



Taking Messiah Yeshua and Torah to the World!

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3-13-10

VaYakhel-And He Assembled

Exodus 35:1-38:20

1 Kings 7:13-26, 40-50

Pekudei-Accountings of

Exodus 38:21-40:38

1 Kings 7:51-8:21

Matthew 17:1-6

Introduction

Vayakhel-Pekudei, opens with, *Vayakhel Moshe*, "Moshe then gathered," a reference to a new public assembly whose aim is to nullify a previous "gathering," less than a week before, in which the same community (*kehillah*) had assembled in rebellion to venerate a calf of gold.

Exodus 40:33-38

33 And he raised up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar, and hung up the screen of the court gate. So Moses finished the work. **34** Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. **35** And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. **36** Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. **37** But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. **38** For the cloud of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

It has always been viewed in the rabbinical commentaries that Moses alone set up the Tabernacle aided supernaturally by God. We do know that when Moses was finished the presence of the Holy One of Israel descended and filled the Tabernacle and Moses could not enter. I believe this was for the benefit of the Children of Israel so they would see a physical manifestation, of sorts, by their God to encourage them. This would be different than the gods of the nations because the people would make their gods out of wood and stone and their idols were not alive like the God of Israel. He is a living God who was before us and will be after us. It was through His Son that all things in heaven and earth were created. Idols of stone and wood do not create but are formed by men. There are even accounts of elaborate ceremonies where food and drink have been brought to the idols for them to partake of. The sad thing is that while we may consider ourselves to be a monotheistic society we are seeing the growth of

paganism once again as an accepted religion. This runs along the same lines as wicca, Satan worship, etc. It is my belief we are returning to the days of Noah as spoken about in Scripture.

Luke 17:26 "And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: **27** "They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

Matthew 24:37 "But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. **38** "For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, **39** "and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

We are becoming just like they were in Noah's day. It says it took Noah 120 years to build the Ark. So, he had 120 years to share, with whoever would listen about what was going to happen and why. The only ones who went on board the Ark with Noah were his family and the animals God had chosen to represent the animal kingdom. That is a sad commentary on the state of mankind and our response to the message from God. It is not surprising because our society is not any different than any society in any age that has been upon the face of the earth. Only a small percentage of the people listen to the message God desires to share with His children. Here we are in the book of Exodus and if we have paid attention to the story of the Children of Israel we should be able to see ourselves in its telling.

What I mean is all we have to do is look at what happened to the generation that came out of Egypt and what we find is that out of all those who were 20 years of age and older only two made it into the Promised Land. This should be a warning to us not to take our faith for granted because the penalty for turning from God is a heavy one.

2 Peter 2:21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

The holy commandment being spoken about is none other than the Torah given by God to the Children of Israel at Mount Sinai and the Torah that Abraham obeyed and those who came before and after him. The Torah has always been and is the Word through which everything was created being that Yeshua is the Living Word of God – the Living Torah! The Apostle John writes about this in his gospel about how all of creation came about. The holy commandment points the way to Messiah because the holy commandment is the Torah that comes from the Father through the Son. To say it no longer applies is to remove all the promises, prophecies, and covenants God made with mankind from Adam all the way down to the present and with those who will be the last generation before Messiah returns.

The importance of remembering God and keeping faith with His Son Yeshua should be of the utmost importance to us. Everything points the way to Him and that should never be lost on us. Without that we have nothing – we should never forget those who have gone before us in the way of Messiah and Torah. What they have sacrificed for their faith and to walk in ancient ways of Israel and its Messiah Yeshua should never be lost on us because one day we might be called to do as they have done. Ninety-eight per cent of a generation lost their lives because of their lack of faith and because they could not let go of Egypt. For us this means letting go of the world and everything in it. While we live in this world we are not to become immersed in it to the exclusion of Messiah and His ways.

We desire the blessings of the Holy One of Israel in much the same way that the Children of Israel desired them. It was one of the ways the people knew God was there with them as they travelled the way from Egypt to the Promised Land. He was there in the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night and yet the Israelites forgot Him and needed constant reminders that He was with them. It's not that much different for us because we need constant reminders that God is there. Perhaps, for us, the difference is we do not see the presence of God the way the Israelites did? Yet we can see Him just as clearly as when He walked with Israel and when He walked the earth 2,000 years ago. His presence filled the first Tabernacle in a mighty way and it brings to me the Jewish thinking of who God is. Some parts of Judaism teach that God existed everywhere before anything was created. He filled everywhere with His being and when He began to create He had to remove part of Himself in order that the physical world could come about.

Maybe, just maybe, the cloud that filled the first Tabernacle that caused Moses to have to leave the Tabernacle is a reminder of the immenseness of our Creator and that if He desired it He could overpower Creation and drive it from existence. One day He will do just that when the physical and spiritual are merged into one as Yeshua is now both physical and spiritual. One day we will receive the same body He now has once He fulfilled the will of His Father. One day we will know God just like Moses did. One day we will walk with Him in the cool of the day just as Adam and Chava did in the beginning. Can you imagine how they felt when they realized what they had lost? They were cast out of Paradise never to return until the time beyond time comes back.

Are we the last generation to inhabit the earth or are there other generations to come? What difference does it make my friends – what is important is how you have been living your lives. Have you been faithful to the way of Yeshua and trying to follow the Torah as best you know how to? Walking the way required by God is not an easy one but to enter into the promise requires that we offer ourselves up on the altar to Him. His Son gave His life for us how can we do any less?

