



Taking Messiah Yeshua and Torah to the World!

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Shelach Lecha-Send for Yourself
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Introduction

The title to this week's Parashah, Shelach Lecha, means "send for yourself," a reluctant and angry response from heaven to a request for espionage that ends in a decree from God that *that* generation must die out in the wilderness, destined to 40 years of wandering; one year for each of the days the spies were in the land.

Numbers 13:1-8

1 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **2** "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel. From each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, everyone a chief among them." **3** So Moses sent them from the wilderness of Paran, according to the command of the LORD, all of them men who were heads of the people of Israel. **4** And these were their names: From the tribe of Reuben, Shammua the son of Zaccur; **5** from the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat the son of Hori; **6** from the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh; **7** from the tribe of Issachar, Igal the son of Joseph; **8** from the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Nun. (Num 13:1 ESV)

Some people make the mistake of thinking Joshua is from the tribe of Judah, when in reality, he is from the tribe of Ephraim and Caleb is from the tribe of Judah and some feel that Caleb is not native born to Judah because he is mentioned as being Caleb the Kennizite. Whether Caleb was a native born or not he is said to be from the tribe of Judah showing us that one becomes a part of Israel based on their acceptance of the God of Israel and His Torah.

He is called a "Kennizite" in Joshua 14:6, 14 This may simply mean "son of Kenez" Numbers 32:12. Some, however, read "Jephunneh, the son of Kenez," who was a descendant of Hezron, the son of Pharez, a grandson of Judah. If this correct then Caleb can trace his heritage all the way back to Judah son of Jacob. Joshua can trace his line back to Ephraim the son of Joseph. It would be these two men who give a good report about the land of Canaan while the other ten spies give a bad report. We see Judah and Ephraim joining together as the representatives of the Children of Israel. It is these two houses or kingdoms that stand apart today, each going their own way, doing their own thing. Judah holds the scepter, the staff and the promise of the Messiah Yeshua. To Judah falls leadership until Messiah comes. To Ephraim falls the sharing of Yeshua with their brother Judah and the nations. To Judah falls the responsibility for teaching Torah to Ephraim and the nations.

Neither side is doing a very good job helping one another or in working together. They stood up for God and his promises to Israel and worked together for the good of Israel. They came out of slavery in Egypt and walked through the desert for forty years coming out on the other side to go into the land the only two out of a generation above the age of 20 years. I have always said that only a remnant would be saved and Scripture backs this up.

Joel 2:32 And it shall come to pass *that* whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the remnant whom the LORD calls. (Joe 2:32 NKJ)

Romans 9:27 Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, "THOUGH THE NUMBER OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL BE LIKE THE SAND OF THE SEA, IT IS THE REMNANT THAT WILL BE SAVED. [Isaiah 10:22, Genesis 22:17, Hosea 1:10] (Rom 9:27 NAU)

Isaiah 10:22 For though your people Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will return. Destruction is decreed, overflowing with righteousness. (Isa 10:22 ESV)

The Children of Israel were promised through Abraham to be like the sand of the sea and the stars in the sky, two visible reminders of God's promise, but the end result is that out of all of these descendants of Abraham only a remnant will be saved. Please keep in mind that while a remnant may still appear as a vast number consider this against all the people who ever lived from the beginning to the end. In Noah's day all the people living were drowned in the flood except for Noah and his family yet the promise of descendants was given to Abraham called the father of the faithful or righteous. In the entire world and from all the people who ever lived God gave His covenant to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. From them would come the twelve tribes of Israel with Joseph's portion given to his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh? God would follow a line of people that would culminate in His own Son Yeshua being born into this world as the Son of Man.

While we see other uses of the term Son of Man it accurately portrays the Messiah because it was through Him that we all came into being so it would fall to Him to rescue us from the life of sin we all became entangled in. He created us as His Father's Word and He brought us redemption as the promise of His Father. As Isaac lay on the altar waiting for his father Abraham to sacrifice him God stayed Abraham's hand. It would fall to the Son of God to offer Himself up on the tree on our behalf to redeem us because He is the Biblical Kinsman Redeemer. He is our closest living relative and He becomes our Kinsman Redeemer. We all owe our lives to Him but not enough commit themselves to Him to make it all the way to the end of the road.

