



The Purpose Of Counting The Omer: Victory! Pt. 1

We have now entered YHWH's instructed time to begin to 'count the omer'. We have our 'Omer Counting Calendar', and we are saying the 'Omer counting prayer'. We follow this with the words of the actual count: 'Today is... days, which are ...week(s), and ... days of the Omer,' Most will faithfully follow that paradigm. However, here is a very important question... Why?

For those of us who are a part of the 'returning house of Yosef-Ephraim-Yisrael', many, if not most, are new to this paradigm. Jewish Yisrael, our elder brother, has done it for millennia. Most of us in the 'returning house' have not. The understanding that there are 49 days (**7 weeks**) between the time we begin our counting, and the day when Shavuot, YHWH's 'fourth Mo'ed/Appointed Time', and 'second Chag/Feast' of His 'Spring Celebrations' arrives is understood. But, why is the 'counting' so integrally part of the whole process? We say it is because of our (**Yisrael... The Whole House**) need of TRANSFORMATION. But, 'transformed to what'? This is the purpose of this teaching. May Abba open our heart to His purpose. Amein!

The Number 7

Within the understanding of Torah numbers have meaning. In our understanding at hand, the 'number seven' has the meaning of 'completeness'. In the instruction of YHWH for Yisrael to 'count the Omer', the counting is to be ONE 'continuous action' of SEVEN 'weeks of days'. When done in their order YHWH will cause there to be a TRANSFORMATION of each 'individual' of His nation, AND for 'The Whole Nation of the House of Yisrael'. It is for both an INDIVIDUAL, as well as a CORPORATE MANIFESTATION of His Presence for the nation of Yisrael. The whole point of which is to prepare YHWH's WHOLE RESTORED ONE NATION, to enter the 'Marriage Betrothal Covenant' with the 'physical manifestation' of Himself, as His Son, our Adon/Lord Yeshua on the day of Shavuot!

Thus, those 'seven weeks of days' are the culmination whereby ALL 'uncleanness' may be removed from Yisrael, the Bride. SEVEN WEEKS OF DAYS PLUS ONE! Yisrael, broken, fractured, divided, through all manner of UNCLEANNES, will be MADE CLEAN... WHOLE ... and READY to 'assume her place' with her M'lekh/King Mashiach/Messiah, Adon/Lord Yeshua, to RULE and REIGN with Him FOREVER from YERUSHALAYIM/JERUSALEM over the WHOLE EARTH!

The Torah: Clean And Unclean

Now, in order to truly understand why YHWH 'instructs us' to 'count' during this 'time of the Omer', requires a return to the sefer/book of Wayikra/Leviticus. We sometimes forget, that while Shemot/Exodus, and Wayikra/Leviticus are two 'separate books' within the Torah physically, the

nation of Yisrael logistically within those seferim/books, has remained in the same locale... AT MOUNT SINAI! Why is that important. To answer that let us read YHWH's words to Yisrael through Moshe,

'For I am Hashem [YHWH] that bringeth you up out of Eretz Mitzrayim [the land of Egypt], to be for you as Elohim [Mighty One]: ye shall therefore be kadoshim [a holy/set apart people], for I [YHWH] am kadosh [holy/set apart].

This is the torah [instruction] concerning the beasts, and of the fowl, and of every living creature that moveth in the mayim [waters], and of every creature that creepeth upon ha'aretz [the land];

To make a divide [lehavdil; to make a distinction, separation] between the tamei [unclean] and the tahor [clean], and between the beast that may be and the beast that may not be eaten. (Wayikra/Leviticus 11:45-47 OJB- explanation/definitions mine)

Now, having read the above passage let me make a few comments. In chapters 11-16 of Wayikra/Leviticus, what is YHWH bringing before Yisrael? He is REINTRODUCING them to a very important, vital concept, if they are going to truly be His people. In verse 45 of our above passage, YHWH reveals THEY MUST BE HOLY/SET-APART, BECAUSE HE, THEIR MIGHTY ONE, IS HOLY SET-APART. Why?

