

Tree of Life Messianic Ministries

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Message 3-14-09
Ki Tissa-When You Elevate
Exodus 30:11-34:35
1 Kings 18:1-39
John 9:14-16

Introduction

This week's portion concludes the divine instruction to Moses and notes the impatience of the people as they await his return from Mount Sinai.

Exodus 31:13-18

13 "Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: `Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I *am* the LORD who sanctifies you. **14** `You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for *it is* holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does *any* work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. **15** `Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does *any* work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. **16** `Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. **17** `It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed." **18** And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.

4399 מְלָאכָה mela'kah {mel-aw-kaw'}

Meaning: occupation, work, business, property, work (something done or made), service, use, public business, political, religious

Origin: from the same as 04397; TWOT - 1068b; n f

Usage: AV - work 129, business 12, workmen + 06213 7, workmanship 5, goods 2, cattle 1, stuff 1, thing 1, misc 9; 167

In verse 14 and 15 the Almighty specifies that no work may be done on the Sabbath. What work is has always been at the center of discussions. The Hebrew word used for work in this passage is *me-lah-chah*. The definition is occupation, work, business, work (something done or made), service, use, public business, political and religious. The religious aspect is what throws me a little because one of the requirements concerning the Sabbath day is that we are to come together in a holy convocation to worship the Holy One of Israel. So, this would cause me to have to take the view that when religion is included in the definition this would be what the Almighty frowns upon because it would fall under the definition of organized religion and faith in Yeshua and worship of His Father is what the Holy One has always desired. Whenever man steps into the situation invariably things take a drastic turn for the worse.

We see this in the Church as well as in mainstream Judaism and we are now seeing this in the Messianic Movement as well. We have those who are arguing over exactly what is work that may or may not be done on the Sabbath. To my way of thinking arguing might be considered a form of "work" if you really get down to it. What I mean is it certainly is not worshipping our Creator in the strictest sense of what He probably meant us to be doing on the Sabbath. If He commanded Moses to kill a man who had been gathering sticks on the Sabbath why do we think He will go any easier on us when the Day of Judgment arrives?

Numbers 15:32 Now while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering sticks on the Sabbath day. **33** And those who found him gathering sticks brought him to Moses and Aaron, and to all the congregation. **34** They put him under guard, because it had not been explained what should be done to him. **35** Then the LORD said to Moses, "The man must surely be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp." **36** So, as the LORD commanded Moses, all the congregation brought him outside the camp and stoned him with stones, and he died.

The Almighty commanded that Israel was to do no work of any kind on the Sabbath including no cooking or lighting a fire. Some believe this means you are to sit in the dark and freeze on a cold day because you cannot light a fire to keep warm or to turn on the lights or furnace is a form of lighting a fire. I believe that a fire could be lit the night before and you could keep it burning by adding wood to it that you had already gathered or it might be plausible to consider that the Holy One blessed Israel with warmth on cold nights? Nothing is beyond the power of our Creator.

The Sabbath is very important to the Holy One because He made it part of Creation and designated it as the crowning achievement of the Creation. One could say He created the Sabbath day but to avoid working on the Sabbath the Almighty simply assigned the 7th day as the last day of the week thereby not having to perform work on the Sabbath because we are told that He rested on the Sabbath from all of the work of creation.

Genesis 2:2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. **3** Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

He blessed the seventh day and rested from all His work. If He chose to rest on the seventh day and bless it and set it apart from the rest of the days of the week it was His prerogative to do so. After all He is the Almighty, the Holy One of Israel, Master of all and the servant of all of mankind. Through His Son Yeshua He redeemed His creation from the sin that had entered into it through the actions

of man. From one generation to the next sin continued on down through time right up to our day. If there is one constant throughout man's history it is his ability to sin against his Creator and his Creator's patience in dealing with us.

