



Message 10-27-07
VaYera-And He Appeared
Genesis 18:1-22:24
2 Kings 4:1-37
Revelation 3:17-4:2

Introduction

Abraham welcomes three visitors, who announce that Sarah will soon have a son. Lot and his two daughter's escape as the cities are being destroyed. Lot's wife is turned into a pillar of salt. Lot's daughters seduce him and their children become the founders of the nations of Moab and Ammon.

Genesis 19:15-26

15 And when the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are not given in marriage, lest you be engulfed in the sins of the city. **16** But Lot lingered; then the angels held his hand, the hand of his wife, and the hands of his two daughters, because the LORD pitied him; and they took him out and set him outside the city. **17** And it came to pass when they had brought them out of the city, they said to Lot: Now escape for your life; do not look back nor stop anywhere in the plain, but flee to the mountain lest you be consumed. **18** And Lot said to them, I beseech you, my lords, **19** Behold now, your servant has found mercy in your sight, and great is the favor which you have shown to me in saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountain, lest evil overtake me and I die; **20** Behold now, this town is near to flee to, and it is a little one. Oh, let me escape there, and behold, because it is a little one my life will be spared. **21** And he said to him, See, I have granted you this thing also that I will not overthrow the city of which you have spoken. **22** Make haste and escape there; for I cannot do anything till you enter into it. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar. **23** The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar." **24** Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the presence of the LORD out of heaven; **25** And he overthrew those cities and all the plain and all the inhabitants of the region and that which grew on the ground." **26** But his wife looked back from behind him and she became a pillar of salt."

God was about to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah and two angels from God had come to warn Lot so he could flee the city before its destruction. Lot knew these two messengers were special and yet he hesitated before the angels took his hand and that of his wife and two daughters and brought them outside the city.

How many of us are like Lot? It says the Lord took pity on Lot but at the same time Lot was Abraham's nephew, had spent many years with Abraham and obviously knew God yet he still

hesitated. Lot knew of the sin of the city in which he lived and worked because we see in the Word that he tried to protect the two angels being willing to give his two daughters to the mob.

Genesis 19:4 Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. **5** And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally." **6** So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, **7** and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly! **8** "See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof."

Lot was willing to give the mob his two daughters in order to protect these two messengers from God. How many of us would be willing to do what Lot was if we were faced with a similar trial? Lot knew the God of Abraham and yet at the same time he could not bring himself to leave the cities of sin. At the last moment it was the angels who brought Lot out because he was reluctant to leave. Does this have a lesson for us as we enter into the last days? How many of us will be ready to leave when the Lord comes for us? Will we be able to tear ourselves away from the world? Don't answer too quickly lest you regret your answer later. Think it through and understand what it is God is asking of you? Do you remember the parable of the rich man?

Matthew 19:16 And someone came to Him and said, "Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?" **17** And He said to him, "Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is *only* One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments." **18** Then he said to Him, "Which ones?" And Yeshua said, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER; YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY; YOU SHALL NOT STEAL; YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS; **19** HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER; and YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." **20** The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept; what am I still lacking?" **21** Yeshua said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go *and* sell your possessions and give to *the* poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." **22** But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property. **23** And Yeshua said to His disciples, "Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. **24** "Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." **25** When the disciples heard *this*, they were very astonished and said, "Then who can be saved?" **26** And looking at *them* Yeshua said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

This parable is very telling because it can also be applied to every one of us if we are unwilling to leave this life behind and all that we have accumulated in order to follow the road Yeshua has already laid out for us. Think of this: Yeshua was the Son of God, God come in the flesh, who gave up His Godhood in order that He could come among us and die on the tree for sins He did not commit. God gave up being God for a short time and became His creation being willing to do this to redeem us. He set the course for us by His actions. Are you willing to follow His lead?

He led the rich young man through the steps that would lead up to the final requirement he would need to enter into eternal life. He told him to keep the commandments. You would think by the list Yeshua gave him that Yeshua was changing what commandments needed to be followed but I believe, and this is only my opinion, that He was presenting the young man with some options. He young man answered that he did keep those commandments. At this point he must have thought,

"Boy, I must be in?" Yet with the next words to come from the Messiah's mouth the young man was devastated. Yeshua told him to sell all of his possessions and give them to the poor, then he would have treasure in heaven and he was to come and follow after the Master. The young man did not even say a word to Yeshua. He walked away because he was not willing to give it all up for eternal life. This is a very sad parable because it should speak to all of us about what it takes to enter into God's kingdom. Now, I am not saying, nor do I want anyone to misunderstand me, that it is wrong to have possessions.

