



Taking Messiah Yeshua and Torah to the World!

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VaYechi-And He Lived
Genesis 47:28-50:26
1 Kings 2:1-12
John 14:15-21

Introduction

At first glance the name of this week's Parashah, Vayechi, is a misnomer. Although it means, "And he lived," the Parashah's entire content focuses not on life of Yaakov but on his death (at age 147), as well as the death of Yosef (at the age of 110).¹

Genesis 50:22-26

22 Yosef continued living in Egypt, he and his father's household. Yosef lived 110 years. **23** Yosef lived to see Efrayim's great-grandchildren, and the children of M'nasheh's son Makhir were born on Yosef's knees. **24** Yosef said to his brothers, "I am dying. But God will surely remember you and bring you up out of this land to the land which he swore to Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya'akov." **25** Then Yosef took an oath from the sons of Isra'el: "God will surely remember you, and you are to carry my bones up from here." **26** So Yosef died at the age of 110, and they embalmed him and put him in a coffin in Egypt.

Here we are coming to the end of the story of Joseph, and interestingly, as he lays dying he asks his brothers to make sure that when God brings them out of Egypt that they take his bones with them to the Promised Land. Joseph was younger than all of his brothers except for Benjamin so it is

¹ From Torah with a Twist of Humor

curious that he died before his brothers or perhaps it was only a few of his brothers. With Joseph's death at 110 years of age we see the lifespan of man slowly shrinking.

Then again it was quite possible that his life in Egypt had something to do with it. His brothers had lived the life of sojourner's until coming to Egypt where they kept on being shepherd's and Joseph had made sure his family would be kept away from the Egyptians.

Genesis 45:10 You will live in the land of Goshen and be near me- you, your children, your grandchildren, flocks, herds, everything you own. **11** I will provide for you there, so that you won't become poverty-stricken, you, your household and all that you have; because five years of famine are yet to come."

Joseph tells his brothers they will all live in the land of Goshen and they will be near to him but away from the main part of Egypt. It would seem that Joseph wanted to make sure his family was not influenced by the practices of the Egyptians. At the same time Joseph said he would make sure his family was provided for. Here we have an example of Ephraim (Joseph) providing for all of Israel something the one having the blessing of the firstborn would be required to do. Remember that Jacob blessed Ephraim in this way and that Ephraim would walk in the blessing of Joseph but in the end they would turn away and follow after the God of Egypt in falling into Golden Calf worship after the separation of Israel into the house of Judah and the house of Ephraim/Joseph/Israel.

Joseph tried to protect his family from the influence of Egypt but in the end all of Israel would fall under its sway even while desiring to leave they would return spiritually to Egypt. We all go through similar experiences in our own lives when we are finding our way to Messiah and even after choosing Him. As Believers we will be tested, either by God or through the temptations of the Adversary Satan. This is a reality for any Believer and one that we must be on the alert for if we do not want to return to Egypt. I don't know about you but I don't want to go back to where I was before I came to faith in Yeshua.

Joseph spent most of his life in Egypt. Even though he was a very powerful man there I am sure it brought him joy to be reunited with his family and to have them close by him. Yet I have to think that Joseph desired to go back to the land he came from. The only way he could was in death. Joseph knew who he was and held to the things he had learned from his father and he was a servant of his God and never turned to the gods of the Egyptians. It seems in the culture of the day that it was easier to be a pagan than to be monotheistic. In our culture today most people are the opposite though paganism and worshipping other gods is making a comeback.

We must always be on guard against those who desire is to turn us from our faith in Messiah. There are teachings making the rounds out there that are not scripturally correct. One is about polygamy. In corresponding with someone who holds to this I have been told to show where it is forbidden in Torah and if it is they will stop promoting the lifestyle. While it is true that polygamy is not forbidden in the Torah our example should be found in how God first set up mankind. He created woman (one woman) from man and brought her to him for his mate. He did not create two women. We see polygamy as an accepted lifestyle among the Patriarchs of Israel. Abraham was married to Sarah but because of her infertility he had sexual relations with Hagar, an accepted custom of the day, in order to have an heir. Hagar was a surrogate though the child should rightfully have been Abraham and Sarah's Hagar became a wife to Abraham.

In my correspondence with this individual I was told there were four mothers of Israel. I have no argument on this point. It is true but did God approve of it or just allow it because He knew the hearts of men the way that Moses did when he allowed for divorce?

Malachi 2:14 Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant. **15** But did He not make *them* one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. **16** "For the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence," says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."

Matthew 19:7 They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND *her* AWAY? [Deu. 24:1-4]" **8** He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.

So, the argument that polygamy is OK because God does not forbid it in the Torah does not hold any water when you see what Yeshua had to say about divorce. Moses was given leeway in interpreting Torah commands. I also know that of the polygamous relationships in the Bible only one did not have any problems and that is only because there is not much written about it. Just look at what happened with the children of the four wives of Jacob, the four mothers of Israel. They wanted to kill their own brother but instead sold him into slavery. While this was part of God's plan it was hatched among some of the sons of Jacob. Then again look at the children of King David if you want to see what happens with the children of one father and several mothers. This does not mean this is limited to the children of polygamous relationships but it seems to be the common thread found in these relationships in the Bible and if you need a topper to all of this just look at what happened with the children of Hagar and Sarah – Israel and the Arab people.

1 Kings 2:1-3

1 The time came near for David to die; so he commissioned Shlomo his son as follows: **2** "I am going the way of all the earth. Therefore, be strong; show yourself a man. **3** Observe the charge of *ADONAI* your God to go in his ways and keep his regulations, *mitzvot*, rulings and instructions in accordance with what is written in the *Torah* of Moshe; so that you will succeed in all you do and wherever you go.