The Sabbath day is His sign between mankind and Himself. He tells us it is His sign. Consider it a form of a mark that He places on us. It does set us apart from the rest of the world when they are all running about doing their business on the Sabbath and even when they gather together on the first day of the week, which they say is the Christian Sabbath, what are they doing after their hour or hour and a half service is over? How many choose to go out to eat afterwards not thinking about the fact that they are causing someone else to break the Sabbath even if they had no idea they were doing so? How many of us do this on the 7th day as well? I am not pointing any fingers here or laying accusations at anyone's feet what I am saying is that the Almighty takes His Sabbath rest seriously enough that He commanded that a man be put to death for violating it. Think about that when you contemplate how the Holy One views the Sabbath. The Sabbath is the first of the Feasts of the Almighty in Leviticus chapter 23. It leads the way before any of the other Holy Days of the Creator. That should give you a sense of where it stands with Him.

1 Kings 18:16-18

16 So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah. **17** And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, Are you he who troubles Israel? **18** And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but you, and your father's house, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and you have followed Baalim.

How does this week's Haftarah portion tie in with the Torah portion? The way I approach the weekly Torah portion is to try not taking on more than I can handle. Most commentaries provide an overall outline picking some main theme to comment on. This is what most of the weekly Torah portions do. I got caught up in trying to do that when I first started out writing commentary until I finally came to the conclusion that I could not do that and deal with the various passages properly. I read through the portions and allow the Ruach HaKodesh show me what passages I should write about.

Many times what I write and the message I give are not the same. I do not read my teachings to my congregations. I allow the Spirit of the Holy One to use me. In this week's Haftarah portion we see King Ahab chastising the Prophet Elijah for troubling Israel because Elijah was doing what the Almighty had told him to do. Elijah responded to Ahab and told him that the troubles of Israel were the result of Ahab and his father's house forsaking the commandments of the Almighty.

4687 מִצְוָה mitsvah {mits-vaw'}

Meaning: commandment (of man), the commandment (of God), commandment (of code of wisdom)

Origin: from 06680; TWOT - 1887b; n f

Usage: AV - commandments 177, precept 4, commanded 2, law 1, ordinances 1; 181

In Hebrew the word for commandment is *mitz-voht*. It is part of the Torah and is sometimes used to denote the entire Torah. We know that the sin of the both kingdoms of Israel was that they turned away from the Holy One of Israel and His Torah. The Torah contained the ways of the Almighty and was His instruction manual for His people. We know that the northern kingdom of Ephraim or Israel sinned against the Creator by never having one righteous king upon the throne of Ephraim.

The southern kingdom of Judah did have some righteous kings and the Holy One had chosen Judah to be His representatives until He brought the two brothers back together united in His hand under the rule of His Son Yeshua.

Ezekiel 37:19 "say to them, `Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand."

Notice that the Almighty says that He will make them one in His hand. We will not be doing the uniting. It would appear to me that the harder we try to bring His people together the further apart we seem to drive them so maybe we should be about His business by sharing about Yeshua and the redemption to be found through Him and living out the Torah in our everyday lives doing the best we can to keep our Creator's commands. Elijah was a Prophet of the Holy One of Israel and was one of two Biblical people who appeared never to have suffered physical death. The other one appears to be Enoch.

The end times speculations as to the identity of the two witnesses runs rampant, not only in the Church, but in the Messianic Movement as well. Some believe the two witnesses to be Moses and Elijah. Others believe the two houses, Judah and Ephraim, are the two witnesses. The thinking goes on and on but regardless of who are the two witnesses if we are around to see them then we may have been chosen by the Almighty to be His end times lights in the darkness of this world. The days are rapidly drawing to a close and the time of Yeshua's return is drawing ever closer. Elijah left this world in a chariot of fire and as he ascended to heaven his talmid Elisha watched and received a double portion of the spirit that had been upon Elijah. Would it be that we receive a double portion of the same spirit so we can stand up and speak for the Holy One of Israel when He provides us the opportunity to do so. There have been many times when I have neglected to take advantage of the opportunities the Almighty has laid before me in sharing about Yeshua or about Torah. I have not been the servant of the Almighty that I should be and I want to make up for that.

