

YOU SHALL COUNT FOR YOURSELVES!

23rd of the 1st month 2020/2021

Shalom all,

Wayyiqra/Leviticus 23:15-16 “And from the morrow after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, you shall count for yourselves: seven completed Sabbaths. 16 Until the morrow after the seventh Sabbath you count fifty days, then you shall bring a new grain offering to יהוה.”

As of today, the 23rd of the 1st month of the 2020/2021 Scriptural year, we are now on the 6th day of our commanded count to Shabuoth/Feast of Weeks/Pentecost, and each year I like to share the clear importance of our need to be counting, as commanded!

So, this year is no different and I am therefore sending out this message on counting, once again.

The clear command that is given to us, in **Wayyiqra/Leviticus 23**, is that we shall count for ourselves! And the Hebrew word that is translated as ‘you shall count’ is וְסָפַרְתֶּם – usephar’tem

which comes from the primitive root word סָפַר saphar – Strong’s H5608 which means, ‘to score, mark as a tally, record, inscribe, recount, celebrate, commune’.

This root word is used 161 times in the Tanak and is also being translated into English as, ‘tell, told, number, tell me, declared, numbering’.

It is from this root word סָפַר saphar – Strong’s H5608 that we get the noun סֵפֶר sepher – Strong’s H5612 which means, ‘a missive, document, writing, book, scroll, letters’, and is used to describe the **Book** of the Torah!

As we consider the clear importance of this commanded ‘counting period to 50’ we recognise how this is a great season that teaches us to continually be a ‘counting people’, who are consistently ‘counting the cost’ of following our Master and Redeemer, יהושע Messiah, on a daily basis.

Therefore, in order to be faithful and trustworthy, in being a ‘counting people’, we need to realise that we cannot do this without the Word of Elohim, as we are to be a people that are properly meditating on His Torah day and night, allowing His סֵפֶר sepher – Strong’s H5612, or **Book, of the Torah**, to teach us and lead us, each and every day, as we glean from the very clear words that are given to us, just as it was given to Yehoshua, in:

Yehoshua/Joshua 1:8 “Do not let this **Book** of the Torah depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you guard to do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and act wisely.”

We are called to work out our deliverance with fear and trembling!

Pilipiyim/Philippians 2:12-13 “So that, my beloved, as you always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much rather in my absence – work out your own deliverance with fear and trembling, 13 for it is Elohim who is working in you both to desire and to work for His good pleasure.”

Tehillah/Psalm 2:11 “Serve יהוה with fear, and rejoice with trembling.”

If we are not serving and working out our deliverance, with fear and trembling, before the face of our Master, then our deliverance cannot be made complete and, as a result, will not have what it takes to endure and overcome, in the Master.

In order to possess our lives by endurance, we must count!

As we carefully consider the clear call and command, being given in Scripture for us to count, in regards to the instruction for us to count from the morrow after the weekly Shabbat during Matzot (Unleavened Bread) to Shabuoth (Feast of Weeks/Pentecost), we are, or should be, clearly reminded that we are to be a set-apart people that have counted the cost of following our Master and Elohim, **יהושע** Messiah, and are therefore, not to give up the process of being properly built up in Him, but rather, we are to keep our eyes fixed on Him and run the race set that has been set before us, with endurance and complete commitment, to being steadfast in our set-apartness!

We are now only on day 6 of our count to 7 completed Sabbaths and as I have been counting again this year, while meditating upon the Word of Elohim, I felt it necessary, to once again, remind you all of the need to be counting, as commanded, and in doing so, be actively engaged in meditating on the Truth and earnestly taking a good look in to the mirror of the Word, in order to make sure that you know what you look like, in order to make sure that you are being properly equipped and dressed in righteousness!

Count 50 days, is the clear command that has been given to us and while we may only be at Day 6, I ask whether you have been counting correctly, so far, or have you already found that you had forgotten to count and are just being reminded of this now?

What we are able to recognise, from the period from Matzot/Unleavened Bread to Shabuoth/Feast of Weeks/Pentecost, is that by counting as we should, we are able to learn some critically important lessons of honestly counting the cost of following our Master, **יהושע** Messiah, each and every day.

This season of counting, carries great insight for us, as we continue to grow in the knowledge of our Master and Elohim, and it is of utmost importance that we, as a Bride that is continually being set-apart, in the perfection and truth of the Word, are making sure that we do not neglect our need to be counting!

While I was, once again, meditating upon the various passages that express the vivid imagery of counting, I decided to share again this year, that we are able to find as we dig a little deeper into the Word and take a closer look at the various Hebrew and Greek words that are, at times, translated into English as **'count'**.

The ISR Scriptures 2009 edition has the following English words being used, in reference to the idea of counting:

The English word **'count'** is found 34 times in 31 verses, with it being used 24 times in 22 verses of the Tanak (O.T) and 10 times in 9 verses in the Renewed Writings (N.T.)

The English word **'counted'** is found 29 times in 29 verses, with it being used 19 times in 19 verses of the Tanak (O.T) and 10 times in 10 verses in the Renewed Writings (N.T.)

The English word **'counts'** is found 4 times in 4 verses, all of which are in the Tanak (O.T).

The English word **'counting'** is found 2 times in 2 verses, all of which are in the Tanak (O.T).

From these accounts, we take note of 8 Hebrew and 8 Greek words that these words are translated from and therefore, I would like us to take a look at each of these Hebrew and Greek words, in order for us to expand our understanding, on the importance of being able to be diligent in counting the cost of following our Master and to ensure that we are doing our utmost to make sure that we are working out our deliverance correctly and be found to be counted worthy of His reign.

As we go through these various root words, I want to make it clear that the order in which I am presenting them, is not done in any specific or preferential order, but I am simply just going chronologically through the Word, to show where we find these English words and then looking at the relevant Hebrew and Greek words that they are translated from.

Let us therefore take a look at the 8 Hebrew words that we see being used to translate as ‘count, counted, counts and counting’:

1 – מָנָה manah

The first root word that I would like us to take a look at, is the Hebrew root word מָנָה manah – Strong’s H4487 which means, ‘*weigh out, allot, enrol, appoint, number, prepare, set, tell*’.

This word is used 28 times and is also translated as ‘*number, appointed, prepare*’.

It is first used in the promise that was given to Abram, in:

Berēshith/Genesis 13:16 “*And I shall make your seed as the dust of the earth, so that, if a man could count the dust of the earth, then your seed also could be counted.*”

We also see this root word being used in a Psalm that is titled as ‘**a prayer of Mosheh**’, which is **Tehillah/Psalm 90**, and in this beautiful prayer of Mosheh, we see this root word מָנָה manah – Strong’s H4487 being used, and it is translated as ‘**number**’:

Tehillah/Psalm 90:12 “*Teach us to number our days, and let us bring the heart to wisdom.*”

The title of this very powerful Tehillah/Psalm is written in the Hebrew as:

תְּפִלָּה לְמֹשֶׁה אִישׁ־הָאֱלֹהִים – Tephillah lemosheh iysh ha’Elohim

In English, this can literally be rendered as: ‘**A prayer of Mosheh, the man of Elohim**’.

The Hebrew word that is translated here as ‘prayer’ is תְּפִלָּה tephillah – Strong’s H8605 which comes from the root word פָּלַל palal – Strong’s H6419 which means ‘*to intercede, intervene, make supplication, and judgement made favourable*’; and, in essence, carries the meaning ‘*to apply to a judge for a favourable decision*’.

This prayer of Mosheh is a powerful prayer of intercession for sinful man, as he asks Elohim to teach man to number his days correctly, so as to apply wisdom and not act as a foolish sinner!

