

Tree of Life Messianic Ministries

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Message 7-18-09
Matot-Tribes
Numbers 30:2-32:42
Jeremiah 1:1-2:3, 2:4-28

Masei-Journeys of
Numbers 33:1-36:13
Jeremiah 1:1-2:3, 2:4-28
1Peter 1:3-9

Introduction

This week we have the last two portions from the book of Numbers. The first portion is Matot and deals with the tribes that wish to settle on the eastern bank of the Jordan. The second portion Masei remind us that whatever else it might be, marriage has always been an economic and social arrangement. Marriage has changed some since Biblical times but not as much as we might suppose.

Numbers 33:50-56

50 And the LORD spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho, saying, **51** "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you pass over the Jordan into the land of Canaan, **52** then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you and destroy all their figured stones and destroy all their metal images and demolish all their high places. **53** And you shall take possession of the land and settle in it, for I have given the land to you to possess it. **54** You shall inherit the land by lot according to your clans. To a large tribe you shall give a large inheritance, and to a small tribe you shall give a small inheritance. Wherever the lot falls for anyone, that shall be his. According to the tribes of your fathers you shall inherit. **55** But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then those of them whom you let remain shall be as barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall trouble you in the land where you dwell. **56** And I will do to you as I thought to do to them."

Verse 55 is self-explanatory and would answer the question why are the Children of Israel still suffering today and it even seems to be getting worse? Israel did not drive out the inhabitants of the Land the way they were told by God to. He said that if Israel allowed them to remain they would

become barbs in their eyes and thorns in their sides and last but not least they would trouble them in the Land where they dwell. We can see this with the way the modern state of Israel is allowing the PLO on one side and Hamas on the other and the world wants Israel to give them even more land! Why are we, as Believers, not standing up and shouting to our leaders to wake up before it is too late?

We need to remember that a leader's actions become accountable not just to them but to the people they govern. If, as in the United States, it is by the people's vote that a leader is elected then the responsibility bears upon us even if we did not choose to vote for the leadership. This is not about being blue or red (in the USA) but about upholding the instructions God has given to us in His handbook – the Torah. While we may be under the jurisdiction of powers that be we can still make a difference and to watch our elected leadership choose to side with Israel's enemies, especially when many claim to be Christian has to make one scratch their heads and wonder, "What the heck is going on?"

I realize I will probably take some heat for what I am saying but I cannot stand on the sidelines and watch as our country turns against the nation of Israel, God's people here on the earth living and holding the Land of Promise. Of course most of Israel does not follow the Torah but the point is that the Holy One of Israel chose to plant Judah back in the Land for a reason and a purpose. They have a job to do and so do we. Do you have any idea of the curse that the Almighty will bring down upon our heads for this?

Genesis 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 27:29 Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be everyone who blesses you!"

Deuteronomy 28:15 "But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.

Joshua 15:63 But the Jebusites, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the people of Judah could not drive out, so the Jebusites dwell with the people of Judah at Jerusalem to this day.

There are more verses than these few to show that the Israel of old did not follow through with God's commands and they don't do it today as well. Can you imagine what things could be like if Israel would stand up and cry out to the Holy One of Israel like they did in the days before the Exodus? There are still promises that God will follow through on despite the Jewish people living in the Land and around the world who believe that "land for peace" will work. It was not the United Nations that placed the Jewish part of Israel back in the Land. It was the Holy One of Israel who did it. He moved the United Nations with collective guilt over their actions during the Holocaust. He used them to accomplish His purpose which was to place Judah back in the Land and to hold the Land against the nations even to that day when it appears that Israel is going to lose.

In our day it looks like the world is beginning to turn its back on Israel. Are we approaching the time when the Anti-Messiah is revealed or are we being provided a taste of what is to come so we know what to look for? Perhaps the Almighty wants to see how we are going to react to show us that

despite what we say we choose to turn a blind eye towards our brethren? We need to be careful my friends because He is watching what is happening. Things are moving on the world stage even as I write this. I do not claim to be a prophet or one who understands prophecy but I can read the same as all of you can.

Throughout this Torah cycle I have felt convicted by God to stress our relationships with Yeshua. In the Last days we are going to need Him even more than ever. We have had it very easy in this country and if you think the recession we are currently in is bad consider this: Do you really think we have His blessing now and will have it if our leaders do what they are talking about and that is giving the enemies of Judah a fair deal while they continue to spew death and murder from their lips and to encourage the killing of Jews all around the world. If you are not right with the Lord then I urge you to get down on your hands and knees and cry out to the Author of all of Creation for His mercy as given through the atoning sacrifice of His Son Yeshua.

I cannot stress this point enough. I feel it deep down in the pit of my stomach that days are coming that we need to get ready for. Will they come in our generation – I don't know? How about in our children's generation? Only the Almighty knows that. What I do know is we must get ready my friends. We must share our faith in Yeshua and call all men to Him and to His Torah. If there has ever been a blueprint for what is coming our way it is to be found in the Bible – all of it – from Genesis to Revelation.

