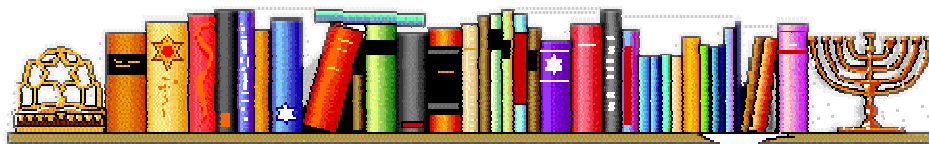


# Tree of Life Messianic Ministries

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**Message 5-2-09**  
**Acharei Mot-After the Death**  
**Leviticus 16:1-18:30**  
**Amos 9:7-15**  
**Ezekiel 22:1-6**

**Kedoshim-Holy Ones**  
**Leviticus 19:1-20:27**  
**Ezekiel 20:2-20, 22:1-19**

## **Introduction**

In the first portion Acharei Mot, the Almighty instructs Moses to teach Aaron more on his duties as High Priest and once again he is warned about the danger of death from coming too close to the awesome power of the divine presence. In our second portion Kedoshim, we read about what has become known in Judaism as the *Holiness Code*. It is a blueprint for a holy life in imitation of the Holy One of Israel.

## **Leviticus 16:17**

**17** "There shall be no man in the tabernacle of meeting when he goes in to make atonement in the Holy Place, until he comes out, that he may make atonement for himself, for his household, and for all the assembly of Israel.

The instruction here was for the High Priest, known in Hebrew as the Cohen HaGadol. It was his responsibility to watch over the working of the Tabernacle and later on the Temple. It was his sole responsibility to go into the Holy of Holies where the Ark of the Testimony was that contained the

two stone tablets, the rod of Aaron that budded, and a jar with some manna in it. It would be at the top of the Ark where the wings of the Cherubim covered the mercy seat.

**3727** כַּפֹּרֶת kapporeth {kap-po'-reth}

**Meaning:** mercy-seat, place of atonement, the golden plate of propitiation on which the High Priest sprinkled the seat 7 times on the Day of Atonement symbolically reconciling Jehovah and His chosen people, the slab of gold on top of the ark of the covenant which measured 2.5 by 1.5 cubits; on it and part of it were the two golden cherubim facing each other whose outstretched wings came together above and constituted the throne of God

**Origin:** from 03722; TWOT - 1023c; n f

**Usage:** AV - mercy seat 26, mercy seatward 1; 27

It was here that the Almighty, the Holy One of Israel, would come once a year to hear the sins of the Children of Israel recited by the High Priest as he made intercession on their behalf. Before the High Priest could do this he had to make atonement for himself lest he wind up being killed by the Eternal One. The High Priest's heart had to be right with the Holy One. There is no difference in this for us today. As we are going through the book of Leviticus we will be immersed in the sacrificial system. Some people get tired of the detailed explanations and the time spent in describing the system but the important thing for us to remember here is this system tells us how to approach our Creator.

He is the Holy One of Israel and as such we must understand how we are to approach Him. The sacrificial system describes how the Almighty called a people out of bondage and formed them into a people He could call His own.

**Acts 7:33** "BUT THE LORD SAID TO HIM, 'TAKE OFF THE SANDALS FROM YOUR FEET, FOR THE PLACE ON WHICH YOU ARE STANDING IS HOLY GROUND. [Exodus 3:5]

We can put ourselves in the place of Moses and Aaron and understand what it is the Holy One expects of us. Nadab and Abihu brought *strange* fire into the presence of the Holy One and they paid for it with their lives. What we need to learn from this is that we must approach the Holy One of Israel with reverence, respect, and humility. We must come to Him as if we were standing on holy ground.

**1 Kings 8:54** And so it was, when Solomon had finished praying all this prayer and supplication to the LORD, that he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.

Solomon prayed while kneeling before the Almighty. He lifted up his hands to Him and prayed at the dedication of the Temple. We are temples of the Holy One and as such we are expected to behave in a manner that edifies the Almighty. How can we do this if we bicker among ourselves in our congregations and we cannot get along? I have seen this myself and it cuts me to the core because at times I get caught up in it. We should all do our best to rise above our differences and remember that everything we do we do for Him – the Creator of heaven and earth. We are called to walk in the footsteps of the Master and to be like Him. What does that mean exactly? If we are called to imitate Him I would be in a spiritual manner *as well* as a physical one. What I mean is if Yeshua went to synagogue on the 7<sup>th</sup> day and kept the Sabbath holy shouldn't we be doing the same thing?

If Messiah kept the festivals of the Torah shouldn't we be doing the same thing? If the dietary laws given to us in the Torah were good enough for our Jewish Messiah are they not good enough for us? I am sure you can see where I am going with this. We should not toss aside the Jewishness of our Messiah or that of His Father. The Father chose the line of Judah to bring the Messiah into this world. The Jewishness attached to Yeshua cannot be simply thrown away. We must learn to understand the ways of Judah so we can learn to understand the Bible better.

We cannot approach the Bible with a Greek mindset. We must approach the Word with a Jewish or Hebrew mindset. The times of Yeshua were Jewish times. The Hebrew part became mixed in with the Jewish part as well as the Israelite part. Each one of those words has a distinct word from the Hebrew language. For Hebrew it is Ivri, for Israelite it is Yisrael, and for Judah it is Yehudah. Abraham was first a Hebrew when he crossed over the river into the Promised Land. His son Isaac was also a Hebrew and Jacob was both a Hebrew and the first Israelite when his name was changed to Israel. His son Judah was the first Jew and from the time of Ezra on is where we find the Jewish people emerging.