Mosheh was the first man in Scripture to be called ‘**The man of Elohim**’, after which, we see this being used in reference to Dawid, as well as some of the greatest prophets that brought the Truth with great confidence and boldness, without compromise.

All of these being a clear shadow picture of Messiah who came in the flesh to be the perfect sacrifice and the One who could faithfully intercede for us and cause us to be a people who are counted in Him. The Good Teacher came down to teach us how to number our days!!!

This verse in **Tehillah/Psalm 90:12** ought to certainly get our clear attention, when considering our need to be a counting and numbering people, and the words of this prayer are very clear and are words that we should be able to ask our Master and Elohim, and that is:

“Teach us to number our days!”

This is the only way that we are truly going to be able to understand the fear of Elohim and find a proper refuge for our lives!

And it is in this season of counting, that our Master gives us the ability to learn to count our days, as we submit to Him, our Good Shepherd and Teacher of Righteousness!

The Hebrew root word that is used here for ‘teach’ is יָדָה yada – Strong’s H3045 which means, *‘to know, to acknowledge, clearly understand, to perceive, distinguish and discern’*, and is a verb that is written here in the ‘hiphil’ tense, which is the causative tense which can render the meaning, *‘make known, declare’*.

This verb can also render the ability to ‘know by experience’, and while we recognise that יְהוָה certainly ‘knows’ all things, we also realise that, in terms of יְהוָה knowing those who take refuge in Him, or that He knows those who are His, there is a deeper intimacy being expressed here, or called for, by desiring to have the clear experience of a faithful and fruitful relationship between the Creator and His Created beings, who follow and adhere to His clearly prescribed ways for functioning as they should, by being faithfully obedient to His instructions for living set-apart lives unto Him!

In being able to be in a fruitful and faithful relationship, by being caused to number our days as we should, we can be effective in being a Bride that prepares Herself and calls for Her Husband to come.

The second part of this **verse 12** in **Tehillah/Psalm 90** is very powerful too, in recognising why we must be effective in **numbering our days**, for this prayer and intercession is clear – **teach us to number our days and let us bring our heart to wisdom!**

Counting correctly as we should, according to the Word of Elohim, will cause us to be like the wise maidens who have oil in their lamps and are keeping the light of the Truth burning brightly in our lives, on a daily basis, so that we are to properly bring our lives as a pleasing daily offering, in complete set-apartness, before the face of our Master and Elohim.

The Hebrew root word that is translated as ‘let us bring’ is בֹּא bo – Strong’s H935 which means, *‘to come in, go in, bring in, enter, to cause to come in, to bring near’*.

This being said, what is clear here, is that we must learn to number our days, so that we cause our hearts to have the True wisdom of Elohim!

We need to number our days, so that we may apply our hearts to wisdom and not be found to be foolish maidens that lack oil!

We need the wisdom of Elohim, and we are clearly instructed, repeatedly in Scripture, to be a people who get wisdom, and with all our getting, get understanding, for it is better to get wisdom than gold, and getting understanding is preferable to silver.

Ya’aqob tells us that if any lacks wisdom then they should ask Elohim who gives generously to all, yet this should be asked in belief without doubting!

What is clearly being implied here, is that to ask, get and receive the wisdom of Elohim, means to do what His Word commands, for it is the doing of His Word that we get understanding and grow in His wisdom!

When we are able to be taught to number our days correctly, and walk in the fear of Elohim, as we work out our deliverance with fear and trembling, and are growing in wisdom and understanding as we guard to do all He has commanded us to do, we are able to begin to embrace the reality of Him being our refuge and be strengthened with His joy that causes us to sing for joy, all our days.

The Hebrew word that is translated as ‘wisdom’ comes from the primitive root word חָכַם ḥakam – Strong’s H2449 which means, *‘to be wise, skilful, make wise’*. It is from this root verb that we get the noun חֹכְמָה ḥokmah – Strong’s H2451 meaning, *‘wisdom, skill’*.

Wisdom, at its core, speaks of one's ability to clearly separate the good from the bad, right and wrong, left and right, and up and down; and this we are to be able to do as we exercise true discipline – the discipline of separation!

To be wise is evident of one who is increasing in their learning, as he gives his ear – that is his full attention – to hearing instruction and living as a taught one of the Master:


Mishlě/Proverbs 1:5 “The wise one hears and increases learning, and the understanding one gets wise counsel”

In the ancient pictographic alphabet, this Hebrew word for ‘wisdom’ - חֵכֶּמֶת *hokmah* – Strong's **H2451** looks like this:




Het – ה:



The ancient script has this letter as  which is a ‘**tent wall**’, and carries a meaning of ‘**SEPARATION**’, as a tent wall separates two halves of the tent; or it can also reflect the outside walls that separate the people inside from that which is outside and so can also symbolise protection and security to those inside, while picturing a cutting off of those who are outside. Hence this letter can mean ‘**established, secure**’ as well as ‘**cut off, separated from**’. As a tent wall we are also able to recognise the picture of stones being built up to make a complete wall, having been separated from the world and built up in the master!


Kaph - כ:



The ancient form of this letter is  - meaning ‘**the open palm of a hand**’. The meaning behind this letter is ‘**to bend and curve**’ from the shape of a palm as well as ‘**to tame or subdue**’ as one has been bent to another's will (under their hand), as an open hand symbolises submission. This also can picture for us a palm or palm branch from the curved palm shape. The hand also speaks of one's work, or under whose hand you submit and obey!


Mem - מ:



The ancient script has this letter as  and is pictured as ‘**water**’, and also carries the meaning of ‘**chaos**’ (from the storms of the sea) and can also picture that which is **mighty** or massive as well as the unknown. We are also able to understand this letter as representing **the nations**, for the nations are often likened to the seas in Scripture. Knowing this letter represents ‘**water**’, we are also able to see how this can render for us the meaning of ‘**washing**’ or ‘**cleansing**’.

Hey – ה:



The ancient script has this letter pictured as , which is 'a man standing with his arms raised out'. The meaning of the letter is “**behold, look, breath, sigh and reveal or revelation**”; from the idea of revealing a great sight by pointing it out. It also carries for us the meaning of surrender, as we lift up our hands and submit to יהוה as we lift our hands in praise, declaring His authority under which we humbly submit!

As we consider these pictographic letters that render for us the term for ‘**wisdom**’ we are able to clearly see that **wisdom** entails a **separation**, as pictured through the tent wall.

We can render the meaning of the construction of this word, in terms of true wisdom, as meaning the following:

WE ARE BUILT UP IN THE MASTER AS WE SEPARATE OURSELVES FROM THE WORLD AS WE SUBMIT UNDER THE HAND OF OUR MASTER AND DO WHAT HIS WORD INSTRUCTS AS IT WASHES US AND ENABLES US TO LIFT OUR HANDS TO HIM IN CONTINUAL PRAISE!

Wisdom, at its core, speaks of one’s ability to clearly separate the good from the bad, right and wrong, left and right, and up and down; and this we are to be able to do as we exercise true discipline – the discipline of separation!

Wisdom is often used in the context of a skilled workman that has been equipped by the Spirit of Elohim:

Shemoth/Exodus 28:3 “And you, speak to all the wise of heart, whom I have filled with a spirit of wisdom, and they shall make the garments of Aharon, to set him apart, for him to serve as priest to Me.”

Wisdom, in the ancient pictographic text, can speak of a clear separation by the washing of one’s hands; and as we consider the design of the Tabernacle, we need to be reminded that the bronze laver was used for the serving priests to wash their hands and feet; and clearly pictures for us how we are to be continually washing our work and walk through being immersed in the Word that transforms us!

