



## Taking Messiah Yeshua and Torah to the World!

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**Message 12-12-09**  
**VaYeshev-And He Settled**  
**Bereisheet (Genesis) 37:1-40:23**  
**Amos 2:6-3:8**  
**1 Yochanan (John) 4:7-12**

### Introduction

In this week's Parashah or Portion, the Torah describes how Yaakov, with his twelve sons and one daughter, finally settles down "in Canaan," an ancient Egyptian term that refers to the territory between the Phenician-Lebanese coast extending southward to Palestine. After the era of the patriarchs, it becomes known as the "Holy Land," or *Eretz Yisroel*, "the land of Israel," with Canaan being a derivative of *kena'anim*, a local ethnic group.<sup>1</sup>

### Genesis 37:1-4

**1** Ya'akov continued living in the land where his father had lived as a foreigner, the land of Kena'an. **2** Here is the history of Ya'akov. When Yosef was seventeen years old he used to pasture the flock with his brothers, even though he was still a boy. Once when he was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, he brought a bad report about them to their father. **3** Now Isra'el loved Yosef the most of all his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a long-sleeved robe. **4** When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they began to hate him and reached the point where they couldn't even talk with him in a civil manner.

We now move on in the Biblical story to Joseph. We read that Jacob continued to live in the land where his father had lived as a foreigner. The status of Isaac is not unlike that of one who was not born into Judaism but has chosen to dwell among them but does not show a desire to become like them. In Isaac's case, I can understand this, because if he did become like the nations living in the land he would become a pagan. What we see is the foundation laid by Abraham, carried on by Isaac and passed onto Jacob. These three men are considered to be the patriarchs of Israel. These men developed into mature men of God who learned to walk in faith

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<sup>1</sup> From Torah with a Twist of Humor

depending on the God of Creation. In our day we refer to God as the *"God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob"*. In their day they did not reference the God of their forefathers. They waited upon God to come to them and tell them who He was. There are many names or descriptions of who God is. They are repeated throughout Scripture and from these descriptions we learn about our God.

**Genesis 17:1** When Avram was 99 years old *ADONAI* appeared to Avram and said to him, "I am *El Shaddai* [God Almighty]. Walk in my presence and be pure-hearted.

**Genesis 22:14** Avraham called the place *ADONAI* Yir'eh [[*ADONAI* will see (to it), *ADONAI* provides]- as it is said to this day, "On the mountain *ADONAI* is seen."

**Genesis 48:15** Then he blessed Yosef: "The God in whose presence my fathers Avraham and Yitz'chak lived, the God who has been my own Shepherd all my life long to this day.

This is just a small sampling of what one will find about the names of God when they search the Bible. In Genesis 48:15 God is described as being a Shepherd and we find references to this all the time in the Bible. This was the God that walked in the Garden with Adam and Chava, Abel, Seth, Enoch, Noach, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We see that God even spoke to Cain when Cain's sacrifice was rejected by God and when he killed his brother. So God speaks to the good as well as to the bad. He created life and death, good and evil. He created Satan and yet He had to know what Satan was going to do. All of this is part of His plan that has been unfolding since He created man, since he began Creation as we know it.

In our story this week we also see the beginning of the story of Joseph. It is Joseph that God turns to, to carry on the story line. We read about Abraham and after the *Akeidah* or the *Binding of Isaac*, we see the story begin to switch over to Isaac even though Abraham is still alive. The same takes place with Isaac as the story switches over to Jacob and then to Joseph. Jacob and his sons still play a part in the storyline but the focus is primarily on Joseph because it is in Joseph that we see the Messianic story. It is not through the line of Joseph that the Messiah would come because Joseph's sons were Manasseh and Ephraim who would become part of ten northern tribes of Israel at the time of the split in the nation of Israel. They would become part of those whom God would disperse to the four corners of the earth for their idolatry.

