



Message 12-1-07
VaYeshev-And He Settled
Genesis 37:1-40:23
Amos 2:6-3:8
Luke 24:17-31

Introduction

The portion VayYeshev begins with the story of Joseph and his brothers. In it we see the relationship, or the lack of one, that Joseph had with his brothers. It is the story of how this relationship changes that draws our attention.

Genesis 38:11-26

11 Then Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, "Remain a widow in your father's house till my son Shelah is grown." For he said, "Lest he also die like his brothers." And Tamar went and dwelt in her father's house. **12** Now in the process of time the daughter of Shua, Judah's wife, died; and Judah was comforted, and went up to his sheepshearers at Timnah, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite. **13** And it was told Tamar, saying, "Look, your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep." **14** So she took off her widow's garments, covered *herself* with a veil and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place which *was* on the way to Timnah; for she saw that Shelah was grown, and she was not given to him as a wife. **15** When Judah saw her, he thought she *was* a harlot, because she had covered her face. **16** Then he turned to her by the way, and said, "Please let me come in to you"; for he did not know that she *was* his daughter-in-law. So she said, "What will you give me, that you may come in to me?" **17** And he said, "I will send a young goat from the flock." So she said, "Will you give *me* a pledge till you send *it*?" **18** Then he said, "What pledge shall I give you?" So she said, "Your signet and cord, and your staff that *is* in your hand." Then he gave *them* to her, and went in to her, and she conceived by him. **19** So she arose and went away, and laid aside her veil and put on the garments of her widowhood. **20** And Judah sent the young goat by the hand of his friend the Adullamite, to receive *his* pledge from the woman's hand, but he did not find her. **21** Then he asked the men of that place, saying, "Where is the harlot who *was* openly by the roadside?" And they said, "There was no harlot in this *place*." **22** So he returned to Judah and said, "I cannot find her. Also, the men of the place said there was no harlot in this *place*." **23** Then Judah said, "Let her take *them* for herself, lest we be shamed; for I sent this young goat and you have not found her." **24** And it came to pass, about three months after, that Judah was told,

saying, "Tamar your daughter-in-law has played the harlot; furthermore she is with child by harlotry." So Judah said, "Bring her out and let her be burned!" **25** When she was brought out, she sent to her father-in-law, saying, "By the man to whom these belong, I am with child." And she said, "Please determine whose these are -- the signet and cord, and staff." **26** So Judah acknowledged them and said, "She has been more righteous than I, because I did not give her to Shelah my son." And he never knew her again.

This passage kind of seems to be out of place the way it suddenly appears in the passage. Yet, it may not be because it talks about a Torah practice called Levirate marriage. What it entails is this: If a woman loses her husband it becomes the responsibility of any surviving males to take her in marriage and give her an heir who would not be the heir of the dead husband but the child conceived out of the Levirate marriage. This is what happened in our passage for today. One of Judah's sons was married to Tamar and died. Judah followed the practice and gave his eldest son as husband to Tamar. In due time he did something that was evil in the eyes of the Lord and the Lord took his life. Then Judah gave his next son to Tamar and he spilled his seed on the ground rather than having a child with Tamar because he knew the child would not really be his nor the possessions of his dead uncle. This was evil in the eyes of the Lord and God chose to kill him as well.

The Lord does not take kindly to anyone who tries to get around His Torah. He is the God of Israel who called Israel out of Egypt to be His own special treasure out of all the families of the earth. If we are part of Israel then why do we struggle so much with what God tells us to do. If we do those He promises blessings and if we don't He promises curses. Too many people are under the impression that a blessing means financial blessings. They live under the misconception that if they give one dollar God will give back two dollars. Pastors draw on this from the book of Malachi and the storehouse of heaven. When God calls out a people to be His then they are His if they accept the calling and Israel did.

Exodus 19:8 Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." So Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.

The people committed themselves to God by their affirmation of what Moses had shared with them from God. It would shortly after this that the Israelites would break their covenant with God and worship the Golden Calf and strive with Moses over Aaron being the High Priest and Moses' leadership of the Children of Israel. God chose Israel, who was the descendants of the twelve sons of Jacob plus his two grandsons, Ephraim and Manasseh. They were descended from Jacob who would become Israel, from Isaac, who would be offered up to God by his father Abraham when the Lord told Abraham to stop and not slay his son. God had chosen a man of faith when He called out Abraham from his father's house in Ur of the Chaldees and instructed him to go to a place he had never been but Abraham obeyed God.

