

Tree of Life Messianic Ministries

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Message 6-13-09
Be Ha'alotecha-In Your Making Going Up
Numbers 8:1-12:16
Zechariah 2:10 (14)-4:7
Revelation 15:2-4

Introduction

The Religious vision is one that all may participate in: it is not the property of an elite group as evidenced in this week's portion by Eldad and Medad and the Elders of Israel.

Numbers 10:1-12

10:1 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **2** "Make two silver trumpets. Of hammered work you shall make them, and you shall use them for summoning the congregation and for breaking camp. **3** And when both are blown, all the congregation shall gather themselves to you at the entrance of the tent of meeting. **4** But if they blow only one, then the chiefs, the heads of the tribes of Israel, shall gather themselves to you. **5** When you blow an alarm, the camps that are on the east side shall set out. **6** And when you blow an alarm the second time, the camps that are on the south side shall set out. An alarm is to be blown whenever they are to set out. **7** But when the assembly is to be gathered together, you shall blow a long blast, but you shall not sound an alarm. **8** And the sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow the trumpets. The trumpets shall be to you for a perpetual statute throughout your generations. **9** And when you go to war in your land against the adversary who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, that you may be remembered before the LORD your God, and you shall be saved from your enemies. **10** On the day of your gladness also, and at your appointed feasts and at the beginnings of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings. They shall be a reminder of you before your God: I am the LORD your God." **11** In the second year, in the second month, on the twentieth day of the month, the cloud lifted from over the tabernacle of the testimony, **12** and the people of Israel set out by stages from the wilderness of Sinai. And the cloud settled down in the wilderness of Paran.

2689 חֲצוֹצְרָה *chatsotserah* {khats-o-tser-aw'}

Meaning: trumpet, clarion

Origin: by reduplication from 02690; TWOT - 726a; n f

Usage: AV - trumpet 29; 29

There are no notes for this verse.

There has been confusion in the Messianic Movement over when the shofar is to be used and the silver trumpets. In this passages from Numbers we see specific instructions regarding the use of the two silver trumpets. The word trumpet should not be confused with the Hebrew word shofar as many in the Movement wind up blowing shofar's all the time and there are distinct times when the two silver trumpets are blown and we should make note that it is always two silver trumpets that are blown. I want to share with you some of the Rabbinic thoughts on the number two since it has obvious importance in the Torah and in the Apostolic Scriptures.

Now please keep in mind that this is Rabbinic thinking and not Scripture. You can choose to accept it or reject it or take some time to ponder it.

Rabbi Chananiah ben Tradion said, "If two sit together and no words of the Torah are spoken between them, they are a session of scoffers...But if two sit together and the words of the Torah are spoken between them, the Divine Presence rests between them."

Two types of impulse beat within a person: one brings health and the other disease. The stronger conquers.

Man tends to God in two ways: by gifts to the poor and generosity on the Sabbath and Festivals.

Two creatures are blinded in man – one intended for this life, and the other for the life hereafter.

Two types of garments were given to the soul: the body and the light of knowledge.

Until the Temple was built, the world rested on a shaky throne with only two legs. After the Temple was built, the world stood firm, its well-being assured.

The Number Two in Jewish Life

When the Hebrew people accepted the words of the Torah, they recited these two words: Na'aseh ve'nishma – We will do and obey...Exodus 24:7.

There are two parts to tefillin (phylacteries): the hand piece and the head piece. This is based upon the verse 'You shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be for frontlets between your eyes'...Deuteronomy 6:8.

The Ten Words, with some slight variation, are mentioned two times in the Torah. Once it is mentioned in Exodus 20 and the other time in Deuteronomy 5:7.

In order to testify effectively in a Jewish court of law, called a Beit Din, two witnesses are required. This law is based upon the following Biblical verse: 'At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is to die be put to death'...Deuteronomy 8:6.

The recitation of the blessing over the wine (the Kiddush) on both the Sabbath and Festivals is to occur two times, one before the evening meal and the second time before the afternoon meal.

I share these things with you so you can get a glimpse into the mind of the Jewish people so you can see their connection to the Torah – a connection we should all strive for – whether we are Jewish or not. Israel is not just a Jewish place but one where all twelve tribes come together under the banner of Israel. Israel is more than being born Jewish. Being born into Israel does not guarantee us anything, as if we believed we were entitled to something special. Even the Jew can be cut off from Israel because of his denial of Messiah but when he comes to faith in Messiah he can be grafted back into the tree that is Israel once again. Into this tree is also grafted the rest of the ten tribes of Israel along with the true Gentile, one who was never connected to any of the twelve tribes.

Romans 11:17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, **18** do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. **19** Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." **20** That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. **21** For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. **22** Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. **23** And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. **24** For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree. **25** Lest you be wise in your own sight, I want you to understand this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

The Apostle Shaul taught about who Israel was two thousand years ago and that teaching still rings true down to our present day. It is a Biblical truth that cannot be undone by man's interpretation of it but I am not for rejecting Messianic Jews because they are blinded to the truth in the same way that I will not reject those who believe they are from Ephraim. My main problem with the Ephraimite teaching is that if everyone who does not believe they are in some way connected to Judah then they must be from Ephraim. If that was true then who are the companions spoken about in Ezekiel 37?

