



Taking Messiah Yeshua and Torah to the World!

Tree of Life Messianic Ministries
PO Box 467, Organ, NM 88052-0467
866-874-7250 * Fax: 866-800-2390
tolmm@etz-chayim.org * www.etz-chayim.org

Message 2-20-10
Terumah-Offering
Exodus 25:1-27:19
1 Kings 5:12 (26)-6:13
Revelation 4:5

Introduction

The title of this week's Parashah, Terumah, means "contribution" (as in tithe) within the context of Israel being ordered (V'yikchu li trumoh) to take a "trumoh" of produce (about 1/50th). The term appears no less than three times; perhaps defining three types of givers, from the highest level of *li trumoh* (the Israelite who gives because God orders so), to *asher yidvenu libo* (the Israelite who gives for selfish reasons, in that it makes him feel better to help others), to the lowest level of *tikchu et trumoti* (the Israelite who gives against his will, motivated by shame).

Exodus 25:31-40

31 "You shall also make a menorah of pure gold; the menorah shall be of hammered work. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its *ornamental* knobs, and flowers shall be *of one piece*. **32** "And six branches shall come out of its sides: three branches of the menorah out of one side, and three branches of the menorah out of the other side. **33** "Three bowls *shall be* made like almond *blossoms* on one branch, *with* an *ornamental* knob and a flower, and three bowls made like almond *blossoms* on the other branch, *with* an *ornamental* knob and a flower-- and so for the six branches that come out of the menorah. **34** "On the menorah itself four bowls *shall be* made like almond *blossoms*, *each with* its *ornamental* knob and flower. **35** "And *there shall be* a knob under the *first* two branches of the same, a knob under the *second* two branches of the same, and a knob under the *third* two branches of the same, according to the six branches that extend from the menorah. **36** "Their knobs and their branches *shall be of one piece*; all of it *shall be* one hammered piece of pure gold. **37** "You shall make seven lamps for it, and they shall arrange its lamps so that they give light in front of it. **38** "And its wick-trimmers and their trays *shall be* of pure gold. **39** "It shall be made of a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils. **40** "And see to it that you make *them* according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.

From the Jewish Study Bible: The menorah is for illuminating the interior of the Holy Place each night. Its location shows that the light is for the benefit of the officiating Priests, not God. With its central shaft and three branches emerging from each side it resembles a stylized tree.

It's interesting that the commentary refers to the menorah as possibly a form of a stylized tree being that the rollers of a Torah scroll are called *Etz* the Hebrew word for tree. When one is

called to the Bema to read from the Torah scroll, they usually touch or hold onto one the handles of the scroll, connecting them to the Word of God. When one does this it brings comfort; something I can identify with personally as I read from the scroll weekly in our congregational Shabbat service. In doing this I am connected to all the generations in the past and those ahead of me in a way that brings me into unity with the people of Israel.

This is not just about the Jewish people but to everyone past, present, and future that is or has been or will be connected to the Children of Israel. Israel is the nation God has called out to be His own. His covenant was made with Israel and any attempt by any people to supplant His chosen ones will be met with an unwelcome reception by our Creator. The Jewish people are but one facet of the changing face of Israel. Within Israel God has called His people to Him through His Son Yeshua, whether they are Jewish or not. The problem that arises is when we take it upon ourselves to toss aside the ways of the Jewish people because we do not like them or not drawn to them, desiring instead to create our own forms of honoring God's Torah and His Son Yeshua.

If we are connected to Israel, and Israel is the tree, with the Jewish people among the branches and are the natural branches, as the Shaliach Shaul (the Apostle Paul) writes then we cannot just ignore these branches trying to remove them from the tree. The menorah was commanded by God to be placed in the Holy Place to shine its light upon the veil of the Holy of Holies while the Priests went about their duties at night. I cannot help but think that the Priests were comforted by the fact that behind this veil was the Ark of the Covenant containing the stone tablets with the Ten Words, the Rod of Aaron that budded, and a jar of manna. All of these items were very significant about God's relationship to Israel and theirs to Him.

Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous *is* a tree of life, and he who wins souls *is* wise.

Revelation 22:14 Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

Blessed are they who do His commandments because they have the right to the tree of life and may enter into the city of Jerusalem – that city of old once known as Salem and ruled over by Melchizedek. The tree of life is the one that stands in the Garden of Eden that brings eternal life to those that eat of its fruit but its way has been barred by God due to the sin of our first mother and father Adam and Chavah. Because of their sin God could not allow them to eat of that fruit lest sin live forever in the place created by God as a special place where God can come and meet with His Creation man. For now that special relationship with Him can only be found through our relationship with Yeshua.

Some can have a limited relationship with God through obedience to His Torah alone but the sweetness that belief in Yeshua brings to the table exceeds that of belief in the Torah alone. For me it is a completed relationship that combines faith in Yeshua with following Torah. We do not follow Torah to gain redemption because that is a free gift from God because salvation is by grace alone. We follow Torah because of our love for Yeshua and His love for His Father. Yeshua seeks to please His Father so He follows His Father's commandments and we, in turn, follow Yeshua's commandments because of our love for Him. Together we are all following Torah because Torah is the commandments of God.

John 15:9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. **10** "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. **11** "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full. **12** "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **13** "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. **14** "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

Messiah ties in obedience to His Father because He loves Him with the love of His disciples for Him. He sees no difference but He clearly makes a line of separation between His going to God the Father and our having to go through Messiah. He sets the tone for an intermediary between God and man. He affirms the role of the priests and those who came after. Up until the time of Moses it appears that man could come to God without an intermediary, or so it appears. What I mean is that when God wanted to talk to Abraham about Sodom and Gomorrah He appeared to Him as Yeshua. God appeared in a dream to Jacob standing at the top of the ladder where the angels were going and down to heaven and earth. If we cannot look upon the face of God or we will die then how did Jacob know this to be God? He could look upon Yeshua. Appearances like this are found throughout the Tanach.

