
MALCHUT –BECOMING A GOOD KING

Father we come before you on this 46 day of the Omer count as we approach your annual holy day of Pentecost (Shavuot) and thank you for revealing the great meaning of these days. We thank you for teaching us about counting the Omer and the experience it gives us in working on each of our character flaws and getting rid of character weaknesses so that we might become strong, mighty noble and valiant men and women of God. Help us all become mighty men and women of God living by your commandments, statutes and judgments. O how we love your law and thank you for your law, the Omer and the coming holy day of Pentecost/Shavuot and we pray that you will bless this Bible study on this weekly Sabbath day in Yeshua's name. Amen.

Greetings, friends and brethren around this world. It may seem a bit outrageous to say “around the world”, but our DVDs, CDs and live streaming audio and the video streaming on U-Tube is a phenomenon that goes around the world to whoever wants to listen or watch. All that is necessary is turn on their computer and hook-up to the Internet. This is made possible by the new technology that God had made possible. **Daniel 12:2 -3**—“In the time of the end knowledge shall be increased and men shall run to and fro. That describes our generation today perfectly.

New moon report from Karaite Korner Newsletter. On Friday May 30, 2014 at sunset the first crescent of the new moon was sighted from Israel. The third Hebrew month, Sivan, began Friday night according to the new moon calendar. But according to the Jewish calendar the month of Sivan began the previous day and today is Sivan 2 and the Jews will be celebrating Pentecost on what they call *Sivan 6* because they gave only 29 days to the month of Iyar (second Hebrew month), but in reality the month had thirty days because the new moon was not seen until last night. This means they will be keeping the right day of Pentecost on Wednesday next week and it is on June 4th, but on the true Hebrew calendar (observed new moon calendar) it is *Sivan 5*. It is interesting food for thought, how men get on these different ways of thinking in how to calculate and figure and get confused and adopt these different patterns of figuring things. The more we stray from God and his word, the more complicated things get. We need to get back to the faith once delivered to the saints.

The Jews need to return to the sighting of the first new crescent of the moon in Israel as done in Christ's time. Their traditions which negate the law of God in so many cases, as we read in **Mark 7 and Matthew 15**, Christ rebuked the Pharisees because of their traditions which took the place of the words of the Law of God. The Jews still do this today. Although their calculations are close they are not always accurate and the annual holy days are not always right on. Generally they are a day or two off on the days of the month and therefore a day or two off on the holy days. Does God like that? God is a God of purity, holiness and tells us as his sons of Israel “Be you holy as I am holy: for I am the Lord your God” (Leviticus 20:7). **James 4:10**—“Humble yourselves under in the sight of the Lord and he will lift you up.”

We have been counting down the Omer since the second day of Passover, the day after the first holy day and the second day of Unleavened Bread. On Nisan 16 we began counting the Omer, week by week, and day by day. Now we are in the seventh week and the fourth day of the seventh week. We have been counting for forty-six days. Today is the 46th day of the Omer count and we are just four days away to Pentecost. Beginning at sundown tonight will be the start of Sunday— Day 47, then Monday – Day 48, next will be –Tuesday Day 49 and then June 4/Wednesday will be the 50th day and **Shavuot/Pentecost**. Pentecost is the day of the wedding feast, the day of the covenant between God and his people Israel at Mt. Sinai and the day the Law of God (Torah) was given to Israel who agreed to that covenant. Can you believe we have almost finished the count of 49 days? It seems just like yesterday we just got started: “Day 1, day 2—Week 1, week 2, week 3 and it is already week seven and the 4th day. These days have been an all out program of building character and becoming more like God and Christ. This is the week of **Malchut** which is the week of kingship, sovereignty, royalty. We are to become kings and priests in the kingdom of God, so we need to strive to become in our hearts and minds and attitudes. The fourth day of the seventh week we concentrate on the quality of **Netzach**, the Hebrew word for prevailing, overcoming, enduring, persistence (indefatigability), tenacity. Moses is a good example of all of these traits as he led Israel with love and patience under God.

Acts 13:18-24—“David is the example of kingship. Forty years God put up with Israel’s way in the wilderness. When He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land to them by allotment. After that he gave Israel judges for about four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet. Afterward they asked for a king; so God gave them Saul son of Kish for forty years. And when he had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom He also gave testimony and said, ‘**I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will do all my will.**’ From this man’s seed, according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior—Jesus, after John had first preached, before Christ’s coming, the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ”

David is a man who sinned and came short of the glory of God and he made mistakes. When he made mistakes, he really REPENTED! After David committed adultery with Bathsheba, God sent a message to David by Nathan the prophet. **2 Samuel 12:1-4**—“There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor. ²The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds. ³But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him. ⁴And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man’s lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.”