As taught ones of Messiah who are hearing, as we should, and are increasing in learning, we recognise that the command to count goes further than just the obedience of counting to 50, which we are to do, but it also teaches us to be sober in our calculation of following the Master, each and every day!

Our need to prepare and count, as a faithful Bride, is critical, and in giving a great wake up call to those who are asleep, Sha’ul says in:

Eph’siyim/Ephesians 5:15-17 “See then that you walk exactly, not as unwise, but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are wicked. 17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the desire of יהוה is.”

Only true ‘**counters**’, or those who are being taught to number their days, by the pure wisdom of Elohim, will understand what His desire is, and this counting to 50 confirms this for us, as we who walk in His wisdom, by guarding His Sabbaths, Feasts and all His commands, understand His desire – which is our set-apartness!

Tas'loniqim Aleph/1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 “For this is the desire of Elohim: your set-apartness! – that you should abstain from whoring, 4 that each one of you should know how to possess his own vessel in set-apartness and respect, 5 not in passion of lust, like the nations who do not know Elohim, 6 not to overstep and take advantage of his brother in this matter, because the Master is the revenger of all such, as we indeed said to you before and earnestly warned. 7 For Elohim did not call us to uncleanness, but in set-apartness.”

This season of counting, teaches us the importance of being set-apart and gives us wisdom in understanding what clear set-apartness entails, as we do not confirm to the pattern of this world, but are transformed by the renewing of our minds, in the sober estimation of who we are in Messiah, who has called us out of darkness, so that we can walk in the light, as children of light, who know how to count! Drunk people cannot count and those fools who are continually drinking of the cup of the whore, by adhering to wicked and abominable ways, can clearly not count. Those who cannot count, are like the foolish maidens who lack pure oil and will be rejected as not being known by Elohim!

Those who disregard the Sabbaths and Feast of **יְהוָה**, clearly reveal that they cannot count, as they cannot count to 3, 7 or 50, and if they continue to refuse to be taught how to number their days, they will not be counted worthy to enter the reign of our Master and Elohim!

2 – סָפַר saphar

The second Hebrew root word that we also see being translated as ‘count’, is a word that we should all be familiar with, especially in terms of the numerous accounts that we have looked at the command to count to Shabbuoth!

This is the word that is used in our instruction to count to 50, which is the root word **סָפַר saphar** – **Strong’s H5608** which means, ‘*to score, mark as a tally, record, inscribe, recount, celebrate, commune*’, which I have already mentioned at the beginning of this message.

This root word is used 161 times, and is also translated into English as, ‘*tell, told, number, tell me, declared, numbering*’.

The first time that this word is used, is in the promise given to Abraham, in:

Berēshith/Genesis 15:5 “And He brought him outside and said, “Look now toward the heavens, and count the stars if you are able to count them.” And He said to him, “So are your seed.””

While Abram was being told to physically look up and see if he was able to count the stars, we are able to see another powerful lesson being presented to us here, of how our eyes need to be lifted up and fixed upon the Prince and Perfecter of our belief, and how we are to be diligent in being able to ‘count the cost’ of following Him, in belief, as we guard His Word and keep His appointed Times, which the lights in the heavens were appointed for!

The Hebrew word that is translated as ‘look now toward’ is **הִבֵּיטָנָא** – **habbeyth-na**, which comes from the two root words:

1) **נָבַט nabat** – **Strong’s H5027**, which is a primitive root verb that means, ‘*to look, behold, gaze, observe, pay attention*’ and it is written here in the ‘hifil’ verb tense, which is the ‘causative’ tense, highlighting very clearly to us that **יְהוָה** is the One who ‘causes us to be’ and it is He who ‘causes us to see’ great wonders from His Torah, when we turn to Him and seek Him with our all, by turning away from all that displeases Him!

2) נָּ na – Strong’s H4994, which is a primitive particle of ‘**incitement and entreaty**’, and help us understand the clear instruction that Abram was given, by basically being told to ‘look **NOW**’

The root word נָּבַט nabat – Strong’s H5027 is used, in:

Tehillah/Psalm 119:18 “Open my eyes, that I might see Wonders from Your Torah.”

The Hebrew word that is translated here as ‘**open**’ comes from the primitive root verb גָּלַה galah – Strong’s H1540 which means, ‘**uncover, remove, to be uncovered, disclosed, exposed**’ and the Hebrew word that is translated as ‘**that I might see**’ is וַאֲבִיטָה veabbiytah which comes from the primitive root verb נָּבַט nabat – Strong’s H5027 which means, ‘**to look, behold, gaze, observe, pay attention**’ and it is also written here in the ‘**hifil**’ verb tense, which is the ‘**causative**’ tense, and highlights for us the clear cry of the psalmist here, as he earnestly seeks יְהוָה to open his eyes so that he may be caused to see the wonders that are contained in the Torah of יְהוָה.

Our ability to be **caused to look up and see**, happens when we turn to our Master, for then the veil is removed and the understanding of the revelation of who our Master is, helps us to be a people that are able to count and be counted worthy of serving Him in Spirit and Truth, as long as we stay in Him and keep our eyes lifted and fixed upon Him!

This Hebrew word סָפַר saphar – Strong’s H5608 (spelt from right to left) is with a ס - samek, פ - pey, ר - resh).

Now, when we see these symbols as written in the ancient pictographic script, we get a wonderful picture of what it means to truly count the cost of being built up in righteousness:

THE ANCIENT FORM OF WRITING THE WORD “COUNT/RELATE/TELL” – SAPHAR!



Samek - ס:




The ancient script has this letter pictured as , which is a thorn and has the meanings of ‘**pierce and sharp**’ and can also carry the meaning of ‘**a shield**’, as thorn bushes were used by shepherds to build a wall to enclose their flock in the night against the attack of predators. Another meaning would be ‘**to grab hold of**’ as a thorn is a seed that clings to hair and clothing. The Word of Elohim is sharper than a doubled edged sword and when we find that we do not grab hold of His Word and allow His Word to be our shield of faith, we may find ourselves being pierced through with sin and compromise!

Our praise we have for our Master is that in Him we are upheld forever, for He is the shield of our Help, as He Himself took the crown of thorns upon His head, bearing our sin and shame that we may be found to be shielded in Him!

It can also give a meaning of ‘**turning**’, for it is the thorn that turns us away from danger to that which is secure.


Pey – פ:



This is the letter 'pey', which is pictured as , which is an 'open mouth' and carries the meaning of 'speak and blow', from the functions of the mouth, and can have the meaning of 'scatter' by blowing. It can also mean sword or beard as in things with edges, as well as a region in depicting a place with edges or boundaries. It also can represent that which has been spoken forth from the words of one's mouth, as being established!

Resh - ר:



The ancient script has this letter pictured as , which is 'the head of a man' and carries the meaning of 'top, beginning, first, chief', as in being the top of the body or the head of a tribe and the one who rules; and also speaks of possession or inheritance that is decided by the chief. Our true life of praise unto יהוה, our Head, begins when we fear Him, for He is the beginning of our strength, and true separated praise entails a true fear of the One who is Chief over us! When seeing the construct of this word for count in its ancient form we have a clear picture of how cleansing entails true repentance through being able to correctly count and relate the Truth to others!

This ancient grouping of letters can carry various meanings for us, and in terms of being a people who count and who relate the Truth of the Word to our children, we realise that this can only be done when we:

GRAB HOLD OF THE WORD OF THE HEAD!

This picture, in terms of counting, teaches us that our shield and refuge is in our Head and Master, who teaches us through His Word to number our days and we recognise the following:

When we bring our sins (pictured by the thorn) and confess them (open mouth) to יהושע our Messiah (head of a man); then He is the one who cleanses us!

