

Notes: May 17 2025

Start: 10 AM

Children's Blessing:

Transliteration: *Ye'simcha Elohim ke-Ephraim ve hee-Menashe*

English: *May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe*

Transliteration: *Ye'simech Elohim ke-Sarah, Rivka, Rachel ve-Leah.*

English: *May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.*

Introduction: The Love of Torah Leads To...

During my reading of the selected passages as we count the Omer, I was confronted by these verses and first the proclamation by the writer and then by the impact of their proclamation.

Psa 119:97 מֵ (Mem) How I love your Torah! I meditate on it all day.

I want you to first consider the two aspects of this verse, both are active in their presentation.

The first is a profession of love towards Adonai's Torah.

According to the dictionary, **love** is "an intense feeling of deep affection." Meanwhile, Urban Dictionary defines **love** as, "The act of caring and giving to someone else. Having someone's **best** interest and wellbeing as a priority in your life.

The majority of Psalms list an author. Psalm 119 does not. I believe it doesn't because this Psalm reflects the Word of God, 176 verses divided in to 8 verse segments corresponding to the 22 letters of the Hebrew Alef Bet. Though likely scribed by someone, Adonai is Himself the author of this Psalm revealing the attributes of His Word and what He desires from us.

The writer is making this profession towards Adonai and His Word.

Other possible attributes based on this very first sentence include:

- A willingness to prioritize another's well-being or happiness above your own.
- Extreme feelings of attachment, affection, and need.
- Dramatic, sudden feelings of attraction and respect.

Granted, all of these definitions and attributes typically are directed towards another person, yet didn't Adonai appear through Yeshua when...

Joh 1:14 The Word became a human being and lived with us, and we saw his Sh'khinah, the Sh'khinah of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

And thus didn't the Words of Yeshua align with the proclamation of the Psalmist?

Joh 14:15 "If you love me, you will keep my commands;

Thus Yeshua Himself conveyed an aspect towards us of...

- A willingness to prioritize another's well-being or happiness above His own.

Joh 10:17 "This is why the Father loves me: because I lay down my life—in order to take it up again!

Joh 10:18 No one takes it away from me; on the contrary, I lay it down of my own free will. I have the power to lay it down, and I have the power to take it up again. This is what my Father commanded me to do."

Yeshua laid down His life because of His love for the Father and that of the Father's creation.

- Extreme feelings of attachment, affection, and need.
- Dramatic, sudden feelings of attraction and respect.

Thus, love for Yeshua is not separate from Torah, but is a requirement, a condition. To say you love Yeshua and yet reject Torah is not true love, because you are rejecting His commandments, not loving and therefore embracing them.

The second part of the verse speaks of devotion. To meditate on it all day.

Does this mean this is the only thing you do all day, that there is nothing else in your life.

I don't believe that to be the case. For the Hebrew word used here for meditate...

שִׁיחָה

śîychâh

Feminine of **H7879**; *reflection*; by extension *devotion*: - meditation, prayer.

Also contains the attributes for devotion to, and prayer, reflecting upon that which one is devoted to.

To love, means to be devoted to, that is a commitment, while the duration of time here, "all day" conveys an aspect as to the duration of one's commitment. You are committed to your spouse, yet are not with them all day but return to them. I believe this is the understanding of this first verse. A love and commitment to that love.

Again, Yeshua didn't say anything different, did he?

These two attributes frame the next three verses of the Psalmists expression...

Psa 119:98 I am wiser than my foes, because your mitzvot are mine forever.

In order to become wiser than your foes, the Psalmist proclaims that Adonai's mitzvot are yours, thus they are in your possession. By embracing Adonai through His Covenant, you have received and therefore possess His mitzvot. The same wisdom that formed the world in six days, including our very own creation. Adonai enabled us to possess that which He has made known to us.

Deu 29:28 "Things which are hidden belong to Adonai our God. But the things that have been revealed belong to us and our children forever, so that we can observe all the words of this Torah.

