

DAY TWENTY-TWO

“TRANSCENDENT WORDS”

PSALM 119:169-176

This morning as we come to the twenty-second day of our Omer Count, we arrive at the final stanza of Psalm 119. It has been delightful to take the time to reflect and spend some specific moments conducting a few word studies. My only regret is that I did not know about Counting the Omer when I was a new Believer! I *can only imagine* how much deeper my knowledge of the Holy One of Israel would be. Nevertheless, the blessings received from taking the time to approach Him daily, as we count the fifty days to *Shavuot*, have been personally rewarding. As we are reminded this morning, I pray that my lips, my tongue, and my whole being *praise Him* for using these meditations to draw me closer. But before I reflect on today's selection, please take the time to meditate on the following verses in order to focus upon our magnificent Creator:

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 119:169-176

Tav. Let my cry come before You, O LORD; give me understanding according to Your word. Let my supplication come before You; deliver me according to Your word. Let my lips utter praise, for You teach me Your statutes. Let my tongue sing of Your word, for all Your commandments are righteousness. Let Your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen Your precepts. I long for Your salvation, O LORD, and Your law is my delight. Let my soul live that it may praise You, and let Your ordinances help me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, for I do not forget Your commandments.

Today as we look at the final stanza of Psalm 119, which is subtitled by the Hebrew letter *tav* (ת), I cannot help but think about some of the words that Yeshua spoke in the

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Book of Revelation. In the final book of the Holy Scriptures, Yeshua declares that He is both the “Alpha and the Omega” and the “beginning and the end”:

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end” (Revelation 22:13; cf. 1:8, 17; 2:8; 21:6; Isaiah 44:6; 48:12).¹

If you suppose that the Messiah *orally* spoke those words to John in Hebrew, then the statement would have been closer to “I am the Alef and Tav.”² John, transcribing the Revelation into Greek for his audience in Asia Minor (cf. Revelation chs. 1-3), would have used *Alpha* (Α) and *Omega* (Ω), the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.³ I definitely believe that God used this common language of the First Century—the language of business and diplomacy—to communicate the truth of the gospel to as many as possible.

Today, God is certainly able to use the English language (and other languages) to see that the good news of salvation goes forth to the masses of Planet Earth. Interestingly enough, the Complete Jewish Bible renders Revelation 22:13 with “I am the ‘A’ and the ‘Z,’” and even though I am one who was raised with American English, I sometimes need to remember that the rest of the English-speaking world (i.e., United Kingdom and Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa), does not say “zee” but rather “zed.” I am utterly amazed how our God is so big, and we are often so small—and He truly loves all people—and not only those who speak my native tongue! *The whole world needs to know Messiah Yeshua*, and needs to be instructed in His ways. The words of the Psalmist speak to much of this, especially as Messiah followers need direction from the Holy One to be a proper witness for Him:

“Let my cry come before You, O LORD; give me understanding according to Your word” (Psalm 119:169).

All of us should diligently “cry out”⁴ for the lost souls who need salvation! The good news of redemption and reconciliation with our Creator is not limited to anyone just speaking Hebrew—or any other language—but is available for all of humanity. It is a universal message, that once enacted, is to cause us to live differently in obedience to Him. As the Psalmist also declares,

“I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, for I do not forget Your commandments” (Psalm 119:176).

Because of Yeshua’s completed work for us we can cry out not only for His salvation, but also for understanding and direction. He is the Good Shepherd looking for us as lost, sinful sheep.⁵ Our salvation in Him not only regards us being forgiven of sin—but also concerns how we live our lives emulating His example, *our salvation in action*. God’s salvation and His commandments go hand-in-hand with one another, as redemption is to be followed by obedience:

“I long for Your salvation, O LORD, and Your law is my delight” (Psalm 119:174).

¹ Editor’s note: Keep in mind especially Isaiah 44:6, “Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: **‘I am the first and I am the last, and there is no God besides Me.’**” Here, the Lord God is attested to be the first and the last, whereas in Revelation it is largely Yeshua the Messiah who is said to be the first and the last or the beginning and the end. Given the fact that there is no other for whom such a claim can be made, these attestations serve as evidence in support of Yeshua’s Divinity.

² Hebrew Names Version of the World English Bible.

³ Consult the entry for the Book of Revelation in *A Survey of the Apostolic Scriptures for the Practical Messianic*.

⁴ Heb. *rinnah* (רִנָּה); meaning both “**shout of joy**” and “**cry of lamentation, moaning**” (*CHALOT*, 341).

⁵ Cf. Matthew 18:12-13; Luke 15:4, 7.

Since God's Word has been translated into many different languages, not only has the message of salvation gone forth to many millions over the centuries, but today via the expansion of the Messianic movement, the worldwide revelation that the Torah or God's Law is truly a delight is being communicated with increasing receptivity. The challenge many Messianic Believers have is in showing others that salvation in Yeshua and Torah observance are not mutually exclusive ideas, and we most especially need to be cognizant of how others (particularly Christians) will often be looking at us with close scrutiny, **making sure that we fully embody the commands to love God and neighbor.** Have you made sure that you are aware of how many times this is directly emphasized throughout the Holy Writ? Here is a catalogue of various references:

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might” (Deuteronomy 6:5).

“You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD” (Leviticus 19:18).

“Yeshua answered, ‘The foremost is, “HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.” The second is this, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” There is no other commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:29-31).

“...HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER; and YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF...” (Matthew 19:19; cf. Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16).

“‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’ And He said to him, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.” This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 22:36-40).

“And [Yeshua] said to him, ‘What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?’ And he answered, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” And He said to him, ‘You have answered correctly; DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE’ [Leviticus 18:5]” (Luke 10:26-28).

“Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled *the law*. For this, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET,’ and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of *the law*” (Romans 13:8-10; cf. Exodus 20:13ff; Deuteronomy 5:17ff).

“For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF’” (Galatians 5:14).

“If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,’ you are doing well” (James 2:8).

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*Did these references perhaps “blow you away”? If they did, **it was intentional**. Our responsibility as born again Believers is to direct our lives according to the example of Yeshua, in obedience to our Heavenly Father, being demonstrated most especially in the kindness and mercy we show to all people. Expressing God’s love as first seen throughout the Torah **is absolutely paramount!** Admittedly, though, functioning in such love is not always easy, and it requires us to have His Spirit guiding our path and continually transforming our thoughts and motives (cf. Romans 12:2). Let us be given Divine understanding from His Word, and direct *all lost sheep* to the Good Shepherd.*