According to the Bible, Abraham was a wealthy man, as well as Job, and many other Biblical figures. Wealth is not wrong. It is what we do with it. Remember the Widows Mite?

Mark 12:41 Now Yeshua sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many *who were* rich put in much. **42** Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. **43** So He called His disciples to *Himself* and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; **44** "for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."

Yeshua saw that the wealthy were putting in large sums of money but it would appear from His words that while giving of their wealth the widow was giving all she had while they were not. It would seem she had invested in her future while they were still holding on to what they had in the here and now. Isn't there a lesson to be learned from all of this? What lesson can learn from Lot's wife when she looked back? She had been told not to look back but she could not resist. Isn't this a picture of all of us when we try to follow after the Lord but sometimes we cannot resist sneaking a peak from where we came from? Even if the circumstances were not that great don't we have the tendency to think fondly of even the hard times?

Are we ready for what is coming? Are you convinced we are living in the last days and that Yeshua could return at any time? To me I do not think it will be this year because I firmly believe it has to be around the time of the fall feasts and Yom Teruah and Yom Kippur have already passed us by this year. So, we have another year to count down but will we spend our time counting the days or doing something for Him?

2 Kings 4:32-37

32 And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead and lying upon his bed. **33** He went in therefore and shut the door upon the two of them, and prayed unto the LORD. **34** And he went up and lay upon the child and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands; and he stretched himself upon him, and the flesh of the child became warm. **35** Then he returned, and walked to and fro in the house; and went up and stretched himself upon him; and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. **36** And Elisha called Gehazi and said to him, Call this Shilomite. So he called her. And when she was come to him, he said to her, Take up your son. **37** Then she went in and fell at his feet and bowed herself to the ground and took up her son and went out."

He miracles that Elisha and many of the prophets did were great and wonderful but the bottom line is they paled in comparison to those of the Messiah. He did what the others had done but He did so much more. He was tempted by Satan and did not surrender while Elijah bemoaned his situation concerning Jezebel's threats against his life. The only time that Yeshua wavered, for even a moment

was in the garden just before they came for Him to take Him to His final appointment on this earth as a mortal.

Luke 22:42 saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." **43** Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. **44** And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Some might like to claim that this moment of weakness, on Yeshua's part, show us He could not be God in the flesh. I say this shows me His humanity, that He was one of us, who went through more than any of us ever would, and near the end He knew what was coming and how many of us, knowing what we know about Yeshua's death, could have done what He did? As an angel came to refresh Elijah now one came to strengthen Yeshua.

1 Kings 19:3 And when he saw *that*, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which *belongs* to Judah, and left his servant there. **4** But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I *am* no better than my fathers!" **5** Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise *and* eat." **6** Then he looked, and there by his head *was* a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. **7** And the angel of the LORD came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise *and* eat, because the journey is too great for you." **8** So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

The humanity of Yeshua more than matched our humanity. It shows me that God cares so much for us that He sent His Son on a mission that would have appeared hopeless to many others. Yeshua stepped down from heaven and set aside His Godhood became like you and me took the weight of the sins of all of mankind upon Himself died on the tree and rose on the third day, ascended to His Father waiting for the day when He will return in all of His glory.

There are some who try to say that Yeshua was not truly a man because if He was a man and He died His death could not remove our sins. The truth be known is Yeshua was God and man showing us the mercy of God, His holy righteousness, while revealing that there is a part of Him that knows us intimately because God was also human. This is the awesomeness of our God and why we have to try to stop explaining away the humanity of Yeshua. If God is indeed God then let Him be God!

Revelation 3:17-4:2

3:17 "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' -- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked -- **18** "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. **19** "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. **20** "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. **21** "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. **22** "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." " **4:1** After these things I looked, and behold, a door

standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard *was* like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." **2** Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and *One* sat on the throne.

This passage ties right in with our other one concerning the rich man. In this passage it would seem that wealth has gone to some of their heads and they have come to rely on their wealth or themselves instead of depending on God. The Lord tells us to buy our wealth from Him because His wealth is incorruptible. If we lean upon the Lord He will heal us and raise us up as He raised up His Son. We will not be left to rot away in a cold, dark grave or to die during the Great Tribulation without hope. To those who say, "There is no God" I say there is a God because we all can sense there is something greater than us. It is that something within us that I believe was given to us when God breathed life into Adam.