And thus in revealing that which was once hidden to us, has thus enabled us, equipped us, for every aspect of

life that will confront us.

Deu 30:11 For this mitzvah which I am giving you today is not too hard for you, it is not beyond your reach.

Deu 30:12 It isn't in the sky, so that you need to ask, 'Who will go up into the sky for us, bring it to us and make us hear it, so that we can obey it?'

Deu 30:13 Likewise, it isn't beyond the sea, so that you need to ask, 'Who will cross the sea for us, bring it to us and make us hear it, so that we can obey it?'

Deu 30:14 On the contrary, the word is very close to you—in your mouth, even in your heart; therefore, you can do it!

Here, possession isn't 9 / 10ths of the law, It is possessing 100% of Torah. This doesn't mean that we are to do 100% of Torah, but to do 100% of Torah that applies to us.

To possess it provides you with access to the very wisdom of Adonai in Torah and thus the teachings of Yeshua our Rabbi, our teacher. Not only do we have access to the text book, but we also have access to the author, no substitute.

Psa 119:99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, because I meditate on your instruction.

Through our teacher Yeshua and thus further instruction through the Ruach ha Kodesh, who is not substitute, but the very power behind the wisdom, we are able to possess greater understanding. We further meditate on what has been revealed to us.

Luk 24:45 Then he opened their minds, so that they could understand the Tanakh,

Luk 24:46 telling them, "Here is what it says: the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day;

Luk 24:47 and in his name repentance leading to forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed to people from all nations, starting with Yerushalayim.

If you don't come to the same conclusion as Yeshua, then you have ignored your teacher.

The P'rushim were constantly being schooled by Yeshua and they did not like it all too well. In fact, they despised is so much that they planned to kill Him. They ignored our teacher, who offers the key to the Kingdom.

The wisdom Yeshua possessed was seen from an early age...

Luk 2:46 On the third day they found him—he was sitting in the Temple court among the rabbis, not only listening to them but questioning what they said;

Luk 2:47 and everyone who heard him was astonished at his insight and his responses.

...in that He surpassed that of the other teachers of Y'hudah.

We possess His Word for He has given it to us and thus it belongs to us. We contemplate that which He has given us for the sole purpose to embrace that which has been given.

Psa 119:100 I understand more than my elders, because I keep your precepts.

Yeshua possessed greater understanding than all of His elders for they were amazed at the insights of someone

so young. It should be no mystery to us that Yeshua possessed such wisdom because of His Father, through the power of the Ruach Ha Kodesh enabled that which is eternal to enter the world confined by time. Sha'ul offers an excellent summation...

Php 2:6 Though he was in the form of God, he did not regard equality with God something to be possessed by force.

Php 2:7 On the contrary, he emptied himself, in that he took the form of a slave by becoming like human beings are. And when he appeared as a human being,

Php 2:8 he humbled himself still more by becoming obedient even to death—death on a stake as a criminal!

Php 2:9 Therefore God raised him to the highest place and gave him the name above every name;

Php 2:10 that in honor of the name given Yeshua, every knee will bow—in heaven, on earth and under the earth—

Php 2:11 and every tongue will acknowledge that Yeshua the Messiah is Adonai—to the glory of God the Father.

Thus the Psalmist has professed and devotion, that is a love to the Word of Adonai, Torah. That devotion is whole hearted, thus professing...

Exo 20:3 כ "You are to have no other gods before me.

Offering total and complete devotion to the only Living God.

That through that commitment we are given and therefore possess His Word. We are able to contemplate everything He has revealed and thus keep His mitzvot.

By keeping His mitzvot, we honor Him through His Word. Respect His authority through our action which is why the Psalmist further expands on our responsibilities...

Psa 119:101 I keep my feet from every evil way, in order to observe your word.

Psa 119:102 I don't turn away from your rulings, because you have instructed me.

Action is required on our part, not lip service. Many believers are troubled by Ya'akov's words because they are ultimately confronted by their own actions...

