

Tree of Life Messianic Ministries

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Message 6-6-09

Naso-Elevate

Numbers 4:21-7:89

Judges 13:2-25

Acts 18:18; 21:23-24

Introduction

This week's portion, sometimes referred to as a Parashah or a Sidra, contains the most famous of all benedictions; it is called the Aaronic Benediction. The blessings grow in richness, culminating in Shalom – a word meaning wholeness, harmony, peace. According to the sages, these blessings comprise both material and spiritual well-being.

Numbers 7:89

89 And when Moses went into the tent of meeting to speak with the LORD, he heard the voice speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the testimony, from between the two cherubim; and it spoke to him.

“He heard the voice speaking to him.” Moses was the only individual who could enter into the Holy of Holies when he had a question for God or God called him. When God finally became fed up with the sin of the Children of Israel He instructed Moses to meet Him in the Tent of Meeting that would be outside the camp. God chose to no longer dwell in the midst of Israel. That is similar to a husband and wife separating because of differences. The Lord's differences with Israel were irreconcilable because Israel would not follow His Torah.

Exodus 33:7 Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. **8** Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise up, and each would stand at his tent door, and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. **9** When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses. **10** And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, each at his tent door.

The Lord was faithful about His promise to the Children of Israel concerning everything He had promised to them particularly the Land. Yet, the Lord told Israel that while He would honor the covenant He had made with them, but they broke it, He would not go with them as they journeyed to the Promised Land. I believe that what the Lord meant by this was not that He would not be there taking care of them but that His presence would no longer be in the midst of the people. The sin of the Golden Calf had proved to be too much for the Lord, as well as their continuing sins. He could not dwell in the midst of this people in much the same way He chooses not dwell in our midst today.

Exodus 33:3 Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; but I will not go up among you, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people."

We can have the Ruach HaKodesh, the Holy Spirit, come and fill us we are told that Yeshua would be in midst of wherever two or three were gathered in His name.

Matthew 18:19 Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. **20** For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

Does Yeshua actually come into our midst or is it the Holy Spirit? Yeshua is at the right hand of the Father interceding on our behalf continually and waiting for the day His Father tells Him it is time to return to the earth to set things right. Those of us who are Believers, and I would hope that all of you reading this are Believers in Messiah, are anxiously awaiting the return of Yeshua. We pray for it daily and look to the sky to try to catch a glimpse of our Lord and Redeemer returning to take up the throne that rightfully belongs to Him and to Him alone.

He fights for His Father who sent Him to redeem His creation. Yeshua shed His blood and sacrificed His body for us. His was the once and for all sacrifice that would fulfill the whole of the sacrificial system. There are those who question why we need to keep the Festivals of the Lord because they always required an animal sacrifice. We do not need an animal sacrifice to celebrate the Festivals of the Lord. Yeshua has already paid the price but the Almighty said that His Festivals or Medim (Appointed Times) were to be celebrated forever. How many people realize that the 7th day Sabbath is one of the first of the Holy One's Appointed Times? In fact it leads off the list of the Moedim.

Leviticus 23:1 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **2** "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, **These are the appointed feasts of the LORD that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are my appointed feasts.** **3** **Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work. It is a Sabbath to the LORD in all your dwelling places.** **4** "These are the appointed feasts of the LORD, the holy convocations, which you shall proclaim at the time appointed for them.

I have emphasized His statement to Moses about His Moedim. Notice that the 7th day Sabbath is first in the list and occupies a unique position because the rest of the Moedim are listed separately from the 7th day Sabbath. It is said that the 7th day Sabbath is to teach us about the coming 1000 year Messianic Age. I believe it is also to teach us that we need to take a break from our work week and spend that time with Him.

You are not spending that time with Him if you are doing things that take you away from Him. Going to sporting events or other things that are not meeting with the Almighty is not honoring Him. We are told to rest from our daily labors as well as any type of work whatsoever so we can gather in a holy convocation to honor Him. The Lord is not asking that much of us in taking one day out of six to praise and worship Him.

Moses would go out to the Tent of Meeting to meet with the Almighty. We can meet with Him through Yeshua if we go into our Tent of Meeting. This can be a place that we feel comfortable at where we can set aside our cares and come face to face, as it may, with our Creator.

Judges 13:6-7

6 Then the woman came and told her husband, "A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome. I did not ask him where he was from, and he did not tell me his name, **7** but he said to me, 'Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.'"

