

# Tree of Life Messianic Ministries

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**Message 2-28-09**  
**Terumah-Offering**  
**Exodus 25:1-27:19**  
**1 Kings 5:12 (26) -6:13**  
**Luke 14:7-11**

## Introduction

This week's portion records the instruction to Moses and the people that they build a sanctuary to take with them on their journey through the wilderness.

## Exodus 25:23-30

**23** "You shall also make a table of acacia wood; two cubits *shall be* its length, a cubit its width, and a cubit and a half its height. **24** "And you shall overlay it with pure gold, and make a molding of gold all around. **25** "You shall make for it a frame of a handbreadth all around, and you shall make a gold molding for the frame all around. **26** "And you shall make for it four rings of gold, and put the rings on the four corners that *are* at its four legs. **27** "The rings shall be close to the frame, as holders for the poles to bear the table. **28** "And you shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be carried with them. **29** "You shall make its dishes, its pans, its pitchers, and its bowls for pouring. You shall make them of pure gold. **30** "And you shall set the showbread on the table before Me always.

As we get deeper into Exodus and then Leviticus we find that much of the five books of the Torah have to do with the Mishkan (Tabernacle) and the Priesthood. Considering that the nations that have inhabited the earth worshipped all types of gods and had developed systems for this worship we should not be surprised. In fact, since everything that is, originated from the Almighty, it should not surprise us at all that His system has been perverted to worship gods who are not gods at all.

Can you imagine worshipping a god you make with your hands or that someone else has made? There were elaborate food and drink ceremonies for these gods by the people who made them or worshipped them. Has anyone considered that these food and drink ceremonies were a *knock-off* of the one the Holy One put into place?

**Genesis 14:18** Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he *was* the priest of God Most High.

This incident is recorded in the book of Genesis and makes note of an encounter between Abram and Melchizedek. The thing to take notice of in this verse is the mention of bread and wine. Then it says Melchizedek was a priest of God Most High. Then read what follows.

**Genesis 14:19** And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; **20** And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.

Melchizedek used the bread and the wine as part of a ceremony to bless Abram. Melchizedek worshipped and served the same God as Abram, who would go on to become Abraham, through whom all the nations of the earth would be blessed. The bread and the wine were used in a ritual ceremony and have been at the center of what Jewish families have done when breaking bread together. The Jewish people were entrusted by the Almighty with carrying on with the customs and the traditions as handed down from one generation to another.

The worshipping of pagan gods is a poor imitation of what The Holy One of Israel intended from the beginning. When He gave Satan dominion over the earth Satan went about replicating everything his Creator had done and made it over into what he wanted. We can find the Eternal everywhere, if we look hard enough. If we turn to His Torah we will find His story and the story of His people and His desires for us. I love the Bible because it has the story of Satan and God's people and the Eternal does not hide the struggles of His people from us. He does not sugar-coat the mistakes His people make.

He tells about how the people He chose to be His own sinned against Him and how He had to allow an entire generation to die before He would let the Children of Israel enter the Promised Land. From Exodus until the end of Deuteronomy when Moses dies and passes from the scene we read about how the Eternal moved throughout His people to make them into a nation that would be witnesses of Him to the rest of mankind. While He gave dominion over the earth to Satan He still moves among us to accomplish His purpose in much the same way that Satan tries to make us over for his purposes. This is a game of chess with each move being carefully orchestrated. The players are well aware of the importance of this game. We are not just chess pieces on a board we are living beings made in the image of our Maker. We are made in His image **not** in the image of Satan.

We are the Children of the Almighty One. We are the sons and daughters of Israel. Israel is His people not Satan's. When we internalize this truth we will finally awaken to what the Holy One of Israel desires for us. Do you believe that the Torah was only about the legalism that the Holy One wanted to lay on us or do you believe that the Torah is the yoke Yeshua spoke about when He said His yoke was light?

**Matthew 11:27** "All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and *the one* to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*. **28** "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29** "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

What yoke do you think Yeshua is talking about? The burden we carry is that of our sins which have been revealed to us through our knowledge of the Torah. These sins weigh us down and we are being crushed under this burden. By accepting Yeshua as Messiah and the Lord of lords we are able to release our sins to Him because He has already paid the price dictated according to Torah for sin – death! By releasing our sins and asking for forgiveness we take upon ourselves His yoke of forgiveness instead of being crushed by the yoke of our sins.

It is not a complicated process and the sacrificial system is evidence of that. While many of the procedures outlined for the priesthood are complicated or beyond our understanding we need to keep in mind the purpose for this system – it was to show us that we need forgiveness for our sins and we need it from our Creator and Maker. Satan cannot forgive our sins in the way that our Creator can. I can say to someone who comes to me and asks me to pray with them about their sins but I cannot forgive them the way that only Yeshua can. Yeshua forgives our sins and makes it right between us and His Father.

**Psalm 25:15** My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for He shall pluck my feet out of the net. **16** Turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me, for I *am* desolate and afflicted. **17** The troubles of my heart have enlarged; bring me out of my distresses! **18** Look on my affliction and my pain, and forgive all my sins.

**Matthew 9:6** "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins "-- then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." **7** And he arose and departed to his house.

**Mark 2:7** "Why does this *Man* speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Only God can forgive sin. In Mark 2:7 this is the crux of the problem between Yeshua and the leaders of His day. This is the accusation they would bring against Him. They would accuse Him of blaspheming against the Almighty. Their situation was they were focused on one God in the singular instead of the ***echad*** or compound unity of the Godhead. If the Almighty is the Creator then can He not choose how He will display Himself to us? If He is so great then can He not manifest Himself as He so chooses rather than how we want Him to reveal Himself?

