



Taking Messiah Yeshua and Torah to the World!

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Message 7-3-10
Pinchas-Phineas (Dark-skinned)
Numbers 25:10-30:1
1 Kings 18:46-19:21
1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Introduction

There are a slew of contradictory Midrashim (commentaries) telling us to act, or not to act, after the namesake of this week's Parashah, *Pinchas* (Phineas), a feisty Israelite whose attitude was one of *b'ruach hakodesh*, fearless self-sacrifice.

Numbers 25:10-13

10 And the LORD said to Moses, **11** "Phineas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the people of Israel, in that he was jealous with My jealousy among them, so that I did not consume the people of Israel in My jealousy. **12** Therefore say, 'Behold, I give to him My covenant of peace, **13** and it shall be to him and to his descendants after him the covenant of a perpetual priesthood, because he was jealous for his God and made atonement for the people of Israel.'" (Num 25:10 ESV)

From the Jewish Study Bible: God rewards Phineas's zealous act, which appeases His wrath and makes expiation for Israel (Aaron's act, 17:11-12), with a pact of friendship guaranteeing divine protection (Isaiah 54:10; Ezekiel 34:25; 37:26). A pact of priesthood for all time reiterates the eternal and exclusive election of the Aaronides to the priesthood (chs 16-17).

Once again we see the symbolism of an intercessor between God's people and their Creator and Redeemer. We see God's hand in showing His people what His plan for restoring the relationship between His people and Himself. Yeshua appears in the pages of the Tanach and it would be through the Tanach that all of the early Believers would come to know Yeshua and to believe in Him as their Redeemer and Savior. The Bible is not just a book of stories or historical events but it is a book of symbolism through which God reaches out to His creation – us! There are various themes that appear throughout the Bible that show us how Scripture is so intertwined that one thing leads to another and so on. It is reading a book where the story line has twists and turns but in the end it has one overriding theme that brings us to the conclusion. In the case of Scripture we find our way to God's love for His people and His desire is to restore the relationship that existed in the beginning in the Garden before the fall.

We are always hearing about how we are going from point A to point Z in a linear fashion when in truth we are moving from point A to point A in a circular manner. Greek thinking is analytical in nature while Hebrew thinking is circular. Greek thinking would have you understand everything there is to know about a subject before making a decision while Hebrew thinking moves forward without having total understanding about the subject. When we apply this to our relationship with God we find that there are many things we do not understand about God or His Torah but if we were to apply Greek thinking to the situation we would never move forward. This is the situation we find in many Churches today where rather than moving forward with some understanding they prefer to toss the issues aside if they don't fit their preconceived ideas or the teachings they have received from their leaders.

Many Messianic congregations operate under the same assumptions and yet because they meet on Saturday and not on Sunday they somehow believe they are different from Churches. What they fail to understand is just how much they are like the Churches they seek to differ themselves from. Some Messianic congregations move into a deeper relationship with God through Messiah and the deeper they move in that relationship the more Torah they desire to follow but they begin to feel they are somehow better than their fellow Believers. This is a dangerous place to be because we are warned about this in the Word.

Romans 11:17 And if some branches were broken off and you who are a wild olive [tree] were grafted into their places and became a sharer of the root and of the fatness of the olive [tree], **18** do not pride yourself about the branches. Now if you pride yourself, you are not bearing the root, but the root bears you. **19** And it may be [that] you should say of the branches that were broken off, "I will be grafted in their places." **20** These [things] are good. They were broken off because they did not believe, but you stand by faith. Do not be elevated in your mind, but have reverence, **21** for if God did not spare the natural branches, perhaps he will also not spare you. (Rom 11:17 MGI)

We have discussed this in the past but sometimes I think people don't think these things really apply to them. If we learn anything about our relationship with Yeshua and in turn with His Father it should be that we need to take a step back and learn to reflect on where we are in our walk every single day. We have to learn to take a deep breath and step back before opening up our mouths to say something to someone else. I know this to be true with me because I tend to speak before I think where when I write I have the luxury of saying what I want to and then reviewing it and deleting it and smoothing it out in the rewrite. If it were only that easy with the things we say. Usually the first words out of our mouths are what we are really thinking and then we attempt to do damage control.

