, My Torah, and teach others to **DO** the same, that is, teach them to believe, follow and obey the Torah of Yahweh), they shall be **IN COVENANT WITH ME**, the Creator of the universe, and I will make My abode with them forever. Amein

There is a lot more that can be said about these wonderful *verses*, but I am going to let you chew on what was said above, and if and when we get the opportunity to meet and talk about this Psalm, we can go deeper into these marvelous words and thoughts. 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. Shalom Alechem!*