We have read this passage before because it relates to our Messiah Yeshua and His birth. An angel of the Lord comes to this woman in answer to her prayer for a son. The same thing happens when an angel of the Lord comes to Miriam (Mary) and tells her about her son Yeshua. An interesting side note to this event is that Miriam is told she would become pregnant, but she is a virgin, and that it would be the Holy Spirit who would bring her this blessing. In Hebrew the word for Spirit is Ruach and it is a feminine word. So, the question has to be asked how a feminine entity could impregnate another female. The answer is very simple. The Ruach carried the seed from the Father and placed it within Miriam.

Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Messiah Yeshua took place in this way. When his mother Miriam had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. **19** And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. **20** But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Miriam as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Yeshua, for he will save his people from their sins." **22** All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: **23** "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). **24** When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, **25** but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Yeshua.

Notice how much this passage from Matthew mirrors our Haftarah portion for this week. In fact there is no way to focus on anything else when putting together a teaching on the Haftarah portion? Yet, I see in it how the Almighty is using messengers instead of speaking directly to the person. He still uses dreams but His speaking directly to people stopped long ago. This could be tied in some way to the sin of Israel when the Holy One removed Himself from the camp of Israel. I am not saying it is because we see instances where God speaks to David and to His prophets but rarely does He speak directly to a regular person.

This is why I take it slow when someone claims to be a prophet and proceeds to issue a "Thus sayeth the Lord" as though that is supposed to impress us. I take it the opposite way and it causes

me to stop and question whether this person is speaking the truth of the Scripture and I have found it wanting. I also question the “*five fold ministry*” gifts. I have heard people say that in order to minister properly you need these five gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; **5** and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; **6** and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. **7** To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. **8** For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, **9** to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, **10** to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. **11** All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. **12** For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Messiah.

Verse 11 is the important one in this passage. We are told that the Spirit of the Almighty gives the various gifts to each one individually as the Spirit wills. If only one individual has all the gifts then the Body will be out of order and not properly balanced.

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, **12** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Messiah, **13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Messiah.

Do you notice that the Scripture tells us that these gifts are for different people in the calling that the Ruach (Spirit) of the Holy One has given them? They are not given to any one individual and teachings that say the opposite hurt the Body of Messiah.

All of us can hear from the Almighty if we just slow down and take the time to listen.

Acts 18:18; 21:23-24

18:18 After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had cut his hair, for he was under a vow. **21:23** Do therefore what we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow; **24** take these men and purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses, so that they may shave their heads. Thus all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told about you, but that you yourself also live in observance of the Torah.

What was the Apostle Paul (Shaul) doing? If he truly believed and taught that the Torah had been done away with then why was he shaving his head? Shaving one's head indicated that the Nazirite vow they had taken was at an end. Shaul would be taking the hair to Jerusalem to the Temple where he would complete the final part of the vow by offering up the hair as an offering to the Lord. Because he desired to fulfill this vow Shaul would go to Jerusalem and go into the Temple where he would cause uproar by his presence there. It would be from this that Shaul would appeal to Caesar and it would be before Caesar he would stand and testify of his faith in Yeshua.

The Lord had told him this must take place. Shaul would stand before the mightiest ruler on the face of the earth at that time and share his faith in the Messiah. Would we have the same faith and courage that this great man of God had?

Acts 27:23 For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, **24** and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.'

Shaul was a man of God who gave himself completely to his Master. When he persecuted the early Messianic Believers he gave his all to that cause. When he ran into the Messiah on the road to Damascus he changed completely and gave himself heart, mind, and soul to the Messiah and remained faithful to Him for the rest of His life. He lived a life of service to His Lord and Savior, something I believe, many of us take for granted. We forget that when we accept Yeshua as Lord we become bond-servants to Him. He can direct our lives no matter what comes. It does not matter whether it is business, personal or whatever. In all things Messiah must come first and we must ask ourselves ***“Is this what Yeshua would do?”***

We have lost sight of Messiah in these last days and this is when we need Him the most to help show us the way. He is the light in the darkness who can lead us to safety. If you are not looking to Him and seeking Him out in all areas of your life you will lose your way my friends. I exhort you to remain steadfast in your faith and to walk the narrow road He has already taken Himself. He has made it to the other end and is waiting for us there. Are you willing to commit yourself to Him 110%? The way will not be easy and there will be temptations along the way and things will only get harder as we draw closer to the Great Tribulation.

Do not buy into the hype of the Church and some Messianic's that we are all going to “raptured” out of here before the time of the Great Tribulation. This does not hold up when seen in the light of Scripture. Study the seven congregations in Revelation. You will be surprised at what you find there. There is nothing better than Biblical truth. We need all we can get of it.

Be blessed my friends.

How I wish I could feel blessed each and every day! Remind me, O Source of blessing; remind me again and again, that I am loved however I feel, and remind me that every day is a birthday. Sometime later today may I again remember to say thanks!

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

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