



**Message 10-20-07**  
**Lech Lecha-Go Forth Yourself**  
**Genesis 12:1-17:27**  
**Isaiah 41:1-4**  
**2 Peter 3:3-9**

**Introduction**

God speaks to Abram and tells him to "leave the land of your fathers" and promises to make him the father of a great nation.

**Genesis 15:12-21**

"**12** And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram; and, lo, fear and a great darkness fell upon him. **13** And the LORD said to Abram, know of a surety that your descendants shall be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and shall be in servitude: and they shall afflict them for four hundred years; **14** But I will judge the nation which they shall serve; and afterward they shall come out with great wealth. **15** And you shall depart from this life and go to your fathers in peace; and you shall be buried at a good old age. **16** And after four centuries, they shall return here; for the iniquities of the Amorites are not yet full." "**17** And it came to pass that when the sun had set and it was dark, behold there appeared a smoking furnace and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. **18** On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, To your descendants have I given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates: **19** The land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, **20** The Hittites, the Perizzites, the Giants, **21** The Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

In verse 13 Abraham is told by God that his descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs. Interesting enough the word translated as strangers is *Ger* which means sojourner or foreigner and is the word commonly used when referring to someone who resides among Israel and follows the ways of Israel. Of course we know the land where Abraham's descendants went to was Egypt and that when they came out of Egypt they were given gold and silver by the Egyptians when they left.

We have seen throughout the Torah that well before Israel ever entered the land of Israel God had told Abraham, Moses and others that Israel would be punished for not obeying God's Torah and would eventually be exiled from the land. Yeshua Himself would tell us of what would happen in the latter days because of mankind's disobedience of God as well as what would take place among Believer's.

**Genesis 49:1** And Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days:

**Acts 2:17** 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS.

**Hebrews 1:2** has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.

**James 5:3** Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days.

**2 Timothy 3:1** But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come.

All the way back on his deathbed Jacob prophesied over his sons what would happen to their descendants in the last days. The Lord was generous to His servants as He revealed to them what would happen to their descendants – the good and the bad. The best thing about what the Lord was revealing was that there was hope for mankind no matter what would happen. Despite all the punishments that would befall His people He would always give them the opportunity to make it right between themselves and God before it was too late.

One thing we need to keep in mind and maintain in perspective is that eventually God will no longer accept man's repentance of their sins. There will come a day when God will turn a deaf ear to mankind's cries much as He did in the day of the flood. When it came time for the flood to begin God shut up Noah, his family, and the animals in the ark and flood waters came and God did not permit anyone else to survive.

We might think that God is a harsh God yet He has always given mankind the opportunity to turn back to Him. The choice has always been ours to make. God will not force us to make a choice. He lays the options out for us and leaves it up to us to choose.

**Ruth 1:16** But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, *or to* turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people *shall be* my people, and your God, my God.

This passage from the book of Ruth is one of the most famous quotations in the entire Bible. Her profession is one of acceptance of God's people Israel and of God Himself. She makes a free-will decision to choose God and the people He has set His covenant with. In recognition of this choice God brings Ruth into the tribe of Judah and she becomes an ancestor of the Messiah Yeshua. What greater honor could there be based on one's profession of faith? Ruth stands as an example that Israel is not made up only of Jews alone but that Israel are those who have chosen Messiah and to follow God's ways as shown to us in the Torah.

I remember that when my wife and I were going to celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary that she came to me and asked what it involved having a Bat Mitzvah. I told her and she asked me if it would be alright for her to do this. I asked her if she realized what this meant. I told her that in doing this

she would be, in essence and by choice, becoming part of the Jewish people. She said she understood this and that this is what she felt the Lord wanted her to do. I helped her prepare for her Bat Mitzvah in the same way that I had prepared for mine at the age of thirteen.

My wife chose a Haftarah portion and learned to read Hebrew, learned how to chant the passage in the traditional manner, and prepared a commentary on the passage. At the time of our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary she stood before a room full of people and chanted her portion from memory and gave her commentary. I presented her with a tallit designed for a woman and we proceeded to re-affirm our wedding vows in a traditional Jewish service.

I was as proud of her as any man could ever be of his wife and I still am to this day because she made a conscious choice of her own free will to join herself to the Jewish people. She had already committed herself to God and in doing this she had decided to become a “*Ruth*” to me and to God. To this day she keeps the Torah and is as faithful to God as anyone can be. There are times that her faith puts me to shame. This is what it means to follow the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Much in the way that Abraham and Jacob received new names because of their relationship with God my wife received a new name because of her commitment to her God and the Jewish part of Israel.

This was exactly what Ezekiel was speaking about in Chapter 37 when he spoke about Judah and his companions and Ephraim and his companions. We all have choices to make in life and the most important one is to believe in God through Yeshua or to reject God, thereby by default, choosing Satan.

