



Taking Messiah Yeshua and Torah to the World!

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Message 5-29-10
Be Ha'alotecha-In Your Making Going Up
Numbers 8:1-12:16
Zechariah 2:10 (14)-4:7
Matthew 4:2-11

Introduction

This week's Parashah surely qualifies as the Sefer Kvetch, the Book of Complaints, as everybody seems to jump on the protest wagon, grumbling and griping "in the ears of God."

Numbers 8:13-18

13 And you shall set the Levites before Aaron and his sons, and shall offer them as a wave offering to the LORD. **14** "Thus you shall separate the Levites from among the people of Israel, and the Levites shall be mine. **15** And after that the Levites shall go in to serve at the tent of meeting, when you have cleansed them and offered them as a wave offering. **16** For they are wholly given to me from among the people of Israel. Instead of all who open the womb, the firstborn of all the people of Israel, I have taken them for myself. **17** For all the firstborn among the people of Israel are mine, both of man and of beast. On the day that I struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I consecrated them for myself, **18** and I have taken the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the people of Israel. (ESV)

From the Jewish Study Bible: The Levites are set apart to God through sacrifices and the laying on of hands in front of the Tent of Meeting. In a gesture reminiscent of laying hands upon the heads of sacrificial animals, a group of Israelite representatives lay their hands on the Levites as Aaron designates them (the Levites) as an elevation offering from Israel. These rituals officially separate the Levites from other Israelites and dedicate them to God's service.

The Levites were a wave offering to the lord and taken by Him in place of the firstborn of Israel. The Levites were the only tribe who rallied to Moses' call when the Children of Israel sinned at the Golden Calf. On that day the Levites took the lives of 3,000 Israelites who had sinned, blood atonement for the sin of idolatry and disobedience to God. If we learn anything from this incident it should be that God takes sin very seriously and while sin is growing throughout the world today and is evident in every part of our society it seems that people, including Believers, are not taking God's words to heart.

Exodus 32:26 then Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said, "Who is on the LORD's side? Come to me." And all the sons of Levi gathered around him. **27** And he said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'Put your sword on your side each of you, and go to and fro from gate

to gate throughout the camp, and each of you kill his brother and his companion and his neighbor." **28** And the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And that day about three thousand men of the people fell. **29** And Moses said, "Today you have been ordained for the service of the LORD, each one at the cost of his son and of his brother, so that he might bestow a blessing upon you this day." (Exo 32:26 ESV)

The blessing that God bestowed upon the Levites was the blessing of serving the Lord in the Tabernacle. The Levites would be set apart to God because they had stood up for the honor of God at the Golden Calf. How many of us are willing to put everything we hold dear in second place to serving the God of Israel? You might be thinking, "I am willing to do that," but the problem is can you really willing to do that? Can you put family, your wife, and your children behind your desire to serve God and to do what it is He calls us to do? There are times in our lives that when we are called to do what He wants us to that we find ourselves in a place of struggle. It is not easy to do what God wants us to even when what He is asking us to do seems simple enough.

We tend to take God for granted and do not really understand what it is that God desires from us. He wants nothing less than our total commitment to Him putting Him first and everything else afterwards. When we make a commitment to God it is the same as what the Levites did when Moses called for Israel to stand up and defend the honor of God. Our commitment is our acceptance of Yeshua as Messiah, the Son of God and God Himself. Yeshua was the means through which God created all there is including us. We were created for Him and by Him.

Colossians 1:16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. (Col 1:16 NKJ)

Simply put everything there is, whether in heaven or on the earth, were created through Yeshua, who is the living word of the Father. Can you even fathom the implications at what the Apostle Paul is saying here? Everything that is finds its source in God through the service of the Son. God exists in everything there is including that which turned away from Him. This is free-will, as plain and simple as it gets. While we owe everything we are and have to our Creator He endowed us with free-will so we could make choices free of coercion. He could force us to do what He wants but He desires we choose whether to follow Him or not freely. Even Satan cannot force us to turn from God and follow Him but He can present us with choices, of course, heavily leaning towards him.