Ephraim is going in one direction while Judah is heading in another. They split after Solomon's death and as a result of His sin of idolatry. No matter how hard they try to repair the breach it only serves to drive us further apart. Rather than using Messiah to heal us and make us into one nation again we stand apart as two nations waiting for Messiah to come. Both groups believe they are the chosen of the Holy One of Israel when the truth is God has one people and that people is made up of two houses that have others joined to them that will one day be made into one people called Israel.

Ezekiel 37:19 "say to them, `Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the stick of Joseph, which *is* in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will join them

with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand." (Eze 37:19 NKJ)

It is God who will make the people whole and complete and He will do it through His Son Yeshua because Yeshua willingly surrendered His Godhood and died so that we could be redeemed. God cannot die so the obvious question is how can Yeshua be God and die? He gave up who He was in order to become like you and I and it would be because of this He could now take our place as the sin offering. He did not have to do this because His Father did not demand or order Him to do so. He willingly did this because He loves His Father and He loves us. The whole of Scripture finds its culmination in His sacrificial death and in His resurrection. The Jewish liturgy lifts up the power of God over the grave and speaks of a Messiah. While Judah may be blinded to the truth of Yeshua they are not blinded to the truth of a Messiah. They are not looking for a Messiah who will save them from their sins but for one who will save them from their enemies. It falls to those of us who know the truth to reach out to Judah and lovingly point them to Yeshua as He is found in the Tanach. The same holds true for reaching out to Ephraim and sharing the truth of Torah.

John 14:15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (Joh 14:15 ESV)

I don't know how many times I have quoted this Scripture over the years but it is as true as when Yeshua first shared it two thousand years ago as it is today. The commandments He is talking about are found in the Torah because those were the only commandments that ever came from God. You cannot say that we will find His commandments in the "*New Testament*" because there was **NO** *New Testament* when He spoke these words. The only Scriptures they had were what we know as the Jewish Bible – the Tanach. Yeshua went on to say:

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." (Luk 24:44 NKJ)

While the Apostolic Scriptures openly testify of Yeshua He was first revealed in the pages of the Tanach and everyone, Jews included, came to faith in Him through the Torah, the Prophets and the Psalms. He did not make it easy for us to find Him in the Word. We have to work for it so we value what we discover. Joshua and Caleb were the two witnesses who testified of God's provision in bringing the Children of Israel to the doorway to the Promised Land. It would be two witnesses who would again bring Israel to the Promised Land and it will be two witnesses who will prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah Yeshua.

Joshua 2:8-11

8 Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof **9** and said to the men, "I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. **10** For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. **11** And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. (Jos 2:8 ESV)

From the Jewish Study Bible: Rahab, a harlot of Jericho, is mentioned by name in chapter 2 (and again in 6:17, 23, 25), while the spies are not named. The idea of a prostitute as the hero of the narrative was troubling to the Rabbis. Thus she is said to have become a pious convert because of her encounter with the spies; she then marries Joshua and becomes the ancestor of nine prophets, including Huldah. In Christian tradition she is reckoned as an ancestor of Yeshua (Matthew 1:5) and as an example of living by faith (Hebrews 11:31). An alternative solution, based on a wordplay with "zonah," "harlot" – already found in the Targum and some medieval Jewish commentators – is the claim that Rahab was an innkeeper, who provided food ("mazon").

Rahab kept the two spies safe from the men of Jericho and forty years after Israel came out of slavery in Egypt the story of what happened still was out there and the nations saw the Children of Israel on the move for those forty years. They saw them grow from a rag-tag group of slaves into a people empowered by God who belonged to Him and had been called out as the faithful remnant. It might not have seemed that way because God would discipline His people but it was through His discipline that He showed His love for them. We need to keep this in mind for ourselves when seemingly bad things happen to us. It might just be we are being tested or we have transgressed against the Torah of our Creator. He wants what is best for us because we are part of that nation that was called out of Egypt into a Promised Land flowing with milk and honey.

