

# Tree of Life Messianic Ministries

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**Message 5-23-09**  
**Bamidbar-In the Wilderness**  
**Numbers 1:1-4:20**  
**Hosea 2:1-22**  
**2 Corinthians 11:2-6**

## Introduction

This week's portion takes up the Journey of Israel in the Wilderness.

## Numbers 4:5-9

**5** When the camp is to set out, Aaron and his sons shall go in and take down the veil of the screen and cover the ark of the testimony with it. **6** Then they shall put on it a covering of goatskin and spread on top of that a cloth all of blue, and shall put in its poles. **7** And over the table of the bread of the Presence they shall spread a cloth of blue and put on it the plates, the dishes for incense, the bowls, and the flagons for the drink offering; the regular showbread also shall be on it. **8** Then they shall spread over them a cloth of scarlet and cover the same with a covering of goatskin, and shall put in its poles. **9** And they shall take a cloth of blue and cover the lampstand for the light, with its lamps, its tongs, its trays, and all the vessels for oil with which it is supplied.

Do you notice how a blue cloth is specified by the Lord to help cover these items used in the service of the Sanctuary?

**8504** תְּכֵלֶת tekeleth {tek-ay'-leth}

**Meaning:** violet, violet stuff, violet thread, violet stuff or fabric, (TWOT) blue (covering spectrum from brilliant red through deep purple)

**Origin:** probably for 07827; TWOT - 2510; n f

**Usage:** AV - blue 50; 50

The Hebrew word for blue in this passage from today's portion is *techlet*. This is the word commonly used in connection with the blue thread that is to be used in the tying of the tzitzit or fringes. Blue is to represent the color of heaven or the sky as we look at on a clear day. Sometimes when I look at clear day the color I see looks like turquoise. In the definition given for the word *techlet* it is also defined as violet or blue, covering the spectrum from brilliant red through deep purple. Blue, red and purple are colors used many times in the Bible in connection with God or royalty. In the things of the Tabernacle we can find meaning about God, His Son Yeshua, and His ways. In the color red we can find redemption through the shed blood of the Lamb of God – Yeshua. In blue we can connect with heaven, the abode of the Father and Son for now. Purple is the royal family sometimes seen in those who would try to imitate the Almighty and His ways.

The enemy would certainly not stop from imitating the things of God. He has been doing that since the beginning and he will continue on until the end when he is finally cast into the lake of fire where he will spend the rest of eternity. That seems like an oxymoron of sorts because of the wording I used "where he will spend the rest of eternity" as though eternity is somehow limited in its scope or time frame. Eternal punishment is something that many Believers struggle with because that does not line up with their idea of a loving Creator. If He is a merciful God then how could He condemn anyone to eternal punishment?

The way I look at the Holy One is that He is a balanced being. On the one hand He is merciful and on the other side He must hold sinners accountable if they refuse to repent from their sins and turn to Yeshua.

**John 14:6** Yeshua said, "I AM the Way- and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through me.

In this passage you can see that I AM is emphasized. This particular quote is from the CJB or Complete Jewish Bible and except for the use of Yeshua it lines up with other translations. My point is that David Stern, the translator of the CJB felt that it needed to be pointed out how Yeshua phrased this verse. By using the term I AM Yeshua would be referencing Himself back to His Father in the way that Moses was told to tell the Hebrews when Moses asked who should he say sent him.

**Exodus 3:14** God said to Moshe, "*Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh* [I am/will be what I am/will be]," and added, "Here is what to say to the people of Isra'el: '*Ehyeh* [I Am or I Will Be] has sent me to you.'" *I AM* is the usual translation but the more correct rendering is I Shall Be or I will Be. In other words the Creator of the universe is laying out who He is. He tells volumes about Himself in a few words. While we, as Messianic's, haggle over what we should call Him He tells us. *Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh* is what He tells Moses to tell the Hebrews. We disagree over the use of YHWH or YHVH or Yahshuah verses Yeshua and on and on. How are to come into unity when we each demand that our position be recognized by the other one while telling the other person they are wrong.

Biblical interpretation is what it is and winds up being the opinions of men when it all comes down to the bottom line. In other words I offer you my opinion about what Scripture has to say and it is what it is – my opinion. It is not cast in stone but is one opinion out of many that exist with some of us being right and some wrong or all right or all wrong. Biblical interpretation is not a science it is our interpretation. As men we are prone to error and we must learn to accept this and to stop trying

to force our beliefs on someone else. We are to lead by example – our example being how our Messiah lived His life and what He taught.

As Believers we are to become grounded in the fundamentals of our faith with our fundamentals being what the Messiah Yeshua taught. He taught Torah – plain and simple. He shot straight from the hip and He hit His target every single time. We won't have His track record but we were never meant to. It would be through our imperfections that He would shine through.

**2 Corinthians 12:7** So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. **8** Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. **9** But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Messiah may rest upon me.

Shaul does not say what the thorn in his flesh was but there have been speculation about what it might have been, but the truth be known what difference does it make because Shaul chose not to mention what it was instead choosing to share what it meant for him as a representative of Yeshua. So, how does this fit in with our Torah portion this week? Blue, red, and purple are the symbols of the Almighty which man took for himself and turned them into something the Lord did not condone. Those of you who wear the tzitzit remember when you look upon the fringes and see the blue thread there that it represents God while the white threads represent the Torah of the Almighty.

### **Hosea 2:16-17**

**16** "And in that day, declares the LORD, you will call me 'My Husband,' and no longer will you call me 'My Baal.' **17** For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, and they shall be remembered by name no more.