God presents us with the blessing and the curse openly and clearly in His word while Satan flips that around and does whatever he can to turn us away from Him. Satan does not make any bones about his intentions nor does God. Satan is a very powerful being but he is not God despite what some may tell you. It's very easy to talk about Satan but it is very difficult to speak about God in our society today. If you talk about your faith people look at you sideways and a glazed look comes over their eyes. Talking about the things of God is not what our society is geared towards. When God removed Adam and Chava from the Garden He was making a statement that He would not allow sin to co-exist with Him so He removed His presence from the midst of the Children of Israel after their sin of the Golden Calf.

Exodus 33:7 Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. (Exo 33:7 ESV)

God would not dwell in the midst of a people who had defied Him and turned their hearts away from Him. It seemed like the Children of Israel believed they could do whatever they wanted and God would still bless them. In many ways He still does but He also disciplines His Children and if we learn anything from the story of Israel is God has called out a people for His own and will never abandon them, no matter what, but there is a price to pay for disobeying God.

There was no failure with the sacrificial system. The sacrificial system kept God right there in front of the people 24/7. Today we have Yeshua who fulfilled the sin sacrifice part of the sacrificial system. This in no way implies the sacrificial system has been done away with because it becomes quite obvious in the later chapters of the book of Ezekiel that sacrifices will resume in the third Temple. Does this mean that those of us who are Believers will participate in the sacrifices if we are here on the earth when the Temple is rebuilt? I think the question we need to ask ourselves is what purpose did the sacrificial system serve? Israel made sacrifices to provide a temporary covering over their sins. The shedding of the blood of an animal could never cover one's sins permanently it was only a temporary solution. It was God's way of teaching His people that there was a better way and one that would provide a permanent solution to the problem of how to deal with one's sins.

Hebrews 9:22 And according to the Torah almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. **23** Therefore *it was* necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. **24** For Messiah has not entered the holy places made with hands, *which are* copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; **25** not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another-- **26** He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. (Heb 9:22 NKJ)

It takes blood to purify sin and without blood sin would reign freely with no way to deal with it. Through Yeshua God made a way to deal with the problem once and for all. It was not something that He came up with at the last minute because God knows all and He knew what we would do before He created us but it would be through our sin that we would find the greater way to Him. He resolved with His Son to redeem us from our sins before we were created and He did this by being slain from the foundation of the earth.

Revelation 13:8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Rev 13:8 NKJ)

We stand in the place of the Levites of old being called by God to intercede on behalf of Israel. We are witnesses to the mercy of the Holy One of Israel and have been called to defend our God from the idolatry of the people. Those who were within Israel were the ones killed that day so long ago. God desires that everyone would be saved but knows this will not happen. There are too many who believe their place in the Body of Messiah is safe and secure even though they have turned away from Torah and refuse to bend the knee to Him. The day is coming when we will all stand before the Righteous Judge without the benefit of the Levites or our Advocate because He will be the final arbiter of our fate.

Zechariah 3:1-4

1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. **2** And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?" **3** Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. **4** And the angel said to those who were standing before him, "Remove the filthy garments from him." And to him he said, "Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments." (ESV)

Joshua represents a few types and shadows for us as Believers and for those seeking the way to the truth. Joshua represents us as sinners standing God in the day of judgment. We are dressed in the filthy rags of our sin accused by the Adversary before the Holy One. We belong to the One who purchased us with His blood and Satan cannot take that away from us unless we relinquish it by our own free-will. Satan cannot take it away from us nor force us to surrender it but he can trick us by giving us just enough truth to believe the lie the way he tricked Chava who in turn led her husband Adam astray. I am not saying it was the woman's fault that Adam sinned. He made a conscious decision showing how serious the matter of free-will is. His decision has been passed on down from one generation to another with every generation with every individual in that generation being able to make a decision for themselves whether to follow God or not.