1 Kings 8:10-13

10 And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy *place*, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, **11** so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD. **12** Then Solomon spoke: "The LORD said He would dwell in the dark cloud. **13** I have surely built You an exalted house, and a place for You to dwell in forever."

When Moses finished the work of building the first Tabernacle God took up residence within it in the Holy of Holies but the Holy of Holies could not hold the presence of the Holy One of Israel. His presence overflowed and Moses had to leave the Holy Place. Solomon had been entrusted with the building of the Temple of God. His father David had desired to build it but God would not allow him to because he was a man of war and God wanted the Temple built by a man of peace. Even though Solomon was a man of peace he also was a man who allowed him to be turned away from God. His father David was man after God's own heart and he was not permitted to build the House of the Lord.

1 Samuel 13:14 "But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him *to be* commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

Saul did not do what the Lord had commanded so God sought someone else to sit on the throne of Israel. This man was to be David. He would fight to unite Israel and to establish God's kingdom in the land given to them by the Holy One. The Tabernacle would serve Israel until the time of Solomon when God would allow the Temple to be built. It's interesting to learn that the Temple was based on the architecture of pagan Temples yet the Lord chose to dwell in this place and to call it the House of the Lord. It resembled the Tabernacle initially but later on it was changed and expanded upon by Herod the Great in Yeshua's day.

It would be in this Temple that Yeshua would come to pray and to teach about the coming of the Lord's Kingdom. Many believe the presence of the Lord left the Temple at some point yet Yeshua walked it's halls as the living presence of His Father. Can you even begin to imagine that here we have the very Son of God walking, teaching, and praying in the House of His Father?

John 10:22 Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. **23** And Yeshua walked in the Temple, in Solomon's porch.

This was the time of the festival of Chanukah, which is usually celebrated in December. Chanukah took place during the time between the closing of the canon of the Tanach and the opening of the time of the Apostolic Scriptures. We find this story in the book of the Maccabee. Some believe Chanukah is when Yeshua was conceived which would bring His birth around the Festival of Sukkot. I don't know whether this is true or not but one thing we need to keep in mind is to not make Chanukah a replacement for Christmas. Chanukah stands on its own as a time of great joy in the lives of the Jewish people. This particular festival is not commended by God but it is not a festival rooted in pagan practices. We need to start to clean up our lives walk in the way the Lord has called us to walk.

I am not condemning anyone who chooses to keep Christmas. All I am saying is that we need to be aware of what is pleasing to Him based on His teachings found in the Bible. Yeshua taught the Torah and the one who came before Him, John the Immerser, paved the way before the coming of Yeshua by calling the people to repentance to turn from their sinful ways. If we desire for God's Ruach to take up residence within us we must first cleanse the our temple as the Maccabeus cleansed Israels'.

Matthew 17:1-6

1 Now after six days Yeshua took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; **2** and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. **3** And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. **4** Then Peter answered and said to Yeshua, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." **5** While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" **6** And when the disciples heard *it*, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid.

The three closest disciples of Yeshua saw Him in His glory as He stood upon the mountain speaking to Moses and Elijah. It begs the question as to how Peter, James, and John knew them

to be Moses and Elijah. The Scripture presents it as a fact in such a way that leaves no question about who the two men were who were speaking with Yeshua or why they were there to begin with. We are told they were there to discuss with Yeshua the events that were about to unfold concerning His upcoming death.

The significance of the passage is it is similar to the two portions from the Torah and Haftarah for this week's and God's manifold presence and how it chooses to make itself known to men. To Israel God appeared in the cloud and filled the Tabernacle to overflowing. In the Temple He appeared once more in a cloud that forced the priests serving there to have to leave. Here Yeshua is changed and His appearance shines like the sun and His clothing becomes so white it appears as light to the three disciples watching this taking place.

Then, just like at the burning bush, a voice speaks from out of the cloud that overshadows them and at the sound of this voice they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. Can you even begin to imagine what must have been going through their minds as all of these things were unfolding right before their eyes? The impression it must have left on them, especially John, who was younger than the other two. In fact John is believed to have been the youngest of all the disciples and he lived the longest and died of old age having served God for most of his life. The things about Yeshua he shared during the years of his ministry had to have been overwhelming just as this night on the mountain with Yeshua, Moses, Elijah, and last but not the least – God the Father. The memories that must have filled them in the ensuing years and decades must have left such a longing within them to be reunited with the Master who had called them.

His promise has always been to always be there with us and for us.

Hebrews 13:5 *Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU."* [Deuteronomy 31:6, 8; Joshua 1:5].

I don't believe it is just money that is being mentioned but its misuse and anything else that can interfere with your relationship with the Almighty. When we are being told to be content with what we have we are being told that whatever we have we should consider a blessing from the Lord and that we are to be happy with where we are in life as long as our relationship with Yeshua is not suffering and if it is we must figure out what we need to do to repair it. We have the unlimited resources that belong to the Son of Man and they are ours to use if we are in His will and trying to be the witnesses we have been called to be.

My desire is to see you all within the cloud of His presence to be joined with Him and with you. Can't you just see that day when the cloud will no longer move but will cover all of us who know Yeshua and who have done our best to walk in the Torah? My prayer is to see all of you there.

After the rabbi finishes his Shabbat message, little Freddy pulls at his coat, "Rabbi, when I grow up and start making money, I'm going to give you some." "Why Freddy, that's very sweet of you...but why?" "Because my daddy says you're one of the poorest preachers we've ever had."

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

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