

DAY THREE

“THE OBEDIENT”

PSALM 119:17-24

Today as we Count the Omer and reflect upon the Lord, I am reminded of just *how much more* I have been personally focusing on certain aspects of this instruction since beginning in earnest to follow it two days ago. At that time, I did not know how inspiring obedience could be: to once again open the Scriptures for additional study and reflection. The blessing of meditating upon various verses has been profound! I hope that you will also take some time today to reflect on these passages from the Book of Psalms.

Let us first read and consider the words of the Psalmist:

PSALM 67:1-7

For the choir director; with stringed instruments. A Psalm. A Song. God be gracious to us and bless us, *and* cause His face to shine upon us—Selah. That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations. Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; for You will judge the peoples with uprightness and guide the nations on the earth. Selah. Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us. God blesses us, that all the ends of the earth may fear Him.

PSALM 119:17-24

Deal bountifully with Your servant, that I may live and keep Your word. Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law. I am a stranger in the earth; do not hide Your commandments from me. My soul is crushed with longing after Your ordinances at all times. You rebuke the arrogant, the cursed, who wander from Your commandments. Take away reproach and contempt from me, for I observe Your testimonies. Even though princes sit *and* talk against me, Your servant meditates on Your statutes. Your testimonies also are my delight; *they are* my counselors.

One thing that turning to the Omer Count does each day is remind you that many throughout the world are following a similar routine. They may have a different discipline or method for going before the Lord and examining His Word, but if they are seeking Him and His ways, such people are being blessed with whatever the Father has to give them. Our Creator is most concerned with individuals' hearts, and the desire of His people to love

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Him and please Him. In many respects, this confirms in my spirit that there are a great number of people who are actually complying with some of the admonitions declared by the Apostle John:

“Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight. This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Yeshua the Messiah, and love one another, just as He commanded us. The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us...Whoever believes that Yeshua is the Messiah is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. **For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Yeshua is the Son of God?”** (1 John 3:21-24; 5:1-5).

Evidence of the love of God within us can be greatly apparent in this season of anticipating the day when our Omer Count ends, and the Feast of Weeks or *Shavuot* is commemorated. The expectation is that something wonderful is going to happen as one deliberately draws closer to the Creator through meditating upon His Word. As the Psalmist reminds us today, even when reproach and contempt arise because of our desire to follow Him, we continue to meditate upon and obey the Most High:

“Remove from me scorn and contempt, for I keep your statutes. Though rulers sit together and slander me, your servant will meditate on your decrees” (Psalm 119:22-23, NJPS).

Our love for God and our faith in Him should be so great, that obedience to His commandments is a major desire of our hearts. Your faith should be strengthened when you think about this reality, and consider the fact that there are millions all over the globe with the same love and desire (even if they do not all have full understanding of the relevance of some of His commandments at present). Couple these thoughts with the culminating event of the Omer Count being when the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost is remembered.

While *Shavuot* is doubtlessly commemorated by observant Jews all over the world, it is also remembered by faithful Christians reflecting on the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. Messianic Believers are uniquely positioned as those who keep *Shavuot* in remembrance of the giving of the Law and the Spirit. As we steadily Count the Omer toward *Shavuot*/Pentecost, knowing what we will be celebrating in Biblical history, perhaps you can begin to fathom some of the expectations that must have come into the minds of the Apostles and the one-hundred twenty gathered at the Upper Room, having spent forty days with Yeshua after His resurrection, during the season of Counting the Omer. As you should recall, just prior to His ascension into Heaven, He declared the following to His Disciples:

“To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over *a period of forty days* and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, ‘Which,’ *He said*, ‘you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, **but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now**” (Acts 1:3-5).

The role of the Holy Spirit, as promised by Yeshua, was that He was to serve as a Helper.¹ This was specified by Yeshua during the Passover meal that He shared with His Disciples:

“I will ask the Father, **and He will give you another Helper**, that He may be with you forever” (John 14:16).

The Holy Spirit was also to bring the Disciples some significant power:

“And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed **with power from on high**” (Luke 22:49).

You can see that as the original followers of Yeshua gathered in Jerusalem and having been Counting the Omer for fifty days, the last few days which followed His ascension into Heaven had to have been filled with great anticipation—as they were told what was to occur. On that particular *Shavuot* almost two thousand years ago, more commonly called the Day of Pentecost, the promises of Yeshua were fulfilled and the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit became a reality to the three thousand new Believers, who had come to observe the feast (cf. Acts 2:41). These people then went back to their respective homes and literally changed the world, as the good news that the Savior had come would go forth to their local synagogues and to the nations at large!

Today, not unlike two millennia ago, followers of the Messiah of Israel who love Him are obeying His commandments. Certainly, we are all in various stages of complying with the Law, and discussions do go on regarding *how* to obey them. But the critical factor to consider is that just like in the years when Yeshua walked the Earth, there is a developing and emerging group of people who actually *and more fully* comply with the description of the future saints who have been described in the Book of Revelation. These are men and women who have, from their transformed hearts of flesh, a testimony of salvation in Yeshua and who obey His commandments (Revelation 12:17; 14:12). Whether we are actually those end-time people is presently unknown. But the fact that exciting things are happening today among Believers—*especially at this time of year*—can be known!

¹ Grk. *paraklētos* (παράκλητος); “Comfortor” (KJV), “Counselor” (RSV), “Advocate” (NRSV).