This is not to say that the Patriarchs of Israel were sinless men. They sinned but they were human and God chose them because He had looked into Abraham's heart and the hearts of his children and decided that it would be through this family that He would raise up a nation that would be unique in the eyes of the world. They would be a nation called out by God for God. This would be something the world had never seen before and we should be thankful that we can be a part of it by accepting Yeshua as our Lord and Master and humble ourselves before Him. Once we have done this we will be forgiven for our transgressions against the Father if we ask God for forgiveness. As a

result of what we have done we are commanded to do as Yeshua did which was to live out the Torah in our lives so that it would become a light to the nations.

Matthew 19:17 So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, *that is*, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

Why does Yeshua say in Matthew 19:17 that to enter into life we are to keep the commandments? Because it is through the keeping of the commandments that we learn what sin is to God and we try to do what He wants us to but in the end we fail because it is hard to keep the ways of the Lord. Yet, God did not abandon us because we transgress His Torah He sent His Son Yeshua to show us the way to eternal life if we walk the straight and narrow road. It is not the commandments that lead us into life eternal but our realization of what sin is and how we can fix our situation by asking God to forgive us based on Yeshua's sacrifice.

Once this is done we are told to continue to keep His commandments because we love Him. Why would He tell us to follow His commandments if the Torah has been done away with? If Torah reveals sin and we need Yeshua for redemption it would then make sense that we need Torah to continue walking the straight and narrow road. We are not trying to earn our salvation through works, as the Church teaches, but we are following our Master because He tells us to. If Israel would have done that God would not have sent them into exile but they did sin continuously and God showed His love for His people by exiling them with the promise of one day being called back.

In our day we are seeing these people coming back to the Torah of God and to His Messiah Yeshua. Yeshua has always been and will always be. Some say that Yeshua is the Father and that the Father is Yeshua. I do not believe this because Yeshua is shown to us many times throughout the Tanach before His birth in the Gospels. He has always been and through a supernatural event the Son of God became the Son of man to show us the way to eternal life.

Amos 2:6-14

6 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not turn away its *punishment*, because they sell the righteous for silver, and the poor for a pair of sandals. **7** They pant after the dust of the earth *which is* on the head of the poor, and pervert the way of the humble. A man and his father go in to the *same* girl, to defile My holy name. **8** They lie down by every altar on clothes taken in pledge, and drink the wine of the condemned *in* the house of their god. **9** "Yet *it was* I *who* destroyed the Amorite before them, whose height *was* like the height of the cedars, and he *was as* strong as the oaks; yet I destroyed his fruit above and his roots beneath. **10** Also *it was* I *who* brought you up from the land of Egypt, and led you forty years through the wilderness, to possess the land of the Amorite. **11** I raised up some of your sons as prophets, And some of your young men as Nazirites. *Is it* not so, O you children of Israel?" says the LORD. **12** "But you gave the Nazirites wine to drink, and commanded the prophets saying, 'Do not prophesy!' **13** " Behold, I am weighed down by you, as a cart full of sheaves is weighed down. **14** Therefore flight shall perish from the swift, the strong shall not strengthen his power, nor shall the mighty deliver himself.

The Ruach HaKodesh wants to move in our day and time. The Spirit hungers to come and dwell within us and the enemy does not want that. The Spirit of God is a force that reveals the Word of

God to people and shows them the way to Messiah and strengthens them for the trials and tribulations we will face in our walk.

1 Peter 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, **7** that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Yeshua the Messiah, **8** whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, **9** receiving the end of your faith -- the salvation of *your* souls. **10** Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace *that would come* to you, **11** searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Messiah who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Messiah and the glories that would follow. **12** To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven -- things which angels desire to look into. **13** Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Yeshua the Messiah.

We have been told that we will go through trials because of our faith. We will go through trials because we are living His Torah in our lives and we are the lamps and the light that Yeshua talks about in the Word. He is the Word of the Father brought into human form to show us that we will make it through whatever the enemy throws at us. We are to stand fast in our faith and follow the road least travelled in our quest for that peace that passes all understanding.

