

Rabbi's Reflections - Friday, April 24, 2026
(Early) Shabbat Shalom {{firstName}},

Day 20 of counting the Omer

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר

Baruch Atah Adonai Elohenu Melech Ha-Olam, Asher Kid'shanu
B'mitzvotav, Vitzivanu Al Sefirat Ha-Omer.

Blessed are You O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us by his commandments and commanded us about the counting of the Omer. Today is two weeks and six days of the counting of the Omer.

Follow up that prayer by remembering a blessing from the Lord and give Him thanks. **Hebrews 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude—through this we may offer worship in a manner pleasing to God, with reverence and awe. 29 For our God is a consuming fire.**

Psalms Psalm 51:12(10) – Part 10

Psalm 51:12 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

“Create, Renew, Restore, Sustain, Deliver...” these are the key words that form the substance of the next five verses (12-16) of Psalm 51. In these verses, David (and we, when we pray it to God) is calling upon God to do a change within. Today we start with the first part, “Create in me a clean heart, O God.” We already know, “It’s a HEART THANG!”

In Hebrew, the heart (Lev) is not just the organ that pumps blood. It is used almost 600 times in the Hebrew Scriptures. Scripture rarely treats the heart as just an organ of the body. “Libi,” my heart, is the place from which our life force emanates. **Proverbs 4:23 Guard your heart diligently, for from it flow the springs of life.**

Rabbi Trail: The movie “The Frisco Kid” has become a piece of Jewish folk lore. Although I can’t recommend the movie due to language and some content, I can recommend this scene. In it, Rabbi Avram Belinski from Poland teaches the Native Americans to dance like Jews while singing in hebrew. **Psalm 97:11 Light is sown for the righteous and gladness for the upright in heart.** “Lev” is the second to the last Hebrew word. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_vGrMQ_CUA End RT.

Better Rabbi Trail: How amazing is the human heart. It pumps blood for a lifetime while only resting between beats. The best human substitute is only effective for a few hours and requires a team of highly trained people to keep everything balanced up and functioning, while God’s creation performs (typically for many decades) with no (or little) oversight at all. End BRT.

That “clean heart” we are praying for, at the start of today’s verse, is only possible through the “born again” experience. **John 3:3 Yeshua answered him (Nicodemus), “Amen, amen I tell you, unless one is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”** That “born again” experience results in a new heart, a clean heart.

Psalm 24:3 Who may go up on the mountain of Adonai? `Who may stand in His holy place? 4 One with clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted his soul in vain, nor sworn deceitfully. 5 He will receive a blessing from Adonai, righteousness from God his salvation.

The seventh “Beatitude” (BE ATTITUDE) is... **Matthew 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.** Those were the words of Yeshua. Let’s give Yeshua’s half-brother, Jacob, the last word today. **Jacob 4:8 Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded!** Shabbat shalom shalom.

Day 20 of the Omer

Daily Bread, reading plan by Lars Enarson (<https://www.thewatchman.org/>)

Fri 24-Apr-2026 7th of Iyar, 5786

Le 19:33-20:7 Isa 55-56 Job 12 1 Jn 1 (Mt 13:1-30)