Ezekiel 37:19 "say to them, `Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand.'" **20** "And the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes.

Since Ephraim was scattered into the nations and destined to become like them the Almighty used them to seed the nations where He scattered them to in much the same way He used the Jewish people when He exiled them. In Ephraim's case He took away their identity because they did not think much of it, almost in the same way that Esau discarded his birthright. He would bring them back but they would have others who became attached to them who were not of Ephraim in the same way that there are those who have attached themselves to Judah who are not of Judah. This does not make them any less than a natural branch as Shaul points out but we must keep everything properly balanced. It is not about being of Judah or of Ephraim. It has everything to do with being part of Israel – One Nation, One People! Two houses whom the Almighty has brought back together and made into One!

Zechariah 2:14-4:7 (Tanach) 2:10-13 (Christian Bible)

10 Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the LORD. **11** And many nations shall join themselves to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. **12** And the LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem." **13** Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

This passage from Zechariah continues with this same thought about the nations who will join themselves to the Almighty in the day He comes to dwell once more in our midst. We are told that we will sing and rejoice once again as Israel did when the Almighty brought them out of Egypt. Then they were a rag-tag group of Hebrew slaves that He would form into a nation – the nation of Israel, a people that would never again be removed from the face of the earth and they would stand out from among the rest of the nations of the earth. Of all the civilizations that have come and gone from the face of the earth Israel has existed even without a land of their own. Now they are once again back in the land that the Holy One had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Once again they do not hold all of the land that was promised to them. They have not driven out the Canaanites' of today as they did not do completely the first time out.

Deuteronomy 9:1 "Hear, O Israel: you are to cross over the Jordan today, to go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than yourselves, cities great and fortified up to heaven, **2** a people great and tall, the sons of the Anakim, whom you know, and of whom you have heard it said, 'Who can stand before the sons of Anak?' **3** Know therefore today that he who goes over before you as a consuming fire is the LORD your God. He will destroy them and subdue them before you. So you shall drive them out and make them perish quickly, as the LORD has promised you.

When Israel obeyed Him the Mighty One of Israel was there with them helping them to cleanse the land and prepare the way for His people to take hold of it. When they failed to follow in His Torah they could not remove all of the nations that inhabited the land that the Almighty had told them to drive out and destroy. The harshness of that command makes people doubt that the God of the Tanach or "Old" Testament is the same one as the God in the "New" Testament. Let me be very clear about this: they are one and the same. The God that we see in the Bible is at once a God of love and mercy as He is a God who is jealous and will not share His people with any other gods. Make not of the fact that I said gods with a small g because no other god is like the one true God.

He is not a universal god who is the same god of the Moslem or any other religion that exists. He is the God of Israel – a united, no longer divided, Israel.

Revelation 15:2-4

2 And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire--and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. **3** And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! **4** Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."

This is the day when all the nations of the earth will be as one people standing before the Holy One of Israel in unison. It will not be about being a Messianic Jew, Messianic Israelite, Nazarene, Sacred Name, Sabbatarian, etc. If I left anyone out I apologize but the labels keep growing for a movement that is not that big. If we took all the energy we put into our differences and put them to work bringing all of us together think of what we could have? We would have what we read about here in Revelation. Revelation is the final book of the Bible, as we know it. At one time Revelation was not going to be in the Bible because the Church fathers thought it was too violent and would upset people. Some say that ignorance is bliss but I say that ignorance is turning a blind eye to what is going on all around us.

As I write this message there are daily reports of a spreading swine flu epidemic getting ready to break out throughout the world. This comes on the heels of the economic meltdown throughout the world that is changing the way things are getting done as companies throw aside employees who have given their lives to their jobs. Retirement funds are being wiped out to the point that many companies are chucking these to the side of the road as fast as they can. Are we in the last days at the point when Yeshua is ready to return? I don't think so – not yet at least. According to the book of Revelation and the rest of the Prophets more has to take place before that happens but we are getting a taste of what it will be like.

We believe that we are nearing the peak of our society when the truth is we are falling to the bottom. I knew this to be true because as I write this I was reading the newspaper this morning and on the front page there was a photo of two women being married by another woman, all of whom were lesbians. This was all legal as another state in the United States had declared that gay marriage was now a legal right. It may be legal by man's standards but not by the Almighty's! We can't see *the forest through the trees* and we have become a society of lost children destined to wander in the Wilderness for disobeying their Creator. We must look to the One who made us and get back to the basics before it is too late but it may be too late already and we might just be in the beginning of the *Last Days*.

If we are only one can keep us from death eternal – that one is the Messiah Yeshua – the Redeemer of Israel – our Kinsman Redeemer.

It is not my business to think about myself. My business is to think about God. It is for God to think about me...Simone Weil

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Tony Robinson at www.devoted.to/Torah (sign up)

Mark R. Ensign at mrensign@arn.net (request to be added to list)

Ardelle Brody [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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