Genesis 2:7 And God formed the man of dust of the earth, and breathed upon his face the breath of life, and the man became a living soul.

When it talks about the breath of life the Hebrew word for breath here is *nephesh* which is actually translated as soul most of the time. I believe that when God did this He instilled in us a part of Himself so we would always know there was someone greater than us at work in the universe. Everything that is cannot be by blind option. What I mean is all that exists could not have been a whim of the universe with no greater intelligence behind all that is. I firmly believe in the God who created all that is. I firmly believe in His Son who is also God, that part of the Father who was spoken forth at the dawn of creation when God began His work of creating. I believe in His Ruach, His Spirit, because it was there at the beginning as well. All parts of God were there at the beginning and all had a part in the creation.

I do not understand why it is so difficult to accept God for who He is? Why do we struggle so hard in trying to define an indefinable Creator? How can we lock Him in to what we can understand when it is obvious from His Word that He is beyond our comprehension? Are we no different than Jacob when He struggled with a messenger of the Lord trying to overcome himself and finally surrendered himself to God?

Genesis 32:24 And Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him till the morning.

Many believe this man was Yeshua or an angel and some in Judaism think that Jacob was struggling with Satan or himself. I believe the lesson to be learned from this is when we get to our darkest hour there is always hope. Jacob was afraid because he was about to face his brother Esau and his army. After over 20 years he feared that Esau still wanted to wipe him and all that was his off the face of the earth. As Yeshua went alone into the garden to pray before His darkest time began Jacob was struggling trying to make sense out of all he had been through. He had arrived at his darkest moment and came through it to become the man of God he was called to be. There is a lesson to be learned from all of this. It is there for us as we enter into a time that will grow darker by the day. We must be ready my friends because to waver in the face of the enemy and to allow our faith to turn can only lead to our downfall.

My prayer is that each and every one of you will stand fast in the face of adversity and not turn from your faith or belief in the Holy One of Israel.

Genesis 23:15-18: And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, I have sworn by myself, says the Lord, for because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, from me, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is on the sea shore; and your descendants shall inherit the lands of their enemies; and by your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed because you have obeyed my voice.

© 2007 Mordecai Silver -Tree of Life Messianic Ministries. This teaching maybe shared in its entirety as long as proper credit is attributed to the author Mordecai Silver.

for a list of Mordecai Silver's books and audio teachings on CD, and how to order, go to Etz Chayim-Tree of Life Messianic Congregation at www.etz-chayim.org

Mordecai's weekly Shabbat Message is now available in audio for your listening pleasure at www.etz-chayim.org and click on the audio link. His teaching is also available in .pdf format at www.etz-chayim.org and click on Torah Commentary.

If you want to learn more about your Hebrew/Jewish Roots join us at <http://etz-chayim.org/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl> for other Torah Studies check out:

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

Mark R. Enisgn at mrensign@arn.net (request to be added to list)

Ariel ben-Lyman HaNaviy yeshua613@hotmail.com (request to be added to list)

Daniel Klutstein at daniel_klutstein@hotmail.com (request to be added to e-mail list)

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

If you have been blessed by what you have read in these daily e-mails or by what you have read or listened to on our website at www.etz-chayim.org please make a donation to Tree of Life Messianic Ministries on our website by clicking on the donation button in increments of \$25.00 and you can increase your donation by changing the quantity...

If you would like to have your group listed on our website at www.etz-chayim.org/tree-life.html drop us an e-mail with your information...

For weekly Torah commentary sign up at <http://etz-chayim.org/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> and choose Whole House of Israel or Whole House of Israel "light" ...

For a Yeshua/Torah based e-mail discussion group sign up at <http://etz-chayim.org/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> and choose TorahWay...

For the Messianic Life ezine sign up at <http://etz-chayim.org/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> and choose messianic_life_dlist...

To join an on-line discussion forum for the Hebrew/Jewish Roots based on faith in Yeshua and an understanding of the Torah send an e-mail to treelife@etz-chayim.org asking to register for the Tree of Life Messianic Ministries Discussion Forum...

Etz Chayim-Tree of Life Messianic Congregation and Tree of Life Messianic Ministries are separate legally incorporated non-profit ministries with 501 (c) (3) status...