This is true even with God. When you read the Prophets you see a common denominator in the messages they bring to the people of God. They bring a word of correction and it can be a heavy word at times and then they bring a word of comfort to bring hope to the people. The ultimate word of hope is found in Yeshua, our intercessor with the Father. Phineas stepped up when God's honor was being challenged by one of the sons of Israel. Phineas was Aaron's grandson and a priest of the Holy One of Israel. He knew what the Torah had to say about what the man was doing with a woman who was not of Israel and he took action to protect the name of his God. We might think it extreme with what he did but remember God was forming a nation unlike all of the nation's that had ever existed before this. He was bringing together a people who would be in covenant with Him and it would be through this people He would reveal Himself and the love he has for mankind and why He created us to begin with.

1 Kings 18:46

46 The hand of the LORD had come upon Elijah. He tied up his skirts and ran in front of Ahab all the way to Jezreel. (1Ki 18:46 TNK)

This is a very short and simple passage that has much to say about God and His servants. His prophets were His spoke persons and at the same time they were very much human beings. They brought God's word to the people and in the time of the judges we begin to see the prophet coming into his or her own time. They would help to bring God's word to Israel and to help guide them in a way that was very different than the High Priest. The High Priest would intercede on the part of the nation on Yom Kippur when he would come into the Holy of Holies and stand before the Ark of the Covenant and stand between Israel and God in order to bring reconciliation between the two. Other times he would consult God through the use of the Urim and Thummin to find out an answer for God's people. This would begin to differentiate the position Moses held and the position the priests would hold.

The prophets of Israel would advise kings and bring them God's word as Nathan did for David.

2 Samuel 7:2 the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." **3** And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you." **4** But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, **5** "Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build Me a house to dwell in?' **6** I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for My dwelling. **7** In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?" **8** Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over My people Israel. **9** And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. **10** And I will appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, **11** from the time that I appointed judges over My people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. **12** When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. **13** He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. (2Sa 7:2 ESV)

It would not be David who would build God a temple but his son Solomon but God tells Nathan the Prophet to tell David that God would establish David as a house through his descendants and it would be through this that the Davidic dynasty would be established which would be forever.

<05704> ַעַד (723d)

Meaning: *as far as, even to, up to, until, while*

Origin: from 5710a

Usage: account(1), afar*(1), after(1), all the way(1), along(1), before(7), before*(3), beside*(1), beyond(2), beyond*(1), both*(1), completely*(1), either...or(1), equal(1), even(24), even

including(1), exceedingly*(3), extremely*(1), far(131), far*(1), forever*(66), forevermore*(1), here*(2), how many*(2), including(1), like(2), little while*(1), long(23), long*(25), momentary*(1), never*(2), only(1), or(9), over(1), over there*(1), point(1), reaching(1), since*(1), so long(1), still*(1), there(1), threatened*(1), till(3), time(1), toward(1), unfathomable*(1), until(365), until the when(1), until*(43), utterly*(3), very(1), very*(2), violently*(1), when(1), when*(1), while(7), while i was still(1), within(1), without*(2), yet(1), yet*(1).

<05769> עולם *olam* or עולם *olam* (761d)

Meaning: *long duration, antiquity, futurity*

Origin: from an unused word

Usage: ages(1), all successive(1), always(1), ancient(13), ancient times(3), continual(1), days of old(1), eternal(2), eternity(3), ever(10), Everlasting(2), everlasting(110), forever(136), forever and ever(1), forever*(70), forevermore*(1), lasting(1), long(2), long ago(3), long past(1), long time(3), never*(17), old(11), permanent(10), permanently(1), perpetual(29), perpetually(1).

The Hebrew word for forever is actually made up of two words, the first one being *ahd* and the second one *olam*. They are used elsewhere in Scripture and they carry the meaning of forever, perpetual and eternal. These meanings should not be lost on us because they teach us about God's covenant and promises to His children. The words God gives us are not meaningless and we must learn to look beyond the surface meanings to their deep Hebrew meanings because the Hebrew is the language God chose for His word to be written down in. Aramaic runs a close second to the Hebrew and they are sister languages while English is not even close and our dependency on English translations is what got us into trouble with interpreting God's word. By returning to the original language of the Bible and in this case the Tanach or Jewish Bible we can learn a lot by digging deeper into the word of God.

