

Tree of Life Messianic Ministries

PO Box 467, Organ, NM 88052-0467 * 575-382-0193 * Fax 866-800-2390
tolmm@etz-chayim.org * www.etz-chayim.org



Message 8-8-09
Ekev-As a Result
Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25
Isaiah 49:14-51:3
Matthew 5:31-33

Introduction

In this week's Parashah or Sidra, Moses concentrates on reminding the people of their connection to and dependence upon the Divine.

Deuteronomy 8:1-6

1 "The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. **2** And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. **3** And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. **4** Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. **5** Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. **6** So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him.

Matthew 4:4 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.'"

Luke 4:4 And Yeshua answered him, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE.'"

Yeshua spoke these words when He was being tempted by the Adversary – Satan. Our Messiah, Lord and Master, King of kings and Lord of Lords quoted the Torah when He was being tempted by Satan. If it is good enough for our Master shouldn't it be good enough for us? Moses taught the Children of Israel the Torah during the 40 years he led them to the Promised Land. When the

Almighty punished Israel for their disobedience and sentenced them to wander for forty years in the Wilderness until all of the generation had died he taught them the Torah of the Holy One of Israel. They had disobeyed the Holy One and had turned on His anointed ones. Despite the fact that the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud and by night in fire they disobeyed Him. Despite the Almighty providing food from heaven to nourish them for forty years they disobeyed Him. Despite the Holy One of Israel making sure their clothing did not wear out during the forty years in the Wilderness they disobeyed Him and challenged the ones He had chosen to lead them.

Are we any different from this generation that did these things despite the presence of the Almighty? He walked with them in the heat of the day and in the cold of the night. He provided for their every need and they spurned Him.

Genesis 3:8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

The Lord walked with Adam and Chava in the Garden and they chose to disobey Him and listen to the voice of the Adversary. Our parents sinned and we inherited this from them, but the Almighty had mercy on us though He cast Adam and Chava out of the Garden of Eden. This is a sad state of affairs if it wasn't for the fact that He loved us so much He sent His only begotten Son to take our penalty upon Himself.

Psalms 2:7 I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Acts 13:33 that God has fulfilled this *promise* to our children in that He raised up Yeshua, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'YOU ARE MY SON; TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.'

1 John 4:9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

Yeshua had been promised throughout the Word. He was in the beginning with the Father and He is with Him even now waiting for the day when His Father tells Him it is now time to return. Why aren't we focusing on promises like this instead of bickering among ourselves over points of theology, prophecy, etc.? Think about it – we find more reasons for division instead of finding reasons to unite? We worry more about what to call ourselves instead of looking after our relationship with our Creator.

People – now is the time to sit up and take notice of what is happening around you. The hand of the Holy One of Israel is moving in a way it has not for quite some time now – probably not in the last 2,000 years. Now, I may be wrong in my assumption but something is happening today and many are missing it. I am not talking about only unbelievers but Believers. Believers are missing what is taking place. This is sad because to those who are not ready He may say the following:

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. **22** On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' **23** And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of Torahlessness.'

In verse 23 Torahlessness is usually translated as lawlessness but if we are going to quote what the Messiah really had to say let's try to get it right. Disobeying the Torah is what got Adam and Chavah into trouble with their maker. Many believe that the reason Adam and Chavah saw their nakedness when their eyes were opened was because the Glory of the Almighty had left them because of their sin. Up to now they had been clothed with the Glory of the Holy One of Israel. Can you imagine what it must have been like when they realized what they had done? There are legends among the Jewish people and one of them tells us that after they had been expelled from the Garden that Adam sat by one the rivers that flowed from the Garden hoping that the Almighty would let them back in. We know that was not to be and we are paying not just for the sin of our parents but for our own sins as well. Man had been removed from perfection because his sin would ruin it. He was placed in the world and his sin was permitted to reign freely and we have done justice to being a disobedient people.

We have hope. We have the hope given to us by the Holy One of Israel that through Yeshua's death and resurrection the day will come when we will be allowed back into the Garden. We started out in the Garden and in the end we will be back in the Garden. Hebraic or Jewish thought is circular not linear like Greek thought. Jewish thought moves forward with thinking at times while Greek thought has us analyze the situation until it passes us by.

The Torah is there for us to grab hold of it and its promises. Everything we need to know is found in its pages. As they say everything else is commentary. I am not saying that the rest of Scripture is unnecessary. What I am saying is that Moses received the Torah from the Almighty on Mount Sinai and led the Children of Israel for forty years, then Joshua, the Judges and finally the kings. The prophets were there throughout – Moses was a great prophet of the Holy One as well as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Joseph was a prophet of the Almighty. The "blessings" Jacob prayed over his sons on his deathbed are some of the greatest prophecies we have because they help to chart the course of Israel. The nation of Israel would come forth from these twelve sons of Jacob and the two sons of Joseph.

Their story is found in the Torah. Yeshua is found in the Torah as well as the Ruach HaKodesh (the Holy Spirit) of the Father. The Father is found in the Torah. Yeshua walks all over the pages of the Torah. He is the Father's representative on earth. In heaven He is at the right hand of the Father.

Mark 16:19 So then the Lord Yeshua, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

1 Peter 3:21 Immersion, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah, **22** who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him. **4:1** Since therefore Messiah suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

2 so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

The Messiah Yeshua paid the penalty for us providing the way back to the Garden. We are sitting with Adam waiting for the day when Yeshua comes and leads us back to where we came from. I believe in that day the Land He promised to His people will become the Garden that we had been cast out from. The second Adam will lead the way back. Are you ready to walk with Him?

