

Tree of Life Messianic Ministries

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Message 10-31-09 Lech Lecha-Go Forth Yourself Genesis 12:1-17:27 Isaiah 41:1-4 Romans 4:3-8

Introduction

This week's portion is derived from God's monumental encounter and opening words to Avram, *Lech lecho m'artzecho* "Go for yourself from your land," a seemingly random yet compelling directive to abandon an entire way of life and step forward into the unknown, unexplored, unfamiliar, "to the land that I will show you," with no road-map, no exact coordinates, and no cell-phone."¹

Genesis 12:4-9

4 So Avram went, as *ADONAI* had said to him, and Lot went with him. Avram was 75 years old when he left Haran. **5** Avram took his wife Sarai, his brother's son Lot, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, as well as the people they had acquired in Haran; then they set out for the land of Kena'an and entered the land of Kena'an. **6** Avram passed through the land to the place called Sh'khem, to the oak of Moreh. The Kena'ani were then in the land. **7** *ADONAI* appeared to Avram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So he built an altar there to *ADONAI*, who had appeared to him. **8** He left that place, went to the hill east of Beit-El and pitched his tent. With Beit-El to the west and 'Ai to the east, he built an

¹ From *Torah with a Twist of Humor*

altar there and called on the name of *ADONAI*. **9** Then Avram traveled on, continuing toward the Negev.

Avram or Abram was 75 years old when the Holy One called him to leave his father's house and go to the land that the Holy One would take him to. Avram packed up everything he had including his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot. Avram thought nothing of taking on the responsibility of taking care of his brother's son. You can tell when you read the stories in the Bible about Abraham that he had a good heart and perhaps this is why he was the one that the Almighty chose to be the father of all the faithful who would come after him. He set the example for the generations who would follow.

James 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? **22** You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; **23** and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS," [Genesis 15:6] and he was called the friend of God. **24** You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.

The Shaliach Yaakov (James) wrote that Abraham was justified by his works as well as his faith. Faith without works means nothing because anyone can claim faith but what do you do as a result of your faith? Do you walk out your faith in Messiah and mature in your relationship with the Almighty and with your fellow man? If you stand on your faith alone you might find yourself in a place you never thought about.

Matthew 7:20 "So then, you will know them by their fruits. **21** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. **22** "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' **23** "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE TORAHLESSNESS.' [Psalm 6:8] **24** "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. **25** "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against

that house; and *yet* it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. **26** "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. **27** "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell-- and great was its fall."

You cannot stand on faith alone. While Abraham was the father of the faithful he also stood on a foundation of Torah and lived it out in his life by his acts of kindness. He made sure that no traveler ever passed by his tent without offering him a place to stop and rest and eat. When it was time for Abraham and Lot to part ways Abraham gave Lot the first choice and Abraham went the other way. Abraham chose the wilderness while Lot chose the city of Sodom. Who made the right choice? Why kind of choices are you making in your life? Are you choosing the road Abraham chose or are you choosing to follow the road Lot took? Do you believe in Yeshua as your Messiah the one who died for your sins and the sins of all mankind from the beginning until the end?

Avram was called by the Almighty to follow a road the Holy One would show him and he obeyed the voice of the Almighty. I am sure we all wonder how it was that the Almighty spoke to Avram. Was it out loud or was it a still, small voice that you hear so clearly in your head that it is unmistakable who it is. Yet we have to be on guard against the enemy because he can reach into your head and turn it around drawing you in with his half-truth's and lies. Satan does not come right out and tell you a lie. He draws you in with a watered down truth and once you gets you hook, line and sinker then he begins to teach you his ways.

We need to face the reality my friends. We are a battle ground for the Almighty and Satan. They are fighting for our very souls and where we wind up in the end. Do we wind up in the Lake of Fire because we chose to listen to Satan or do we find ourselves in the kingdom of the Holy One where Yeshua and the Father rule from the new Jerusalem on their thrones once Yeshua puts Satan where he belongs forever. I am not talking about the 1,000 years of the Messianic Age. I am talking about what comes after. There is something beyond the Messianic Age and the only ones who will find themselves in it are those whose faith is grounded in Yeshua.