2 Samuel 12:5-12—“David’s anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, “As the LORD lives, the man who has done this shall surely die! ⁶And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity.”

⁷ Then Nathan said to David, you slept with your commanding officer’s wife. You stole his beautiful lamb for yourself. ‘You are the man!’ Thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘I

anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸ I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! ⁹ Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. ¹⁰ Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' ¹¹ Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. ¹² For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.' "

David really repented. He was what is known as a Baal Teshuva. The concept is based on after sinning, a repentant must admit his sin, be repentant and take upon himself abandonment of this sin in the future. A person who did this, and succeeded was called a '*baal teshuva*' – meaning master of return. The *baal teshuva* is one who is a knowledgeable person educated in God's Law but willingly sins and who after he sins, takes his sin to heart and repents with a broken heart and returns to his God asking in sincerity for forgiveness. *Teshuva* begins with admission or confession of the sin. The second step is exhibiting true heartfelt regret. It is the heart and the emotions that have the power to cause his regret to be acceptable in front of God who can see what is in the heart, whereas a human judge cannot see whether a person is sincere in his regret over a crime.

Read **Psalm 51** which is the Psalm of David's prayer of Repentance when Nathan the prophet went to him, after David had gone in to Bathsheba. It tells how David searched his heart and pleaded to God for mercy, to cleanse him from his sins and not to take His Holy Spirit from him, and to deliver him from guilt of bloodshed. ¹⁰ "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Restore your joy of salvation to me and open my lips so that my tongue and mouth will show forth God's praise and then I will teach transgressors your ways and sing aloud your righteousness." ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart – these, O God you will not despise." A king must be willing to be humble/meek and willing to repentant and not be proud and arrogant. King Saul became proud and arrogant. Most leaders in the world generally tend to be full of pride and lifted up and demand obedience.

Proverbs 17:10—"Rebuke is more effective for a wise man than a hundred blows on a fool." **Proverbs 9:8-12**—"Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; rebuke a wise man, and he will love you." ⁹ Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. ¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. ¹¹ For by me your days will be multiplied, and years of life will be added to you. ¹² If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, and if you scoff, you will bear it alone." Now that we have arrived at the seventh week of counting the Omer which we have been counting everyday for six and one-half weeks (46 days) on one of God's thirteen emotional attributes and it should mean that we have been making a lot of progress in polishing particular facets of our character. During this time we take the initiative to achieve all we can accomplish and

make the effort to do the polishing, introspection and soul searching as we explore and plumb the depths of these seven emotions that make up the spectrum of human experience. At the root of all forms of enslavement is a distortion of these emotions.

Matthew 5:48—“Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.” I think that we all have a ways to go and counting the Omer helps us to get on the ball and accomplish changes with the help of God’s Holy Spirit in climbing the ladder of perfection. Turn in your Bible to **2 Samuel 23:1-4**—“These are the last words of David. Thus says David the son of Jesse;

Thus says the man raised up on high,
The anointed of the God of Jacob,
And the sweet psalmist of Israel:
The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me,
And His word was on my tongue.
The God of Israel said,
The Rock of Israel spoke to me:
**‘He who rules over men must be just,
Ruling in the fear of God.**
And he shall be like the light of the morning when the sun rises,
A morning without clouds,
Like the tender grass springing out of the earth,
By clear shining after rain.”

The seventh week and final week of counting the Omer is Malchut – Sovereignty, leadership, and nobility includes within itself a blend of all seven attributes. We are to develop the ability to rule fairly, justly, and righteously. How righteous, just and fair are you in dealing with others— children, neighbors, brothers or sisters, your husband or wife? God says, he that rules over men, must be just, fair, and righteous ruling in the fear of God— knowing that as we rule we are going to be ruled. As we judge, we will be judged. If we are merciful, then God will be merciful to us. If we are harsh, condemning and critical then when we stand before God in the Day of Judgment, read **Matthew 7: 1-4**—“Judge not, that you be not judged. ²**For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.** ³And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye? ⁵Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”

God is perfectly fair. **Matthew 18:21**—“Peter asked Christ, Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times? Jesus replied, I do not say to you, up to seven times, but **up to seventy times seven.** ²³ Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. ²⁶ The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have

patience with me, and I will pay you all.’²⁷ Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

“But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’³⁰ And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.³¹ So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done.³² Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You **wicked servant!** I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.³³ Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’³⁴ And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.³⁵ So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

Exodus 34:5-7-- “Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.⁶ And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The YHVH, the YHVH God, **merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,**⁷ **keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing *the guilty*,** visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation.” Those who cling to their sins and refuse to repent remain guilty because they don’t repent. They do not get a free pass. The attributes listed here are attributes of the king of the Universe and we are to develop those very attributes ourselves.

