

Tree of Life Messianic Ministries

PO Box 467, Organ, NM 88052-0467 * 575-382-0195 * Fax 866-800-2390
tolmm@etz-chayim.org * www.etz-chayim.org



Message 7-11-09
Pinchas-Phineas (Dark-skinned)
Numbers 25:10-30:1
1 Kings 18:46-19:21
Philippians 3:4-11

Introduction

In this week's portion five sisters whose father has died come to Moses and ask for the right to inherit. God tells Moses their cause is just. Then, in contemplation of a change of leadership, Moses goes to the Almighty and asks Him to choose someone over the community.

Numbers 29:35-38

35 "On the eighth day you shall have a solemn assembly. You shall not do any ordinary work, **36** but you shall offer a burnt offering, a food offering, with a pleasing aroma to the LORD: one bull, one ram, seven male lambs a year old without blemish, **37** and the grain offering and the drink offerings for the bull, for the ram, and for the lambs, in the prescribed quantities; **38** also one male goat for a sin offering; besides the regular burnt offering and its grain offering and its drink offering.

This is the end of all things by the Lord Almighty! This is the Eighth Day of Assembly – the coming of the eternal rest promised by the Holy One of Israel from the beginning. This comes on the heels of the Festival of Sukkot (the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths). A lot of Messianic Believers put a lot of emphasis on the Festival of Sukkot because it mirrors or teaches us about the Messianic Age or Kingdom when we have 1,000 years of rule by the Messiah Yeshua giving us a taste of the Eighth Day of Assembly – Shemini Atzeret. This Festival is usually overlooked or attached to Sukkot as the last day of Sukkot but Scripture is very clear that Sukkot is only seven days in length. So, what we have is another Festival that is overlooked because it is not understood by many people. The Orthodox understands about this overlooked Festival and celebrates it as a separate festival from Sukkot.

The Eighth Day of Assembly will not take place immediately at the close of Sukkot because there is a time frame that is open between the two where the Holy One has to finally deal with Satan and sin once and for all.

33 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **34** "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, on the fifteenth day of this seventh month and for seven days is the Feast of Booths to the LORD. **35** On the first day shall be a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work. **36** For seven days you

shall present food offerings to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall hold a holy convocation and present a food offering to the LORD. It is a solemn assembly; you shall not do any ordinary work.

Revelation 20:7 And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison **8** and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. **9** And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, **10** and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. **11** Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. **12** And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. **13** And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. **14** Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. **15** And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Notice that it says “when the thousand years are ended...” There is a definite end to the Messianic Age and in the interim between the end of the Messianic Age and the beginning of Shemini Atzeret the final battle will be waged. This time around it appears that there will be a swift end to this final rebellion. The nations of the earth will come up to Jerusalem and surround it believing that they will win the day but the Lord has a different plan – His plan is fire that comes down from heaven that consumes these nations. Satan is thrown into the lake of fire where the beast and false prophet are and they will be tormented there forever. This does not line up with those who believe that God is love; so therefore, He would never do anything like this. God is love but it is because of this love that He must deal with sin and sinners to eradicate it from the face of the earth before He brings in a new heaven and a new earth and places His redeemed people on it.

The Almighty is a jealous God and He will not share His name with any other so-called god. This is a fundamental foundation that we find in the Bible. There shall be no others gods before Him. This does not mean that you can have other gods but that you must put away those gods and follow the One True Lord and His Messiah. The Messiah is the Son of the Holy One of Israel and is His physical representative of the Holy One until the end of all things takes place.

There are a lot of different things happening around the world today that are showing us signs of the approaching last days. Yet most of the world is focused on the economic morass that mankind is mired in. We go about our lives the same as they did in the days of Noah.

Luke 17:26 Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. **27** They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. **28** Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot--they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, **29** but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all.

It seems to me that we are doing the same things. In Sodom their sin was so severe because it was one of a sexual nature that is against the Torah of the Holy One. We see these things written in the

Bible and refuse to accept them as being the truth. We turn a blind eye to the things that are happening around us. Are we ready for the Day of the Lord my friends? What will you do when it comes crashing down around you? Will you cry out in fear and lose all sense of the faith that is supposed to be the Rock of your salvation. Only you can answer that – I would propose to you that you take the time to re-evaluate your relationship with your Creator.