Jas 1:19 Therefore, my dear brothers, let every person be quick to listen but slow to speak, slow to get angry;

Jas 1:20 for a person's anger does not accomplish God's righteousness!

Jas 1:21 So rid yourselves of all vulgarity and obvious evil, and receive meekly the Word implanted in you that can save your lives.

Jas 1:22 Don't deceive yourselves by only hearing what the Word says, but do it!

Jas 1:23 For whoever hears the Word but doesn't do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror,

Jas 1:24 who looks at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

Jas 1:25 But if a person looks closely into the perfect Torah, which gives freedom, and continues, becoming not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work it requires, then he will be blessed in what he does.

Jas 1:26 Anyone who thinks he is religiously observant but does not control his tongue is deceiving himself, and his observance counts for nothing.

Jas 1:27 The religious observance that God the Father considers pure and faultless is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being contaminated by the world.

Adonai does not seek perfection from us but rather our commitment to Him, our obedience. He wants us to be complete and the only way is through Him.

Just as Adonai embraces the sweek aroma of the Olah, Zevach Shelamin and Minchah because they are voluntary, so too, the sweetness of our obedience in that it too is voluntary, that is He has offered us a covenant relationship for which we have chosen to embrace.

Psa 119:103 How sweet to my tongue is your promise, truly sweeter than honey in my mouth!

Consider the attitude of Iyov,

Job 23:12 I don't withdraw from his lips' command; I treasure his words more than my daily food.

And Shlomo...

Pro 24:13 My son, eat honey, for it is good; honeycomb drippings are sweet to your taste.

Pro 24:14 Know that wisdom is similar[*ly sweet*] to your soul; if you find it, then you will have a future, what you hope for will not be cut off.

Torah leads to a stronger believer who is committed to the lifestyle Adonai has established, a lifestyle that is Kingdom based. A lifestyle that runs contrary to the world. A lifestyle that exposes the deception of the Adversary.

This relationship between the Word of Adonai, Torah and us bears the fruit of...

Wisdom – We are wiser than that Adversary and anyone who is not aligned and therefore in covenant with Adonai through Yeshua.

Psa 119:104 From your precepts I gain understanding; this is why I hate every false way.

Once you have tasted from the Wisdom of Adonai you should be fully equipped against any and every attack of the Adversary, for consider the words of David...

1Sa 17:45 David answered the P'lishti, "You're coming at me with a sword, a spear and a javelin. But I'm coming at you in the name of Adonai-Tzva'ot, the God of the armies of Isra'el, whom you have challenged.

1Sa 17:46 Today Adonai will hand you over to me. I will attack you, lop your head off, and give the carcasses of the army of the P'lishtim to the birds in the air and the animals in the land. Then all the land will know that there is a God in Isra'el,

1Sa 17:47 and everyone assembled here will know that Adonai does not save by sword or spear. For this is Adonai's battle, and he will hand you over to us."

Every false way is made known to you. If it does not align with what you possess, Torah, its Teacher, Yeshua

and its empowerment, Ruach Ha Kodesh, then it is a false way. Adonai has given you three witnesses attesting to Him and His way.

It all lays before you as I have shared with you today.

Deu 30:15 "Look! I am presenting you today with, on the one hand, life and good; and on the other, death and evil—

Deu 30:16 in that I am ordering you today to love Adonai your God, to follow his ways, and to obey his mitzvot, regulations and rulings ; for if you do, you will live and increase your numbers; and Adonai your God will bless you in the land you are entering in order to take possession of it.

Have you embraced His love as the Psalmist has?

Have you embraced the path that the Psalmist has layed out?

If you have, know that there is always more. Know that He offers an endless river of living water for our consumption. There are no limits to what we have available to us. Our ability to grow closer to Him is only limited to our devotion.

If you have not embraced the words of the Psalmist, you don't k now what you are missing. You will still have troubles in this world but you will have a peace that enables you to overcome those troubles.