It should boggle the mind and be a lesson for us that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob could live lives given over to their God and yet their descendants strayed and followed after the gods of the nations. Even today they struggle to stay on course as well as those of the nations who say they are followers of Yeshua. Joseph was cast into prison as a young man on false charges after his brothers sold him into slavery through Ishmaelite's. This is an ironic turn of events that should not be lost on us. Ishmael is cast out of Abraham's camp because of the danger he poses to Abraham's true heir Isaac. Later Isaac and Ishmael come together to bury their father Abraham. We read about how Ishmael had twelve sons who became princes the same way that Jacob would have twelve sons who would become the patriarchs of Israel – the people chosen by God to be His own from among all of the nations of the earth. It would be through Israel that God would work His plan and it would be through Israel, Judah in particular, that the Messiah, the Son of God, would come.

Joseph is the picture or type and shadow of this promise. He fulfills this in two ways. He is the *Messiah ben Joseph* or *Suffering Servant* Messiah because of his afflictions and those cast onto

Yeshua, the Son of God. Then in the midst of his suffering Joseph is *remembered* and taken from prison and raised up to become the second most powerful man, next to Pharaoh, in all of Egypt. Egypt was a major world power in those days and through God's humbling of Egypt we see a type and shadow of what is to come, but that is a story for another day. When Joseph is raised up it is a picture of Yeshua being raised from the dead and given new life to take up the throne and crown of the *Messiah ben David*. Joseph became a symbol of the King Messiah to show us Yeshua and His second coming, not His first. The power of this picture should burn its way into our memories because we are not seeing two Messiahs but one who fulfills all aspects of prophecy as shown to us in Joseph. As Joseph became the *Messiah ben Joseph* he also became the *Messiah ben David* paving the way for Yeshua and setting the stage for Yeshua's first coming 2,000 years ago and His second coming sometime in the future. Though by the signs we are seeing I don't think that day is too far off. Now please, I am not a prophetic teacher, in any way, shape or form, but I can read prophecy like anyone else can. The signs are there for us to see if we look.

There are teachers and false prophets coming out of the woodwork just as they did 2,000 years ago. They seemed to proliferate after Yeshua's ascension and really came of age as the Gospel was carried to the nations. Today there are those who say they are Messianic's but they are not. They are turning to teachers and teachings that are not in line with the word of God. I see those who say they are Torah observant followers of Yeshua denouncing His deity and saying that Jews can be saved by the keeping of the Torah alone. This runs contrary to Scripture and goes along the lines of Gentiles not having to follow Torah. The Torah has no power to save anyone because no one can keep it perfectly except for Yeshua. He was tempted in all ways just like we were but unlike us He stayed true to the Torah and was the perfect sacrifice to take away the sin of the world.

This picture is seen in the story of Joseph. Joseph's story is so strong we should never lose sight of it.

**Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

We need to be very careful these days because the temptation to turn from the way of salvation through Yeshua is growing stronger every single day. We are in a time of testing and many are falling short of the mark. The Jewish people do not stress the saving action of God or personal salvation. It is usually about communal salvation as Israel. Redemption is about the community of Israel but also about individual redemption as well. The story of Joseph teaches us this. True Messianic congregations will stress faith in Yeshua and Torah observance for EVERYONE! To do anything else is not from the Holy One of Israel. Many Messianic congregations are nothing more than Saturday keeping churches. I realize some will take this as being harsh but please keep in mind that the time is short and I cannot waste my words. For the last Torah cycle I spent it on salvation and guarding one's faith. I am continuing with this during this Torah cycle as well but I will be referencing stories from the Torah to show you the hidden meanings in God's word. I urge you, through prayer and through words, to listen to what I am saying to you to keep the faith and walk the walk. I cannot ask for anything more than to test the teachings you hear or read on the Internet because they are coming fast and furious and it will only get worse.

**Amos 3:1-2**

**1** "Listen to this word which *ADONAI* has spoken against you, people of Isra'el, against the entire family that I brought up from the land of Egypt: **2** "Of all the families on earth, only you have I intimately known. This is why I will punish you for all your crimes."

The Lord, the Holy One of Israel, has spoken against the people of Israel. Now remember that the Torah says that there must be two or three witnesses to bring a charge against anyone. Of course God can do as He chooses but He is a Holy God who respects His own Torah because the Torah is His spoken word brought to life in Yeshua, His Son.

**Deuteronomy 19:15** "A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed."

**Matthew 18:16** "But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED."

**Hebrews 10:28** Someone who disregards the *Torah* of Moshe is put to death without mercy on the word of two or three witnesses.