Because during their over 200-year stint of living in Mitzrayim/Egypt, they had lost the 'essential reality' of WHOSE THEY ARE! Things had changed drastically after the death of Yosef/Joseph, and the Pharaoh of his day was gone. The new Pharaoh did not know Yosef/Joseph. To him, these Yisraelites were not a positive, they were viewed as a threat. They had grown exponentially in number even in the hardship of slavery. Therefore, apart from YHWH's re-entering into their existence, Yisrael was headed for ever increasing hardship and ultimately, genocide as a people. As a result, their 'cultural essence' as the 'unique possession' of YHWH as their Mighty One, had all but become a 'lost reality'. Now, Moshe had been 'sent as a deliverer', and Yisrael 'having been delivered' as had been promised, YHWH must begin the 'reacclimation process' to restore their 'familial integrity' as His chosen nation.

The rabbis of blessed memory have said, 'So devastating had Yisrael's spiritual state become prior to YHWH's sending Moshe to deliver them, that they had reached the 49th level of degradation. One more level, and they would have reached a point where redemption would have been completely lost! Now, having delivered Yisrael by His mighty, outstretched arm, YHWH had brought them three months into the wilderness to the mountain of His Presence, revealing Himself in an unprecedented display of His glory, and power. YHWH then presented Yisrael with His Torah. This was, as we have learned, a Ketubah, a 'Betrothal Contract of Marriage'. Yisrael accepted that offer 'willingly' and now, YHWH was readying His nation to move into the 'restoration' of their being not only a people again, but TO BE HIS DWELLING PLACE! We won't go into the whole history in-depth here.

Beginning in Exodus/Shemot 25 YHWH begins to instruct Moshe to have Yisrael build Him a Mishkan/Tabernacle, literally, a 'house for Him to dwell in' among them. (A Mikdash-Sanctuary... Mishkan-Dwelling Place) The rest of Shemot/Exodus 35-39 has to do with the

furnishings, garments of the kohenim, the altar. Chapter 40 is the raising of the Mishkan/Tabernacle, and YHWH's Sh'kinyah/Manifest Presence filling it. However, again we come to Wayikra/Leviticus, and we must bring a *'fresh focus'* to where Yisrael is PHYSICALLY. THEY ARE STILL AT MT. SINAI! Therefore, the verse we opened this section with above is ALSO DIRECTLY CENTERED WITHIN THIS SAME LOCATION!

Now, here in Wayikra/Leviticus, YHWH is addressing the *'missing portion'* within Yisrael, that will enable them to utilize the kavod/glory of DWELLING WITH YHWH: **HIS HOLINESS!** This is what was lost back in Mitzrayim/Egypt. It is what MUST BE REGAINED if they are to BE RESTORED to become YHWH's *'Am Segulah/Treasured People'*. Why are they His Am Segulah? Because... THEY ARE ABOUT TO LEARN THE PROCESS WHEREBY THEY WILL BE MADE HOLY AS YHWH IS HOLY! How will they become such? IT WILL NOT BE BY THEIR OWN EFFORTS. They will *'become holy'* as they LEARN how to *'discern the essence'* between what YHWH declares is CLEAN, and what is UNCLEAN! It is by their allowing YHWH, by His Ruach HaKodesh/Spirit of Holiness, to teach them this *'essential difference'*, and HOW they can MOVE IN OBEDIENCE to His Torah instructions. As they PREPARE THEMSELVES, then HE, HIMSELF, WILL MAKE THEM HOLY!

'... I am Hashem [YHWH] who sets you apart as kodesh [holy]'
(Wayikra/Leviticus 20:8b OJB)

Look back above at our passage. Look at verse 47. What are we told? We are to learn HOW to make the necessary *'distinction'*... *'separation'*... between those *'two realms'*. It wasn't ever a thought when they were back in Mitzrayim/Egypt. They had become lost to these basic tenets of their faith in YHWH. Now, they have encountered the LIVING MIGHTY ONE... YHWH TZAVUOT/OF HOSTS! If we will only pay attention. DO AS HE INSTRUCTS, then we too will learn the way to *'position ourselves'* as Yisrael, here in Shemot/Exodus and Wayikra/Leviticus. This is the *'essence'* of the *'principles of restoration'* for Yisrael then, and for today. WITHIN THESE PARAMETERS YHWH IS REVEALING THE NECESSARY PROVISION FOR YISRAEL, THEN AND NOW, TO RECEIVE HIS SH'KINYAH/MANIFEST PRESENCE TO DWELL WITHIN AND UPON US. The result? YHWH WILL CAUSE US TO BECOME HOLY... SET APART TO HIMSELF!

