



Message 11-29-08
Toldot-Generations
Genesis 25:19-28:9
Malachi 1:1-2:7

Introduction

Toldot is the portion of Isaac, Rebecca, and their twin sons, who from the womb are destined to be rivals.

Genesis 25:12-14

12 Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him. **13** The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous; **14** for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him.

When I read this passage I immediately think of the jealousy the Palestinians have for the Jewish people and they desire what they have. The problem with that is when they are given what the Jewish people have they destroy it rather than continuing on with what Israel has started. Isaac lived in the land of Canaan as a sojourner, a pastoral nomad who lived in one place for a time and then moved on. As his father Abraham, Isaac did not have possession of any land in Canaan, except for the family burial plot that his father Abraham had purchased for his wife Sarah when she passed away.

What we see is God blessing Isaac as He did his father. God had chosen Abraham, his son Isaac, and his grandson Jacob to receive a blessing of continuity that would bring about the birth of the nation of Israel out of Hebrew slaves who were taken into Egypt by Jacob when Jacob reunited with his beloved son Joseph. The intertwining of the lives of the men and women God had chosen are intricate, with twists and turns this way and that way. Throw into this the enemies of God's people and you need a scorecard to keep track of what is going on.

In one way or another God has kept His hand on the Children of Israel from our father Abraham, to Isaac, Jacob, Moses – the birth of Israel, to their taking the Promised Land and to their division into two nations, Judah and Ephraim. Then we have the exiles of Judah and Ephraim and the return of the remnant of Judah to the Land in the time of Ezra and Nehemiah and the birth of Judaism as we know it today.

Exodus 19:5 'Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. **6** 'And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

Israel was to be special treasure to God from among all the nations of the earth. Contingent on that calling Israel was to obey the voice of God and keep His covenant which is the Torah, the teachings of God and embodied in the living Torah Yeshua. When Yeshua walked the earth it was the Torah coming to life and bringing redemption to the people through Yeshua. He is the Word of God and the Word of God is Torah. If we follow His covenant we are part of Israel and we were to be a holy nation and kingdom of priests but we failed in this so God called the Levites out of Israel and set Aaron and his line as the first priests of Israel with the rest of the Levites as their assistants.

I would assume we are laboring today as these assistants did in sharing the truth of Yeshua and His walk as a Torah observant Jewish man. He was born into Judah for a reason and a purpose. He walked the land of Promise to bring hope to a people and a world that God cared. He began His purpose in bringing to fulfillment the Festivals of God. The Festivals that we just completed in the fall, and the ones coming in the springtime, when the harvest is ready to be reaped. We find many allusions to agriculture as well as flocks and shepherds. Many of us have a hard time relating to the references to a lifestyle rooted in the land and the animals that walk the earth or fly in the sky above us.

It is my belief, and it is just an opinion, that when Yeshua returns we will begin to return to a lifestyle that will bring us closer to what God had intended in the Garden. Instead of a linear marking of God's plan we need to look at it as circular. We began as innocents in the Garden and we will return to the Garden when God's plan has come to fruition. Have you ever asked your what happened to the Garden since it was guarded by angels of the Lord? Some venture to say it was destroyed in the flood of Noah's day. I tend to think that God removed it from the physical world until the day came when He would return it to its rightful place among a resurrected and redeemed Israel formed of people from all the nations of the earth. He will take them and place them into one of the twelve tribes of Israel along with Judah, because Judah has Believers in Messiah in it as well and many of those who are called Jews are also of one of the twelve tribes.

There will finally be one people, one nation upon the face of the earth. What began as a promise to one man and passed down from father to son gave birth to a nation that God called His own special treasure in all the earth.

Deuteronomy 7:6 "For you *are* a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.

Deuteronomy 14:2 "For you *are* a holy people to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples who *are* on the face of the earth.

Psalm 135:4 For the LORD has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His special treasure.

Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Each one of these Scriptures tells of our special relationship with God as part of the people of Israel. In Psalm 135:4 we see where first God has chosen Jacob for Himself and Israel for His special treasure. Many times throughout the Torah and the rest of Scripture we see where God refers to Israel as Jacob at one time and then again as Israel. It could very well be that the reference to Jacob is to the physical side of His people Israel and when called Israel they have returned to their Spiritual calling. I am not saying that this is what it is but it is just a suggestion as to why uses Jacob one time and then Israel another when He changed Jacob's name to Israel. Jacob struggled with the Lord and at the worst moment in his life when his brother Esau was coming with 400 hundred men he wrestled with God to a standstill. For this he was "rewarded" with a permanent limp and a name that would last down through the ages that would draw our attention to this man who struggled with God as to who he was a human being and with God's calling on his life. In the end God marked Him forever so Jacob would never forget who he was and where he had come from. Jacob had reached the point in his life, that many of us have done, and he had to choose his salvation or the loss of his life and those of the ones closest to him. He chose God and for that we thank him because by his action he showed us the way to God.

Malachi 2:1-7

1 "And now, O priests, this commandment is for you. **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. **3** "Behold, I will rebuke your descendants and spread refuse on your faces, the refuse of your solemn feasts; and *one* will take you away with it. **4** Then you shall know that I have sent this commandment to you, that My covenant with Levi may continue," says the LORD of hosts. **5** "My covenant was with him, *one* of life and peace, and I gave them to him *that he might fear Me*; so he feared Me and was reverent before My name. **6** The Torah (*instruction*) of truth was in his mouth, and injustice was not found on his lips. He walked with Me in peace and equity, and turned many away from iniquity. **7** "For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, and *people* should seek the Torah (*instruction*) from his mouth; for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

If we are truly priests of God then we are instructed to walk our lives in a special way. Verse 6 of Malachi 2:6 tells us the Torah is to be on the lips of God's priests and that justice was to be found in their mouths. This justice would come from knowledge of the Torah that comes from God. As priests of God we are to walk with Him in peace and equity and we have to turn away from sin. If we are priests of God we should have knowledge because people will seek the Torah of God from us. We are messengers of the Lord.

04397 מַלְאָךְ malak (521c)

Meaning: a messenger

It's interesting that *malach* is used in this passage for messenger that refers to the priests of God because this word is commonly used for angels while usually the word for messenger or ambassador in Hebrew is *Shaliach*. Yet while I was researching this in Scripture I found that *malach* is used many times to describe a messenger of God who is human. Isn't amazing to see how close we are to God's angels and that at this moment we are just a step below the angels of the Lord?

1 Corinthians 6:3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?

This is just a quote from the passage of the letter the Apostle Paul (Shaul) wrote to the congregation at Corinth. Shaul wrote two letters that we are aware of and we could see the problems he was dealing with in that congregation. There was sexual immorality of all kinds taking place as well as a misunderstanding of what Shaul had written. It would seem they were twisting his words to make them work to their advantage so they could continue to live the same kind of life they had before coming to faith in Messiah if they even did. It might also be that a form of Gnosticism had crept in and infected the congregation. One form of Gnosticism believed they could do whatever they wanted with their bodies because the body did not count to God only the spirit did. So, they committed sexual perversions of all kinds and praised God for it.

We know this is not what God allows and that Gnostics and even the Corinthians, had they understood Torah, would have known these things were wrong before God. Look at our society today. It has changed and not for the better. We are following in the footsteps of the civilizations we most admire – the Romans and the Greeks and if they were so great then they are they not alive today? We have chosen poorly in who we would imitate. We follow after men and have turned away from God or delegated Him to another corner to be taken out only when it is convenient to do so. To follow God is to live as Yeshua did and to do all that He did. He was born into a Jewish family, by His choice, they raised Him as a Jew and He followed Torah and kept the Festivals of the Lord and the 7th day Sabbath of God. How could He do otherwise if He is the Son of the Almighty? Torah flowed through His veins and was apparent in every part of His being. There was nothing that would set Him apart from others yet people saw something in Him that drew them to Him.

His words would lift them up and bring chastisement just like the prophets of old. It would be a prophet, who came in the anointing of one of God's special messengers, John the Immerser, who would proclaim repentance from sin and get ready for the coming of the Messiah. He cleared the way for Yeshua and was His special one because his job was to herald the coming of the Messiah ben Joseph. When John was in prison he sent word to Yeshua and asked Him a question.