Guys, this is a season and time to COUNT – let us COUNT correctly, as we celebrate and recognise the very work our Saviour has done, in becoming our Passover Lamb, our First Fruit and the very Living Bread, of which we are His body, and in Him we are one, able to be presented to Elohim as a pleasing offering, numbering our days correctly until He comes!

3 – כסא kasas

The third root word that I want to make mention of, is the root word כסא kasas – Strong's H3699 which means, 'estimate, compute, divide, make your count'; and it is only used once in Scripture, being translated as 'count', in the following verse:

Shemoth/Exodus 12:4 "And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next to his house take it according to the number of the beings, according to each man's need you make your count for the lamb."

This verse forms part of the instructions that were given for the preparations for the Pěsaḥ Meal and helps us identify the clear shadow picture of these instructions, which cause us to look to our Master and Elohim and make a proper count of our lives, before His face, as we ready ourselves, as a counted and set-apart wife of the Lamb!

4 – פקד paqad

The next Hebrew root word that we are able to see being translated as ‘counted’, is the root word פקד paqad – Strong’s H6485 which carries the meaning, *‘to attend to, call up, muster, appoint, number, call to account, charge’* and is used in:

Shemoth/Exodus 38:25-26 “**And the silver from the ones counted of the congregation was one hundred talents and one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five sheqels, according to the sheqel of the set-apart place: 26 a beqa, half a sheqel for a head, according to the sheqel of the set-apart place, for everyone passing over to those counted, from twenty years old and above, for six hundred and three thousand, five hundred and fifty men.**”

The ½ sheqel was given by all the men above 20 years of age who were numbered or registered, as per the instructions that were given to Mosheh by יהוה in **Shemoth/Exodus 30:11-16**.

This was a contribution that was required to be given as atonement for their lives so that no plague would come into the camp.

So, this was a ‘tax’ and not of the freewill giving like the gold and bronze, and this, as we know, represents for us the price of redemption for all who cross over.

The term ‘everyone passing over’ speaks of those who have ‘crossed over’.

The Hebrew word that is translated as ‘passing over’ is העבר haober which comes from the root verb עבר abar – Strong’s H5674 which means, *‘to pass over, pass through, cross over’*.

It is from this root verb, that we get the term עברי Ibri – Strong’s H5680 which means, *‘the one from beyond, the one who crossed over’* and is understood and translated into English as ‘Hebrew’. From this word we get the plural word ‘Ib’rim’ which is translated as ‘Hebrews’ and this speaks of those who have passed over.

Abraham was the first recorded ‘Hebrew’ in **Berěshith/Genesis 14:13** as he passed over the Euphrates River into The Promised Land.

We too have ‘passed over’, as it is by the Blood of the Passover Lamb that we have been redeemed at a price and we now belong to our Saviour, as we are no longer our own and so, we give joyfully of our lives, in service to our King, as we are being built up together in Him.

Anyone can become a ‘Hebrew’, or one who ‘crosses-over’ – if they will simply repent and forsake their worldly ways and walk in His Torah, being immersed in יהושע Messiah, having ‘crossed over’ from death to life in Him and redeemed by His Blood, for He has paid the atonement price for our sins!


We too, who have ‘crossed over’, so to speak, have become ‘Hebrews’, as we have responded to the clear call of Elohim, who called us out of darkness into His marvellous light; and by the Blood of Messiah, we are grafted in to the Covenants of Promise with Yisra’ēl, and therefore, being ‘Yisra’ēl’ by definition, we are, in fact, also called ‘Hebrews’, as our father Abraham was, and are now a people belonging to Messiah!

The Hebrew root word עֵבֶר *abar* – Strong's H5674, in the ancient pictographic script, is written as follows:




Ayin - ע:



The original pictograph for this letter is  and represents the idea of '**seeing and watching**', as well as '**knowledge**'. as the eye is the 'window of knowledge' and can also render the concept of knowledge revealed!


Beyt – ב:



The ancient script has this letter as  , which pictures a tent floor plan and means, '**house**' or '**tent**'. It represents family and the importance of those who are inside the tent as opposed to the tent structure itself.

Resh – ר:



The Ancient picture for this letter is  , '**the head of a man**'. This letter has the meanings of '**head or man**' as well as '**chief, top, beginning or first**'.

From this pictographic rendering of one who passes/crosses over, we take note that the meaning given here can be understood as:

LOOKING TO THE HOUSE'S HEAD

Or

THE EYES OF THE HOUSE ARE ON THE HEAD

Messiah, is the Head of the Body, that is us, the assembly; which are being up in Him, as living stones that keep their eyes on the Head of the House!

Kěpha Aleph/1 Peter 2:4-5 "**Drawing near to Him, a living Stone – rejected indeed by men, but chosen by Elohim and precious – 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up, a spiritual house, a set-apart priesthood, to offer up spiritual slaughter offerings acceptable to Elohim through יהושע Messiah.**"


The pictographic of the word עֵבֶרִי *Ibri* – Hebrew looks like this:



The extra letter that is used at the end of this word is the letter:

Yod – י:



The ancient script has this letter as  which is ‘**an arm and hand**’ and carries the meaning of ‘**work, make, throw**’, from the primary functions of the arm and hand, and it also represents worship or giving thanks in the extending of hands as a gesture of this. The work of one’s hands is the basic meaning of this letter!

As true Hebrew’s we have our eyes fixed on the Head of the House, because of His work of redemption, as we look to the revealed arm of Elohim!

To whom has the arm of יְהוָה been revealed?

To those who have turned to the Master the veil has been removed and are therefore able to properly see the deliverance that our Head has secured for us, giving us the strength to look to Him and ‘cross over’, so to speak!

So, what we declare to the world, through our walking in the righteousness of Messiah, by walking according to His Torah, is that we are ‘Hebrews’ – ones who have crossed over so to speak, as יְהוָה the Elohim of the Hebrews has called us out of darkness into His marvellous light:

Kěpha Aleph/1 Peter 2:9 “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a set-apart nation, a people for a possession, that you should proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light”

The total number of the sheqels of silver was 301,775 as each one who was counted from 20 years and up was 603,550 and they would each give a ½ sheqel, which was also known as a beqa. 1 sheqel or 2 beqas is approximately 11.4g or 0.4oz and would therefore make the weight of silver being given, approximately 3440.23kg and based on today’s silver price per kg the value of silver that was contributed according to the command was just over R28 million (South African Rand) or just under \$2 million (US Dollar)!!!

When we consider the price that our Master paid for our redemption, we would do well to make sure that we are counted worthy to enter His reign, by holding fast to His commands!

A derivative of this root word פָּקַד paqad – Strong’s H6485, is the term פִּקְדוֹן piqqud – Strong’s H6490 which means, ‘**precepts, commandments, statutes, regulations**’, and another word that is derived from this root is the term פְּקֻדֵּי ‘pekudei’ and can carry the meaning of ‘**appointments, musterings, expenses – that is the numbering of things, records, assignments**’.

This word - פְּקֻדֵּי ‘pekudei’ is also used in Scripture, with the meaning of ‘**paying attention, observe with care and show a practical interest**’.

And what we see from this, is that it is of great importance that we pay attention to the Word and observe, with great care, and recognise, that ALL Scripture carries great and vital importance for us. This word, in relating to taking an inventory, also helps us realise that we all too must give an account to יְהוָה for all that He has entrusted to us.

Romiyim/Romans 14:12 “Each one of us, therefore, shall give account of himself to Elohim.”

The Parable of the talents from **Mattithyahu/Matthew 25:13-30** is also a reminder to us of this fact.

5 – חָשַׁב hashab

The next Hebrew root word that I want us to take a look at, is חָשַׁב hashab - Strong's H2803 which means, *'to plait, weave, plot, think, regard, value, compute'*.