Leviticus 1:3 `If his offering *is* a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish; he shall offer it of his own free will at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the LORD. (Lev 1:3 NKJ)

Leviticus 19:5 `And if you offer a sacrifice of a peace offering to the LORD, you shall offer it of your own free will. (Lev 19:5 NKJ)

Leviticus 22:29 "And when you offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the LORD, offer *it* of your own free will. (Lev 22:29 NKJ)

07522 רָצוֹן {ratsown {raw-tsone'} or רָצוֹן {ratson {raw-tsone'}}

Meaning: pleasure, delight, favor, goodwill, acceptance, will, desire, self-will

Origin: from 07521; TWOT - 2207a; n m

Usage: AV - favor 15, will 14, acceptable 8, delight 5, pleasure 5, accepted 4, desire 3, acceptance 1, self-will 1; 56

The Hebrew word for free-will is *ra-tzohn*. It means pleasure, delight, favor, acceptance, and more but the bottom line is that we bring God a free-will offering because it pleases Him and because we love Him and want to obey Him. Man rebelled against God by refusing to obey Him. As our parents, Adam and Chava, did in the beginning we still insist on doing the same thing today. To us the Torah is something that makes our lives onerous and difficult when the reverse is true. Torah makes our lives better because through the Torah we see Messiah and our way out of our situation. Rather than having to face eternal punishment we face eternal life. As Israel wrote on one mountain the blessings and on the other one the curses we have the same choices today. We can follow God and receive the blessing of eternal life no matter what this earthly life may throw at us or we can turn away from Yeshua and face the curses that will block the way to

the blessing and turn us to the curse of eternal punishment. To me the choice is obvious but many do not share that sentiment because they want an easy way to the blessing. Acceptance of Yeshua is only the beginning of our walk because with accepting Him we now need to learn what it takes to please Him. Don't give lip service to God because He will see right through you and the result will not make you happy.

The second type and shadow of Joshua the priest is he is a picture of Yeshua who in accepting our sins upon Himself became sin itself and paid the price through His shed blood in order that we could be saved from ourselves. By doing what He did for us He showed us what it means to obey God and be willing to lay down one's life for another. He did not lay down His life in order to lose it he laid it down that we could find life everlasting. In doing what He did His filthy rags have been removed and He stands cleansed before His Father interceding on our behalf as a High Priest should be doing. The enemy tried to bring Yeshua down when he tempted him through lies but Yeshua resisted Satan by quoting Torah to him in its true form and not clothed in lies in order to mislead. We need to look to the Author and Finisher of our faith in order to find our way.

Matthew 4:2-11

2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. **3** And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." **4** But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" [Deuteronomy 8:3] **5** Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, **6** and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU'; and 'ON *their* HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'" [Psalm 91:11-12] **7** Yeshua said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'" [Deuteronomy 6:16] **8** Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; **9** and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me." **10** Then Yeshua said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'" [Deuteronomy 6:13, 10:20] **11** Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and *began* to minister to Him. (NAU)

In this passage from the book of Matthew we see the lies Satan brought before the Son of God. Yeshua stood against Satan even though He had fasted 40 days and nights after receiving the Ruach HaKodesh (the Holy Spirit) from on High. His Father was pleased with His Son but knew His Son had to go through the trials and tribulations this life had to offer because it is a fallen creation because mankind had fallen through our parents. We are linked to them and to Yeshua with the opportunity to make our own decisions regarding the direction we choose for ourselves. It could not have been an easy decision for Moses to make to kill his kinsmen – the Children of Israel but blood was needed to pave the way to God because Israel had built a blockade on the road that leads to Him through the sin of the Golden Calf.

The Golden Calf is just a symbol of something greater that needs to be dealt with. Sin permeates every part of our lives and our very existence is at stake. The day of reckoning is getting closer and we stand on the brink of that point in prophecy when the second part of God's plan is getting ready to be placed into motion.

Daniel 7:13 "I was watching in the night visions, and behold, *One* like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. (Dan 7:13 NKJ)

1 Thessalonians 4:17 Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. (1Th 4:17 NKJ)

1 Thessalonians 4:17 is based on Daniel 7:13 and I believe it is very misunderstood. Many believe this is speaking about the rapture where all of the "*Church*" will be carried away to heaven to be with Yeshua forever. All it says in that verse is we will meet the Lord in the air and be with Him always. Nothing is said about going to heaven. We will be reunited with our Messiah forever never to leave Him again. The creation will be healed and the hand of forgiveness will be extended to mankind one last time in an effort to bring as many into the kingdom as possible. The choice is yours and yours alone. We are to set the example through our walk. Our walk is based on Yeshua and Torah through faith and obedience to His word.

"Doctor, my leg hurts. What can I do?" "Limp!" "But I also have a ringing in my ears." "Don't answer!"

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

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