



Message 10-13-07
Noach-Noah (Rest)
Genesis 6:9-11:32
Isaiah 55:1-5
2 Peter 3:3-4

Introduction

Disgusted with the corruption of humanity, God decides to cause a flood that will destroy the world, sparing only Noah's family and the animals that Noah gathers together on the ark.

Genesis 8:13

13 And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first [month] on the first of the month, the waters dried from upon the earth; Noah removed the covering of the Ark, and looked – and behold! The surface of the ground had dried.

Why have I focused on this one passage out of all the rest contained in the second portion of the new Torah cycle? We must remember that at this point in time God had not yet changed the calendar of man to move the first month from Tishrei to Nissan. Noah opened up the ark on the first day of Tishrei and looked out upon the earth and saw that the waters of the flood had dried up.

It was on Yom Teruah or Rosh Hashanah that Noah was able to open up the ark and come out from under God's protection which had been in effect ever since God had sealed up Noah, his family, and the animals.

Genesis 7:16 So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.

The Lord shut the door of the ark demonstrating to us that it would be through His protection that mankind would be kept through the trials and tribulations that would come upon mankind in the last days.

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. [Joel 2:28-32]

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

2 Peter 3:3 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."

Over and over throughout Scripture God has been warning us about what was to come and what would happen because of our disobedience of His Torah. This is not just a disobedience of the laws of God but a denial of God Himself and a rejection of His Son Yeshua. An example of this is something I have been watching over the past several years.

There have been many, both Jew and non-Jew, who have come to belief in Yeshua as their Messiah and Savior. Over time as they have gotten into their "*Hebrew Roots*" I have watched as many have turned to Judaism as the answer for all of their questions and problems that they had with Christianity or Messianic beliefs. They say they have found a deeper meaning to their relationship with God and that Judaism's non-acceptance of Yeshua as Messiah and their claim that no intermediary is needed between man and God is the truth, as they have come to know it.

The problem with this thinking is that at first they reject the divine nature of Yeshua and then they come to reject Yeshua totally. Many ask, why have they done this? First of all, Judaism says the Messiah is a "*son of God*" in the same way we are all sons of God, so therefore, He is nothing more special except for His calling as Messiah. Where this poses a problem for those who reject His Godhood is what they have been taught regarding the Messiah by the Church and by the Messianic Movement. It is only through the forgiveness of our sins by accepting Yeshua as Messiah that we are forgiven for our sins. When you remove the Godhood of Yeshua what do you accomplish by praying to Him for forgiveness of one's sins? How can a man forgive our sins? In Judaism one prays only to God for forgiveness and since Judaism claims we do not need an intermediary between man and God Yeshua becomes an impediment in that direct relationship.

Once you have removed Yeshua's deity the only thing left of the Messiah's mission is His coming to save Israel from its enemies. This is how Judaism views the Messiah. It is much different than how Christianity and even Messianics view Him. Once the deity aspect of Yeshua is removed, since this has always been the main focus of Christian and Messianic teaching, a vacuum comes into play as to what do we now do with Yeshua as Messiah? The next step involves a total abandonment of Yeshua and either embracing Judaism or coming as close as possible to it.

The dilemma I have seen is how our encouragement of embracing Jewish teachings has contributed to this problem when we neglect to issue warnings about the possible consequences and when we do not prepare a proper foundation for those coming into the Messianic Movement. This is a growing problem because Jewish anti-missionaries use a Believer's lack of Biblical knowledge against them and tear down their beliefs one by one when faith is based on one's personal conviction and not a total understanding of God's ways but once we go on the defensive we cannot get off of it. This is where the naysayers of 2 Peter come in asking where Yeshua is? Why hasn't He returned as He promised to do? They attack the promises of the second coming and the very

Messiahship of Yeshua basing their claims on Scripture that has been misinterpreted or with errors in it.

One cannot claim that Scripture is without error because we know there are errors due to many reasons, one of them being scribal error. This does not remove or make mute the claim of divine inspiration as divine inspiration is one thing and scribal error another.

The aspect of God's promise, from the very beginning, of needing an intermediary between God and man has always been evident in Scripture. When God walked in the cool of the Garden, Who was it that was doing the walking? Ask this question because Judaism defines God as being invisible, unable to be seen by mankind. The sages of old describe God as being a ball of fire as seen by Moses at the Burning Bush.

Exodus 3:2 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush *was* not consumed.

If God is invisible and represented by fire then the question has to be asked, who walked in the garden, who appeared to Abraham. Who showed His back to Moses and on and on? To me the answer is very simple – Yeshua!

Matthew 17:2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

This was the Messiah's natural state of existence and not the one He took on when He became like you and I. He became as you and I because unless He did He could not have died and taken our sins upon Himself. This is basic foundational truth my friends and one that is based on faith. While our faith may be attacked on the very basis of our faith, so too, can anyone's because if we cannot see God how can we prove He exists? This is what faith is and the faith we are called to particularly in these last days.

Isaiah 55:1-5

1 Go, everyone who is thirsty, go to the water, even one with no money, go, buy and eat; go and buy wine and milk without money and without price. **2** Why do you weigh out money without getting bread and [exert] your efforts for that which does not satisfy? Listen well to Me and you will eat well, and your soul will delight in rich food. **3** Incline your ear and come to Me; listen, and your soul will be rejuvenated; I will make an eternal covenant with you, the enduring kindnesses [promised to] David. **4** Behold, I have appointed him as a witness over the regimes, a prince and a commander to the regimes. **5** Behold, you will summon a nation you had not known, and a nation that had not known you will run to you, for the sake of *the Lord*, your God, for the Holy One of Israel, Who has glorified you.