It is used 124 times in Scriptures and is also translated into English as, *'intended, thought, the designer'*.

This root word חָשַׁב hashab - Strong's H2803 is translated as 'count' in:

Wayyiqra/Leviticus 25:26-27 *"And when the man has no one to redeem it, but he himself becomes able to redeem it, 27 then let him count the years since its sale, and return the remainder to the man to whom he sold it, that he shall return to his possession."*

In **verse 27** we see the instruction being given for the one who has no one to redeem his possessions! He is able to redeem it himself and, in doing so, must calculate the years since the sale of his property and return the remainder to the man to whom he sold it, in order to be able to return to his possession.

Now, while we have a Redeemer who has bought us back and has paid the full price, what we can learn from this practical instruction, that would have been literally carried out in the Land every Yobel, is that we see a wonderful picture of how we too have a responsibility, in our return, that has been 'paid' for by the Blood of Messiah.

That responsibility is simply this – we, as Yisra'elites, have the obligation to fill our proper position in coming home; and in order to do that, we must get rid of all the baggage that kept us away from home in the first place, so that we can rightfully reclaim what we have lost!

This is a wonderful picture of letting go to the things that we have been holding on to for so long, in order to get back to the true roots of our faith in Messiah.

The rich man who could not let go of his possessions, is an example of how so many are unwilling to let go of the things that they think gives their life meaning and purpose and, as a result, are unable to 'let go' of worldly baggage, in order to follow our Kinsman Redeemer home!

This period of counting is a period that teaches us to allow His Word to judge the intentions and thoughts of our hearts, as we allow His Word to do the necessary work in us, in order to rid ourselves of anything that is not of Him!

Ib'rim/Hebrew 4:12 *"For the Word of Elohim is living, and working, and sharper than any two-edged sword, cutting through even to the dividing of being and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."*

6 – נָסָא nasa

The next Hebrew root word that we see being translated as 'count up', is the root verb נָסָא nasa – Strong's H5375 which means *'lift up, carry, take up, exalt, and accept'*, and is used in:

Bemidbar/Numbers 31:25-26 *"And יהוה spoke to Mosheh, saying, 26 "Count up the plunder that was taken, of man and of beast, you and El'azar the priest and the heads of the fathers of the congregation.""*

While this root word, which is used 653 times in Scripture, is not typically one that is translated as 'count', but rather is typically understood as that which is 'lifted up and carried or taken up', and translated here as 'count up', we are able to identify a valuable lesson from this root word, in terms of our need to be a counting people, as we take up the proper responsibility of walking in set-apartness!

Tehillah/Psalm 121:1 *"I lift up my eyes to the hills; where does my help come from?"*

Tehillah/Psalm 123:1 *"I shall lift up my eyes unto You who dwell in the heavens."*

In both of these Tehillim/Psalms, we see the psalmist making it abundantly clear as to where and unto who His eyes were being fixed upon, and we take note that the root word נָשָׂא nasa – **Strong's H5375** is translated in these verses as 'lift up'!

This verb נָשָׂא nasa – **Strong's H5375**, we also see being used, in describing Dawid's ability of lifting up his being to יְהוָה:

Tehillah/Psalm 25:1 "A psalm of Dawid. To You, O יְהוָה, I lift up my being."

The Hebrew word translated as 'being' is נֶפֶשׁ nephesh – **Strong's H5315** which is '*a soul, a living being, the inner being of a man*'.

The clear image that we are given here, is that Dawid lifted up his whole being unto Elohim, revealing that he was intentionally turning his thoughts, emotions, desires, cares, anxieties, doubts and fears over to יְהוָה, by 'looking up' and fixing his eyes on יְהוָה and the Truth of His Word! Despite the torrid threats and the intense dangers that Dawid faced, he focused his attention on seeking and praising the Most-High, יְהוָה of Hosts!

This is a valuable lesson that we are able to learn at this time, especially as we see the world being so focused on wasting diseases and the fears that are arising out of such calamities that are being seen all over. We are to use this times wisely, in order that we be reminded of the importance of counting and keeping our eyes fixed on the Truth of our Master and Elohim, who is Master over all and in control over all, therefore, we who are counted in Him, need not fear the calamities and worries that the rest are being gripped by

When you are going through some rough times, do you find yourself intentionally seeking יְהוָה and earnestly give Him the due praise that you should, or do you find that your eyes are so fixed on the distress and difficult circumstances you might be going through, that you become so blinded by pressures, that you fail to see the Truth and lose you strength to stand firm in our Mighty Elohim and Saviour?

When you look around at the depravity and corruption of the world, which we are to be faithful sojourners in, are you looking up and fixing your eyes upon our Master and Elohim or are you falling prey to the panic of increasing conspiracies and threats that are crippling the belief of many?

Part of our need to count, is seen in our ability to lift up our eyes and fix them on the Prince and Perfecter of our belief!

So, with proper counting, comes the responsibility of lifting up our eyes and not allowing the burdens of this words weigh us down, but walk as victorious overcomers in Messiah, with eyes lifted high!

7 – רוֹשׁ rosh

The next Hebrew root word that we see being translated as 'count' is רוֹשׁ rosh – **Strong's H7218** which means, '*head, beginning, top, chief*'.

Once again, we see a word that, while being used 598 times in Scripture, is not typically translated as 'count', yet can identify with the reason for it being translated as 'count', in:

Bemidbar/Numbers 31:48-49 “And the officers who were over thousands of the campaign, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, came near to Mosheh, ⁴⁹ and they said to Mosheh, “Your servants have taken a **count** of the fighting men under our command, and not a man of us is missing.”

After taking vengeance on the Midyanites, the officers and commanders came and reported to Mosheh, the good news of how not one of the fighting men was missing!

There were no casualties of war!

When they went to ‘**count**’ the ‘**heads**’ there was none missing, and this was a great celebration that resulted in a huge freewill offering being brought from the spoils of war!

As I have said, this root word רֹשׁ rosh – **Strong’s H7218** is not typically translated as ‘**count**’, yet here, in this account, we take note of the ‘**heads**’ that were counted!

In other words, a ‘**head count**’ was done and everyone was accounted for!

As we trust in our Master, we too have the assurance that He promises that not one will be lost!

When they came to arrest Messiah, He spoke these words to the soldiers who came to arrest Him:

Yohanan/John 18:8-9 “יהושע answered, “I said to you that I am. If, then, you seek Me, allow these to go,” ⁹ in order that the word might be filled which He spoke, “Of those whom You have given Me, I have lost none.”

Messiah is our Head, and as we stay in Him, we have the firm assurance that our deliverance will be made complete, teaching us that our ‘**count**’ in our ‘**Head**’, that is Messiah, is extremely vital, as we trust in Him, stay in Him and guard to do all He has commanded us to do, for then we shall not be lost, but be counted worthy to enter His reign!!!

The only Head that we need to be counted in, is in our Master and Redeemer, יהושע Messiah

8 – מִסְפָּר mispar

The last Hebrew root word that I want to highlight, as being one that is also seen as being translated as ‘**count**’, is מִסְפָּר mispar – **Strong’s H4557** which means, ‘**number, tally, account, counted**’ and is used 132 times in Scripture!

And guess what?

This word comes from the root word סָפַר saphar – **Strong’s H5608**, which is the second root word that we looked at, in this list of 8 Hebrew words for ‘**count**’!

We see this word being translated as ‘**count**’ in:

Dibre haYamim Aleph/1 Chronicles 9:28 “And some of them were over the vessels of service, for they brought them in and took them out by **count**.”

This is part of the record of those who were gatekeepers and had the responsibility over the vessels of service, that had to be brought in and out, by count!