We have to stop limiting ourselves by putting our Creator into a box. We are limiting what He can do by restricting Him according to our thinking. Release your limitations and allow Him to work as He needs to. He will work around us and in us and you will come to life in that release. It is very easy for me to tell you that but it is very hard to put this into motion. I struggle all the time with it. I have to be constantly on the alert because if I am not I can feel the burden increasing on me because I have forgotten to lay my burden upon the Lord and let Him take it from me and replace it with His yoke which is light.

### **1 Kings 6:11-13**

**11** Then the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying: **12** "Concerning this temple which you are building, if you walk in My statutes, execute My judgments, keep all My commandments, and walk in them, then I will perform My word with you, which I spoke to your father David. **13** "And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel."

I have used this passage quite a bit over the years when I am writing my weekly commentary. The reason being is because it can speak to you on different levels and in different ways. This word of the Lord that came to Solomon can also be applied to you and me. Put yourself in Solomon's place. I don't mean as king but as someone who the Holy One is speaking to. We are told that in order to receive His blessings we have to walk in His statutes, judgments and commandments. There is no mention of Torah here yet the Torah is here. All of these things we are told to keep are what make up the Torah. The Torah is the title for the Almighty's teachings to us. That is what the word Torah means. It means teaching or instruction. We are taught the statutes, judgments and commandments that He wants us to follow if we are to be blessed by Him.

**Deuteronomy 28:2** "And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God.

**Joshua 8:34** And afterward he read all the words of the Torah, the blessings and the cursings, according to all that is written in the Book of the Torah.

**Proverbs 28:20** A faithful man will abound with blessings, but he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.

**Malachi 2:2** If you will not hear, and if you will not take *it* to heart, to give glory to My name," says the LORD of hosts, "I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have cursed them already, because you do not take *it* to heart.

When you look at the verses I have placed here you see that the Almighty requires that you obey Him. What is it that we are to obey? In Joshua we are told it is the words of the Torah. Most translations will read law but in the Greek the word is **nomos** and is the word chosen to define the Torah. This word was chosen by the translators of the Tanach when they translated it from Hebrew into Greek for Greek speaking Jews who did not understand Hebrew.

You can see the consistent use of the word *nomos* throughout the entire Bible. The problem arises because of the Jewish view of law and the Christian perspective. The Jewish translators did not see law as being bad. If it came from the Eternal One how could it be bad? The Church defined Torah or law as being bad because we were now under the age of grace and no longer under the law. To me it was a gut reaction to move the Church away from its Jewish roots. They wanted to put some distance between themselves and Judaism. Some speculate that it was due to persecution that was coming upon the Jews and the Church wanted to avoid that and it was because they wanted and needed to establish themselves as a viable entity apart from its mother faith.

In doing this the Church gave up its history and had to make its own. Think about what it could have had if it would have remained connected to its roots?

**Isaiah 5:24** Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, and the flame consumes the chaff, so their root will be as rottenness, and their blossom will ascend like dust; because they have rejected the Torah of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

This could be interpreted as talking about those of Israel who reject the ways of the Almighty whether Jew or Christian. We see this in both. Another thing that I see is this obsession among Messianic's to jettison everything that is Jewish and say they are returning to their Hebrew roots. In

many ways this is what the Church did but now we have groups who claim they are Messianic but they simply desire to return to a simpler faith than what is or to a more Biblical faith. How can you do this if you throw away thousands of years of customs and traditions in your rush to return to your Biblical heritage? There is no disconnecting from Judaism if you truly desire to become Biblical. You need to understand where you come from in order to know where you are going. Think about this before you make the wrong decision.

### **1 Corinthians 6:16-20**

**7** So He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noted how they chose the best places, saying to them: **8** "When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him; **9** "and he who invited you and him come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place. **10** "But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. **11** "For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

How many of us really understand what it is Yeshua is saying to us? How many of us, if we understand this, will do this? Don't we desire the best seat at the wedding feast? Would we accept a place that puts us in the cheap seats? If we understand this parable then we have no choice but to humble ourselves before the Master and ask Him to seat us at the wedding feast. To desire what you feel you should have will only bring you pain when you discover you were not meant to be invited to the wedding feast at all.

**Luke 14:12** Then He also said to him who invited Him, "When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. **13** "But when you give a feast, invite *the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind.* **14** "And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

How do you view those who are less fortunate than you are? Are you willing to try to help them or do you reject them because they make you uncomfortable? What if you had to spend eternity with them? Of course there are those who abuse the system and through discernment we find out the truth. While we lack an understanding of the gifts of the Spirit we place limits on our ability to properly serve the Lord of lords and the King of kings. We have been given help in our understanding of the Torah of the Creator. These are the gifts of the Spirit that the Ruach HaKodesh – the Holy Spirit can give us to live up to the calling of our Master. We can also get down on our knees and pray!

**1 Kings 8:54** And so it was, when Solomon had finished praying all this prayer and supplication to the LORD, that he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.

***You answer my prayer when I know You to be its answer. Let my prayer be to walk with You in the small steps I take along my life's path.***

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*Mark R. Ensign at [mrensign@arn.net](mailto:mrensign@arn.net) (request to be added to list)*

*Ardelle Brody [[abrody@mchsi.com](mailto: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*

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