



Taking Messiah Yeshua and Torah to the World!

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Message 9-11-10
Hazinu-Give Ear
Deuteronomy 32:1-52
2 Samuel 22:1-51
Hosea 14:2-10
Micah 7:18-20
Joel 2:15-27
2 Timothy 2:16-19

Introduction In this week's Parashah, Moses the law-giver begins his eloquent last words with *Ha'azinu*, which literally means: "Give ear," as in "listen attentively!"

Deuteronomy 32:1-41 "Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak, and let the earth hear the words of my mouth. **2** May my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, like gentle rain upon the tender grass, and like showers upon the herb. **3** For I will proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God! **4** "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he. (Deu 32:1 ESV)

Moses knows his time on this earth was drawing to a close and yet as his time to die was so near he praises God. It is hours until Moses would ascend the mountain and look out over the Promised Land that God had forbidden him to enter because he and Aaron had disobeyed Him by striking the rock to bring forth water instead of simply speaking to the rock. Moses glorifies God and calls Him great, a just Creator, faithful, without sin, and upright. How many of us could do what Moses was doing in light of what God had decreed for Moses? Could we sing God's praises just before we are about to pass from this life when our Lord and Master had already told us we could not enter into the land that had been promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and to their descendants forever? Moses had to be grief-stricken over this but he recovers and like any good shepherd he looks to his flock to make sure they have what is best for them – a new shepherd. This would fall to Joshua, his loyal assistant for 40 years who had come out of

Egypt, travelled through the wilderness, and would take the mantle of leadership from Moses and enter into the Promised Land fighting to wipe out the seven nations God no longer wanted in the Land living alongside His chosen people Israel. As we know from the Bible the Israelites did not drive out all of the nations and those left eventually caused Israel to turn from the God of their fathers and trample the Torah into the dust of the earth. The Torah Moses had labored for 40 years to bring together to guide the Israelites in their new home. Moses loved God with everything that was in him just as the *Shema* says:

Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. **5** You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. (Deu 6:4 ESV)

The *Shema* is called the watchword of Judaism and every Jew is expected to recite it when they wake up in the morning and when they go to sleep at night. Many Jews recite the *Shema* when they are on their deathbeds. I believe we should all recite the *Shema* every single day of our lives no matter whether we are Jewish or not. Do you want to make Judah jealous? Then show them you understand the ways of Judah because you are part of Israel through grafting in and adoption. We are all grafted into the tree of Israel whose root is the Messiah Yeshua and we are adopted by our Creator to become sons and daughters of the Most High. We are children of the Living God not children of stone, metal or wood idols who cannot speak or eat and yet men have brought them food and drink offerings for millennia in spite of knowing the God who created heaven and earth and everything that is in them. He is a mighty God and Moses acknowledges this in his closing address to the Children of Israel. Many of them have only known Moses as their leader, comforter, exhorter, prophet, and giver of the Torah the teaching that came first from our Father and then expounded on by Moses to help keep Israel on the right path.

Psalms 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psa 16:11 ESV)

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Meaning: a way, path

David exalts God and thanks Him for making known to him the path of life. He praises and thanks God for the joy His presence brings and at His right hand are pleasures forever. We see an allusion to the Messiah who is at the right hand of His Father and has always been there since He was first brought forth as the Living Word of His Father. Does this mean Yeshua was created by God? No! It means God is more difficult to comprehend than we ever imagined. He is beyond our understanding because the little bit we have seen of Him and His Son we have twisted beyond recognition through our interpretation of Scripture and the outside influences of the world. We need to get back to basics beginning with the Torah so we can catch a glimpse of our Creator, the Holy One of Israel. *Halachah* is a Hebrew word also meaning the way telling us there is a way we are supposed to be walking but we totally disregard the instruction manual God has provided to us through His servant Moses. We see Moses up close and personal in the

books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. He is mentioned in many other books of the Bible and in the legends of the Jewish people.

He is the greatest of the prophets of Israel and never again would there be a prophet like Moses. He blazes a path through the Bible because of his personal relationship with the Holy One. This is something we should desire and work towards. It is not an easy thing to do but it is within our grasp because we are His sons and daughters and Believers in His Son Yeshua our Redeemer. Even more than that Yeshua is our Kinsman-Redeemer a theme I have written about over the years. I have been on a journey for quite some time now, though my path has not been like Moses who brought a people out of slavery by humbling the greatest ruler the world had known at that point in time. I have walked in the shoes of Moses but I have been inspired by his story, his devotion to God, his love of his Creator and his love of His living word – the Torah – the Word brought forth in the beginning when God spoke and Creation began. The Torah is both a beginning and an end, a story of the might and power of God, His Son Yeshua, and the Ruach HaKodesh the Holy Spirit. I find hope in the story of Moses because out of the humblest of beginning and by the grace and mercy of God Moses was saved from death to live to fulfill the promise of the Lord. The covenant God made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would be placed on the right path by the *Law Giver* Moses. Yet, he did not give us the law as we would understand the word law in our language today. He brought to us the teachings of a loving Father who wanted His children to know the better way rather than the ways of the world. He wanted us to walk the path of righteousness which would lead us into the light of day and out of the darkness of night where we had been for so many years. Man did not know how good he had it in the garden until he did not have it any longer. There is a Jewish legend about Adam that says after Adam and Chava were cast out of the garden Adam sat by one of the great rivers that flowed out of the garden calling out to God to let him back in. God heard his voice but never answered. Adam who was created in the image of his Creator has disobeyed the one instruction given to him and by his actions he had turned from God. Adam who was full of wisdom and understanding that God asked him to name all of the animals He had created and eventually Adam came to realize he did not have a suitable companion as each of the animals had.