As we consider this, we can learn the vital lesson of how we are to be good stewards, as trustworthy servants of the Most-High, and in our continued ability to properly count, we are equipped to cleanse ourselves from all defilement.

So that we become vessels unto value, in the House of Elohim!

It is also used in the blessing of Mosheh, over the tribes, as seen in the following verse, where it is translated as ‘**numbered**’:

Debarim/Deuteronomy 33:6 “Let Re’uhēn live, and not die, and let his men be **numbered**.”

What Mosheh was speaking, over the sons of Re'ubēn, is that their names would not be blotted out from the book of life, but rather, that they would be numbered, or counted, among the rest of Yisra'ēl and be a living part of the body of Messiah!

This teaches us a vital lesson on how important the **'words of Mosheh'** are.

And by that, I mean that the Torah of Mosheh, we are to hear, guard and do, in order for us to learn how to count and be numbered in our Master!

There are certainly many more passages that I could highlight, where we see these various Hebrew root words being used, yet for the purposes of simply sharing a brief overview of the use of these words, in terms of being translated as **'count'**, we can glean great insights into the extreme importance of us being obedient, in being a counting people of Elohim!

Now let us take a closer look at 8 Greek root words that are also translated as **'count, counted'** in the ISR Scriptures 2009 edition:

1 – ψηφίζω psēphizō

The first Greek word that I would like to look at is the word ψηφίζω psēphizō – Strong's G5585 which means, **'to count or calculate, to compute'** and this root word is used only 2 times in the Renewed Writings and helps understand our need to be able who count with understanding.

On the topic of counting, and taking up and bearing our stake as we should, יהושע uses the following imagery in the following parable:

Luqas/Luke 14:28-30 "For who of you, wishing to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid the foundation, and is unable to finish it, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was unable to finish.'"

When we become followers of יהושע we may even ask, **"Do I have what it takes to finish?"**

And typically, the answer is always no!

But it is not our resources that are necessary, for Elohim provides all that we need for life and reverence.

What יהושע is talking about here, is total commitment – an enduring persevering heart – and not giving up when the times get bad or when the going gets tough.

Do not be one who gives up on following wholeheartedly after יהושע; for if you do, others will then look on and say that you began but couldn't finish it or follow through.

Let me tell you, that a true follower of יהושע does not shrink back and get destroyed, even when setbacks come, but a true follower is one who believes and is saved, one who lives by faith with works (Torah observance), even when it is rough and the chips are down!

Ih'rim/Hebrews 10:35-39 "Do not, then, lose your boldness, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the desire of Elohim, you receive the promise: 37 For yet a little while – He who is coming shall come and shall not delay. 38 But the righteous shall live by belief, but if anyone draws back, my being has no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of those who draw back to destruction, but of belief to the preservation of life."

Often, people are committed, but only for a while, then, through various reasons, they drift away and walk away from following the Truth and walk away from יהוה.

Do not be one of those.

Are you willing to pay the price for true discipleship? Are you counting the cost?

The other times we see this word ψηφίζω psēphizō – Strong's G5585 being used is in:

Hazon/Revelation 13:18 "Here is the wisdom! He who has understanding, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666."

This is pretty awesome stuff!!!

Our need to count properly requires us to have wisdom and understanding, and as we know, we are instructed to get wisdom and understanding:

Mishlê/Proverbs 4:5 "Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth."

We now begin to grasp a little more of our need to be able to 'count' and 'count' correctly, so as to gain a proper and clear understanding of the Word, so that we are able to calculate, and discern, what is the number and mark of the beast, who has attempted to change the Appointed Times (Feasts of יהוה) and Laws (which would amount to lawlessness), and caused so many to be drunk and unable to count correctly, causing them to not be properly grafted in to the True Body of Messiah!

If we do not properly count the cost of following our Master then we may end up being unable to finish what we so eagerly started!

And this is why this season of counting to 50 is extremely important in teaching us to number our days and walk in the wisdom of Elohim!

2 – ἔχω echo

The second Greek word that I want to show you is ἔχω echo – Strong's G2192 which means, 'to have, hold, consider, obtain, possess' and expresses an active verb which can render the meaning, 'to have (hold) in the hand, in the sense of wearing, to have (hold) possession of the mind (refers to alarm, agitating emotions, etc.), to hold fast keep'.

It is translated as 'count' in:

Ma'asei/Acts 20:24 "But I do not count my life of any value to me, so that I might accomplish my mission with joy, and the service which I received from the Master יהושע, to bear witness to the Good News of the favour of Elohim."

These were some of the words that Sha'ul spoke to the elders of Ephesos, who he had called to meet with him at Miletos, on his way back to Yerushalayim.

And in his farewell speech to them, he made it clear that his life was all about his service unto the Master and no matter what he would face, he would bear the witness of the Good News, despite knowing that chains and pressures awaited him!

These are words of an overcomer and words of one who had counted the cost of following the Master and did not let the fleshliness of selfishness hinder his goal and purpose of bearing the witness of Messiah!

Proper counting causes one to be an overcomer in Messiah!

Hazon/Revelation 12:11 "And they overcame him because of the Blood of the Lamb, and because of the Word of their witness, and they did not love their lives to the death."

Dying to self and living unto the Master is what true counting results in!

This word ἔχω echo – Strong’s G2192 is also used of those joined to any one by the bonds of natural blood or marriage or friendship or duty or law etc. and can express the intensity of holding fast to or ‘clinging’ to something, and is translated as ‘possess’, in:

Yohanan/John 14:21 “He who possesses My commands and guards them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I shall love him and manifest Myself to him.”

Well, when we understand this, it makes perfect sense what יְדוּשַׁע is clearly saying, which is that to ‘possess’ His commands mean that we are to hold them fast; that is, that we are to guard them! One cannot be ‘guarding’ the commands if one is not doing them!

3 – ἐγκρίνω egkrinō

The next Greek word that we see being translated as ‘count’ is ἐγκρίνω egkrinō – Strong’s G1469 which means, **‘to judge in, to reckon among, count’** and is constructed from the following two words:

- 1) - ἐν en – Strong’s G1722 which is a primary preposition denoting position, and is translated as, **‘in, on, at, by, with’**, and
- 2) κρίνω krinō – Strong’s G2919 which means, **‘to judge, decide, conclude, determine’**.

The Greek word ἐγκρίνω egkrinō – Strong’s G1469 is translated as ‘count’ in:

Qorintiyim Bēt/2 Corinthians 10:12 “For we do not presume to count ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.”

In one’s proper ability to ‘count the cost’ of following Messiah, as we should, we allow the Word to be the clear standard that judges our lives and not allow ourselves to be compared to or measured by the various compromising standards of others!

We do not count ourselves with those who don’t count themselves in Messiah!

The clear standards of set-apartness have not changed and when one begins to ‘count’ their lives according to anything other than the Word of Elohim, then they become foolish in their vain attempts at service in Spirit and Truth!

4 – ἡγέομαι hēgeomai

The next Greek word that we see the word ‘count’ being translated from, is ἡγέομαι hēgeomai – Strong’s G2233 meaning, **‘to lead, command, consider, account, suppose, think carefully upon, count’**.

This is used 30 times and is also translated as **‘governor, think, thought, esteem’**.

It is the word that is used in a verse that we all have heard many times, especially when facing tough times:

Ya’aqob/James 1:2 “My brothers, count it all joy when you fall into various trials.”

Ya’aqob did not waste time in his letter to make it clear we are to be a counting people; and when we link the concept of counting to Shabūoth – a joyful harvest feast of the wheat being brought in and the joy of the bread being made as a pleasing wave offering unto Elohim, we see how Ya’aqob encourages us to count it joy – the end result is worth it and we ought to go through the counting period, until our Messiah comes again, with great joy and perseverance!

