

COUNTING The OMER

Omer



WEEK THREE - COUNTING THE OMER PSALM 67

It has become a tradition to study and meditate on this Psalm over the SEVEN weeks that we take to count the OMER.

Traditions are man-made prophetic statements or actions that are designed to draw people closer to God.

All we know is that God declared that man **MUST** count.

Leviticus 23:15-16 From the day after the day of rest — that is, from the day you bring the sheaf for waving — you are to **count seven full weeks**, until the day after the seventh week; you are to **count fifty days**; and then you are to present a new grain offering to ADONAI.



What does this mean?

We are not told why it is important, or what we should do during this time. Clearly, we are meant to prepare for the Feast of Pentecost.

The Holy Spirit will guide us in all things - and so we have some leeway in the actions that we take in order to prepare. However, the intent of the time and the process is clear—we need to be ready to stand before God at Mount Sinai once again.

Remember, it is the words of a **marriage proposal** that we will hear.

God will spell out His LOVE for the people who choose to follow Him wholeheartedly. The children of Israel said: **We will do and we will hear!** (Take note: NO choice!!) But then they refused to move nearer in intimacy.

Please do not make the same mistake. Prepare your heart and be ready for the 100% commitment to this walk of obedience, AND make sure that you are part of the BRIDE of MESSIAH.

It is also clear that each and every individual must count for himself - so while this is a very personal thing, its also a strong community-based event as we all unite in one accord (much the same wording that is used to describe the outpouring of the Holy Spirit).

Acts 2:1-4 *The festival of Shavu'ot arrived, and the believers all gathered together in one place. Suddenly there came a sound from the sky like the roar of a violent wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire, which separated and came to rest on each one of them. They were all filled with the Ruach HaKodesh and began to talk in different languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.*

Let's make a study of this Psalm.

Psalm 67:3 *Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!*

Here are the critical words that we must analyze:

(a) **Peoples**

Hebrew **Strong's 5971**

- 🌐 Nations/peoples
- 🌐 Compatriots
- 🌐 Tribes
- 🌐 Those who follow a leader

Psalm 47:2 *For ADONAI 'Elyon is awesome, a great king over all the earth. He makes peoples subject to us, puts nations under our feet. He chooses our heritage for us, the pride of Ya'akov, whom he loves.*

Psalm 47:10 *The leaders of the people gather together, the people of the God of Avraham; for the rulers of the earth belong to God, who is exalted on high.*


This word seems to include the entire human race. One is reminded of the words – “*from every nation/tongue and place*”.

One thought stands out for me:

There is a calling for **believers to become leaders** - to set a standard of servanthood, fatherhood, and integrity in the community. It is said that we should respect those with grey hair - and that's correct, but those are the ones who should also lead by example.

(b) **Praise**

Hebrew **Strong's 3045**


 To throw down

(The imagery here is of a person throwing down all thoughts of depression and self pity and picking up the harp / flute to make music which will gladden the heart.)

 To shoot arrows

(The concept of shooting arrows of praise is somehow unique. We are to carry a quiver full of arrows, words that encourage, words that build up, words that profess love. The beauty of this image is that we can stand near or far, but nevertheless, our words of thanksgiving and praise can reach far.)


Consider all the movies of the wars with men like Ben Hur - the chariots racing around and the soldier on the back of the chariot with an arrow. Can we see this same image in our ability to use words to heal hurting souls, to build walls of protection around the community that we live in?

 To give thanks - a plain old thank you

Psalm 28:7 *ADONAI is my strength and shield; in Him my heart trusted, and I have been helped. Therefore my heart is filled with joy, and I will sing praises to Him.*

Psalm 7:18 I thank *ADONAI* for His righteousness and sing praise to the Name of *ADONAI 'Elyon*.

Psalm 106:47 *Save us, ADONAI our God! Gather us from among the nations, so that we can thank Your Holy Name and glory in praising You.*

 To confess by pointing out with an extended hand

(A significant part of praise is the willingness to confess our wrongdoings. This word meaning points the way - we need to specify exactly what we did and when so that the wound can be closed and the healing begin.)

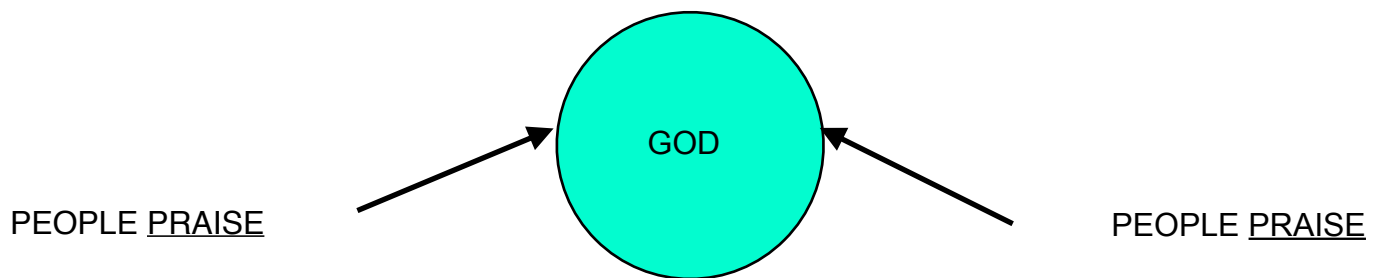
(c) **God**

Hebrew Strong's 430

- 👉 Elohiym
- 👉 The true God
- 👉 Ruler/Judge

The Creator of the universe - praise to anything else is meaningless.

AN INTERESTING PATTERN



(Praise is the medium that brings people near to God and accompanies them when they go forward on their journey)



SOME PRAYER POINTS THIS WEEK

- 1) Renew your commitment to follow God.
- 2) Plan to shoot arrows of praise against every enemy that stands in your way
- 3) Cast down any thought pattern that seeks to destroy your praise and worship time

Walk in love and shalom this week

BLESSINGS AND SHALOM!!

“Y’varekh’kha YHVH v’yishmerekha.

May YHVH bless you and keep you.

SHALOM

Ya’er YHVH panav eleikha vichunekka.

May YHVH make his face shine on you and show you his favour.

Yissa YHVH panav eleikha v’yasem l’kha shalom.

May YHVH lift up his face toward you and give you peace.

In this way they are to put my name on the people of Israel, so that I will bless them.”

—Numbers 24:24-27