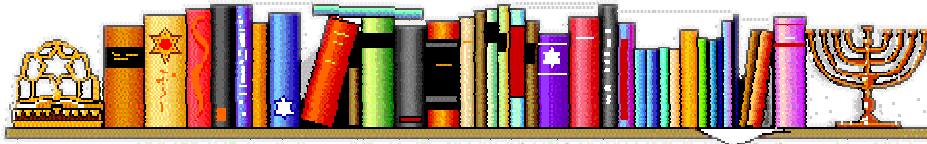


# Tree of Life Messianic Ministries

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**Message 5-16-09**  
**Behar-On the Mount**  
**Leviticus 25:1-26:2**  
**Jeremiah 32:6-27**

**BeChukkotai-In My Statutes**  
**Leviticus 26:3-27:34**  
**Jeremiah 16:19-17:14**  
**James-Yaakov 2:12-13**

## **Introduction**

This week we have two portions. The first portion is Behar Sinai focuses on legislation intended to ensure that people-especially people in distress-may enjoy a secure life. The land itself must be taken care of. The second portion Bechukotai, last of the book of Leviticus, promises a time of security, peace, and prosperity for those who are faithful to the Almighty.

## **Leviticus 25:8-10, 26:11-13**

**8** "You shall count seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the time of the seven weeks of years shall give you forty-nine years. **9** Then you shall sound the loud shofar on the tenth day of the seventh month. On the Day of Atonement you shall sound the shofar throughout all your land. **10** And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan.

Verse 10 says it all for me: ***Proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants.***

**1865** דְּרוֹר derowr {der-ore'}

**Meaning:** a flowing, free run, liberty, flowing (of myrrh)

**Origin:** from an unused root (meaning to move rapidly); TWOT - 454b; n m

**Usage:** AV - liberty 7, pure 1; 8

The Hebrew word for liberty is *der-ohr*, and it means a flowing, free run, liberty. Isn't that a beautiful way to describe liberty – as a free flowing? Isn't that also a good way to accept the gift the Almighty desires to give us through Yeshua - redemption from the sacrifice of the Lamb of Abba who died once and for all mankind? In this case liberty is given to all the inhabitants of the land. Whoever resided in the Land of Israel received this unmerited gift from the King of the universe. Now, what if, we extended this thought out just a little longer where the promise is also to all who live on the earth and reside within the Kingdom of the Holy One of Israel? We live all over the earth and many of us, who are Believers, do not live in the Land nor can we under the rules that the state of Israel imposes upon Messianic Jews and Christians.

So what are we to do? We do what we can to support those who are in the Land and are Believers and we can show the mercy of the Messiah by extending our hand in friendship and brotherhood to the Jewish people living in the Land who are there by the Divine will of the Father, holding the Land waiting for the coming of the Messiah.

**Genesis 13:14** The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, **15** for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever.

**Joshua 1:6** Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.

**Ezekiel 11:17** Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.'

That liberty is given to His children because of His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It was through them that the promise was given and then through the twelve sons of Jacob. His twelve sons became the Patriarchs of the twelve tribes of Israel. Through this the Almighty has blessed all of those who have chosen to become part of the Olive Tree of Israel. It is not because you are born into Israel that you are guaranteed a place in His Kingdom, it is because of faith in Messiah and living the life of Torah that He has called us to.

Far be it from me to beat you on the head about your responsibility to Torah because of your love of Messiah because if you say you love the Messiah you will do what He has told you to and that is, ***"If you love me keep my commandments."***

Yeshua distilled down to one sentence what He expects of everyone who partakes of the gift of redemption that His death bought for all of us. We are in the time of the Spring Festivals and despite their fulfillment through the death and resurrection of Messiah, and with Him being the wave offering of the first-fruits, and the giving of the Ruach HaKodesh-the Holy Spirit at Shavuot we tend to forget that these are His Appointed Times or Moedim, given to us to teach us about His plan. It is through the plan of the Father that we were redeemed and given a way out of the mess we find ourselves in because we were sinners from our youth.

**Jeremiah 3:25** Let us lie down in our shame, and let our dishonor cover us. For we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even to this day, and we have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God."

The prophet Jeremiah was properly nick-named the "*Weeping Prophet*" because his prophecies were not well received because they spoke of doom and gloom and yet in this passage we are told that we, all of us, have sinned from our youth even to this day. We have not obeyed the voice of the Almighty. Maybe if we spent more time down on our knees before Him we could get ourselves out of this situation we find ourselves in because we have not listened to the voice of the Father? Now, unwind this and realize that in what Jeremiah said it can be seen as the voice of the Father being spoken in covenant to us is Yeshua the Son who became the Word made flesh. We have disobeyed the Word (Yeshua) of the Father and find ourselves in need of a Redeemer (Yeshua).