When we look more closely at our Master’s commands, to count the cost of following Him, we recognize that it does come with some real heavy decisions to consider!

In fact, He tells us that if any one of us comes to Him and does not hate father and mother, and wife, and children, and brothers, and sisters, and his own life too, is unable to be His taught one; and whoever does not bear his stake and follow after Him is unable to be His taught one. Hard words they may be, but what He is saying in effect is that we are to put our total trust in Him and not in others and to do that may cost us some things that we will find hard to count as lost!

When we count the cost of walking in Him, we will be hated!

Mattithyahu/Matthew 10:22 “**And you shall be hated by all for My Name’s sake. But he who shall have endured to the end shall be saved.**”

As much as none of us like to or want to be hated – we must consider the cost of being made into the Bread/Body of Messiah, which is presented before Elohim; and Shabuoth is a picture of the Yobel release that will be fulfilled at The Second Coming of Messiah on Yom Kippur, where He will take up His ready Bride, and we have this very assurance by the fact that the sheaf of the first fruit offering has already been given as a guarantee of the full harvest that will be brought in

This word ἡγέομαι hēgeomai – Strong’s G2233 is also translated as ‘count’ in:

Pilipiyim/Philippians 3:8 “**What is more, I even count all to be loss because of the excellence of the knowledge of Messiah יהושע my Master, for whom I have suffered the loss of all, and count them as refuse, in order to gain Messiah**”

As a part of our proper ‘counting’ process of ‘counting the cost’ of following our Master, we recognise that we are to ‘count all’ that we may have thought that we did great, **as nothing**, and humble ourselves, in walking each day in humility of service before the Master and not be found to be boasting in the actions, or assumed accolades, of our past!

When we count as we should, we do not cry and moan about things that we think we have lost or are ‘missing out on’, but rather, we consider them as refuse and have no more need in our lives, in order to properly gain the fullness of Messiah, in pursuit of His righteousness and His Reign!

5 – λογίζομαι logizomai

The next Greek word that is also translated at times as ‘count’, is the root word λογίζομαι logizomai – Strong’s G3049 which means, ‘**an account or reckoning, to consider, take count, think, occupy oneself with calculations, take an inventory, estimate**’.

It is used 41 times in the Renewed Writings (N.T.) and is translated as ‘count’ in the following verse: **Pilipiyim/Philippians 3:13-14** “**Brothers, I do not count myself to have laid hold of it yet, but only this: forgetting what is behind and reaching out for what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the high calling of Elohim in Messiah יהושע.**”

None of us has ‘arrived’, so to speak!

We are all still to be running with endurance and not reckon that we have already attained the prize of our calling in Messiah!

We are to work out our deliverance with fear and trembling, and when one does not continue to count the cost, due to erroneously reckoning that they have arrived, they risk losing all that they had originally set out to pursue!

This word λογίζομαι logizomai – Strong’s G3049 is translated as ‘reckons’ in **Qorintiyim Aleph/1 Corinthians 13:5**, where we see Sha’ul, in teaching us what love is, tells us that ‘**love reckons not the evil**’.

The Greek word that is translated as 'evil' comes from the root word **κακός kakos** – Strong's **G2556** which means, '*evil, wicked, bad things, loathsome, wrong*'.

We are not to sit and recount in our mind all the bad and wicked thing that are going on, or have been done to us, for this will only stir up bitterness, fear and resentment and render one unable to bear the true fruit of righteousness expressed in loving-commitment toward Elohim!

What things do you consider and recount in your mind – the good and functional way of Elohim, as given through the Torah, or on the wicked and destructive patterns of a lawless world!

This also teaches us that when we walk in true love, we do not sit and recount everyone's wicked past and occupy ourselves with past failings!

Often, people relate their past wickedness and laugh and joke at the things they did, when we ought to be ashamed of our past sins, reckoning our lives as having been plucked from the fire, giving esteem and thanks to our Redeemer and King, **יהושע** Messiah!

Our thoughts and speech must not be riddled with the past reckoning and gloating of a lawless life, but rather be esteeming the good way and walking in it, with joy!

6 – **ἀξιόω axioō**

The next Greek word that we have as being one that the word 'count' is also translated from, is the word **ἀξιόω axioō** – Strong's **G515** which means, '*to deem worthy, consider, deserve, desire*' and this comes from the root word **ἄξιος axios** – Strong's **G514** which means, '*worthy, due reward, befitting, deserving*'

It is used 7 times in the Renewed writings and is translated as 'count you worthy' in the following verse:

Tas'loniqim Bēt /2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 "To this end we always pray for you that our Elohim would **count you worthy** of this calling, and complete all the good pleasure of goodness, and the work of belief with power, 12 so that the Name of our Master **יהושע** Messiah is esteemed in you, and you in Him, according to the favour of our Elohim and the Master **יהושע** Messiah."

The root word **ἄξιος axios** – Strong's **G514** which means, '*worthy, due reward, befitting, deserving*' is translated as 'worthy' in:

Hazon/Revelation 3:4-6 "Nevertheless, you have a few names in Sardis who have not defiled their garments. And they shall walk with Me in white, because they are **worthy**. 5 "He who overcomes shall be dressed in white robes, and I shall by no means blot out his name from the Book of Life, but I shall confess his name before My Father and before His messengers. 6 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies."

The reason that I have quoted this passage from **Hazon/Revelation**, regarding those in Sardis that are deemed as being worthy by our Master, is that we take note of the wording He uses here, in this regard, as He declares that He shall confess the Names of the worthy who have not denied Him, nor defiled their garments!

This fits perfectly in line with the words He spoke to His taught ones in **Mattithyahu/Matthew 10**, when commissioning them to go out and be bold ambassadors of the reign, making sure that they keep clean and endure, so as to be counted worthy to enter His reign!

The Greek word that is translated as 'defiled' in **Ḥazon/Revelation 3:4** is comes from the word **μολύνω molunō** – Strong's G3435 meaning, *'to stain, defile, soiled'*.

It is from this root word that we get the noun **μολυσμός molusmos** – Strong's G3436 which means, *'defilement, filthiness, an action by which anything is defiled and rendered unclean and unfit'*, and is translated as 'defilement', in:

Qorintiyim Bēt/2 Corinthians 7:1 *"Having, then, these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of the flesh and spirit, perfecting set-apartness in the fear of Elohim."*

The way we perfect set-apartness, in the fear of Elohim, is to makes sure that we cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit!

This is absolutely necessary...not just defilement of the flesh, but also of the spirit!

Yes, we need to cleanse ourselves from all defilement of spiritual matters that have nullified the Torah of Elohim and 'spiritual matters' that have denied that our Master and Elohim, **יהושע** Messiah, is **יהוה**.

We are to keep our garments from being stained or soiled by sin and compromise and cleanse ourselves in the Blood of Messiah and obey His Word!

Cleansing from defilement of the flesh and spirit, entails a proper coming out of that which is not of Him and separating ourselves from the things that can cause us to be filthy!

In the process of counting, we also see the need for us to be an alert, and active people in our counting.

7 – ἀριθμέω arithmeō

The next Greek word that we find the word 'count' being translated from, is the word **ἀριθμέω arithmeō** – Strong's G705 which means, *'enumerate, count, number'* and is used 3 times in the Renewed writings, and is translated as 'count' in:

Ḥazon/Revelation 7:9-10 *"After this I looked and saw a great crowd which no one was able to count, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes, and palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Deliverance belongs to our Elohim who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*

The innumerable number of those who declare the deliverance of Elohim, are those who have been counted worthy to enter His reign!!!

The vision that Yoḥanan was given here, highlights the assurance of the fulfilment of the promise given to Abraham, where his seed would be an innumerable number of those who are counted as one in Messiah!