Life And Death: Realms Of Status Or Position

Here is an important point of comprehension. Yisrael of old in their sojourning in Mitzrayim/Egypt, as we have seen, had become lost to what it meant to be the *'Am/People of YHWH'*. They were to be *'visible witnesses'* to the *'essential nature/character'* of their Elohim/Mighty One, YHWH. Here's the problem... He was/is *'invisible'*! If the world, nations, around them were to learn WHO this MIGHTY ONE is, they are going to do so by WATCHING THOSE who say they belong to Him... His people... Yisrael! Having delivered them from their *'bondage of captivity'* and *'declension'*, YHWH is leading Yisrael back out from the *'ever increasing levels of impurity/uncleanness'* they were succumbing to while in Mitzrayim/Egypt. YHWH's goal now is to RESTORE YISRAEL to their true calling. AS THEY ARE RESTORED

IN HOLINESS/SET APARTNESS FROM THE REALMS OF DEATH AND UNCLEanness, THEY WILL BECOME A WITNESS TO THE INVISIBLE CREATOR, YHWH, AND HIS REALM OF LIFE... ABUNDANT LIFE, AND TO THE NATIONS AROUND THEM!

Let us make one thing crystal clear. This is NOT about ETERNAL SALVATION. It is about SANCTIFICATION/HOLINESS/BEING SET APART! Yisrael in Mitzrayim/Egypt WAS NOT delivered by their own efforts. YHWH delivered them by HIS OWN POWER! Their responsibility was to BELIEVE! (**Yochanon/John 6:29; Tehillim/Psalm 78:41**) AFTER having experienced YHWH's deliverance from Pharaoh's domination, what were they called to do? LEAVE MITZRAYIM/EGYPT! Leave that nation. Leave the bondage. Leave the '*mindset of servitude*' to the many false mighty ones of that realm. BELIEVE/LEAVE/AND CLEAVE. Then what?

They were to follow YHWH to Mt. Sinai. For what? To receive His Torah... His Instructions. These instructions were to '*reacclimate them*', as a nation, to YHWH's '*realm of Life*'. In the process, they would learn to '*discern... recognize... and identify*', the '*realms*' of both CLEAN and UNCLEAR, and how to find '*deliverance*' from their effects: DEATH! At the same time, they would be able to '*discern, recognize, and identify*' the REALM OF LIFE. In turn, coming to understand how to MAINTAIN and INCREASE the '*effect of that realm*'. They would be able to '*realize and sustain*', an EVER-INCREASING MANIFESTATION OF YHWH's REALM known as ETERNAL LIFE! Beloved, ETERNAL LIFE is NOT about the LENGTH OF LIFE. **IT IS A KIND OF LIFE!** It literally is a REALM where YHWH, by His Ruach HaKodesh/Spirit of Holiness, PERMEATES all who exist in that realm. Eternal Life DESTROYS and RELEASES all who exist there to EXPERIENCE the SAME KIND OF LIFE their CREATOR LIVES BY! However, IT IS A CHOICE! One that MUST BE MADE CONSCIOUSLY, CONTINUOUSLY AND CONSISTENTLY if we are to experience its effects.

