

Tree of Life Messianic Ministries

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Message 8-15-09

Reeh-See

Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17

Isaiah 54:11-55:5

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

Introduction

In the very first words of this week's portion Moses challenges the people, as he sounds one of the great recurrent themes of Deuteronomy – we are free to choose, and our choices have lasting consequences.

Deuteronomy 16:5-8

5 You may not offer the Passover sacrifice within any of your towns that the LORD your God is giving you, **6** but at the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name dwell in it, there you shall offer the Passover sacrifice, in the evening at sunset, at the time you came out of Egypt. **7** And you shall cook it and eat it at the place that the LORD your God will choose. And in the morning you shall turn and go to your tents. **8** For six days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a solemn assembly to the LORD your God. You shall do no work on it.

Prior to establishing the Tabernacle and then the Temple the Holy One accepted offerings from wherever the people were living or they had encountered the Almighty and desired to mark the place. Once He established the Tabernacle and then the Temple He instructed the Children of Israel their sacrifices could only be made in the place where He chose place His name. With the destruction of the Temple the Holy One did not choose any other place to accept sacrifices. So what were the Children of Israel to do? They turned to the rabbi's as they had come into power when the Temple was gone and the Levitical Priesthood died off. With no Temple the Levites were out of work.

There was a Temple on Mount Gerizim with its own priesthood but it was for the Samaritan's. They also had their own Bible which placed the Temple on Mount Gerizim and not on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The rabbi's chose to replace the Temple service with synagogue worship that would mirror the service in the Temple. That service is done to this day in synagogues and many Messianic congregation's around the world. The reason I bring this up is because there are those who say they are returning to the Bible so they are offering Passover lambs and partaking of them. The traditional

Jewish practice is to eat chicken or another food because you cannot sacrifice a lamb. The rabbi's placed prayer, keeping the mitzvot or Torah and tzedakah or charity as a replacement for sacrifices. The realization is that one's sins are only covered temporarily.

The Church teaches, along with Messianic congregations, that with Yeshua's death and resurrection we no longer need to sacrifice animals. This is Biblical fallacy because in the Apostolic Scriptures the disciples used the temple as their main place to share the gospel of Yeshua. They also kept the Festivals and even the Apostle Shaul made every attempt to be in Jerusalem for the three pilgrimage Festivals.

Acts 20:16 For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

What was so special about Pentecost? It was one of the three pilgrimage festivals the Almighty had instructed the Israelites to keep in the place where He had chosen to place His name. In this case that was in Jerusalem where the Temple was located. The three Pilgrimage Festivals are Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot. Israelites are expected to make the trip to Jerusalem for these Festivals and it was at the Festival of Shavuot that the Ruach HaKodesh was given to the talmidim gathered there. It was here that they received the power from on High that would empower them to take the gospel to the nations.

We see evidence of a similar event happening at Mount Sinai with the giving of the Torah.

Numbers 11:25 Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it. **26** Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. **27** And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." **28** And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, "My lord Moses, stop them." **29** But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!"

The Ruach or Spirit of the Holy One rested on some of the elders of Israel and they prophesied. Joshua wanted Moses to stop it but Moses refused instead telling Joshua that he wished all of Israel would do the same. We don't see a focus on speaking in tongues but in the gift of prophecy. Now please remember that prophecy is not just about foretelling the future. That is a part of it but it is also about bringing a word of exhortation to the people in correction or in edification or both. Usually when we read the books of the Prophets we see them bringing a word of correction to the people and they usually end with a word of comfort and encouragement if the people turn back to the Almighty and His ways – Torah.

Israel belonged to the Almighty because He chose them as His own special people from among all the other nations on the face of the earth. From the beginning, after Abel died, Seth was through whom Israel would descend. After the flood it is generally accepted that Shem was through whom Israel would come. Then we arrive at Abraham, his son Isaac, and Jacob. The Almighty chose to work through this family to bring about His promise. The twelve sons of Jacob would become the father's of Israel. It would be through the line of Judah that the Messiah, the Lion of Judah, would

come. Yeshua did come, as a Jew – an observant Jew. What I mean is He followed Torah to its perfection not to yoke as a burden but as a yoke that was light.

Matthew 11:28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. **29** "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. [Jeremiah 6:16] **30** "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." The Messiah did not come to bind us but to free us from the bondage placed upon us by men. I don't say this to cast away the writings of the rabbis because they are my people in whose teachings I was raised. But I was placed under the Talmud not the Torah of the Holy One of Israel. The Talmud is to be seen as an aid in understanding some of the more difficult parts of Torah but sometimes the rabbi's are silent because even they cannot understand what Moses instructed.