8 – καταξιώω kataxioō

The next Greek word that I would like to look at, is the word **καταξιώω kataxioō** – Strong's G2661 which means, *'to deem worthy, consider worthy, count worthy, judge worthy'* and comes from the tow root words:

1) **κατά kata** – Strong's G2596 which is a preposition which carries the meaning, *'down, against, according to'* and

2) **ἀξιώω axioō** – Strong's G515 which means, *'to deem worthy, consider, deserve, desire'*, which we have already discussed.

The word **καταξιώω kataxioō – Strong's G2661** is translated as 'counted worthy' in Messiah's answer to the Sadducees, who questioned our Master about the resurrection:

Luqas/Luke 20:34-36 “**And יהושע 'answering, said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, ³⁵ but those who are counted worthy of attaining that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are they given in marriage, ³⁶ for neither is it possible for them to die any more, because they are like messengers and are sons of Elohim, being sons of the resurrection.”**

We see this word **καταξιώω kataxioō – Strong's G2661** being used again, when our Master tells us in:

Luqas/Luke 21:36 “**Watch then at all times, and pray that you be counted worthy to escape all this about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Adam.”**

We again see this word **καταξιώω kataxioō – Strong's G2661** being used in reference to the emissaries that were beaten for the sake of Messiah:

Ma'asei/Acts 5:41 “**Then indeed they went rejoicing from the presence of the council, because they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His Name.”**

We are to be watching at all times, praying that we be counted worthy to escape the coming wrath of Elohim, that is coming upon the sons of disobedience.

Our Master tells us that we are to bear fruit 'worthy' of repentance (**Mattithyahu/Matthew 3:8**)!

This further emphasises our need to be a people that are counting correctly, so that we make sure that we are not marked as being 'not worthy', but are rather, one who shall be 'counted worthy', to escape all that is about to take place and joyfully enter the reign of our Mighty King!

Watching, counting and bearing fruit worthy of repentance!

This is what is required of a productive taught one of the Master and it takes steadfast endurance and belief in all matters to do so, hence the need to possess our lives by endurance, by keeping our eyes fixed on our Master and Elohim!

The time of counting to 50 is about recognising the cost of having been rid of sin and lawlessness, as pictured through Pesaḥ And Matzot; and now, in this period of counting, how we are being permeated with the good leaven of the Kingdom, so that many will be able to taste and see that **יהוה** our Saviour is Good!

Learning to count, as commanded, gives us wisdom and understanding, so that we may be a united loaf/body in Messiah, which we will look at a little more closely, and celebrate, when we come to this coming Shaḅuoth!

Counting requires a concentrated effort and it requires a daily choice of choosing life over death, blessing over curse and the joy that this responsibility brings, must result in our alert ability to call many out of darkness – for we know the times – after all we can now count!

The only way to be a part of his body is to 'count'.

YOU SHALL COUNT FOR YOURSLEVES!!!

Have you denied self?

Are you following Messiah?

Are you taking up your stake daily?

ARE YOU COUNTING AS YOU SHOULD?

Choosing to serve יהוה and walk in Him, must be done with a sober preparation of one's heart, and therefore we understand why Messiah tells us to 'count the cost', lest we find that we give up when things get tough!

Shemu'el Aleph/1 Samuel 13:13 "And Shemu'el said to Sha'ul, "You have been foolish. You have not guarded the command of יהוה your Elohim, which He commanded you. For now יהוה would have established your reign over Yisra'el forever."

The Hebrew root word translated as 'established' is the word כּוּן kun – Strong's H3559 which means, '*ready, steadfast, established, firm, set up, determined, prepared*', and herein lies the sobering reality of those who refuse to guard the commands of Elohim and have refused to 'prepare' their hearts for Him – they shall not be established!!!

If king Sha'ul had guarded the commands, his reign would have been established, and in **verse 14** we read:

Shemu'el Aleph/1 Samuel 13:14 "But now, your reign is not going to stand. יהוה shall seek for Himself a man after His own heart, and יהוה shall command him to be leader over His people, because you have not guarded what יהוה commanded you."

Those who prepare their hearts, or rather establish in their hearts, to seek יהוה and guard all His commands, will be firmly established in His Reign to come, while those who do not, will not!!! This counting to 50 is a clear command and reminder for us to be a people whose hearts are being faithfully prepared and established to seek יהוה with our all!

As we consider all of the Hebrew and Greek words that we have looked at, in seeking out a better understanding of what it means to 'count', we are able to recognise how extremely important it is for us to be diligent in guarding the call to count!

While there are many more words that we could look at, I think that with these 8 Hebrew and 8 Greek words that we have looked at, along with a few others too, we ought to be able to grasp the clear concept of what it means to be counting as we should!

The ability to count and the responsibility of obedience that goes with it will lead us to Shabbuoth – and ultimately lead us to the final Yobel – where a Bride comes face to face with her Husband – therefore, let's be a counting people, amēn!

May our hearts be established in applying the wisdom of Elohim each and every day, guarding the charge to be a counting people!

Count as you should and you shall be counted worthy!

This is a season where we are to reflect on our much-needed response of obedience, in being a people that count, as commanded, in order that we can have the firm assurance of being counted worthy to enter the reign of our Master and be a people that are bold in their declaration of the Good News: יהושע Messiah!

YOU SHALL COUNT FOR YOURSELVES!!!

I will finish this message on counting, with another verse where we see another Hebrew word being translated, in the ISR Scriptures, as 'count':

Tehillah/Psalm 119:128 "Therefore all Your orders I count as right; I have hated every false way."

Here in this verse, the root word that is translated as 'all' is כָּל kol – Strong's H3605 which means, *'whole, all, everything, entire, throughout, wholehearted, perpetual, completely, continually'*, and comes from the primitive root verb כָּלַל kalal – Strong's H3634 which means, *'to complete, perfect, perfected'*.

The KJV translated this verse as follows:

"Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way"

Why I am emphasizing this word for 'all' is because it is just that – all – not just some and not even 99% but ALL!

The phrase **"count as right"** is written in the Hebrew as follows: יִשָּׁרֶתִי – yisharetiy which comes from the root word verb יָשַׁר Yashar – Strong's H3474 meaning, *'straight, right, pleasing, be level, upright, just and lawful'* and is written in the 'piel verb tense', which is the intensive or intentional form and can render the meaning, *'to make right, make smooth, make straight, to lead, direct, lead straight along, to esteem right, approve'*

The reason for me highlighting this verse, in terms of 'counting', is to emphasise the importance of being an upright Bride that is pleasing to our Master and, in doing so, are able to recognise that when we are truly being a counting people, we give our all unto Him! No half measures and no compromise – it is all or nothing – now choose ALL!!!

The poetic term that we see being used in Scripture, as a symbolic term of all 12 Tribes of Yisra'el serving together in unity, is 'Yeshurun', which means ***'upright one'***!

The Hebrew word יֵשׁוּרֻן Yeshurun – Strong's H3484 comes from the word יָשַׁר yashar – Strong's H3474 which means, *'straight, right, pleasing, be level, upright, just and lawful'*.

This is what יְהוָה has chosen Yisra'el (His called-out Bride) for - **to be straight and upright and walk in His Torah**, shining the Light of His Besorah (Good News) amidst a crooked world, because they know how to COUNT!

The upright ones, who walk in straightness, fear יְהוָה, because they can COUNT!

So, be upright and count, set-apart bride of Messiah!

YOU SHALL COUNT FOR YOURSELVES!!!

יְהוָה bless you and guard you; יְהוָה make His face shine upon you and give you favour; יְהוָה lift up His face upon you and give you Shalom!