The Torah sets the standard and God keeps His own standard. Yet how can God do this if He is only a singular Being? It is because He is a plural Being represented by the Father, Son and Ruach HaKodesh (the Holy Spirit). This is how He can do it and for anyone to say otherwise they have twisted the Word of God and made His word void and His word cannot return to Him null and void. It must come to pass or else the God we worship is not a true God and is like the gods made by the hands of men.

My words have a bite to them because I have seen this take place right before my eyes over the years and it makes me sad – very sad. People of God you need to hold fast to the foundation of our faith. If you are counting on catching the "*rapture express*" out of here before the days of tribulation or the *Birth pangs of the Messiah*, please do not put all of your eggs into one basket. If you drop the basket you will break most if not all of the eggs and then where will you be – kind of like the trapeze artist who flies without a net? Are you willing to take the chance on that? So many other references come to mind when I think of this but this should make an impression on unless you have chosen to shut me down. If you have done this you are on your own. I have to stand before God to give an account of what I did for Him and I do not want to come up short because I held back the truth from you. I have enough to answer for in my life and I don't want the truth of Yeshua to be one of those things.

I know my Messiah and I surrendered my life to Him a long time ago. I have walked His road with His help and not through my own power. God says He will punish us because He has known us intimately. This is the true Biblical meaning of *know*. To know someone in a Biblical sense is to be intimate with them and this is the depth that God wants to know us and how deep we should know Him. The symbolism of the wedding ceremony should not be lost on us because that is when two human beings know each in that very special way. It is through that symbolism we see God's love for us. This is the special relationship we should strive for. This is why He will punish us for our crimes against Him – against His Messiah Yeshua – and against His Ruach HaKodesh. It is why He holds us to a special level because of His love. This is not a romantic love but a love that is very special only known between husband and wife. This is what He desires to teach us about having a relationship with Him. His love for us is so great He is

willing to have us become the bride of His Son. His love is so vast that His Son accepts us unconditionally. His love is beyond all understanding as His Ruach takes up residence within us.

### **1 John 4:7-12**

**7** Beloved friends, let us love one another; because love is from God; and everyone who loves has God as his Father and knows God. **8** Those who do not love, do not know God; because God is love. **9** Here is how God showed his love among us: God sent his only Son into the world, so that through him we might have life. **10** Here is what love is: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the *kapparah* for our sins. **11** Beloved friends, if this is how God loved us, we likewise ought to love one another. **12** No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God remains united with us, and our love for him has been brought to its goal in us.

<25> **ἀγαπάω** *agapao*

**Meaning:** *to love*

**Origin:** of unc. or.

**Usage:** beloved(8), felt a love for(1), love(1), love(75), loved(38), loves(20).

The Shaliach Yochanan (the Apostle John) was known as the Apostle of love because of his writings about Yeshua and what the Master's teachings meant to him. He knew the Master's teachings longer than any of the other Shalichim (Apostles). He was the only one who died of old age, in his 90's, very old for his day and still that way today. It has been said that when he was old and could no longer get around on his own that he was carried by his talmidim (students) and when they would ask him questions he would tell them to love one another. I wish that we could do that today. Maybe if we learned how to do that we would spend less time trying to year each other apart. If we could all come down off of our high horses and say we were wrong to one another than we would not spend so much time being mad at our fellow Believers.

Even if you feel you have done nothing wrong try saying you are sorry to someone who feels you have hurt them and watch the healing power of those simple words, I am sorry. I have done it – even when I felt I was not wrong. That is something fairly new for me to do. When I felt I was right I took on a self-righteous smug attitude and lifted myself above those who I feel hurt me or those close to me. Since I have descended from Mount Sinai I have discovered a truth I should have embraced sooner. It does not matter whether I am right or not, saying you are sorry heals things so much better than feeling smug.

**Matthew 5:45** Then you will become children of your Father in heaven. For he makes his sun shine on good and bad people alike, and he sends rain to the righteous and the unrighteous alike. **46** What reward do you get if you love only those who love you? Why, even tax-collectors do that! **47** And if you are friendly only to your friends, are you doing anything out of the ordinary? Even the *Goyim* do that!