This is like what happens with the writings of the Apostle Shaul. We see his answer to questions sent to him but we do not see the actual questions and can only surmise from his responses as to what the problem was. The other thing that happens is the Church and many Messianic's try to apply what Shaul wrote to the Church and Messianic Body as a whole. He was dealing with specific problems in congregations he founded or was part of the leadership in. Shaul would have no authority in the Jerusalem congregation or any congregation that he had not helped start or been asked to help in.

Yet today we say Shaul has freed us from the curse of the law. The law is a curse if you make it so. The Torah is a blessing to anyone who chooses to follow it. That is called free-will. The Almighty does not force us to follow Torah. We choose to follow the Torah. It becomes the law if we make it that way but through the power of the Ruach we can walk in the light of the Torah through faith in Messiah.

Isaiah 54:2-3

2 "Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. **3** For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left, and your offspring will possess the nations and will people the desolate cities.

The Holy One of Israel gave this promise to His people. They would possess the nations. Look at what the Palestinian's have done with what has been given to them by Israel. They have destroyed whatever they touched and they want more. They do not want a state of their own to live in peace with Israel they want a foothold in the land of promise that will give them the opportunity to take all of the land and destroy the Jewish people once and for all. This is what was prophesied for Ishmael and his descendants. Ishmael would be the exact opposite of Israel. He would father twelve sons the same as Jacob did.

Genesis 25:16 These are the sons of Ishmael and these are their names, by their villages and by their encampments, twelve princes according to their tribes.

Genesis 17:18 And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!" **19** God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. **20** As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation. **21** But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year."

Genesis 16:12 He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen."

Genesis 16:12 describes the Palestinians to a tee. They fight with one another and with everyone else. They were offered a land of their own when the partition that created Israel was put in place. They rejected it because they believed they would over run Israel and drive all the Jews into the sea. The Holy One of Israel would have none of that. He placed Judah back in the land to hold it not bargain it away. If they would allow Him to go before them they could take possession of all the land they have been given. Instead they choose to go their own way and look where that has brought them.

If they would only place their faith in the Holy One of Israel and His Messiah – Yeshua – think what could be?

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? **7** Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Messiah, our Passover lamb has been sacrificed. **8** Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

The Messianic Body at large is doing exactly what the Church does. They sit in judgment of other Believers instead of looking after their own house. They are so busy looking at what everyone else is doing they forget about themselves.

Matthew 7:3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?

If we took just some of the energy we waste on judging one another think what we could accomplish for the Almighty? The possibilities are endless – do you hear what I am saying? We can be about the Master's business doing what He told us to do.

Matthew 24:3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" **4** And Yeshua answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. **5** "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Messiah,' and will mislead many. **6** "You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for *those things* must take place, but *that* is not yet the end. **7** "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. **8** "But all these things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs. **9** "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. **10** "At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. **11** "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. **12** "Because Torahlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. **13** "But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. **14** "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. **15** "Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION [Daniel 9:27, 11:31, 12:11] which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), **16** then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. **17** "Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to

get the things out that are in his house. **18** "Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. **19** "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! **20** "But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath. **21** "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. **22** "Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. **23** "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Messiah,' or 'There *He is*,' do not believe *him*. **24** "For false Messiahs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

If you do not have your nose in the Bible and have a foundation in Torah you will fall to the enemy because you will not know how to recognize him. I see these things happening now in our day and time. The Almighty's hand is moving across the earth and Satan is trying to counter Him. Satan's fate is sealed. It says so in the Bible. The enemy of the Holy One and the deceiver of His people will answer for what he has done. We still have time and the opportunity to repent and turn back to Him. In Judaism this is called *teshuvah*. The fall festival of Yom Teruah is the time for this – for reconciling ourselves with our Master and healing our relationships with our fellow man.

I have seen this up close and personal in my ministry. I have had to swallow my pride and love my fellow man as myself. It is not enough to love your neighbor as yourself. You must love your enemy. What could happen if Judah turned to Messiah and Israel loved Ishmael -stranger things have happened my friends, and stranger things will be happening? Are you ready for what is about to unleashed by the Master upon the earth? If not you had better get your affairs in order because things are about to go topsy-turvy. I wish you peace and blessings in the name of our Redeemer Yeshua.

The way of life is like a path between fire and ice. The slightest bend in either direction is fatal. What to do? Walk in the middle...Period of the Mishnah

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

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