God of Israel said,
The Rock of Israel spoke to me:
He who rules over men *must be* just,
Ruling in the fear of God.
And *he shall be* like the light of the morning *when* the sun rises,
A morning without clouds,
Like the tender grass *springing* out of the earth,
By clear shining after rain.’ — 2 Samuel 23:3-4

This is what a godly king is like. A righteous, godly king will be a blessing to everyone.

A man asked me this past week about forgiveness. His wife had been married before and had children by her first husband and who are all grown up, and all have gone their own way. All of these daughters have ignored their mother for years and had little to do with their mother. But now that the couple is getting older and more elderly and have assets some of these adult children are calling to ingratiate themselves with the husband to make sure they are included in the will and get an inheritance. One is a drug addict and another is a lesbian. The daughter calling told him he was not very forgiving and that God says to forgive others seventy times seven. He reply was: “I married your mother, not the whole family.” He requested the article that I wrote on forgiveness, “*A New Look at Forgiveness*” which I sent him. God says that he will by no means clear the guilty who do not repent.

Much confusion abounds on the subject of forgiveness. What must we DO to be forgiven our faults, when we hurt people? What must we do when we sin against God? When should we forgive other people who hurt us or do terrible things to us? Is there a time when we should NOT forgive others? Should we forgive everybody, all the time, even when there is no sign of repentance? **Revelation 21:6-8**—Apostle John said, “And He (Christ) said to me, ‘It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.’⁷ He who overcomes shall inherit all things and I will be his God and he shall be my son.”⁸ But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.’ ” This is the death from which there is no resurrection, it is final extinction. Those who do not repent will not be forgiven, but they will be cast into the Lake of fire.

2 Corinthians 7:8—Paul talks about a man who committed adultery with his father’s wife. He told the Corinthians that they were lifted up and proud and they should put that person out of the church so that he might repent. In this case, they did that and the man did repent and returned to the church after repenting. After Paul rebuked them with a letter, he said, “Even if I made you sorry with my letter, I don’t regret it for I perceive that same letter made the whole church sorry and repentant though only for a short while. Not that I rejoice that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led you to repentance. It caused you to change your heart, and mind and attitude, for you were made sorry in a godly manner that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation and is not to be regretted. But the sorrow of the world, unrepentant sorrow (sorry you got caught), that leads to death.” Verse 11- “Observe this one thing, that you Corinthians sorrowed in a godly manner. What diligence it produced in you. What indignation, what fear, what vehement desire to be cleared of this sin, what zeal, what vindication learning to be right with God again and all these things you Corinthians proved yourselves to be cleared in this matter and you are forgiven.” You are back on track to the kingdom of God. Keep an attitude of being repentant and forgiving of others who come to us with an attitude of repentance.

Galatians 5:13-19— For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**”¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!” Human nature—¹⁹ “Now **the works of the flesh are evident**, which are: adultery fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,²¹ envy, murders,^[c] drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!” Walk in humility.

“Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing had happened .”— Winston Churchill. Truth should change us and cause us to be introspective and be sure there is nothing evil lurking in our hearts. I say then: “Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit and the

Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” God’s Spirit will lead you to obey the Law of God. **Acts 5:32**—“And we are His witnesses to these things, and *so* also *is* the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.” If you don’t obey God, then you will not have any of his Holy Spirit. If you stop obeying God, he will remove his Spirit from you.

1 John 3:4—“Sin is the transgression of the law.” “To know to do good and do it not” is sin too. If we walk in the spirit, we will replace the fruits of the flesh. **Galatians 5:22-24**—“the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.²⁴ And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.” **Psalms 18:35**—“You have also given me the shield of your salvation; your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great” (2 Samuel 22:36).

A king who is gentle inspires those under him to excel and be greater and achieve more because of their love and gentleness. We must exercise self-control. Lack of self-control can do untold damage. Walk in the Holy Spirit with God each day and refrain from envy, conceit, exalting ourselves and provoking others. **1 Corinthians 10:24**—“Let no one seek his own, but each one seek the other’s well-being.” **1 Corinthians 11:27**—“let a man examine himself, if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.” **2 Corinthians 13:5-6, 11**—“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.⁶ But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.”¹¹ “Finally, brethren farewell. Become complete. **Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace;** and the God of love and peace will be with you.” Becoming complete also means becoming perfect—the whole complete man. We have to seek the attributes of God’s Spirit – Peace and Love, Joy, Faith and all the fruits of the Spirit.