**Isaiah 55:7** Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the LORD, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

We are compared to the nations by the Messiah Yeshua Himself and the comparison is not flattering. Yeshua tells us about this in Matthew 5:45-47. In Isaiah 55:7 we are told if we return to our God He will have compassion on us and He will pardon us.

<07725> שׁוּב *shub* (996d)

**Meaning:** *to turn back, return*

**Origin:** a prim. root

**Usage:** again(53), answer(4), answer\*(5), answered(5), averted(1), back(7), back again(2), bring(1), bring her back(1), bring him back(2), bring it back(1), bring me back(2), bring the back(1), bring them again(1), bring them back(14), bring you back(5), bring back(14), bring presents(1), bring...back(4), bringing(1), bringing the back(1), brought(2), brought him again(2), brought him back(3), brought it back(3), brought me back(4), brought the again(1), brought them back(2), brought us back(1), brought again(1), brought back(17), brought...back(1), call(1), came again(1), came back(1), cause(1), certainly bring(1), certainly bring them back(1), come back(10), converted(1), deluded(1), desist(2), draw and turning(1), draw it back(1), drawn(1), drew back(1), drives(1), ever go back(1), fro(1), forth(1), gave...return(1), get(1), get it back(1), give(2), give an answer(1), give it back(1), give them back(1), give back(2), gives(2), go(1), go on back(1), go back(10), go\*(1), going back(1), gone back(1), indeed(1), indeed bring(1), indeed bring me back(1), indeed return(2), indeed turn away(1), keeps(2), make them return(1), make restitution(1), paid(2), pass your again(1), pass away(1), pay(1), pays us back in full(2), punishing(1), put(3), put his back(1), put the back(1), put back(1), rebuilt\*(2), recall(2), recalls\*(1), receded(1), recompense(1), recompense\*(1), recompensed(4), recovered(4), refreshes(1), refund(3), refuse(4), refute(1), regain(1), remade\*(1), render(8), repaid(1), repay(5), repeatedly(2), repeats(1), repel(1), repent(6), repent and turn away(2), repentant(1), repented(1), replace(1), reply(6), reply\*(1), reported(1), reported\*(1), repulse\*(2), rescue(1), respond(1), restitution may be made(1), restitution which is made(1), restore(58), restored(17), restorer(2), restores(7), restoring(1), restrain(2), restrained(2), retire(1), retreat(1), return(261), return and take back(1), return\*(1), returned(151), returned\*(1), returning(2), returns(9), reverse(1), revived(1), revoke(10), revoked(1), sent back(1), set(1), spent(1), still(3), subsides(2), surely return(4), take(4), take it back(1), take me back(1), take my back(2), take your back(1), take back(2), there(1), took back(2), turn(49), turn and and withdraw(1), turn her away(1), turn his away(1), turn it back(1), turn me into again(1), turn them back(1), turn to you again(1), turn you about(1), turn you around(1), turn you back(2), turn your away(1), turn again(1), turn aside(1), turn away(24), turn away and not repent(1), turn back(20), turn...back(1), turned(16), turned them back(1), turned around(1), turned away(9), turned back(16), turned...back(1), turning(2), turning away(1), turns(7), turns again(1), turns away(5), unleash(1), went back(5), went\*(1), withdraw(4), withdrew(1).

This tiny Hebrew word carries a big punch. It is all about coming back to God – to the Holy One of Israel. It is found in the Hebrew word *teshuvah* which we saw in the Fall festival of Yom Teruah. Yochanan (John), the messenger of love, showed us the way – he pointed the way to the heart of God. The heart of God can be accessed by His Son Yeshua and if we are in Yeshua we can have access to the heart of God as well. We need to love God first and then our fellow man second.

**Matthew 22:37** 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." **38** "This is the great and foremost commandment. **39** "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' **40** "On these two commandments depend the whole Torah and the Prophets."

***One day the rabbi of a Polish shtetl drops in to visit a poor Jew who was bitten by a stray, rabid dog and finds him sitting up in bed writing furiously. "Yiddle," says the rabbi in a quiet voice, "rabies can be cured, you shouldn't concern yourself with writing a will." "Will, what will!? I'm making a list of all the people I'm gonna bite!"<sup>2</sup>***

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

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<sup>2</sup> From Torah with a Twist of Humor