



Message 12-6-08
VaYetze-And He Went Out
Genesis 28:10-32:3
Hosea 11:7-14:9 (10)
1 Corinthians 10:14-21

Introduction

This week's portion relates the story of *Jacob's Ladder* - his dream of angels ascending and descending from earth to heaven, and God standing above him with a promise – the promise given to Abraham and to Isaac and now to Jacob.

Genesis 31:44-32:3

44 "Now therefore, come, let us make a covenant, you and I, and let it be a witness between you and me." **45** So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar. **46** Then Jacob said to his brethren, "Gather stones." And they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there on the heap. **47** Laban called it Jegar Sahadutha, but Jacob called it Galeed. **48** And Laban said, "This heap is a witness between you and me this day." Therefore its name was called Galeed, **49** also Mizpah, because he said, "May the LORD watch between you and me when we are absent one from another. **50** "If you afflict my daughters, or if you take *other* wives besides my daughters, *although* no man is with us -- see, God is witness between you and me!" **51** Then Laban said to Jacob, "Here is this heap and here is *this* pillar, which I have placed between you and me. **52** "This heap is a witness, and *this* pillar is a witness, that I will not pass beyond this heap to you, and you will not pass beyond this heap and this pillar to me, for harm. **53** "The God of Abraham, the God of Nahor, and the God of their father judge between us." And Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac. **54** Then Jacob offered a sacrifice on the mountain, and called his brethren to eat bread. And they ate bread and stayed all night on the mountain. **55** And early in the morning Laban arose, and kissed his sons and daughters and blessed them. Then Laban departed and returned to his place. **32:1** So Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. **2** When Jacob saw them, he said, "This is God's camp." And he called the name of that place Mahanaim. **3** Then Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom.

When you read through this passage you see that it was a custom to erect pillars of stone or a large rock as a sign of a covenant or the importance of a place and we see Jacob doing several times in his story. He marked the place where he had his dream of the ladder between heaven and earth. In this passage Jacob erects a pile of stones to mark the place where he and Laban made a covenant that basically states that Laban will not go beyond that marking as well as Jacob. They were setting the borders of where they would reside in safety because in reading the story of Jacob and Laban it did not end on a pleasant note but resulted in this treaty.

In addition they broke bread together and ate a meal. As Melchizedek offered a blessing over wine and bread to the Lord God he set an example for the rest of us throughout history of a symbol of the covenant between man and God that would result in the death and resurrection of the Messiah Yeshua who brought life to the wine and bread and fulfilled that part of His mission on behalf of His Father.

We have been created by Messiah as His Father spoke the Word that brought all things into existence – including man. When you read through this passage you can pick out many things that are of interest. See in verse 50 where Laban instructs Jacob that he is to respect his daughters and that he is not to take any other wives besides his daughters and yet we know that Jacob, before this, had fathered children with the servants of his wives at their insistence. The children that resulted from this union and that with his wives gave us the twelve sons who would become the twelve tribes of Israel whom God would call out of Egypt to come to the Promised Land and take possession, in His name, of the Land.

It is very interesting how God kind of skips over the story of Creation and the early days of mankind bringing us from the creation of Adam and Chava to the story of Noah and the flood and the instruction to Noah to go and repopulate the earth with his sons and all of their wives. Then we come to the Tower of Babel and the story of how man wanted to make a name for himself by building a tower to ascend to heaven. We know this was the story of how man wanted to take over God's place which is why God destroyed the Tower and confounded the languages of mankind so that man would separate and spread out over the face of the earth so they could not come together again. God knew that this would not be the end of the issue because in our day, despite language differences, we can communicate through other means to be able to come together if we wanted to. The recent financial situation that started in the United States spread rapidly to other countries because they were tied financially to us. This shows us how close we are to a one world government.

I know that many would say that this is impossible because we just do not get along enough to be able to work together. Certain groups with mutual goals can find ways to work together when necessary. Even though we still have conflicts and differences with other nations we are growing closer together. We are seeing prophecy starting to come to pass in our day my friends. Does this mean we will see the return of Messiah Yeshua in our day, anything is possible, but it will happen in God's timing? We need to be ready if it happens. We cannot find our faith rooted in interpretation of Scripture or what we are taught by teachers of the Word. We must become like the Bereans and test every teaching by the measure of the Word of God.

Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so.

12 Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.

Take notice of the fact that the Bereans were open to other teachings **but** that they searched the Scriptures daily to make sure that what they were being taught was true. They **tested** the teachings of the Apostle Paul (Shaul). Can you imagine if you told a Christian, or for that matter some Messianics, that you were testing Paul's teachings that they would probably call you a heretic for daring to question Paul. **We must do this** in order to know for certain that what Paul wrote is correct. If you search the Scriptures to test what Paul wrote against the Torah and not the other way around where you test the Torah against Paul's writings you will find that Paul was a Torah teacher and not the advocate of doing away with the Torah.

No one has the authority to throw Torah aside. It is the covenant of God that our ancestors followed and passed on down to us. We have been called to follow in their footsteps not to step around them. Torah was never intended to bring salvation but to point the way to salvation through Messiah Yeshua. Look at the Patriarchs to see the faith of God and Torah in action. Abraham left his father's home to travel to a foreign land by the word given to him by a God who spoke to him but one that he could not see until that day in Mamre when he was sitting under the tree in the heat of the day.

Genesis 18:1 Then the LORD appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. **2** So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw *them*, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, **3** and said, "My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant.