Isaiah 50:1-2

1 Thus says the LORD: "Where is your mother's certificate of divorce, with which I sent her away? Or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities you were sold, and for your transgressions your mother was sent away. **2** Why, when I came, was there no man; why, when I called, was there no one to answer? Is my hand shortened, that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver? Behold, by my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a desert; their fish stink for lack of water and die of thirst.

This is a response to the passage from Jeremiah that says:

Jeremiah 3:8 She saw that for all the adulteries of that faithless one, Israel, I had sent her away with a decree of divorce. Yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but she too went and played the whore.

One would say that Jeremiah and Isaiah contradict each other in these passages. Jeremiah tells us that Israel or the Northern kingdom was sent away because she had committed adultery against the Holy One of Israel yet in Isaiah the question is being asked where the bill of divorce is. Did Judah learn from what had happened to Israel or Ephraim – NO she did not and the Almighty punished Judah by sending them into the Babylonian captivity. Yet how could He bring Israel or Ephraim back if He had handed her the bill of divorce and sent her away into exile? He answers His own question in Isaiah 50:2. He says is it beyond His power to redeem Ephraim or for that matter all of Israel? Isn't redemption the fresh start we all look for in life?

The redemption of the Holy One of Israel causes everything else to pale in comparison to it. The material blessings of this world are nothing compared to the blessings found in redemption. I once yearned for the material blessings I had but then I learned what true blessings were and where they came from. I don't have much if we are judging according to man's scale but if I take the time to break it all down into its basic components I find that I am blessed greatly by the Holy One. I have a wife I love and who loves me. I have two children who are a blessing from the Lord because when my wife and I could not have children of our own we adopted our two children from Korea. We have a son and a daughter.

They have both been a blessing to us. Our daughter married and we have a granddaughter who has been a blessing in our lives. Yes we have been blessed abundantly by our Father and I am sure if you take the time to take inventory you will find blessings you never thought of before. These things are a taste of what is to come.

Matthew 5:31-33

31 "It was said, 'WHOEVER SENDS HIS WIFE AWAY, LET HIM GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE' [Deu. 24:1, 24:3, Jer. 3:1]; **32** but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife,

except for *the* reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. **33** "Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FALSE VOWS, BUT SHALL FULFILL YOUR VOWS TO THE LORD [Lev. 19:12, Num. 30:2, Deu. 23:21, 23:23].'

In verse 32 some people get confused about what is being said here. If we marry a divorcee are we committing adultery? No – what is being said is if we marry a divorcee that has been sent away for anything other than unchastity we are committing adultery. Why – because she has not committed adultery according to Yeshua. In fact Yeshua goes even further than that. He says:

Mark 10:2 Some Pharisees came up to Yeshua, testing Him, and *began* to question Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce a wife. **3** And He answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?" **4** They said, "Moses permitted a man TO WRITE A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND *her* AWAY." [Deu. 24:1, 3] **5** But Yeshua said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. **6** "But from the beginning of creation, God MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE. **7** "FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, **8** AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH; [Genesis 1:27, 5:2] so they are no longer two, but one flesh. **9** "What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

Divorce was not something the Almighty allowed but permitted Moses to institute it. Divorce has no place in the life of a Believer. Divorce has no place in the Kingdom of the Holy One of Israel or in Israel. When the Almighty sent Ephraim away He was using divorce to teach us about the relationship He desired with us that we will not give Him. So He punished Judah and Ephraim for their sin just as a woman is punished if she commits adultery. As we learned from Hosea, the Almighty can restore the relationship and bring His people back to Him to be with Him forever.

There are lessons to be learned in the Tanach and the Apostolic Scriptures if we want to see them. The word is there for us to learn – do you want to learn or do you want to be like one of the five virgins who did not fill their lamps with oil and missed the coming of the Messiah for His bride?

Matthew 25:1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. **2** Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. **3** For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, **4** but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. **5** As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. **6** But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' **7** Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. **8** And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' **9** But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' **10** And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. **11** Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' **12** But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

This is not the only time in Scripture we see Believers being rejected by Yeshua. The warning is there for us to see. What are you going to do my friends? The hour is drawing near and if you listen closely you might just hear the footsteps of the Bridegroom approaching.

None are so empty, as those who are full of themselves...Benjamin Whichcote

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

If you have been blessed by what you have read in these daily e-mails or by what you have read or listened to on our website at www.etz-chayim.org please make a donation to Tree of Life Messianic Ministries on our website by clicking on the donation button in increments of \$25.00 and you can increase your donation by changing the quantity...

If you would like to have your group listed on our website at www.etz-chayim.org/directory.htm drop us an e-mail with your information...

Subscribe to our free e-mail groups by sending an e-mail to tolmm@etz-chayim.org asking to subscribe to one of our three e-mail lists. We offer the Whole House of Israel group (Torah commentary, news updates from Israel, Whole House of Israel light (a "light" version of Whole House of Israel with Torah commentary's only along with information pertinent to Tree of Life Messianic Ministries) and other items of interest and our Messianic Life magazine.

Tree of Life Messianic Ministries is a legally incorporated non-profit ministry with 501 (c) (3) status...