'I call Shomayim and Ha'Aretz [The Heavens and The Earth] to record today as witnesses against you, that I have set before you HaChayyim and HaMavet [The Life & The Death], HaBerakhah and HaKelalah [The Blessing and The Curse]; Therefore, CHOOSE CHAYYIM [LIFE], that both thou and thy zera [seed] MAY LIVE; That thou mayest love Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One], and that thou mayest OBEY HIS VOICE, and that thou mayest have deveykus [cling to/rely] unto Him: for He is Chayyeicha (your life), and the orech yameicha (length of your days); that thou mayest dwell in ha'adamah [The Land] which Hashem [YHWH] swore unto Avoteicha [your Fathers], to Avraham, to Yitzchak, and to Ya'akov, to give them.' (Devarim/Deuteronomy 30:19-20 OJB-emphasis/definitions mine)

Unfortunately, when the '*church of Christendom*' determined that the '*left side of the Book*' was no longer a vital aspect for personal faith and observance [i.e. **TaNaKh, The Torah, the first five books... the Writings and Prophets; errantly referred to as The Old Testament**], they were unaware, that they had also unwittingly thrown away the HOLINESS portion of YHWH's promises too! The truth is, the '*Hebraic mindset*' doesn't view the Bible as '*two separate books*'. Instead, it sees the Bible through '*Hebraic eyes*' as ONE WHOLE BOOK!

Today, those of us who are coming to realize that we are a part of YHWH's restoration of His '*Whole House of Yisrael*', are understanding how real the '*left side of the book*' is to our faith. As

the *'returning house of Yosef/Ephraim'* the non-Jewish house, YHWH is opening our heart and mind to those first five books... the Torah... NOT AS LAW, but as His LOVING INSTRUCTIONS. Thus, as YHWH says in our above passage, He has set before us *'life and death, blessing and cursing'*, and He instructs us... **CHOOSE LIFE!**

Part of our being able to *'choose life'* is to RECOGNIZE the *'realms of life and death'*, are *'positions'*, or *'states of being'*. Yisrael, while in Mitzrayim/Egypt, had lost the *'reality of those concepts'*. We today, as the *'returning house of Yosef-Ephraim'*, have also lost the reality of those concepts while wandering in the *'wilderness of theology'* too. Baruch HaShem! YHWH is Faithful and True, to WAKE US UP in this hour of restoration!

The Number Seven In Relation To Becoming Clean

We spoke of the uniqueness of the *'number seven'* at the outset of our study. Now, we are going to allow YHWH, by His Ruach HaKodesh/Spirit of Holiness, to bring that number into clear focus. It is NOT an anomaly. The *'number seven'* as we have stated is, YHWH's SUPERNAL NUMBER OF COMPLETION. It speaks of the *'allotted space of time'* wherein YHWH will accomplish His intention: *'Seven days'* in a week... *'Seven thousand'* days of years in YHWH's *'eternal purpose'* on earth... *'Seven'* times *'seven'* years, plus one = A Jubilee... *'day of release'*...etc. Now, we are about to understand why the *'number seven'* is such an *'integral part of the equation'* in the process of the *'counting of the omer'*! Again, the answer is to be found in YHWH's sefer/book of holiness... Wayikra/Leviticus.

In chapters thirteen thru fifteen we are introduced to *'physical situations'* where there are persons who for different reasons, have touched the *'realm of death'*. We are not going to cover the specifics here. You can read those chapters yourself. The point at hand is, you are going to see the period of SEVEN DAYS being applied to those involved. For what? For there to be a *'complete passage'* from the *'realm of death'* to the *'realm of life'*. Again, SEVEN is the *'number of completion'* whose end result is *'restoration'* from the *'realm of death'* to the *'realm of life'*.

Now, let's remind ourselves of the *'sevens'* involved in our *'counting of the Omer'*. There are, first of all the *'initial count'* of SEVEN DAYS. In all, how long are we to count? SEVEN WEEKS OF DAYS. So, SEVEN DAYS x SEVEN WEEKS = 49 DAYS + ONE EXTRA DAY = 50... JUBILEE... FREEDOM!

This is the foundation for our next lesson. We are not only called to COUNT, we must know WHAT TO DO WHILE WE COUNT! There is a *'process'* of SANCTIFICATION given to us by Rav Sha'ul in his letter to the Romans. SEVEN groups of SEVENTEEN areas that YHWH wants us to ZERO IN ON. SEVEN = CULMINATION & PERFECTION. SEVENTEEN = VICTORY! **[14 salvation + 3 resurrection = VICTORY!]** Abba is about to give us HIS ANSWER for how to bring the POWER to RESTORE His NATION of the WHOLE HOUSE OF YISRAEL! Amein!!!