We all have to face these trials. It may very well be that God has allowed these trials by the enemy to test our faith and our commitment to Him. How we react to these trials is the measure of our faith and without the Ruach of God we will not make it through. Yeshua, as He stood in the Jordan, the Ruach HaKodesh came down and settled on Him and brought Him the power of the Almighty One. He went forth that day into the Wilderness for forty days and forty nights to be tested by the Adversary. The Children of Israel went into the Wilderness because of their sin and spent forty years there. They fell to the temptations of the Adversary while Yeshua overcame them and defeated Satan with the Word of God from the Torah.

Matthew 4:8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; **9** and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me." **10** Then Yeshua said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'" [**Deuteronomy 6:13, Deuteronomy 10:20**] **11** Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and *began* to minister to Him.

Yeshua defeated Satan with the Torah. He did not use the Apostolic Scriptures to defeat the enemy because they did not exist and any student of the Word will find the Torah and the Prophets in the Apostolic Scriptures. The Apostolic Scriptures are an extension of the Torah and the Prophets. Yeshua is revealed in the Apostolic Scriptures. He can be seen in the Torah and the Prophets but He is fully revealed in the Apostolic Scriptures. You must bring the Tanach together with the Apostolic Scriptures in order to get a complete picture of Yeshua. He walked the earth at various times during the days of the Tanach. He was hidden for four hundred years between the time of the Tanach and the time of the Apostolic Scriptures but in that day He became Man and walked the earth openly

and ministered to mankind for 3 ½ years. We are the recipients of that ministry and we are called to follow the example of our Jewish Master.

Luke 24:17-31

17 And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?" **18** Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?" **19** And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Yeshua of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, **20** "and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. **21** "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. **22** "Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. **23** "When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. **24** "And certain of those *who were* with us went to the tomb and found *it* just as the women had said; but Him they did not see." **25** Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! **26** "Ought not the Messiah to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" **27** And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. **28** Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. **29** But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them. **30** Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave it to them. **31** Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

Yeshua had risen from the dead to walk the earth once more until it was time to go back to His Father. In this passage He was walking with two Believers who were discussing the events that had taken place in Jerusalem climaxing with the death of Yeshua. Yeshua chastened them for not understanding what had taken place had been prophesied in the Torah and the Prophets where Yeshua had told His followers they would find the proof of who He was.

John 5:43 "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. **44** "How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that *comes* from the only God? **45** "Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is *one* who accuses you -- Moses, in whom you trust. **46** "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. **47** "But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

Yeshua proclaims that Moses or the Torah speak of Him and point to Him and they have not seen Him because they cannot see the truth that the Torah points to Yeshua. Yeshua said that He would not be accusing them before the Father, it would be Torah the Torah that God gave to Moses at Mount Sinai! It will be the same thing for us – the Torah, the living Torah – Yeshua will be judging us at the last judgment. Many claim faith in Yeshua and Torah in their lives yet we are told by the Word of God that only a remnant will be saved. Will you be a part of the remnant or will you be left outside in darkness that will consume those who have fallen at the Day of Judgment.

Romans 9:27 Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, "THOUGH THE NUMBER OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL BE LIKE THE SAND OF THE SEA, IT IS THE REMNANT THAT WILL BE SAVED;

[Isaiah 10:22, Genesis 22:17, Hosea 1:10] 28 FOR THE LORD WILL EXECUTE HIS WORD ON THE EARTH, THOROUGHLY AND QUICKLY." [Isaiah 10:23]

Is it love or need that controls me? Let me act at least as much from love as from the urgent needs that so often seem to control me!

If you want to learn more about your Hebrew/Jewish Roots sign up for one of our e-mail lists at <http://etz-chayim.org/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> and for other Torah Studies check out:

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

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

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*

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/directory.htm drop us an e-mail with your information...

Subscribe to our free e-mail groups at www.etz-chayim.org/news/news.htm. We offer the Whole House of Israel group (Torah commentary, news updates from Israel and other items of interest and our Messianic Life magazine).

Tree of Life Messianic Ministries is a legally incorporated non-profit ministry with 501 (c) (3) status...