

COUNTING The OMER

Omer



WEEK ONE - 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 67:1 *God, be gracious to us, and bless us. May He make His Face shine toward us, (Selah).*

Let us look at these important words:

(a) **Gracious**

Hebrew **Strong's 2603**

- 🕒 To bend or stoop in *kindness* to one inferior.
- 🕒 To show *favour*.
- 🕒 To be *merciful*.
- 🕒 To be *inclined towards someone*—like Esther.
- 🕒 To make *acceptable*.

Note the word action from God – it is that of a Father Figure: He realizes that we are weak, that we are not the stronger partner - and therefore He comes to our aid.

(b) **Bless**

Hebrew **Strong's 1288**

- 🕒 To *bend the knees* - to recognize the work that God has done and in *bending*, acknowledge His **GOODNESS**.
- 🕒 To invoke God/call upon God and ask for His blessing.
- 🕒 To bless oneself, and others, with happiness and welfare.



Psalm 95:6,7 Come, let's bow down and worship; let's kneel before ADONAI who made us. For He is our God, and we are the people in His pasture, the sheep in His care.

(c) **His Face**

Hebrew **Strong's 6440**

- 🕯 To enquire of God.
- 🕯 To seek His Presence.

(d) **Shine**

Hebrew **Strong's 215**

- 🕯 To become *light*.
- 🕯 To be *illuminated*.
- 🕯 To *light up*—to be able to “see”
- 🕯 To *give light*—that is to *reflect* the attributes of God.

SOME PRAYER POINTS THIS WEEK

- 1) Bring glory and honour and praise to God because He is good to us even though we do not deserve it.
- 2) Consider who is “weaker/inferior” to you in this world and consider how you can reflect the same behavior towards them that you received from God
- 3) Reflect on the values/principles that are life-giving that you have learned this past year and think about how you are going to act that will reveal this light to the broader community.

Walk in the Light - walk in His SHALOM!!

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