Romans 13:8-10—Owe no one anything except to love one another, for **he who loves another has fulfilled the law.**⁹ For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not bear false witness,” “You shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”¹⁰ “Love does no harm to a neighbor (psychologically, emotionally, or physically); therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.” To love your neighbor, you have to humble yourself and be giving, not be centered on just getting for yourself. That is the opposite of love. People who lose their temper, criticize, condemn, or contend (rebuke) are not showing love to others. *Selfishness* is motivated by personal desires while disregarding the feelings of everybody else. Self love is not godly love. We are to be God centered and Law centered—centered in the Law of God. Sin is transgression of the Law. Love is to keep the Law. That is the way to count the Omer.

Pentecost pictures the kingdom of God and the coming of the Messiah. As we approach Pentecost, this period of counting the Omer and our struggle to overcome are synchronized beautifully, underlined and tie right in with **Romans 12:1-2**—“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a **living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God,

which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Verses 3-8—“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to *think soberly*, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

⁶ “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

Like Christ, the Apostle Paul and the disciples of Christ gave themselves in love and service. Most all the apostles died as martyrs giving their lives for the sake of the gospel. Lead with diligence. We are to serve God with spiritual gifts, whatever we are given, and use them to glorify God. If you are head of a department or business look after the best interest of your employees and your business.

Some years ago I interviewed Ross Perot, a Texas industrialist and graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. I was interviewing this five foot five dynamo about his amazing success. Hanging on his office wall was a quote that impressed me and I wrote the words down and hung a copy in our family room. Perot started out working for IBM and sold so many computers that IBM limited how much he could earn. Afterward, he formed his own company, Electronic Data Systems providing other businesses with data processing systems and services. In 1984, he sold to General Motors for \$2.5 billion. Outside of business, Perot was very active in the Boy Scouts and very concerned about his employees. If any of his male employees committed adultery against their wife, that man was fired. Perot was active in issues relating to prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action in the Vietnam War. He also orchestrated a daring rescue when two of his own employees were taken hostage in Iran in 1979. In 1992, Ross Perot ran as an independent candidate for the U.S. presidency and is best known as one of the most successful third-party candidates in American history. He has authored several books, including *Ross Perot: My Life & the Principles for Success* and *United We Stand*. In 2012, Perot wrote in an opinion piece for the *Des Moines Register*, “The fact is the U.S. is on an unsustainable course. At stake is nothing less than our position in the world, our standard of living at home and our constitutional freedoms.”

This is the Quote: “Every good and excellent thing stands moment by moment on the razor’s edge of danger and must be fought for.” Day by day we are on the edge and cusp of danger and always have to be careful, but everything that is worth doing is worth doing well and worth fighting for. The pull of human nature is ever present, but Christ says follow Him and walk in the Spirit. We can be grateful and show mercy and respond with cheerfulness when a person has come to see their wrong and has repented. **Romans 12:9**—“Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving

preference to one another; ¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² *rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;* ¹³ *distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.*”

I see so many people who do not do this. They are concerned about them self and about getting their respect. God says always, prefer others, be humble and kindly affectionate to one another not just sometimes when you are in the mood and feel like it. Give honor and caring to the other person which means you are not going to be sharp tongued and criticize. We all have human nature, and we all have a tongue. **James 3:6** says, “And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.” The fact that we all have feelings, emotions and can use our tongue can be doubly dangerous. A little loss of self-control and relationships are shattered. **Proverbs 18:19**—“A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.” **Proverbs 21:23**—“Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles.” Our tongue is not to be used to cut someone else down. There is a time when someone might need to be taken aside privately and gently talked to.

Rejoice in love and **Colossians 3:23**—“Everything we do we should do it heartily as serving the Lord, and not men.” What we are doing is all for the Lord and so we should strive do the very best that we can and as if it were directly to Christ. If you are working for someone, work as though it were Christ. If you have a friend or neighbor—don’t misjudge— treat them as if they were Christ with respect and love.