Exodus 3:8 and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. (Exo 3:8 ESV)

One day we will be called out of the nations to return to the Land given to us by God where He will reign from the New Jerusalem with His Son Yeshua. They will be the living Temple and not one of wood, tent or stone. There will no longer be the need for the Holy of Holies where the High Priest would come once a year to atone for the sins of Israel. Sin will be gone because Satan will have been punished once and for all and will be cast into the Lake of Fire.

Revelation 21:22 I saw no Temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its Temple. (Rev 21:22 NAU)

We are called to be temples of God where the Ruach HaKodesh can take up residence within us. This is just a taste of what it will be like to be in the presence of the Godhead in the time beyond time. When Moses was in the presence of the Lord he was filled with the Shekinah of God that caused his face to glow. When Moses was on the Mount of Transfiguration he was with Elijah and Yeshua and they all were transfigured. Moses was filled with the power of the Holy One of Israel and he and Elijah were called by the Father to go to the Son. Some say the two witnesses in Revelation will be Elijah and Moses. I cannot say whether this is true or not but we do know that it takes two or three witnesses, according to Torah, to confirm the breaking of the Torah or the blessings. Moses and Elijah testified to the truth of Yeshua that day on the mountain in the presence of Peter, James and John.

James 2:24-26

24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. **25** And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent

them out by another way? **26** For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead. (Jam 2:24 ESV)

Rahab had faith and she confirmed that faith by protecting the two Israelite spies. How many of us would do what she did? She stood up for God and affirmed that He is in control and that the people of Canaan know the God of Israel has given the Land to His people. She chose to join herself to the Children of Israel and protected His messengers. She put her faith into action and wound up being used by the Apostle James as confirmation for his teaching about faith without works and faith confirmed by works. These are two very important concepts that we need to remember because they go to the heart of our faith and our walk with Yeshua. We can talk all we want to about our faith but the bottom line is that faith without action is nothing but words falling from our lips.

If we step out to confirm our faith through our actions the Lord will answer us for standing up for Him. If we deny Messiah and turn our backs to Him it is the same as if we rejected God because God the father and God the Son is God. Every time we say the Hebrew word *Elohim* we are saying a plural Hebrew word that is used to define pagan gods and the one true God. Every time *Elohim* is translated when used to denote pagan gods it is always translated in the plural form. When it is translated for the one true God it is always translated in the singular form when in reality it is plural showing us that our God is the Godhead. There is a singular form for *Elohim* and it is *El*. If God is indeed the source of the inspiration for the Bible don't you think He used the plural forms for a reason? They only become singular when translated into other languages especially English. I know why Jewish translators render *Elohim* as singular but why would Christian translators do the same thing? It would seem it would be to their benefit to translate it as it appears in the original language? God is telling who He is and we continue to turn away from the truth. We are not confirming our faith by our actions. What we are doing is confirming our lack of faith by our actions. Turn back to Him before it is too late. Walk the walk don't just talk the talk. Some of the Pharisees did just that and Yeshua took them to task for it.

Matthew 23:27 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead *men's* bones and all uncleanness. (Mat 23:27 NKJ)

Yeshua was not against all the scribes and Pharisees. This is a misconception on the part of many Christians and even some Messianic's. It is not about the outward show of righteous but what is inside of you that counts. Many Pharisees and Sadducees came to believe in Yeshua after His resurrection. Many scribes and Pharisees are walking among us today without a clue as to how far away from God they truly are. My friends don't walk with them but be part of the remnant and stand up and be counted for our Messiah Yeshua.

A man walks into a doctor's office with a cucumber up his nose, a carrot in his left ear and a banana in his right ear. "What's the matter with me?" he asks the doctor. "Well," the doctor replies, "You're not eating properly."

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

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