

Tree of Life Messianic Ministries

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Message 2-7-09
BeShalach-When He Let Go
Exodus 13:17-17:16
Judges 4:4-5:31
1 Peter 3:7-17

Introduction

This week's portion celebrates the Exodus. Pharaoh yields to the Hebrews, then changes his mind and pursues them. The Hebrews pass through the Reed Sea on dry ground and the Egyptian army follows them only to be wiped out as the waters return.

Exodus 13:20-22

20 So they took their journey from Succoth and camped in Etham at the edge of the wilderness. **21** And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. **22** He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night *from* before the people.

For the forty years that Israel wandered in the Wilderness of Sinai the presence of the Almighty was there with them day and night. He was a Pillar of Cloud by day, to shield them from the heat of the day and as a Pillar of Fire by night to bring them light and warmth from the cold of the desert cold. Forty years He was with them and yet an entire generation was sentenced to die without ever arriving at the Promised Land. How many of us associate at one time or another with the Israelites who did not make the cut as one would say? Do we ever take the time to assess where we are in our relationship with Him?

If we are really honest with ourselves we would take the time to really check out our relationship with our Master. It is not a relationship of equals because our relationship with the Messiah is one a King and His servants. We serve Him and owe Him our very lives because if it had not been for Him we would have been lost for all eternity when instead we have received redemption from the King of kings. In a master-servant relationship we are the servants – there is no doubt about it. In the

writings of the Apostles they viewed their relationship with Messiah as one as master-servant and referenced themselves as bond-servants.

The place of a bond-servant can be found in Scripture and is one where an Israelite would place himself at the disposal of another Israelite for a specified period of time, usually seven years, to work off a debt. It was not to be a lifetime of servitude unless the bond-servant chose to make it that way by having his ear pierced through by an awl at the city gate. The city gate is where the business of the city took place.

Exodus 21:5 "But if the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' **6** "then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

Deuteronomy 15:16 "And if it happens that he says to you, 'I will not go away from you,' because he loves you and your house, since he prospers with you, **17** "then you shall take an awl and thrust it through his ear to the door, and he shall be your servant forever. Also to your female servant you shall do likewise.

This was a free-will choice on the part of the servant the same way that following Messiah is a free-will choice for us. There is one difference and that is we do not have our ear-pierced through but maybe we should because it mark us as being bond-servant's for life of the Master. The way it is now we can choose to turn away from Him and are not bound to Him forever like we should be.

How would we react if we had the presence of God with us every single day of our lives? Some of you might be saying that we do have the presence of God through the in-filling of the Ruach HaKodesh or Holy Spirit. We may have the Ruach within us but do our actions confirm this? How many of us actually live according to the lifestyle Yeshua modeled for us while He lived among us? He was devoted to His Father without any hesitation in the least. He obeyed His Father without hesitation when His Father instructed Him to do so.

He willingly gave up all that He was to become like you and I and he went so far as to offer up His life upon the tree to restore the breach that we had created by our sin in the Garden. You may think that you had no part in the sin of Adam and Chava but we do. As it was that we have become tainted by the sin of our parents this makes us co-defendants with them in their punishment of being sent away from the presence of the Living God.

If when Israel stood before Moses just prior to his death, and he shared with them that the covenant that was being made that day was not just with those standing there, but with those who would come after them. If that is true then the punishment meted out on our ancestors is still there being applicable to us today.

Deuteronomy 29:11 "your little ones and your wives -- also the stranger who is in your camp, from the one who cuts your wood to the one who draws your water -- **12** "that you may enter into covenant with the LORD your God, and into His oath, which the LORD your God makes with you today, **13** "that He may establish you today as a people for Himself, and *that* He may be God to you, just as He has spoken to you, and just as He has sworn to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. **14** "I make this covenant and this oath, not with you alone, **15** "but with *him* who stands here with us today before the LORD our God, as well as with *him* who is not here with us today.

His covenant is with all of the Children of Israel and those who have chosen to become part of Israel. This is not simply a Jewish Israel or a Christian Israel but an Israel of Believers, who follows their Messiah Yeshua and obeys the Torah of the Lord Almighty. This is the mark of the bond-servant of the Almighty – His Torah. If you have submitted yourself to His Torah and have come before Him in all humility and need and ask for forgiveness for your sins you have become a bond-servant of the Almighty. If you chose not to follow in His ways and to submit to Yeshua then you are not a bond-servant and if you break the covenant of the Almighty you are free from your bond-servant status and now fall into the definition of being an unbeliever.

2 Peter 2:19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. **20** For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Yeshua the Messiah, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. **21** For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

This is pretty hefty when you take the time to think about it. It would have been better never to have known the way of truth found through Messiah Yeshua than to have known the way and turned from it. In the days we find ourselves in we need to take the time to consider what the Bible has to teach us. We need to be careful of those who teach things contrary to the ways of God's holy commandment – Torah!