In Genesis 18:1 we see that the Lord, in Hebrew YHWH, appeared to him in Mamre. Abraham lifted up his eyes and there stood three men and he ran to meet them and bowed before them or did he bow before the one he addressed as my Lord? You might be saying to yourself, "How can he say something like this?" but the truth can be seen when we read later in this story that only two of the men continued on down to Sodom and that one of the men shared with Abraham what He was going to do to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

God found a family that would be faithful to Him but they would go through trials in their walk with the Lord the same as we do. They grew in their faith of the Lord and they knew of the promise of the One to come. All the great men and women of the Bible knew the promise of the Messiah because they were students of the Word and followers of the Lord God who would call Israel to be His own people from out of all the people of the earth. We are inheritors of that promise and we are part of the nation of Israel, the nation called by God that will be made of native born of the twelve tribes and those who will become part of that nation from among the other nations that were in the past and would be in the future.

Hosea 13:1-3

1 When Ephraim spoke piety, he was exalted in Israel; but he incurred guilt through Baal, and so he died. **2** And now they go on sinning; they have made them molten images, idols, by their skill, from their silver, wholly the work of craftsmen. Yet for these they appoint men to sacrifice; they are wont to kiss calves! **3** Assuredly, they shall be like morning clouds, like dew so early gone; like chaff whirled away from the threshing floor. And like smoke from a lattice.

It would appear that Ephraim spoke of Torah and how one should behave but that in truth Ephraim sinned and kept on sinning by making idols – images of calves. This would result in the punishment of Ephraim and would ultimately bring Judah to judgment as well. Judah was not far from the sins of Ephraim but God had a purpose for Judah and one for Ephraim though it is God's intention and promise that He will bring Judah and Ephraim together as one – **echad!**

Ezekiel 37:15 The word of the LORD came again to me saying, **16** "And you, son of man, take for yourself one stick and write on it, 'For Judah and for the sons of Israel, his companions'; then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and all the house of Israel, his companions.' **17** "Then join them for yourself one to another into one stick, that they may become **one** in your hand. **18** "When the sons of your people speak to you saying, 'Will you not declare to us what you mean by these?' **19** say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will put them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be **one** in My hand.'" **20** "The sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes. **21** "Say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; **22** and I will make them **one nation in the land**, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will **no longer be two nations** and no longer be divided into two kingdoms. **23** "They will no longer defile themselves with their idols, or with their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. And they will be My people, and I will be their God. **24** "My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances and keep My statutes and observe them. **25** "They will live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons and their sons' sons, forever; and David My servant will be their prince forever. **26** "I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever. **27** "My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. **28** "And the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever.'""

This passage from Ezekiel 37 is at the heart of the hope for those who feel they are from Ephraim and those who have chosen to join themselves to Ephraim. There are those who struggle with the idea of Ephraim and where they fit in because they believe that Ephraim has already been reunited and are now part of Judah. This line of thinking poses a problem because of the promise God made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The promise was one of so many descendants that they would be beyond one's capacity to number. Judah has been called by God to be tested in the fire of affliction by the world as the remnant that God called forth from the ashes of Israel. Ephraim is awakening from their slumber but as they awaken to who they are they **must not** cast off the ways of Judah for what they desire for themselves. That is what got them into trouble in the first place and do they desire to return to exile again? As Judah goes through the fire Ephraim must stand with them, whether Judah wants them or not, because this is what God said would happen and that in the end He would bring together as one nation.

As Messiah is at the heart of God's plan the restoration of Israel is also part of God's plan as well. Look to Israel to see what God is planning to do. It may take place in our generation or it may not but we must be ready for when God moves because it could be at any time day or night as we are

told in the parables of Yeshua. We are each called to Messiah and to Torah. This is His purpose and His desire. What is yours?

1 Corinthians 10:14-21

14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. **15** I speak as to wise men; judge for yourselves what I say. **16** The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Messiah? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Messiah? **17** For we, *though* many, are one bread *and* one body; for we all partake of that one bread. **18** Observe Israel after the flesh: are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? **19** What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? **20** Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. **21** You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.

The Apostle Paul (Shaul) warns the Corinthians to turn from the way of idolatry to which they had been enslaved to before their salvation through Messiah Yeshua. This fits in with the passage from Hosea and the idolatry of Ephraim but I am not saying that Judah is free from this sin. It was because they followed the ways of Ephraim that Judah also was sent into exile.

2 Kings 17:17 And they caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger. **18** Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; there was none left but the tribe of Judah alone. **19** Also Judah did not keep the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made. **20** And the LORD rejected all the descendants of Israel, afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of plunderers, until He had cast them from His sight.

Israel, in this passage, is Ephraim who bore the name of Israel. They did not follow the ways of the Lord and even gave up their children to the false gods they sought instead of the Holy One of Israel. Judah was not free of this sin as we see in verse 19. They did not keep the Torah of God but walked in the ways of Israel by the laws they had made not the laws of God so God handed over the Children of Israel to the nations where they would dwell until the time of Messiah's return. I know that we have the nation of Israel born out of the ashes of Judah and those who stood by them in their time of trial in the Holocaust. Israel has chosen to walk in the ways of the nations who desire that Israel should die a quick death. God has other plans and while it would seem that Ephraim was punished for their sins by 2700 years in exile Judah was punished at the hands of the nations while remaining in the knowledge of who they were and where they came from. We should never forget where we came from or where we are going. The Lord is waiting for us and we have the promise of redemption which brings eternal life.

On Shabbat You come out of hiding, or so it sometimes seems; for on Shabbat my questions seem to fade, and it is enough to say: It is. You are who You are. I am what I am, "fearfully and wonderfully made" – and so are all things great and small. It is enough. Be praised, Eternal One, Source of creation and its wonders.

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

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