This brought God to place Adam into a deep sleep and God brought forth Chava to be the companion Adam desired and needed because it would be through man and woman that there would be completeness. While the family unit and father, mother, and child is a picture of the Godhead the husband and wife are a picture of the *echad* of the Godhead, its oneness and unity in diversity. The Godhead works together in unity for one purpose, that of the Father. Husband and wife should be in unity as an example to their children. God brought forth His Son Yeshua and husband and wife bring to life their children and the wife brings the child into the world. This mirrors the birth pangs of the Messiah as all there is was brought out of the chaos of nothingness and will one day be brought about again when the tribulation comes and God brings forth a new heaven and a new earth. As Moses leaves the scene Israel will start out on a new phase of its existence. A new shepherd in Joshua would take them into the Promised Land as one the two left from those who had come out of Egypt 20 years of age and older. Israel

became a nation in the Wilderness as they became God's people but once in the Land they would fall away as time marches on only to find themselves cast out of the Land because of their sin. This should be a lesson for the rest of us but have we paid attention and learned the lesson? If history teaches us anything and if the Bible teaches us anything no we have not learned the lesson!

Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; **2** but his delight is in the Torah of the LORD, and on his Torah he meditates day and night. (Psa 1:1 ESV)

Isaiah 1:28 But rebels and sinners shall be broken together, and those who forsake the LORD shall be consumed. (Isa 1:28 ESV)

Scripture tells us it is better to follow the ways of the Lord than to follow the ways of man whose ways are the ways of the world and the ruler of this world is Satan. This world was given to him as his dominion but he is still subject to the Creator's will however much he would like us to believe otherwise.

Ephesians 2:2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-- (Eph 2:2 ESV)

To follow Satan is a sure fire route to separation from the Holy One and the possibility, in the Day of Judgment, to be cast into the Lake of Fire. That is something I do not wish on anyone no matter how I might feel about them. We are instructed to love those who hate us and persecute us because it is easy to love someone who loves us but extremely difficult when they don't even like us. Over the years I have had to practice this and I have to say it is not an easy thing to do but one that has taught me many lessons because when I follow God's lead I have a better relationship with my Creator and with my fellow man.

Matthew 5:44 But I say to you, love your enemies and bless those who curse you and do that which is pleasing to him who hates you and pray for those who take you by force and persecute you, **45** so that you may be the sons of your Father who is in heaven, who causes his sun to rise on the good and on the bad and causes his rain to come down on the upright and on the wicked. **46** For if you love those who love you, what is the reward for you? Behold, [do] not even the tax collectors do the same? (Mat 5:44 MGI)

Yeshua is telling us we have to love our enemies. We must imitate Him in how He responded when they wanted to take His life and put Him on the tree for a crime He did not commit. He asked His Father to forgive those who were doing this because they did not know what they were doing. God's plan led to this moment and Yeshua had to die to bring this part of the Father's plan to fruition. In His death, all humanity now has the opportunity, and it is an opportunity, to receive the gift of forgiveness that brings the mercy of God through forgiveness of our sins. Through this, we can receive the gift of eternal life – life everlasting.

Micah 7:18-20

18 Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. **19** He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. **20** You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old. (Mic 7:18 ESV)

We continue with the theme of God's greatness in who He is and what He has done for us in our Haftarah portion for this week. Who is like God who pardons sin for the remnant of His inheritance? As important as pardoning is as it relates to sin and our place in the world to come, we see the mention of a remnant as it relates to His inheritance. Who is God's inheritance? Israel is God's inheritance and we are part of Israel. No matter how bad things may look to the human eye and mind we must keep faith with our Lord and Savior Yeshua because through Him we are part of the remnant of His inheritance.

Exodus 19:5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; **6** and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." (Exo 19:5 ESV)

Israel would be a treasured possession among all peoples out of all the earth. God has never revoked that promise because His word cannot return to Him void. He never breaks His word, He has never replaced the Israel of the Bible with a Spiritual Israel, and He has not given over the Jewish remnant to the curses as some in the Church claim while taking the blessings for them because they believe themselves to be somehow superior to Judah. Those who hold to this line of thinking will be subject to a harsh judgment.