Luke 18:1-6—“Christ spoke a parable about the unjust judge “to this end that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.” Pray with patience and persevering (continual) prayer. **Ephesians 6:10-18** —“Finally, my brethren, *be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to **stand against the wiles of the devil.**¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but *against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*³ Wherefore take unto you the **whole armor of God**, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your

- **loins girt** about with truth, and having on
- the **breastplate** of righteousness;
- your **feet shod** with the preparation of the gospel of peace;¹⁶ Above all, taking the
- **shield** of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.¹⁷ And take
- the **helmet** of salvation, and
- the **sword** of the Spirit, which is **the word of God**:
- ¹⁸ **Praying always** (to the end until every breath is gone) with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”

The devil and his angels are spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. If a fiery dart comes hurling at you, realize that it is from the wicked one, Satan who stirred that action. Use all of your armor to defend yourself and quench all the fiery darts the wicked shoot at you. The helmet protects the head and brain. Your offensive weapon is the sword of the Spirit. **Hebrews 4:12**—“the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Paul asked the brethren to pray for him, so that he would be able to boldly make known the mystery of the gospel for which he was an ambassador in chains. **Romans 12:12**—“Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; ¹³ Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.”

¹⁴ “Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. ¹⁵ Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate (be humble/meek). Be not wise in your own conceits. ¹⁷ Pay no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it be possible, as much as lies in you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore if your enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. ²¹ *Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*” God is going to do the intervention needed and the judging. Let go of wrath God says, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay.” God will make all things work together for good and in his due time.

James 4:6-12—“But he gives more grace. Wherefore he says, **God resists the proud, but gives grace unto the humble.** ⁷ **Submit yourselves therefore to God.** Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, you double minded. ⁹ Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. ¹¹ Speak no evil one of another, brethren. He that speaks evil of his brother, and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law, and judges the law: but if thou judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge. ¹² There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judges another?” Resist the devil and do not repay evil with evil.

God has not called us to be judges. He has called us to warn the world of his coming judgment, but the judgment is in his hands. **1 Peter 5:5**—“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: ² Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; ³ Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fades not away.”

¹⁷“Likewise, you younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yes, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God *resists the proud*, and gives grace to the humble.⁶ **Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:** ⁷ Casting all your care upon him; for he cares for you.⁸ *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour.*⁹ Whom (you are to) resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.¹⁰ But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you.¹¹ To him be glory and dominion forever and ever.”

Humility is a powerful lesson—trusting in God, submitting to one another, not finding fault, manipulating, criticizing, complaining, comparing, competing and contending, demanding things be done our way. The scripture that says *be steadfast* also means be self controlled—your emotions, feelings, and appetites. Be watching because Satan is a very real fallen angel, a former seraph which scriptures verify clearly. His name, Lucifer, was changed to what he is now—the Adversary; the one who tempted Christ after Christ had been fasting for 40 days. Christ also said in **Luke 10:18**—“I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.”

This is the week of sovereignty, leadership, ruler ship, becoming like a king—learning how to rule. Last week I mentioned Benjamin Franklin’s autobiography and the system he created at the age of twenty to monitor and evaluate his daily progress, called the *Thirteen Virtues* that he wanted to instill in himself. Cappy gave me a copy of what she found on Internet about it and I want to add a little more of what I said in general last week. He committed himself to a personal program that consisted of living thirteen virtues. To keep track of how he was doing, he carried around this small book of thirteen charts. The charts had a column for each day of the week and 13 rows marked with the first letters of these thirteen virtues. He evaluated himself at the end of each day. Every evening he would put a mark or dot next to each virtue for each fault that he committed with respect to that virtue during that day. The goal was to minimize the number of the marks so he would have a clean slate free of vice. He confessed in his autobiography that he had more trouble with Humility than all the rest.

1. Temperance . Eat not to dullness; drink not to elevation.
2. Silence. Speak only what benefits others of yourself. Avoid trifling conversation.
3. Order. Let all your things have their place.
4. Resolution. Resolve to perform what you ought; perform it without fail.
5. Frugality. Waste nothing, be conservative.
6. Industry. Lose no time. Be always employed in something useful. (redeem the time)
7. Sincerity. Use no hurtful deceit; think innocently and justly.
8. Justice. Wrong none by doing injuries, or omitting benefits that are your duty.
9. Moderation. Avoid extremes.
10. Cleanliness. Tolerate no uncleanness in body, clothes, or habitation.
11. Tranquility. Be not disturbed at trifles, or at accidents common or unavoidable.

12. Chastity. Rarely use venery but for health or offspring, never to dullness, weakness, of the injury of your own or another's peace or reputation. (Avoid fornication/sexual sins)
13. Humility. Imitate Jesus and Socrates.

True leadership is the art of selflessness, a reflection of a Higher will. Healthy sovereignty is always kind and loving, warm and considerate and balanced with discipline. Humility is the hallmark of a great king and is crucial in healthy bonding. Humility is something that we all have to work on. A good leader is a compassionate one and his success is tested by his endurance level. For compassion to be fully realized, it has to have bonding which requires loving kindness. Let's finish out this Omer count with zeal, diligence, and humility. *Make counting the Omer this year really Count!*