

# DAY THIRTY-FIVE

## “NOT MOVED”

### PSALM 93:1-5

Today, as we close out the fifth week on our march toward *Shavuot*, we leave behind the history lessons of Psalm 78, and shift to a short Psalm passage that simply declares the majesty of the Lord and His holiness. Such basic realities are good for us to reflect upon, as we just considered His justice and judgment. Our Psalm reading for today prompted me into recalling (yet another) tune of years ago (similar to Day #28). Whether this is coincidence, or perhaps just one of the ways God tries to get my attention, remains to be seen. But before I describe my feelings, perhaps you can speak to the Lord via the words of reverence that come forth from 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 93:1-5

**The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; the LORD has clothed and girded Himself with strength; indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved. Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting. The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice, the floods lift up their pounding waves. More than the sounds of many waters, *than* the mighty breakers of the sea, the LORD on high is mighty. Your testimonies are fully confirmed; holiness befits Your house, O LORD, forevermore.**

In a unique sort of way, this morning as I read through Psalm 93:1-5, I was captured by the simple phrase, “it will not be moved” (Psalm 93:1).<sup>1</sup> Of course, in this reference the Psalmist speaks about the world and its firm establishment, as it travels through the universe

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<sup>1</sup> Or, “it cannot be shaken” (NJPS/HCSB); “it shall not falter” (ATS).

## COUNTING THE OMER

according to the laws of nature and physics formulated by the Creator. As I pondered further, the Earth and its peculiarities, and especially the Flood that created such chaos (cf. Genesis 6-9), were nothing more than backdrops to the absolute focus of the Psalmist's heart upon God. Confirmation came to my soul when out of the inner recesses of my spirit came forth the rather well known song, "He is my Defense."

Within a matter of moments, I was beginning to hum a song that had to do with "not being moved." As I searched my heart for words, "He shall not be moved" percolated to the surface. Then, in a manner very similar to my previous reflection (Day #28), I began to hear this melody repeating itself in my mind. Before long, more words came, and I realized I was singing a song attributed to a modern-day Psalmist named Marty Goetz, who used elements of Psalm 62 to write this song that graces one of his albums by the same name.

I was led to take a longer look at Psalm 62, believing that in this passage, I would find amplification for today's Counting the Omer meditation. I was not disappointed! Here in this Psalm of David, we are reminded twice that it is the Lord who is our Rock, and He is One who will not be moved, shaken, or falter:

"He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be greatly shaken... He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be shaken" (Psalm 62:2, 6).

Here, the focus is not on the Earth and the created order which we know can endure many great catastrophes, but instead, David points us directly to the Almighty God **who will never be shaken or moved by anything**, as He reigns supreme. I then recalled some important words from the Prophet Isaiah:

"For this is like the days of Noah to Me, when I swore that the waters of Noah would not flood the earth again; so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you nor will I rebuke you. For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake, but My lovingkindness will not be removed from you, and My covenant of peace will not be shaken," says the LORD who has compassion on you" (Isaiah 54:9-10).

Here, Isaiah states that the mountains may move, but God's covenant of peace (*b'rit shelomi*, בְּרִית שְׁלוֹמִי) will never be shaken, as His ultimate aim really is to bring complete harmony and tranquility to His people and His Creation. The lovingkindness of God will never be removed, because our Eternal God has a patience and steadfastness and consistency that fallen mortals simply do not have. These wonderful words were the perfect compliment to the expression of David, as he describes his yearning for relationship with the Holy One: "**My soul, wait in silence for God only, for my hope is from Him**" (Psalm 62:5).

It is difficult for me to imagine such a prolific worshipper as David waiting in silence, especially while a tune is blaring in my spirit as I write this devotional. But this is precisely what he learned to do whether he was tending sheep or hiding from his enemies. David ends Psalm 62 by stating how he should direct his thoughts, hopes, and trust in God alone:

"Once God has spoken; twice I have heard this: that power belongs to God; and lovingkindness is Yours, O Lord, for You recompense a man according to his work" (Psalm 62:11-12).

If you have ever heard God truly speak, then you will know that whatever He said can be relied upon and will be accomplished. Since God alone has the power to make His Word stand, you can be assured that He will do what He has said.

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These thoughts—and the assurance that He is my rock, my defense, my shield, my salvation, my protector, and my stronghold—all ushered forth as song from Scripture. It will all be my motto for the day!