Who is Isaiah talking about? The Messianic nature of this passage is unquestionable and cannot be denied. Yeshua's constant referrals to Himself as the source of Living Water shows us that water was a Messianic reference as well as bread or food. The Lord uses symbols that we can readily associate with to teach us about His plans and when He is trying to get a point across. One of the most misunderstood ones is the Apostle Peter's vision in the book of Acts.

Acts 10:10 Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance **11** and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. **12** In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. **13** And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." **14** But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean." **15** And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not call common." **16** This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again. **17** Now while Peter wondered within himself what this vision which he had seen meant, behold, the men who had been sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate. **18** And they called and asked whether Simon, whose surname was Peter, was lodging there. **19** While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are seeking you. **20** "Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them."

If you read this passage and stop at verse 15 you would take that it is talking about the eating of unclean foods and that they are now clean and alright to eat. If you go further and read the rest of the passage you see that it has nothing to do with food but everything to do with the message of salvation found through Yeshua now going out beyond the confines of the Jewish people and now to the non-Jews or to the nations. This is what happens when we take Scripture out of context. When we do this we can make the Word of God do whatever we want it to. When we add in thousands of years of misinterpretation into the mix we see that we have a monumental task ahead of us.

An example of this is found in my congregation. Over the years we have had many people come into our congregation who have all expressed an interest in learning about their Hebrew Roots. Many never say their Jewish Roots though I find it very difficult to differentiate between Hebrew Roots and Jewish Roots because they both draw their lifeblood from Israel and their Semitic ancestors. The flavor of Judaism permeates every part of the nation of Israel and to try to remove this severs us from our ancient heritage. Customs and traditions are part of this heritage, and yes, there have been other ingredients added into the mix but the basic, underlying foundation of where we come from is still there.

Isaiah's words should not be lost on us because these are not his words but the words of our Lord. We will drink of the water that will satisfy our thirst and the Word of the Lord will revive our souls and we will receive an eternal covenant. This is the whole of God's promise given to us in the form of Yeshua the Messiah, the Son of God, and God come in the flesh to redeem us as His Father willed.

Hebrews 9:15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

If you look closely at this passage from the book of Hebrews you can see the promise of Isaiah in it. I have always said it, and so have others, that *there is nothing new in the New Testament*. What many call the *New Testament* is built upon a solid foundation of the Torah and the Prophets. Yeshua quotes from the Torah and the Prophets and says they speak of Him.

Luke 24:44 Then He said to them, "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Torah of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me."

The interaction of the entire Bible is crucial to our walk as Messianic Believers. If we say that one Scripture contradicts another and if it then says what we like we will accept it, is that Biblically right? If one or two verses in the Bible tell us, according to our reading of them, that it is now alright to eat unclean meat but God said that is was not alright does that now not mean that God has changed His mind when His Word says He doesn't?

This is why I have such a hard time with the reasoning of the Church and those who forsake Yeshua after having professed faith in Him and finding redemption. The teaching of a Messiah is based in Hebraic and Jewish teaching. It is rooted deep within Judaism. Only later on was this idea ripped from the heart of Judaism and recast into a new mold or discarded altogether. In our day there is a move of the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) to bring us back to our faith in God and His forgiveness as found through His Messiah Yeshua. This is the eternal covenant God, through the Prophets, is telling us about. This is what He is calling us back to.

2 Peter 3:3-4

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."

I believe we have been in the last days for quite some time now. I believe, based on Scripture, that the Believers of the first century thought they were in the last days and they were eagerly looking forward to Yeshua's imminent return. When you read the writings of the Apostle Paul you get a sense that he believed this and only later on in his writings do we see him changing his mind and trying to prepare the next generation to anticipate the return of Yeshua.

It is only through hindsight and a couple of thousand years later that we know that Yeshua has not returned. If He has then a whole lot of people missed Him and we all missed the boat. The important thought to keep in mind here is that we are told that there will be those who will say where is Yeshua? How come He has not returned? This is a myth, a fable, and it was never really the truth. There are those who say that believing in God is for the weak-minded. That religion is a crutch. I don't look at faith in God and belief in Yeshua as a crutch but as hope that there is something more than living this life, dying, and that's it. I cannot accept that because all of my being tells me there is more. When God created man He brought life to him by breathing into his nostrils.

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

I believe, and you don't have to agree with me, that when God breathed life into Adam that He placed a little bit of Himself into him and that is passed down from one generation to another and it is this little bit of God that causes us to know that there is something more than ourselves out there. You can call it that little voice that so many of us say we hear from time to time. However you describe it, I believe it is God calling out to us and how we connect with Him.

Men may claim that because Yeshua has not returned and because we do not have world peace, and so on and so forth, that Yeshua is nothing more than a myth or a story. I will hold fast to my faith that Yeshua is the Son of God, God in flesh, who came to redeem those who choose to accept Him. I choose to believe that salvation is to be found through Yeshua only and that there is no universal God but the one true God who sent His Son into the world to redeem us and bring us back into a right relationship with Him.

Genesis 3:8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

I believe the Lord yearns for the day when He can once again walk in the cool of the day and fellowship with His creation in a day when we will no longer try to hide ourselves from Him.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1

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