It is easy to sit at my computer and write what I am thinking or feeling and send it out to thousands of people throughout the world. It is another thing altogether to stand before a king or ruler or, for that matter, another person and share my faith with them. Can you imagine that confrontation between Elijah and Ahab where Elijah chastises a king. Consider it like this: How do you think you would be standing in front of the leader of the country you live in and sharing your faith? The Apostle Shaul (Paul) did that very thing.

Acts 23:11 But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome."

These words were spoken to Shaul after the riot in Jerusalem where he was almost killed. We know it was not yet his time because he would stand before Caesar and share about Yeshua with him. Shaul did not shrink back from his duty. He would do what the Almighty had called him to do. It would be the same with the other Apostles and talmidim (disciples). They would be called upon to take the message of hope that was found in Yeshua to the known world. Can you imagine how they will feel when they find out that they were the beginning of a movement that would bring the faith of the Master to the four corners of the earth? What part will you play in this plan of the Holy One? Will you accept the call or turn away from it? I know that I must re-dedicate myself to sharing about

Messiah and Torah when the Almighty opens a door for me. How about you walking through that door with me?

John 9:14-16

14 Now it was a Sabbath when Yeshua made the clay and opened his eyes. **15** Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." **16** Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.

Many Christians believe that Yeshua was contending with one group of Jews who were known as Pharisees when it was one particular school of the Pharisees. You see Judaism has sects or denominations in it as does Christianity. The particular group Yeshua was dealing with was the school of Shammai who were very conservative about what constituted work on the Sabbath. They believed that healing was work and therefore forbidden on the Sabbath. The other leading school of the Pharisees was the school of Hillel who did not consider healing to be work on the Sabbath but that it fell in the category of saving a life or good work.

Today we have 39 prohibited categories of what makes up prohibited work on the Sabbath. Then there are sub-categories under these 39. Then we can argue about what else is work or is not work. Each one of us can think for himself or herself but please keep in mind would Yeshua do that on the Sabbath? Everything that we do should be examined in the light of Messiah and what He commanded us. He told us if we loved Him to keep His commandments.

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

The Greek word for commandments is *entole* and carries the same meaning as *mitzvot* the Hebrew word for commandments. *Entole* is used numerous times throughout the Apostolic Scriptures and can mean the Almighty's Torah or the commandments of men. This is where the confusion comes in among Believers as to what place Torah has in our lives today. I have watched people over the years have their eyes and hearts opened not only to Messiah but to His Torah as well. In many cases it has taken many years to do so but the Holy One of Israel is faithful and He sees us through to the end. When it looks like the enemy is about to succeed that is when Yeshua will return to take up His rightful place on the throne His Father has given to Him. Yeshua will bring peace to the world though not everyone will bend the knee in reverence before Him. He will rule with a rod of iron judging according to Torah not by man's laws. There will be one law and that will be Torah.

Psalm 2:9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel." **10** Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. **11** Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. **12** Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

Messiah is not coming back as the suffering servant Messiah ben Joseph the second time out. He is coming back as the Messiah ben David taking up His throne which has been given to Him before Creation. As He died from before the foundation of the world was laid, so too, He has returned to put down all of His Father's enemies so His Father can take up His throne with His Son by His Son forever.

Someone said: “Do not seek for the City of God on earth, for it is not built of wood or stone; but seek it in the soul of the one who knows inner peace and is a lover of true wisdom.” This, then, be my aim: to be at peace with myself, and to be a lover of wisdom.

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Tony Robinson at www.devoted.to/Torah (sign up)

Mark R. Ensign at mrensign@arn.net (request to be added to list)

Ardelle Brody [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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