1 Kings 19:1-9

1 Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. **2** Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." **3** Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. **4** But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers." **5** And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." **6** And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. **7** And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you." **8** And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God. **9** There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

Elijah had called upon the people gathered there to witness the battle between the man of God and the prophets and priests of the pagan gods. The people were waiting to see who would win before they gave their allegiance to that god or God. This is what the Holy One calls fence sitting and He has something to say about this.

Revelation 3:14 "And to the angel of the congregation in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. **15** "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! **16** So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. **17** For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. **18** I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. **19** Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. **20** Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. **21** The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. **22** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

He will spit the lukewarm out of His mouth. He is saying this to Believers who are part of the congregation in Laodicea. I have been spending much of this Torah cycle trying to get you to look at your relationship with Yeshua and make sure you know where you are going to spend eternity. Now, I am not saying that out of these seven congregations in Revelation 2 and 3 that only one made it through the Tribulation. The Lord found that Smyrna was a congregation that did all it could to follow the ways of the Holy One but He said they would have to hold fast to their faith during the time of trials while Philadelphia was told they would be kept safe during that time.

There is not much said about what the differences between these two congregations are that would only allow the Almighty to keep one congregation safe during the Tribulation.

Revelation 2:8 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: 'The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life. **9** "I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. **10** Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. **11** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.'

Revelation 3:7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: 'The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. **8** "I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. **9** Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie--behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet and they will learn that I have loved you. **10** Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. **11** I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. **12** The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

What is the difference between the two congregations? They both kept faith with the Lord and were suffering because of their faith but they were steadfast in their faith. How would we handle what these congregations went through? It is much easier to think about His blessings rather than the fact that He allows bad things to happen to good people. He uses Satan to test us and many of us can testify to this. I know that I can. I have been tested over and over by the Lord to the point that I have had questions about some things but even in these times of trial He has been there for me. It will not matter whether He keeps me from the time of Tribulation or not. As with everything His faith is sufficient for me.

Philippians 3:4-11

4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: **5** circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Torah, a Pharisee; **6** as to zeal, a persecutor of the Messianic Community; as to righteousness under the Torah, blameless. **7** But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Messiah. **8** Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Messiah Yeshua my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Messiah **9** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the Torah, but that which comes through faith in Messiah, the righteousness from God that depends on faith-- **10** that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, **11** that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

These are the credentials of the Shaliach Saul or Paul to many Believers. He was circumcised on the eighth day, he is part of Israel, he is of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews and regarding

the Torah he was a Pharisee and before he came to faith in Messiah he was a persecutor of the Messianic Community. Saul was showing that he was a Jew among Jews but that he counted it as nothing when compared to the salvation he has found in Messiah Yeshua. He finally found his reason for being. It was not in his persecution of the Messianic Community that he found fulfillment though he may have thought it was. It was in finding Messiah, the one he had been persecuting, that gave him a reason for living.

Acts 9:3 Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. **4** And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" **5** And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Yeshua, whom you are persecuting. **6** But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." **7** The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.

In this one moment in time Saul went from persecutor to becoming one of the persecuted. He gave up all that he had in order to follow the Messiah Yeshua and to atone for all that he had done in the Lord's name that was not from the Lord. Maybe we need an encounter like Saul had? Will it take a blinding light from the Holy One to shake us out of our slumber? I hope not my friends but if it does I pray you heed the call and wake up from your sleep before it is too late.

If the Eternal is the "Source of the breath of all flesh," we are kin to "all flesh." We need to see this always.

If you want to learn more about your Hebrew/Jewish Roots sign up for one of our e-mail lists at <http://etz-chayim.org/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> and for other Torah Studies check out:

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

Mark R. Ensign at mrensign@arn.net (request to be added to list)

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*

If you have been blessed by what you have read in these daily e-mails or by what you have read or listened to on our website at www.etz-chayim.org please make a donation to Tree of Life Messianic Ministries on our website by clicking on the donation button in increments of \$25.00 and you can increase your donation by changing the quantity...

If you would like to have your group listed on our website at www.etz-chayim.org/directory.htm drop us an e-mail with your information...

Subscribe to our free e-mail groups by sending an e-mail to tolmm@etz-chayim.org asking to subscribe to one of our three e-mail lists. We offer the Whole House of Israel group (Torah commentary, news updates from Israel, Whole House of Israel light (a "light" version of Whole House of Israel with Torah commentary's only along with information pertinent to Tree of Life Messianic Ministries) and other items of interest and our Messianic Life magazine.

Tree of Life Messianic Ministries is a legally incorporated non-profit ministry with 501 (c) (3) status...