Jeremiah 1:11-12

11 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said, "I see an almond branch." **12** Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it."

Here is what a Jewish commentary has to say about these verses:

A pun upon the word "shaked," almond tree, and "shoked," "watching." The almond tree is one of the first trees to blossom in the spring, signifying God's resolve to bring about the divine word concerning Jerusalem and Judah. A recently discovered ivory pomegranate blossom, believed to have come from the excavation of Biblical Jerusalem, apparently was formed to fit on the end of a staff. The inscription on the pomegranate, "belonging to the Temple of the Lord, holy to the priests," indicates that it probably served as the cap for a priest's or Levite's staff in the Jerusalem Temple. The image also appears in Numbers 17, where the sprouting of almond blossoms on Aaron's and the Levite's staffs mark them as the divinely chosen priests of Israel. It seems likely that Jeremiah's vision was based upon the image of a Levitical staff (Zech. 11, in which the priests and prophet Zechariah employ a staff for a prophetic vision).

You can take verse twelve where God is speaking to Jeremiah and He tells Jeremiah He will watch over His word and perform it meaning He will follow through on His word. God instructed Moses to have Aaron and all the other leaders of the tribes of Israel to gather their staffs together and that the Lord would cause the one leader's staff to sprout almonds if He had chosen that man to be the High Priest of Israel. The Lord gave His word and He fulfilled it by causing Aaron's staff to bud with almonds. In Jeremiah He is using the Torah to show Jeremiah that He will act faithfully upon His word – His *davar*. *Davar* is the Hebrew word for word and in Greek it is translated as *logos*. *Logos* is used when referring to the Messiah Yeshua.

Could there be a tie-in to the almond and Yeshua? Nothing in Scripture is by chance – God has a purpose in every word He has placed in the Bible. His word had a beginning in Genesis and ends in Revelation. There is truth to be found in it and answers to all of our questions when He feels we are ready to hear them. Obviously we are not because look at what we have done with the little bit He has chosen to share with us. We fight over it, we ignore it, we kill for it, and we make man-made doctrine out of it. This is not the revelation of the truth He has given to us through Yeshua His *davar* and *logos*.

It seems fitting that in this week's hafatarh portion we should find these words in the Prophet Jeremiah – the "Weeping Prophet." Do you really think this was by coincidence?

1Peter 1:3-9

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah from the dead, **4** to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, **5** who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, **7** so that the tested genuineness of your faith--more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Yeshua the Messiah. **8** Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, **9** obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The writer of 1 Peter tells us that it is through our faith in the resurrection of the Messiah Yeshua that we will make it through the trials that are coming against us. We are told to hold fast to that faith because it is by that faith that we are being prepared for what is coming and that the Lord is testing us in the same way He tested Job. The book of Job is a sobering book about the reality of Satan and the will of God. Even Satan must bow to the will of the Holy One. God uses Satan as He does any part of anything He has created. Satan serves the will of the Father. I thought that might make you pause for a moment.

Job 1:12 And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

I have heard people tell me many times that God speaks to them through His Ruach HaKodesh or Holy Spirit but I wind up being a bit skeptical when they go on to tell me that the Lord has told them to go against His own Word. I try to bring it up as politely as I can that God is not the only Being who is a Spirit. Satan is a spirit as well as those who fell with him in his rebellion against his Creator. We must learn to be sensitive to the leading of the Ruach of God by diving head-first into the Torah and the rest of Scripture. Unless we are grounded in the Word of God how can we hope to be able to test the teachings of those who claim to come in the name of the Holy One of Israel?

We might truly believe we are hearing from God but the bottom line is does what we hear line up with Scripture? If it fails the test of validation by the Torah and our Master Yeshua then it is not the Ruach HaKodesh but the unholy leading of the spirit of Satan. Satan is to be feared not mocked. He is a very powerful spiritual being created by the Creator of all that exists in heaven and earth. We must be on our guard constantly. I always know when Satan is on the warpath, even more than usual. It occurs before the Fall and Spring Festivals. Months before the festivals something always

rears its ugly head. Without fail it always does despite our trying to be ready. We are sucked right in without realizing what is happening until it is too late. This year was no different. In my pride I refer to the two congregations's that I lead as "my" congregations. That was my first mistake and Satan, on his own or by the hand of God, called me on that. I learned that they are not my congregations but His. I am the vessel He chose to use to plant these congregations and to lead them until the day comes when He no longer requires my services.

Ministry for the Lord is not for faint-hearted. It is a thankless vocation at times but every once in awhile the sun shines through and makes it all worthwhile. To all of you I say, "Stay the course" and to my fellow leaders I say, "Hang in there, there is light at the end of the tunnel." Yeshua is standing there lighting the way for us waiting to welcome us all home. Amen and Amen!

Success in marriage does not come merely through finding the right mate, but through being the right mate...Barnett Brickner

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

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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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