### **Genesis 26:11-13**

**26:11** I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. **12** And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people. **13** I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves. And I have broken the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect.

Abba once made His dwelling among us when the Tabernacle was consecrated in the Wilderness. Israel sinned against the Holy One and He removed His presence from the midst of the Children of Israel. They found themselves still dependent upon the Almighty for food and water and He provided for them despite what they had done. The Children of Israel paid for disobedience through the death of an entire generation. Every generation since then has been given the opportunity to partake of the covenant that has been given to Israel. It does not matter whether you are a Jew or not. He is not called the Holy One of Israel for nothing. Israel is the tree into which we have all been grafted by faith and the way of Torah. It is in this that we should all be thankful for His love manifested through His mercy.

### **Jeremiah 17:5-10**

**5** Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. **6** He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. **7** "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. **8** He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit." **9** The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? **10** "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

Things are very straight forward with the Almighty. You will be cursed if you place your trust in man and not in Him and you will be blessed if you place your trust in the Holy One of Israel. There is no gray area regarding sin with Him. Sure, in the Torah, we see different types of punishment for different sins but the bottom line is that all sin, any sin, separates us from the love of the Holy One.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Messiah Yeshua our Lord.

The Shaliach (Apostle Paul) puts the matter pretty straight forward here. In Romans 6:23 it says, *for the wages of sin is death*. The wages of sin is death. Simply put but very elegant as only the Shaliach could say it. I find, at times, that Shaul (Paul) could have made his point much clearer if he had limited his explanation. In other words KISS, Keep It Simple Stupid. Now, please do not get me wrong I am not saying the Shaliach Shaul is stupid. Far from it – he was one of the greatest Shaliach's the message of Messiah has ever had.

He committed himself to taking the message of Yeshua everywhere he went. He did not limit himself to Gentiles or non-Jews but included everyone in his reaching out.

**Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

**Romans 2:9** There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, **10** but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.

The Shaliach did not turn from his people, the Jews, because they did not respond to the message of the Messiah. He always went to the Jew first. What does it mean to the Jew first? Whenever he went to a city he would seek out the synagogue and go in on the Sabbath day and wait to see if they would ask the visitors to speak. When he received the opportunity he made took advantage of it to share the message about life everlasting to be found in the Messiah of Israel Yeshua. Some would listen and later they would ask him questions and some would reject the message.

This is the way it has always been throughout the history of the Messianic and Church Movement. Many hear the message but only some heed the call. In these days more and more are coming to the Holy One and listening to the call. At the same time they are looking for the Son of Man to return as He left in the clouds. What a day that will be my friends. I cannot wait for that day to come and I want to see Him coming and how the world reacts. Scripture tells us what will take place but nonetheless I want to look on the faces of those who harden their hearts against Him and maybe, just maybe, I will be able to plant a seed before it is too late.

### **James-Yaakov 2:12-13**

**12** So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the Torah of liberty. **13** For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

How do you choose to treat others? Is it by a Torah that offers mercy or is it a Torah of judgment? We are told that mercy triumphs over judgment so why don't we choose to act that way rather than choosing to judge others by a standard that we ourselves do not follow? We are not perfect because we have all fallen short of the goal and in need of redemption, but I have seen, in my years as a Believer and a congregational leader, that there are many times I would prefer the company of secular people rather than other Believers because of the way they act. They act like they are perfect when nothing could be father than the truth.

**Romans 3:21** But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the Torah, although the Torah and the Prophets bear witness to it-- **22** the righteousness of God through faith in Yeshua the Messiah for all who believe. For there is no distinction: **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Messiah Yeshua, **25** whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

The Torah cannot bring us righteousness. It shows us our weaknesses and because it does this it then points the way to salvation through Messiah Yeshua. **There is no other way!** He is the way, the truth, and the life.

**John 14:6** Yeshua said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

These words were spoken by the Messiah Himself. They were not made up by man and if they were I would pray whoever did that would have repented before he stands before his Maker. I take these words to be true because deep down within me I can feel them resonate with my spirit, the spirit that the Almighty placed within each one of us when He made us. Yes, we are born from the seed of our mother's and father's but everything originates from the Father through the Son.

The Almighty created Adam, our father, and from Adam He brought Chavah, our mother. When Adam was created he was a complete being but also incomplete. Why – because he had no companion to share life with? When Adam understood that he was incomplete without a life's companion the Almighty put Adam to sleep and brought forth Ishah, woman.

**Genesis 2:19** Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. **20** The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. **21** So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. **22** And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. **23** Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

And as could be said: read the rest of the story...

***The Ruach HaKodesh-the Holy Spirit-rests only on one who has a joyous heart...Talmud***

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*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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