Romans 11:17 And if some branches were broken off and you who are a wild olive [tree] were grafted into their places and became a sharer of the root and of the fatness of the olive [tree], **18** do not pride yourself about the branches. Now if you pride yourself, you are not bearing the root, but the root bears you. **19** And it may be [that] you should say of the branches that were broken off, "I will be grafted in their places." **20** These [things] are good. They were broken off because they did not believe, but you stand by faith. Do not be elevated in your mind, but have reverence, **21** for if God did not spare the natural branches, perhaps he will also not spare you. **22** See then the gentleness and the harshness of God. On those who fell, harshness. But on you, gentleness, if you remain in the gentleness, and if not, you will also be broken off. **23** And those, if they do not remain in their lack of faith, will also be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. **24** For if you, who are from the olive [tree] that was wild by your nature, were cut off and were grafted contrary to your nature in the good olive [tree], then how much more those, if they be grafted in their natural olive [tree]? (Rom 11:17 MGI)

This passage written by the Apostle Shaul (Paul) tells us that if the natural branch (the Jew) is removed from the tree of Israel and the Gentile (the wild olive branch) is grafted in its place the wild olive branch should not become arrogant and believe they have replaced the natural branch. Because while the natural branch has been removed due to unbelief and when they

come to faith in Messiah Yeshua they will be grafted back in again while the wild olive branch, in its arrogance, is cut off from the tree despite their belief in Yeshua. The lesson to learn here is we had better be careful about what we say concerning the Jewish branch no matter who we are. It is one thing to question another's faith, and what they believe, it is another thing altogether to claim superiority over another because we are all equal in the eyes of God and the only thing that separates us from an unbeliever is our faith in Yeshua. At the same time, we must also remember that the only thing separating us from other Believers is our walk in Torah. It is a narrow road we are on my friends.

2 Timothy 2:16-19

16 And avoid empty words that have no usefulness in them, for they add more and more to the irreverence of those who are occupied with them. **17** And their word, as gangrene, has spread to many. And one of these is Hymenaeus and another, Philetus, **18** who have erred from the truth, saying that the resurrection of the dead has happened. And they are turning away the faith of some. **19** But the foundation of God stands steadfast and it has this seal: AND THE LORD KNOWS THOSE WHO ARE HIS OWN. And EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM WICKEDNESS. (2Ti 2:16 MGI)

Shaul is presently a warning concerning others who are teaching against the Scripture as given in the Tanach. Apparently, their teaching was causing some to turn away from faith in Messiah giving up their salvation. This is not only troubling but those who were turning people away from Yeshua would answer for this in the Day of Judgment when everyone stands before the throne of Yeshua and receives judgment for what they have done and believed.

Isaiah 28:16 therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.' (Isa 28:16 ESV)

Whoever places their faith in Messiah Yeshua will not have done so in haste. Perhaps better said believing in Yeshua will not be a waste. As disciples of the Messiah Yeshua, we must be careful about what teachings we listen to. We must be careful not to be pulled into teachings that cause us to run here and there desiring for our ears to be tickled with this and that when we should be going after the meat in the word and not the milk. How are we to grow up and become mature Believers if we seek after what does not give us insight into what the Lord is trying to teach us?

Our foundation is supposed to be on the Rock of our salvation and if we believe otherwise we could be building our foundation on shifting sand and you know what that will get us don't you? There are teachings coming out today that have been around since the early days of the Church and were rejected because of what they had to say. We must be careful of these teachings because I believe we are heading headfirst into the Days of Noah.

Luke 17:26 And as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man, **27** for they were eating and drinking and taking wives and being given to husbands, until the day that Noah entered the ark and the flood came and destroyed everyone. **28** And [it will be] again as it

was in the days of Lot, when they were eating and drinking and buying and selling and planting and building. **29** And on the day that Lot went out from Sodom, the LORD rained fire and sulphur from heaven and destroyed all of them. **30** So it will be in the day that the Son of Man is revealed. (Luk 17:26 MGI)

God promised He would not destroy mankind by a flood again but He said nothing about fire. Yeshua does say that things will be like they were in the days of Noah but that it will also be like in the days of Lot when they were doing much of the same as they were in the days of Noah but in the days of Lot fire rained down from heaven and wiped out Sodom and Gomorrah. When the Son of Man is revealed in the Last Days so it will be like in the days of Lot. Are you ready to face the King of kings and the Lord of lords? The word of God has much to show us about Yeshua's second coming, all we have to do is look. Blessings!

“You’re in great shape,” says the doctor. “You’re going to live to be seventy.” “But I am seventy, ” Izzy replies. “Oh,” says the doctor, “did I lie?”