As David lay dying he instructed his son and designated heir Solomon to keep the Torah of God. If Solomon would do this he would succeed in all that he would do no matter where he went. I believe this is not just talking about Solomon but about Israel as well. I say this because in verse 3 at the end where it says, "...so that you will succeed in all you do and wherever you go..." Solomon was not going anywhere. He would be king over Israel for forty years until his death but the people of Israel would be going out due to disobedience of the Torah. It would be after the death of Solomon

that Israel would be divided into two kingdoms - the northern kingdom containing ten of the tribes of Israel and the southern kingdom with the two tribes. Both groups would pay the penalty for disobeying Torah. One would go into an exile that has lasted over 2700 years and the other would go into an exile that lasted 70 years but when they returned they would be sent to wander the earth until they returned to the land of Israel in 1948. Even with this most of the Jews in the world are still in exile remaining away from the land for different reasons.

Jeremiah 46:27 "But as for you, O Jacob My servant, do not fear, nor be dismayed, O Israel! For, see, I am going to save you from afar, and your descendants from the land of their captivity; and Jacob will return and be undisturbed and secure, with no one making *him* tremble.

Notice how the opening reference is to Jacob and to Israel – the physical and the spiritual combined into one people. There is always a physical and a spiritual part of God's people. They go hand in hand; you cannot separate one from the other. You can try but when you think you have done it you will find out you really haven't. We were created as physical beings with a spiritual aspect to us. God is a spiritual Being whose Son was spiritual but who became flesh like we are. He was tested in the physical as well as in the spiritual and He came out on top. He set the mark for the rest of us and the bar has been set high. Will we be able to make the mark or can we join Him who did make the mark? Isn't it lucky for us that we can join Him rather than trying to do it on our own? We are called to try to make the grade but that is with the help of Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) of God.

The choices are simple enough when you think about them. Don't try to complicate things by over thinking it. It is either a yes or a no – how much easier could God make it? There is no gray area and if you try to cloud the issue you will only make it more difficult for yourselves. For me the choice has always been very clear. You are either for God or you are not. Of course life will throw curves at you along the way but you can and will make it through if you hold fast to your salvation, to your Messiah Yeshua. Nothing in the world is more important than this! I cannot say it any stronger – it is my prayer that all of you reading this will stay the course and make it to the end. I long to see you all in the world to come standing with me around the throne of God and of the Lamb.

John 14:15-21

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commands; **16** and I will ask the Father, and he will give you another comforting Counselor like me, the Spirit of Truth, to be with you forever. **17** The world cannot receive him, because it neither sees nor knows him. You know him, because he is staying with you and will be united with you. **18** I will not leave you orphans- I am coming to you. **19** In just a little while, the world will no longer see me; but you will see me. Because I live, you too will live. **20** When that day comes, you will know that I am united with my Father, and you with me, and I with you. **21** Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me, and the one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."

I have quoted verse 15 many times and I still turn to it when I am told we are under grace and not under the law. That argument is getting so old that I don't even bother to respond anymore. I quote them verse 15 because I don't need to say anything else other than what Yeshua said on the subject. One cannot say that things have changed when you say that Yeshua is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Hebrews 13:8 Yeshua the Messiah is the same yesterday, today and forever.

If He has never changed then how can His commandments change? Either He never changes or He changes and if He changes then His word changes and if this is true we cannot trust His word. Yeshua also said:

Matthew 5:18 Yes indeed! I tell you that until heaven and earth pass away, not so much as a *yud* or a stroke will pass from the *Torah*- not until everything that must happen has happened.

The Torah must be fulfilled in all its points in both the physical and spiritual planes of existence. One cannot say that because Yeshua died and rose from the dead that all has been fulfilled. There is a physical aspect that has to come to pass in all of its detail. Don't let anyone try to turn you from the path you are on.

Hebrews 13:9 Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For *it is* good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. How true are these words our Messiah spoke? There are many teachings being carried about out there my friends. Don't let them turn you away from the truth. I have heard people say to me that the truth is to be found in the teachings of Judaism. There is truth in this but there are also problems. Why would you listen to a Jewish person tell you that Yeshua is not the Messiah when they have been blinded to truth of Yeshua as Messiah?

John 12:37 But though He had performed so many signs before them, *yet* they were not believing in Him. **38** *This was* to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet which he spoke: "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM HAS THE ARM OF THE LORD BEEN REVEALED?" [Isaiah 53:1] **39** For this reason they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, **40** "HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART, SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT SEE WITH THEIR EYES AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED AND I HEAL THEM." [Isaiah 6:10] **41** These things Isaiah said because he saw His glory, and he spoke of Him. **42** Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing *Him*, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; **43** for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God. **44** And Yeshua cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, does not believe in Me but in Him who sent Me.

You can also read Romans 11:7-8, Romans 11:25, and 2 Corinthians 3:14-16. After reading all of this if you still believe that Judaism has all of the truth please give me a call or drop me a line so we can talk before you make the biggest mistake of your life. I have a toll free number at 1-866-874-7250. What harm can it do to talk – remember this is your eternal life we are talking about.

One day three rabbis are awaiting their turn to give eulogies, and start speculating on what they would like their own friends and families to say about them at their own funerals."I would like to hear them say that I was a pious scholar, a role model of Torah, "says the first rabbi.

“I would like to hear them say that I was a great family man, good son, wonderful husband, and father,” says the next rabbi. The third rabbi thinks, and says, “I’d just like to hear them say...‘Look! He’s moving’!!”²

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

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² From Torah with a Twist of Humor