Judges 5:13

13 Then was the remnant made victor over the mighty, The LORD's people won my victory over the warriors.

I have always pondered the use of the term remnant as used in many places throughout the Word of God. It seems quite clear to me that the Almighty speaks about a remnant of His people who will always be there no matter what trials and tribulations come upon them. Some will quote the scene from Revelation where the group that stood before the throne of the Almighty was so many that the Apostle John could not number them. I understand that a large crowd might be too much to count but they can still be a remnant if you think in terms of all the people who have lived from the beginning of mankind until the end and then think remnant you should get the idea.

I would suggest that you try to wrap your mind around that thought and put that together with the fact that many will recognize Yeshua on the day of His return but many of them will have hardened their hearts against Him and will not accept Him as their Master. Our prayers must be to the Almighty to keep us on the path we have chosen in following Him and for our loved ones and all of mankind to turn to the Messiah Yeshua before it is too late. When the gates of heaven close at Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement) it will be too late to turn back or to the Eternal One. Yom Kippur ties in with the Great White Throne Judgment that the book of Revelation speaks about.

Revelation 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. **12** And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. **13** The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades

delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. **14** Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. **15** And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

This will be it my friends. There will be no more time for you to get right with the Eternal One. The time for repentance will come to an end and the time for judgment will begin. Everyone will pass before the throne of judgment. If your name is not found written in the Book of Life, also known as the Lamb's Book of Life, you will be cast into the Lake of Fire – the final death, if you want to call it that. Remember that death will also be thrown into the Lake of Fire, so is it a real Lake of Fire or something symbolic? Whether real or symbolic the outcome is the same no matter how you look at it. The finality of it should impress upon you the need to get down on your knees before the Almighty One and pray like you have never prayed before.

I pray the Shema every day. Judaism prays the Shema twice a day, when they get up in the morning and when they go to sleep. After I pray the Shema I pray for every member of my family and for our two congregations. I also pray that Yeshua would come into the lives of everyone I love and for all of mankind to come to know the Eternal One of Israel. We can spend way too much time praying for ourselves and not enough time praying for others. He looks at the heart, not just at the exterior actions of any individual and nation. In the day and time we are in we should be seeking the Eternal more than ever before but we are not. The fervor that mankind once had for Him is cooling off so rapidly that before we know it we will wind up fulfilling the term "*frozen chosen*".

1 Peter 3:7-17

7 You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered. **8** To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; **9** not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. **10** For, "THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT. **11** "HE MUST TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; HE MUST SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT. **12** "FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL." [Psalm 34:12-16] **13** Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? **14** But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, [Isaiah 8:12] **15** but sanctify Messiah as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; **16** and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Messiah will be put to shame. **17** For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

When you get to the end of this passage in verse 17 you get hit in the face with cold water. You need this to wake up to the reality that the Word is bringing. *If He should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.* This is a page right out of the Book of Job and I wonder if the writer of 1 Peter had been reading Job when he wrote this verse? The basic answer here is that the Almighty is the Almighty and whatever He wants to do He will do it. He willed it that His Son should die for our sins. How many parents could do that? Could you ask your Son to die so that mankind could have life everlasting? You might be saying I could do that but

when it gets down to it could you really do what the Eternal did when He asked His Son to place His life in His Father's hands?

We find a perfect picture of this in the story of Abraham and Isaac. The *Binding of Isaac* is called the *Akeidah* in Judaism. It is the Biblical story of how the *Almighty* tested the faith of His servant Abraham by asking him to offer up his only son as a sacrifice to the Eternal One. Many find this story a hard one to understand but if we take it in the context of other Scriptures we can see the sense of it all and that the Eternal One does not take our relationship with Him at face value. He needs to know what lies in our hearts. He can look down deep inside of us and look at our hearts. He brings our outward professions of faith in Him to the reality of the light of day by drawing our faith out into the open.

The Holy One of Israel tested the Hebrew nation and found them wanting. He saw their hearts and did what He had to do. He saw a people who could not become one nation as He desired. He saw a people who did not know what to do with freedom. Instead of using their freedom to choose Him they chose to reject Him and wound up experiencing the judgment of their Creator where He decided to take away their very lives for not seeing the *Pillar of Cloud* and the *Pillar of Fire* as the Almighty went before them. He was there right in front of Israel and they did not see Him so they turned away and went after the gods of Egypt and the other nations that were around them.

We do much of the same thing today and have done this for many years. The countries of the world are racing towards judgment day with their eyes wide open and yet they do not see what is right there before them. My friends, as the days of tribulation increase, my prayer is that you are ready for what is to about to unfold upon the earth.

It is the heart that senses God, and not the reason. That is what faith is, God perceptible to the heart and not to the reason...Blaise Pascal

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

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