#### **Isaiah 41:1-4**

**1** Keep silence, O you islands; and let the people renew their strength; let them come near; then let them speak; let them come near together to judgment. **2** Who has stirred up the righteous one from the east, and hastened him on? The nations shall surrender before him, and kings shall be confounded. He gave them as the dust to his sword and as driven stubble to his bow. **3** He shall pursue them, then make peace; and he shall not pass that way on foot. **4** Who has prepared and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the LORD, the first and the last; I am he.

It was these words found in Isaiah 41:4 that Yeshua was identifying Himself as the Messiah – the One who was expected – the One of whom the Scriptures spoke about.

**Revelation 1:11** saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send *it* to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

**Revelation 1:17** And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.

**Revelation 22:13** "I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End, the First and the Last."

While Isaiah was speaking these words it would seem that it was Yeshua who was speaking through him. The nations of the earth will surrender to Him and He will subdue all the nations of the earth and bring them to submission at His feet and then turn the throne that had been given to Him by

His Father back to His Father and they will rule and reign forever! What else do we need than to know this promise direct from the mouth of God Himself? Isaiah's words were a direct reference to Yeshua. Yeshua would use the Torah and the Prophets to teach the people who He was. He did not come out and directly call Himself the Messiah. He wanted the people to see that Scripture actually did prophesy about Him.

**Isaiah 44:6** " Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me *there is no God.*

**Isaiah 48:12** " Listen to Me, O Jacob, and Israel, My called: I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last.

God has shown us Yeshua throughout the pages of the Tanach. It was through the Tanach that the early Believers came to faith in Yeshua. They did not have the luxury of a *New Testament*. I do not refer to the *New Testament* in a derogatory manner, I am simply saying that those who came to believe in Yeshua in the early and even the latter parts of the first century did so through the Tanach. The Apostle James (Yaakov) points this out in the book of Acts.

**Acts 21:20** And when they heard *it*, they glorified the Lord. And they said to him, "You see, brother, how many myriads of Jews there are who have believed, and they are all zealous for the Torah.

It would seem to me that many Christians have forgotten that the early Believers were Jewish or converts to Judaism. I do not say this to try to exalt the Jewish people over anyone else. I am saying we must not forget where we came from and who paved the way for the rest of us. Yeshua was Jewish, is Jewish, and will always be Jewish and at the same time He is a Hebrew and an Israelite. He is the Father of the Israelite nation and will call them back from the four corners of the earth to gather together with Him at the time of His return.

**Zechariah 14:14** Judah also will fight at Jerusalem. And the wealth of all the surrounding nations shall be gathered together: gold, silver, and apparel in great abundance.

This is one of the saddest commentaries on what will take place in the last days. There will be Jews who will join the nations of the earth in doing battle against Jerusalem and their brethren. Even now in our day the groundwork for this is being laid. All you have to do is to watch the news on television or read the newspapers or check out the stories on the Internet. The world is lining up just as the Lord has shown us through His Prophets in the Bible. He revealed to them the truth so they could share it with their generation and the generations that would follow. I don't know how much it was to try to teach us or just to show us that God's word has to come to pass no matter whether we like it or not.

After the establishment of the modern state of Israel no Jewish man or woman ever thought that a Jew would ever again turn against another Jew. Yet in our day we have seen Jews gather with Israel's enemies in Iran and we have seen Israeli leaders expelling Jews from their homes to pacify the hunger of the world. Even now the Israeli government is once more planning to give away land that God had loaned to Israel. The land does not belong to Israel but has been entrusted to them by its true owner – the Lord God! He will ask for an accounting of what we have done with the land He entrusted into Israel's safekeeping.

## **2 Peter 3:3-9**

**3** knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, **4** and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation." **5** For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, **6** by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water. **7** But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. **8** But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. **9** The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

We are seeing these things coming to pass in our own day. Man has turned from the God of their fathers and has turned to the god of this world. Instead of following the true God they have chosen to make Him over into a universal god and then dare to tell us that we all worship the same god when in reality the god many are bending their knees to is the god of this world as empowered by his Creator. Satan only has authority over this world because his Creator gave it to him. He has no power of his own only that that the true God has allowed him to wield.

**Ephesians 2:2** in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.

If it is not clear to you yet where Satan gets his authority from you need to consider how he was able to offer Yeshua everything he did. Yeshua knew that Satan was not lying when he offered Him the kingdoms of this world.

**Matthew 4:2** 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.'" **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.'" **7** Yeshua said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'" **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.'" **11** Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and *began* to minister to Him.

Yeshua replied to Satan's offer by quoting the Torah. The Torah defeated Satan and should set the example for us in our battle against the temptations of the Adversary. Yeshua used the Torah to defeat His enemy and in the same way we must cling to the Torah and through our faith in Messiah Yeshua we can overcome everything that is thrown against us by the tempter of our salvation. Hold fast to the faith and walk in the ways of the Torah. Our *halachah* (*the way*) is Yeshua and Torah.

**Luke 21:25 "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; 26 "men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. 27 "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."**

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