Until we find a Hebrew or Aramaic manuscript as old as the Greek of the Apostolic Scriptures we need to go to the Greek to find out the true meaning of what Yeshua and His Apostles actually taught. We know the Greek is based on a Hebrew or Aramaic foundation because of the work of Biblical scholars who have found the Hebrew idiom's of speech in the English which have been mistranslated from the Hebrew. Because of these errors in translation and the fact so many take Scripture out of context based on the English it comes as no surprise that people believe English to be the original language of God's word. We are human and human beings are prone to error. Elijah stood up to the king of Israel Ahab and through the power of the Ruach HaKodesh he raced like the wind ahead of the chariot of Ahab to deliver the word of God. Yet after he defeated the priests of Jezebel when she sent word to him that she would get even with him he fled to hide in a cave in the mountains where God came to him to bring him comfort and exhortation.

We do the same thing and react the same way Elijah did. He was a true servant of God but he was human all the same. Yeshua is the Son of God yet He was human all the same and He knew all he was would be wrapped up in the final days of his life. It would be in His death the purpose of His life would be revealed and it was after Mount Carmel when Elijah hit the lowest point in his life that he would come to understand the true power of his God and His purpose for Elijah.

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

1 Now about spiritual [things], my brothers, I want you to know **2** that you were heathens and were led to idols that have no distinct voice. **3** Because of this, I make known to you that there is

no one who speaks by the Spirit of God and says that Yeshua is cursed. And neither is anyone able to say that Yeshua is LORD, except by the Holy Spirit. **4** And there are distributions of gifts, but the Spirit is one. **5** And there are distributions of services, but the LORD is one. **6** And there are distributions of powers, but God is the one who works all in everyone. **7** Now the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one as it is profitable for him. **8** There is a word of wisdom that is given to him by the Spirit, now for another, a word of knowledge by the same Spirit, **9** for another, faith by the same Spirit, for another, gifts of healing by the same Spirit, **10** now for another, miracles, now for another, prophecy, now for another, discerning of spirits, now for another, kinds of tongues, now for another, the interpretation of tongues. **11** Now all these [things] the one Spirit works and distributes to everyone as he wills. (1Co 12:1 MGI)

If I have a desire for the Body of Messiah other than remaining focused on Yeshua and for unity of the brethren it is for us to learn the proper use of the gifts that God gives us through the Ruach HaKodesh. It is more than speaking in tongues which too many believe should be our primary focus. That is out of proportion to the gifts that God desires to work within the Body of His Son Yeshua. We have the word of wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning spirits, tongues and interpretation of tongues. It would appear we have more gifts than simply speaking in tongues. For the Body to be healthy we must have all of these gifts working together. The Ruach HaKodesh works in the Body and in us and distributes these gifts as the Spirit wills. If we truly seek the will of God in our lives we will discover the gift He has for us. First and foremost we must stand up for our faith and for our God and His Son Yeshua. If we deny Him He will deny us in the day of reckoning and I have seen people falling away from the faith and turning to Judaism or worse yet they are turning away from God completely. This is sad but it is to be expected because we are told of a great apostasy or falling away from God.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Will anyone deceive you in any way? Because [it will not come] except a rebellion should come first and the man of sin should be revealed, the son of destruction, **4** who is an opponent of [God] and elevates himself above all that is called God and that is revered, so that he will even sit in the temple of God as God and will portray himself as though he is God. (2Th 2:3 MGI)

Phineas was a servant of God and stood up for God. He did not turn away from his duty to defend the honor of the Holy One of Israel. We might consider it to be extreme but what would we have done if we were there and seeing what they saw? Reflect back to when Moses came down from Mount Sinai, the first time, and saw Israel bowing and dancing before a Golden Calf they claimed was their God. I am not saying we should react the way Phineas did but what would you do if confronted with someone profaning the Holy One of Israel by their actions and lack of respect for our Creator? Now think about the way civilization is today and think back to Rome and Greece and the other mighty nations that once walked the face of the earth. When they came against the God of Israel He brought them down after using them to chastise His people and to discipline them. He did not allow these nations to get away with what they done and called them to judgment. He used Egypt to protect Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and even Yeshua but there will be a day of reckoning for them.

My friends always look to the God of your salvation and place your faith in Yeshua His Son and our Redeemer.

Blessings to you all!

Eddie is getting on in years and develops a serious hearing problem, so his doctor gives him a set of hearing aids, which allows him to hear perfectly. A few months later Eddie returns for a routine check, and thanks the doctor. "You're welcome, I'm sure your wife and daughters are happy you can hear again." "Oh, I haven't told them yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations I used to miss. I've now changed my will three times!"

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

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