The Torah plays an important part in this because as we saw Matthew 7:20-27 no one is guaranteed a place in His kingdom based on doing miracles, prophesying, and casting out demons. The way of the Holy One involves going beyond our faith. It calls for walking the way of Messiah – the way of Torah. Messiah tells those who did these things in Matthew 7:22 that He never knew them. They are shut out of the kingdom altogether. They are not part of the bride, the guests or the servants at the wedding of the Messiah and His bride. Yet these people believed with all of their hearts that they were walking the way of Messiah and doing the things He wanted them to do.

Torah and faith go hand in hand. Avram had both. He had faith, and we see this in his story, and he knew Torah and did what the Almighty instructed him to do. Avram would have known Shem, the son of Noah and possibly even Noah post flood. Noah lived for 600 years more after the flood and all of mankind would be descended from the line of Noah. It seems that Noah was a righteous man yet he was not chosen by the Almighty to be the one whose descendants would receive the promise. He was a forerunner but there was a difference between Noah and Abraham. Noah exhibited faith and works by obeying the voice of the Almighty and building the Ark. Abraham had faith and works as well by obeying what he was told to do even to the point of offering his son up on the altar as a burnt sacrifice to the Holy One who he had placed his faith in.

He trusted the Almighty in all areas of his life and it would be from him that all of those who placed their faith in Yeshua would be his children, the children of a Tzadik – a Righteous man, whose faith in his Creator boggles the mind. How many of us could do what Abraham had been called to do? Abraham knew that Isaac was the son of the promise and if he died the promise could not come to pass so Abraham had to have a faith that was greater than any man had before or after. Avram had been called to a new land which would be the land promised to Israel where the Holy One had staked His claim through Melchizedek. The Almighty had a light in the darkness that was Canaan. Abraham would carry the torch and pass it on to all the faithful who would follow. The question is, "Are you ready to take it or will you pass on it?"

Isaiah 40:28-31

28 Haven't you known, haven't you heard that the everlasting God, *ADONAI*, the Creator of the ends of the earth, does not grow tired or weary? His understanding cannot be fathomed. **29** He invigorates the exhausted; he gives strength to the powerless. **30** Young men may grow tired and weary, even the fittest may stumble and fall; **31** but those who hope in *ADONAI* will renew their strength, they will soar aloft as with eagles' wings; when they are running they won't grow weary, when they are walking they won't get tired.

Abraham has this strength because he had placed his faith in the Holy One. Each and every one of us can have this same strength if we only choose the right road to take. What we are being told is that we must learn to depend on the Almighty because He is the source of strength and our salvation. Salvation is a free gift from Him through His beloved Son Yeshua. In our world, as it is today, we need to get our lives in order because it is quite possible that the Messiah is going to be returning soon. I don't know if this will be in our lifetime or in the lifetime of our children but the bottom line is if you have not placed your faith in Yeshua you could be headed for a hard landing when He comes back and sits on the White Throne of Judgment.

1 Samuel 2:10 The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; He will give strength to His king and exalt the power of His anointed."

1 Chronicles 16:28 Ascribe to the LORD, O clans of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

Psalm 20:6 Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven with the saving might of His right hand.

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

In Psalm 20:6 we read He will save His anointed with the saving might of His right hand. The right hand of the Almighty is Yeshua – the Son of the Almighty. He is at the right hand of His father interceding on our behalf

with His Father when Satan comes before the Creator to accuse us. It would appear that Satan is the prosecutor while Yeshua is our defense and what a defense He is. He saves us from falling into the hands of the enemy and being taken down with him in the final judgment when Satan is released from the pit where he has been bound for 1,000 years. He is given one more opportunity to go out to deceive the nations and to bring them together for one final battle with the Almighty. Yeshua is at the head of His Father's army leading the army of the Holy One into battle. This final battle is for all the marbles and I believe how it will end according to my Bible. Everything that has happened has brought us to this one point in time. After the war has ended and the unrighteous have been judged and punished a new day comes where our hearts of stone have been circumcised and made into hearts of flesh.