As we move from the Torah portion to the Haftarah portion we find a familiar section from the book of Hosea. These verses come after the ones where the prophet shared the word of the Lord with the people telling them of their punishment because they had turned away from the Holy One and rejected His ways. In the story of Hosea we find the Lord instructing the prophet to marry a harlot and then the children that would come out of this relationship would receive names that reflected how the Holy One viewed the northern kingdom of Ephraim.

**Hosea 1:2** When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, "Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD." **3** So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. **4** And the LORD said to him, "Call his name Jezreel, for in just a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. **5** And on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel." **6** She conceived again and bore a daughter. And the LORD said to him, "Call her name No Mercy, for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all. **7** But I will have mercy on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the LORD their God. I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen." **8** When she had weaned No Mercy, she conceived and bore a son. **9** And the LORD said, "Call his name Not My People, for you are not my people, and I am not your God."

In the beginning of the northern kingdom's separation from the Lord Hosea brought to them the word of the Lord where Ephraim learned what their destiny was to be for the time that the Almighty determined. It would be over 2700 years before Ephraim would begin to wake up from their slumber and to find out who they really were. They were not Gentiles even though the Lord had given them over to become like Gentiles or the Nations. What their hearts desired they were given and they lost 2700 years. In their awakening they still hold to being different than Judah, whom the Lord allowed to keep their identity.

Ephraim would still keep separate from Judah insisting that they had to find the right path to follow because Judah had spent 70 years in Babylon and had been corrupted as well. That is true but it is also true that Judah had been given the Torah, customs and traditions to keep safe throughout their exile so they could pass them on to all who were part of the true Israel of the Lord. This, "I am Ephraim so I will set my own course" or "I am Judah and you must do things our way because we have been the lawgiver's."

**Genesis 49:10** The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him *shall be* the obedience of the people.

Many see this verse as being very prophetic and view it as talking about the scepter, indicating leadership or kingship, lawgiver as in Torah, and Shiloh or the Messiah. Shiloh is taken as being a Messianic title. The point I am trying to bring out here is that Judah was given the leadership role because of the punishment of Ephraim. Ephraim should look to Judah as to the road they are to walk. Granted that Judaism has different interpretations of that road but it is up to us with the Ruach's help to be able discern what is right according to what the Word has to say.

As Ephraim awakens they are choosing to follow a different road that may bring them more pain like before. I am not saying that Judah is any better but they have been walking this road for a lot longer than Ephraim. To throw out all things that are Jewish just to develop an Ephraimite identity makes not sense at all to me. What I see it doing is continuing the division between the two houses of Israel. Of course Messianic Judah has added to this rift by their refusal to accept non-Jews or Gentiles as equals preferring to identify people as Messianic Jew or Gentile. I prefer the title Israelite where unity is stressed and the differences are overlooked because isn't this what the Scripture tells us?

**Galatians 3:28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are **all one in Messiah Yeshua.**

**Colossians 3:11** Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; **but Messiah is all,** and in all.

Our overall identity is to be found in Messiah. It is not to be found in Judah or Ephraim or any one of the other tribes. While the twelve tribes play a role in the Olam Haba or the World to Come, the main point is that we will be seen primarily for our unity in Messiah something we do not have in our day. If we have anything it is a lack of unity. It would the harder we try to come together the further apart we are getting. Is the unification of the two groups up to us or will this uniting of Israel be left to the Lord Almighty?

**Ezekiel 37:19** say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am about to take the stick of Joseph (that is in the hand of Ephraim) and the tribes of Israel associated with him. And I will join with it the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, **that they may be one in my hand.**

It will be the Lord who will do the unifying. This does not mean we should stop trying but in order to make this work, until Messiah comes, we need to change the way we think. We need to think what can bring us together not what will drive us apart. We should strive to become the people that He desires to be joined with.

### **2 Corinthians 11:2-6**

**2** For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Messiah. **3** But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Chavah by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Messiah. **4** For if someone comes and proclaims another Yeshua than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough. **5** Indeed, I consider that I am not in the least inferior to these super-apostles. **6** Even if I am unskilled in speaking, I am not so in knowledge; indeed, in every way we have made this plain to you in all things.

The Shaliach Shaul brings the Prophet Hosea's words from the Lord to life in his letter to the congregation at Corinth. He wants them to understand who they are in Messiah. They should be seeing themselves as part of the betrothed of Messiah but they have been deceived by teachers who have come to them bringing a message of another Yeshua and a different gospel from the one he had taught them.

It would seem from his words that he had high hopes for the congregation at Corinth but they had allowed themselves to be led down a road away from the truth. It is sad when this happens but this will be one of the signs of the end times.

**2 Peter 2:1** But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

These things will grow and grow and people will grab hold of whatever sounds good to them. Well, think about it, wouldn't it be easier to follow teachings that promise you everything instead of one that tells you that only one out of seven congregations will be kept from the time of trial? Read about the seven congregations in Revelation and see what it says there. You cannot miss what is being said. Are you ready for what is coming in case you are not in the congregation of Philadelphia that He keeps from the time of trial? I think many will turn from Messiah when they find out they will have be refined in the fire of the tribulation because they had waived in their faith in Messiah and had lost their way and had turned from the Torah of the Holy One of Israel. I am going to close with one of my favorite Scriptures.

**Joshua 24:15** And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**"

***And when we feel we are lost in a wilderness, we can remember that Moses in the wilderness heard the voice of the Almighty; perhaps we can, too.***

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

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