Matthew 11:2 Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of the Messiah, he sent word by his disciples **3** and said to Him, "Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?" **4** Yeshua answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: **5** *the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.*

Some think this was a moment of doubt for John when it wasn't anything of the sort. We have to know something about Jewish beliefs and teachings to understand John's question. He was asking if Yeshua was only the Messiah ben Joseph – the Suffering Servant or was there to be another who would follow after Him and come as the Messiah ben David. Yeshua answered John by telling them to report to John what Yeshua was doing because all of the things He was doing showed that He

was indeed the Messiah ben Joseph and would come one day as the Messiah ben David. He would complete the work of His Father and bring together the nation of Israel and raise them up as His special treasure in all of the earth. We hold stock in promise people. We are part of that special people that treasured nation He calls Israel. No matter whom we are or where we came from the blood of Messiah cleanses us all and brings us to Him and the forgiveness of God from our sins. Are you ready to be called the special treasure of God? Have you been drawn to ask questions about what you have been taught in your Churches and congregations? Is Torah the foundation upon which you have been taught and how you live your life? If not you had better start studying the Word of God because the time is short.

Matthew 22:36-46

36"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Torah?" **37** And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND." [Deuteronomy 6:5] **38** "This is the great and foremost commandment. **39** "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' [Leviticus 19:18] **40** "On these two commandments depend the whole Torah and the Prophets." **41** Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Yeshua asked them a question: **42** "What do you think about the Messiah, whose son is He?" They said to Him, "*The son of David.*" **43** He said to them, "Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying, **44** 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET "'? [Psalm 110:1] **45** "If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his son?" **46** No one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask Him another question.

This is a classic Scripture that says much and yet is so misunderstood by so many in the Church and in Messianic congregations. I have heard Christians quote this passage as the only two commands that are relevant to us as Believers but if they really understood what this passage is saying and what Messiah is talking about they would probably be dumbfounded. Verse 37 is a quote from Deuteronomy 6:5. Verse 39 is a quote from Leviticus 19:18 while verse 44 is a quote from Psalm 110:1. The quotes from Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18 are the fundamentals of what the Jewish people call the **Shema**. The *Shema* is the foundational prayer of the Jewish people and has been called the watchword of Judaism. A Jew prays the *Shema* when he rises in the morning and before he goes to sleep at night. Many Jews have died with the words of the *Shema* on their lips while being persecuted for being Jewish.

Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! **5** "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. **6** " And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. **7** "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. **8** "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. **9** "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Leviticus 19:16 'You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I *am* the LORD. **17** 'You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. **18** 'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but **you shall love your neighbor as yourself**: I *am* the LORD.

Yeshua spoke the words of the Shema as the most important of the commands of God and said if you kept these two commandments you have kept all of the Torah. If you can love God above all else, no matter what, and if you can love your neighbor, who may be your enemy, you have fulfilled **ALL** of the Torah because the Torah brings us instruction of our relationship with God and with our fellow man. Yeshua went even further with this when He said you need to love your enemy as well and that these two commandments are the foundational commandments upon which all the rest of the Torah hung.

Matthew 22:40 "On these two commandments hang all the Torah and the Prophets."

551 νόμος nomos {nom'-os}

Meaning: anything established, anything received by usage, a custom, a law, a command, of any law whatsoever, a law or rule producing a state approved of God, by the observance of which is approved of God, a precept or injunction, the rule of action prescribed by reason, **of the Mosaic law**, and referring, acc. to the context. either to the volume of the law or to its contents, the Christian religion: the law demanding faith, the moral instruction given by Messiah, esp. the precept concerning love, **the name of the more important part (the Pentateuch)**, is put for the entire collection of the sacred books of the OT

This is from the Strong's concordance. It affirms the place of the Torah when it refers to the Mosaic Law and affirms the place of Torah in Scripture by referring to it as the most important part of the Pentateuch or Tanach – the name of the *Old Testament* to the Jewish people. There is nothing new about the Torah and it has not been replaced by the *New Testament*. The *New Testament* is nothing more than an affirmation of the Torah. Torah brings salvation because it points the way to the source of salvation – Yeshua.

Is it love or need that predominates in me? Ah, let me act at least as much from love as from the urgent needs that so often seem to control me!

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Tony Robinson at www.devoted.to/Torah (sign up)

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Ardelle Brody [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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