Romans 4:3-8

3 For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS." [Psalm 32:1] **4** Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. **5** But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, **6** just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: **7** "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED. **8** "BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT." [Psalm 32:2]

David knew of the Messiah and wrote of Him in the Psalms. He had a relationship with the Almighty that was very different from the relationship others have with Him. Despite his sins he was forgiven because he truly loved the Holy One with every fiber of his being. David led the way that pointed to the Davidic King who would come in the future and set up the Kingdom of the Almighty. Yeshua came through the line of Judah and would sit on the throne established by His Father for David and his descendants. Have you ever stopped to consider that David was created through Yeshua by the Father and yet Yeshua is a Son of David?

That truly boggles the mind and causes us to have to take a second to think about that. Yeshua was the force through whom His Father created all there is and yet, there were several times in the Bible when Yeshua stepped

into time before David was even born, or for that matter, before Yeshua was born as a human child. The power of the Holy One is awesome to think about and it blows my mind to think about it. The Holy One is unlimited power, which he had to limit, to allow for the universe to be created. He brought into being all there is. He did this through the Word – Yeshua – who brought life into being. He walked in the Garden in the cool of the day with Adam and Chava before the fall. After the fall He would only walk with man when they had faith in Him through His Son who forgives our sins.

Luke 7:44 Then, turning to the woman, he said to Shim'on, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house- you didn't give me water for my feet, but this woman has washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair! **45** You didn't give me a kiss; but from the time I arrived, this woman has not stopped kissing my feet! **46** You didn't put oil on my head, but this woman poured perfume on my feet! **47** Because of this, I tell you that her sins- which are many!- have been forgiven, because she loved much. But someone who has been forgiven only a little loves only a little." **48 Then he said to her, "Your sins have been forgiven."** **49** At this, those eating with him began saying among themselves, "Who is this fellow that presumes to forgive sins?" **50** But he said to the woman, "Your trust has saved you; go in peace."

This was the crime that Yeshua was really being accused of – blasphemy! He was seen as presuming to stand in the place of the Almighty because He forgave sin. The Jewish leaders believed that only the Almighty could forgive sin and by Yeshua doing this He was saying He was the Almighty. This was blasphemy according to the Jewish leaders of that time and blasphemy, in the Torah, was punishable by death. In the end the Jewish leaders got what they wanted. They convinced Pilate to have Yeshua crucified but the truth is this was all part of the Almighty's plan and was not the fault of the Jews as many Christians believe. Sin was the crime and it was **OUR** sin – all of us, that brought Yeshua to the tree where He died in the physical but His Spirit was indomitable and could not be held captive. He is the Ruach HaKodesh (the Holy Spirit) just as the Spirit is Him and they are all in the Father because they all come from Him and are in Him and they are one. ***Shema Yisrael Adonai Elohaynoo Adonai Echad! Hear O Israel, the Lord our God He is One!*** This is the truth and Torah affirms this foundational truth my friends. He is one in a compound unity and the

Torah reveals this truth as it points the way to Yeshua our Kinsman Redeemer. That is the fundamental truth of Torah. It is up to each one of you to make a choice. Do you want to hear Him say He never knew you or do you want to be welcomed with the words, "Well done good and faithful servant?"

The rabbi decides to invite the local minister to his Shabbat table and offers him some of his favorite hot, pure, homemade horseradish. His guest takes a big spoonful and suddenly clutches his throat and slinks off his chair. His face turning red, he gasps, "Rabbi, I've heard many ministers preach hellfire, but you are the first one I've met who actually passes out samples."²

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

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² From *Torah with a Twist of Humor*