

COUNTING The OMER

Omer



WEEK FOUR - 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.

1.

Psalm 67:34 *Let the nations be glad and shout for joy, for you will judge the peoples fairly and guide the nations on earth.*

There are a number of critical words that we need to analyze in order to give perspective to this verse:

(a) **Glad - samach**

Hebrew **Strong's 8055**

- 👉 To rejoice
- 👉 To brighten up
- 👉 To shine with happiness
- 👉 To be merry as with much wine

SOME THOUGHTS

For the most part almost all of us can find something to be glad/happy about at times. Generally things mostly go well and therefore we are content, with only the occasional blip where the some problem arises that needs to be solved.

But being content, at peace, is not the same as being glad - and so the question arises - how can we express joy/happiness/gladness on a more continuous basis?

Surely part of our value system has to be the actions taken in order to learn to be “grateful” for all things!

We need to move always from the habit of expressing happiness, only when “big/good” things happen.

Enjoy the next sunset...and be glad that you are able to capture the moment...

Ecclesiastes 3:12 *I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live;*

Ecclesiastes 8:15 *And I commend joy, for man has nothing better under the sun but to eat and drink and be joyful, for this will go with him in his toil through the days of his life that God has given him under the sun.*

Proverbs 13:9 *The light of the righteous rejoices, but the lamp of the wicked will be put out.*

2.

Psalms 67:4 *Let the nations be glad and shout for joy, for you will judge the peoples fairly and guide the nations on earth.*

(b) **Joy**



Hebrew **Strong's 7442**

- To overcome
- A ringing cry/to cry aloud
- Tremendous and strident sound
- To vibrate

Psalms 98:8 *Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD, for He comes to judge the earth He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.*

Psalm 7:18 You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it. You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth. You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with abundance. The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for **joy**.

3.

Psalm 67:4 Let the nations be glad and shout for joy, for you will judge the peoples fairly and guide the nations on earth.

(c) **Judge**

Hebrew **Strong's 8199**

- 👁️ To govern (Ruth 1:1)
- 👁️ To execute judgment
- 👁️ To vindicate
- 👁️ To set up/erect
- 👁️ To create equity
- 👁️ To enter into controversy

Proverbs 31:9 Open your mouth, **judge** righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Some Thoughts

We will see the concept of equity raised again later - it is however interesting that “equity” and “justice” are seen to go hand-in-hand.

Taking a stand is not always an act that we would like take part in - we mostly want to avoid conflict.

But **justice does equal controversy**, and **we are expected** to evaluate the facts and **to stand** behind those who have been disadvantaged.

Psalm 43:1 Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me! For you are the God in whom I take refuge; why have you rejected me? Why do I go about mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

4.

Psalm 67:4 Let the nations be glad and shout for joy, for you will judge the **peoples** fairly and guide the nations on earth.

d) People

Hebrew **Strong's 5971**

- 🌟 Nation
- 🌟 Whole human race
- 🌟 Leader of people

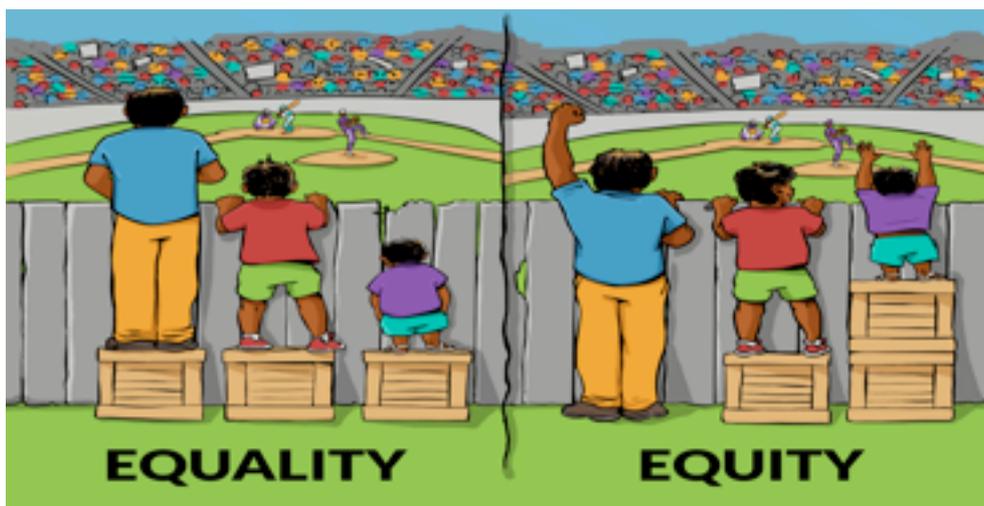
5.

Psalm 67:4 Let the nations be glad and shout for joy, for you will judge the peoples **fairly** and guide the nations on earth.

e) Equity

Hebrew **Strong's 4334**

- 🌟 A level place
- 🌟 A table-land - flat space (like Table Mountain in Cape Town)
- 🌟 Uprightness



Some Thoughts

There is something about these descriptions that make up **equity** that is very important. We can logically see the level playing field idea. Morally we can understand that everyone is **equal** (all races/men and women, and so forth), but the concept that highlights the crux of the matter, is the word: **UPRIGHTNESS**.

We often speak of **righteousness**, mainly thinking of an individual's position before God.

Now we see something else - if I want to be seen as **righteous**, I will have to make a stand against all acts that promote inequity.

Psalm 45:7 *You have loved **righteousness** and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions; Your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia. From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad; Daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor; At Your Right Hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.*

Psalm 143:10 *Teach me to do Your Will, for You are my God! Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground!*

6.

Psalm 67:4 *Let the nations be glad and shout for joy, for you will judge the peoples fairly and **guide** the nations on earth.*

f) Guide

Hebrew **Strong's 5148**

-  To lead
-  To guide
-  To lead forth

Some Thoughts

Leaders are those people who have a vision and are prepared to go on the journey, but critically, are going to build/develop/encourage all those who follow. Any other leadership = a butcher/dictator.

Psalm 5:9 *For there is no truth in their mouth; their inmost self is destruction; their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue.*

7.

Psalm 67:4 *Let the nations be glad and shout for joy, for you will judge the peoples fairly and **guide** the **nations** on earth.*

(g) Nations

(We start and we end with this word - it wraps itself around the idea or theme on the inside)

Hebrew **Strong's 3816**

 A people

 A nation

Psalm 7:8 *The LORD judges the **peoples**; judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness and according to the integrity that is in me. Oh, let the evil of the wicked come to an end, and may You establish the righteous— You who test the minds and hearts, O righteous God!*

Psalm 9:9 *The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. And those who know Your Name put their trust in You, for You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.*

SOME PRAYER POINTS THIS WEEK

1) God requires of us - justice, mercy/compassion, and humility.

Consider your actions during the past year, from last SHAVOUT to this one - what actions did you take, or more importantly which to you omit to do that meant that we did not live up to this standard. Let us repent, if needed, go back to individuals and make restitution.

2) Focus on developing the character traits that will help you to stand and take courage at the right moment. Let us make a prophetic declaration that we welcome the opportunities that God will place in our path this next year.

BLESSINGS AND SHALOM!!

“Y’varekh’kha YHVH v’yishmerekha.

May YHVH bless you and keep you.

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 6:24-27