Exodus 33:20 But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live."

God is God and Yeshua is God so how could the people 2,000 years ago look upon Yeshua and live? We could assume that Yeshua had come in all His humanity so they could look upon Him without the fear of dying because it would be through Him that all mankind would have the opportunity to receive the gift of eternal life if they would only turn away from their sins. We are a stubborn people, one that will not humble ourselves to anyone unless we are forced to, which is a sad commentary on the state of man because we are taught by our society that we can be gods. Man has throughout history thought that he could be a god and have no need for the God that created all of us.

This is why we need the tree of life because we are not gods nor will we ever be gods despite what anyone might tell you. We are sons and daughters of God who will one day be made higher than the angels. We will stand in His presence and that of the Lamb of God. This is His promise to us if we allow ourselves to be covered by the blood of the Lamb.

1 Kings 5:12-18) (Tanach-5:26-32)

12 So the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as He had promised him; and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a treaty together. **13** Then King Solomon raised up a labor force out of all Israel; and the labor force was thirty thousand men. **14** And he sent them to Lebanon, ten thousand a month in shifts: they were one month in Lebanon *and* two months at home; Adoniram *was* in charge of the labor force. **15** Solomon had seventy thousand who carried burdens, and eighty thousand who quarried *stone* in the mountains, **16** besides three thousand three hundred from the chiefs of Solomon's deputies, who supervised the people who labored in the work. **17** And the king commanded them to quarry large stones, costly stones, *and* hewn stones, to lay the foundation of the Temple. **18** So Solomon's builders, Hiram's builders, and the Gebalites quarried *them*; and they prepared timber and stones to build the Temple.

In many ways this passage of Scripture kind of goes against how the Tabernacle was built. In our Haftarah portion Solomon conscripts a labor force. The people of Israel did not have a choice in

the matter where they did when it came to the Tabernacle. I realize this was for the Temple but Israel had a choice as it always has had in their relationship with God. What if God chose to force us to obey Him – He could you know? He could simply tell us to obey Him and if He willed it, it would happen, but He does not. Why did Solomon, in all of his wisdom, find the need to force the men of Israel to work to get the materials to build the Temple of the Holy One of Israel? I am not sure how wise this was but it could be just one of several decisions Solomon made that ultimately led to his fall from the grace of God and the splitting of the nation of Israel with Judah only being left with the tribe of Benjamin.

It would be a fall from the heights back down to earth for the Davidic dynasty promised to David by God and then to Solomon. Solomon was the one chosen by God to build His Temple yet when the Tabernacle was built it was according to what Moses had been shown on the mountain by God. Solomon turned to Hiram, a friend of his father, for materials and help in designing and building the Temple. We know that God's Presence came and took up residence within the Temple upon its dedication but could there have been a slight hesitation on the part of God to inhabit a place built and designed not just by Israelites but by pagans as well?

Why kind of a message does it send to others when we try to share with them about the non-Biblical holidays of man that are based on pagan holidays if God allowed pagans to help build His house? We know that God did not need a place to dwell on earth because the whole earth was His and He could go anywhere he wanted to. Why did He choose to dwell in a place where the holy and profane came together? If an unclean sacrifice were to be made God would respond to that in an instant but in this case he chose not to. It makes me stop and have to ask why?

We know that later in his life Solomon would build high places where his foreign wives could worship their pagan gods. Then Solomon compounds this sin by worshipping the foreign gods himself including the offering of children. Solomon is an example of how high you can rise and of how low you can go. Because of this sin God tells Solomon he will take away the kingdom from his son but will allow one tribe to remain with Judah only because of his father David. David was not permitted to build the Temple but Solomon is and David remained faithful to God while Solomon did not. I would say this is an interesting turn of events yet one not uncommon for our uncommon God – the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Revelation 4:5

5 And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire *were* burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

There are six branches on the menorah with the seventh being the Shammash or helper. In the Tabernacle and in the Temple the Holy of Holies is where the Spirit of God resided with the light of the lamps of the menorah shining outside. In Revelation 4 the seven lamps are burning before the throne and they represent the seven Spirits of God. We always hear about the Holy Spirit but then we encounter the seven Spirits of God and this kind of throws us off a bit. It's kind of the same thing when the Apostle Paul talks about getting to the third heaven. There seems to be more mystery and a deeper understanding to God than meets the eye. – literally and spiritually. Could it be the menorah is God's way of trying to show us how He exists – that He is a composite Being beyond our understanding until the day when He finally takes up His throne with His Son by His side. Then and only then will we fully understand God. For the time being He gives us these small revelations to contemplate. I know that it causes me to have to

pause and take a deep breath when a new understanding of the nature of God is revealed through the things He shares with us in His Word.

Our desire is to be like God when we should learn to be content with what He says we will receive when the final Day of Judgment comes around. We each will receive a crown if we are among the righteous and a whole lot worse if we find ourselves in the outer darkness.

Matthew 22:12 "So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. **13** "Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' **14** "For many are called, but few *are* chosen."

My friends let us pray that we are found dressed for the wedding and not cast out into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Many believe they will be ready for the wedding only to find out they are not dressed for the occasion – in other words they did not work out their salvation with fear and trembling.

The local Yeshiva is having a charity auction so Sid goes and decides to bid on a parrot. But his every bid is briskly bid up by a voice in the crowd. A determined Sid keeps upping his bids until he is finally the winner. "By the way," he asks the auctioneer as he goes to pay, "Can this parrot speak?" "Yep, sure can. Guess who was bidding against you!"

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

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