The reason I went into this is to show you our heritage – a heritage that has its roots all the way back to Abraham and even further back to Shem, the son of Noah and from Noah back to Adam. Any way that you look at it we are all connected despite our skin color or features. If we believe in the truth found in the Word of the Almighty then our common parents were Adam and Chava. Beneath the color of one's skin is the same red blood that flows through each and every one of us. This gets even more personal when we realize and come to understand the words of the Shaliach or Apostle Shaul.

**Galatians 3:28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Messiah Yeshua.

**Colossians 3:11** where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Messiah is all and in all.

This is who we are. Instead of being divided the way we are we should be rejoicing in how we can all come together as one. We need to focus on our relationship with the Almighty and stop focusing on the negative side of things. Don't worry about what the other person is doing. Concentrate on yourself and make yourself the talmid or disciple of our Master Yeshua. Once you do this you will be able to share with others the problems you see in their lives because they are not following Torah. When the time is right He will make a way for you to share what is different about you.

This is when we will be able to enter into the Holy Place and find the veil between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies gone and the *kavod* or glory of the Holy One and His Son will shine on us in all its power and we will live forever with them.

### **Amos 9:9**

**9** "For surely I will command, and will sift the house of Israel among all nations, as *grain* is sifted in a sieve; yet not the smallest grain shall fall to the ground.

Amos was from Tekoah, in Judah, six miles S.E. of Bethlehem. A shepherd (probably owning flocks) and dresser of sycamore fig trees; specially called of the Almighty to prophesy, though not educated in the prophets' schools (Amos 1:1; 7:14,15). These personal notices occur only as connected with

the discharge of his prophetic function; so entirely is self put in the shade by the inspired men of the Holy One, and the Holy One is made the one all-absorbing theme. Though of Judah, he exercised his ministry in the northern kingdom.

Ephraim, the northern kingdom was destined to be scattered among the nations of the earth. They were taken into the Assyrian captivity over 2700 years ago. Some believe that Ephraim is returning in our day and I believe we are seeing signs of this. There are groups that now represent Ephraim in one way or another. Amos prophesied that the house of Israel/Ephraim will be sifted among the nations. There they would remain until the time of the return was here. Is that happening in our day? The signs are pointing to it but as Ephraim returns from their captivity they must not forget that Judah has been standing on the front lines in a captivity of their own making though their identity was known.

I have seen some things within the Movement that have disturbed me. I have seen Messianic Judaism refuse to treat anyone not Jewish as an equal in all ways as Messiah instructs. This has forced the non-Jews or those who believe they are part of Ephraim to leave Messianic Jewish congregations and look for places where they will be welcomed as equals. On the flip side I have seen those who call themselves Ephraim do the same thing to those from Judah who want to stand with them. Jews are forced to submerge who they are for Ephraim. Neither way is what the Messiah desired from His people. **WE ARE ALL EQUALS IN HIM!**

All of Israel – the whole house of Israel has been scattered among the nations. The Almighty has called Judah back and is starting to gather Ephraim and those who have chosen to join one or the other. Instead of choosing sides we need to make it about Messiah **not** about Judah or Ephraim. Politics should not be an equation in our faith but it seems that is what is happening. Remember that the Holy One is sifting His people. Where will you fall when the final roll call is given?

### **Hebrews 8:10**

**10** "FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY TORAHS INTO THEIR MINDS, AND I WILL WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS. AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. [Jeremiah 31:33]

So many know this passage to be the *New Covenant* the Holy One is making with Israel. There is nothing new about the new covenant my friends. We need to get it through our minds that circumcision of the heart has its roots in Torah. It is the Torah that will be written on our hearts.

**Deuteronomy 30:6** "And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

Here is where the covenant starts. It does not start with Jeremiah it begins in Torah. Jeremiah carries it through. Torah points the way and we must learn to follow its lead. The Torah comes alive in Messiah. He is the embodiment of the Word of His Father. He and the Father are one and they become one as Torah brings them together and in turn brings us together. What more can we ask than to be like Him. Take His covenant to heart – I mean literally – take it to your heart and ask Him to cut away the outer skin so the Torah can take root in you.

**Isaiah 5:24** Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, and the flame consumes the chaff, so their root will be as rottenness, and their blossom will ascend like dust; because they have rejected the Torah of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

This is part of the sifting process. The chaff is removed from the wheat and is thrown into the air so the wind will blow it away. Then what is left will be burned. The world thinks they have all the answers to what ails us but the truth is only the Holy One of Israel has the answer. The answer is found through faith in Messiah and to be filled with the Ruach HaKodesh so that you will become a fire for the Almighty. Forgiveness from Messiah and acceptance by our Father is not the end of the road but the very beginning. The Spirit of the Holy One will fill you and help you to walk in the ways of His Torah. If I am about anything it is the coming together of one's faith in Yeshua and living the ways of Torah. When Messiah returns He will set up His kingdom and in His kingdom the rule of law will be Torah. True Torah is love - the love of the Holy One the love of one's neighbor and one's enemy. Messiah tells us it is easy to love someone you like but tough to love someone you don't. Bringing Torah and Messiah together is love because the Almighty is love.

***Holy One, Maker and Shaper, help me to live this day as if it were the first day of creation, and everything newly glistening to my eyes.***

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*Tony Robinson at [www.devoted.to/Torah](http://www.devoted.to/Torah) (sign up)*

*Mark R. Ensign at [mrensign@arn.net](mailto:mrensign@arn.net) (request to be added to list)*

*Ardelle Brody [[abrody@mchsi.com](mailto:abrody@mchsi.com)](posted on Mordecai's website along with his Torah commentary-an excellent woman's perspective)*

May the Lord bless you and yours... *Mordecai Silver*

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