



Taking Messiah Yeshua and Torah to the World!

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Message for 7-24-10
Ve Etchanan-And I Pleaded
Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11
Isaiah 40:1-26
Matthew 23:37-38

Introduction

In a passionate last ditch effort to convince God to let him "cross over and enter the good land," Moses begins his opening plea with VeEtchanan, one of ten different Torah expressions for prayer.

Deuteronomy 4:10-14

10 How on the day that you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, the LORD said to me, 'Gather the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words, so that they may learn to fear Me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so.' **11** And you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, while the mountain burned with fire to the heart of heaven, wrapped in darkness, cloud, and gloom. **12** Then the LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of words, but saw no form; there was only a voice. **13** And He declared to you His covenant, which He commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Words, and He wrote them on two tablets of stone. **14** And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and rules, that you might do them in the land that you are going over to possess. (Deu 4:10 ESV)

The book of Deuteronomy is Moses' closing words to the Children of Israel before his death. His death had been decreed by the Lord because Moses and Aaron disobeyed God and Moses had struck the rock to bring forth water for the people instead of speaking to it as God has told him to.

Numbers 20:12 And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them." (Num 20:12 ESV)

How many times do we find ourselves trying to go farther than we need to simply because we have become angry or upset over something? Moses had become frustrated with the Children of Israel and all of their complaints. It seemed that from the time they were in Egypt all the way to this point in their journey that all they did was complaining about this, that and the other. It would seem that no matter how much we might think we are different than the Children of

Israel we will probably discover just how much like them we are. History is supposed to teach us not to repeat what our ancestors have done that was wrong and we as Believers in Yeshua are supposed to learn from what our ancestors did that was right and what they did that was wrong.

Amazing, isn't it, that as far as we may have technologically how much we are still like those who have gone before us. Look at the state of the world around us and you know what is at the center of the problem that confronts us – the never ending animosity between the children of Abraham – Ishmael and Isaac and Isaac's children Jacob and Esau. When you take a look at the world today it should simply amaze you at how the world has turned on the children of Isaac through his son Jacob. One line has been designated God's own while the other is led by a spirit as unholy as to leave us speechless at the hate flowing from it.

Moses had led Israel for 40 years and was now coming to the end of his time with Israel and his life. He tried to serve God as best as he could and he faced challenges in his life and in his time as the leader and teacher of Israel unlike any leader we read about in the Bible. He was called to bring a people out of slavery by the visible power of God to become a nation unlike any other nation that had been upon the face of the earth at that time and since then. He had been given the responsibility of forming a nation and teaching them the Torah the Lord had given to Him on Mount Sinai. The books of Exodus, Leviticus and Deuteronomy are the story of Moses and the Children of Israel and their relationship with the One who would become known as the Holy One of Israel. Some may doubt this relationship based on what you see on TV or read in the newspapers or read about on the Internet but make no mistake about it Israel is God's chosen people and, for better or for worse, the Jewish people have been placed on the front lines by God to stand in the gap until Yeshua returns. Our brethren may not know Yeshua but they will come to know Him one day.

We are in the Chevlei shel Mashiach or the Birthpangs of the Messiah and what we are seeing is just a small dose of what is to come and we had better start paying attention and stop wishing for things that have been taught to the Body of Messiah through a lack of understanding of what the Bible is trying to teach us. We are entering into the time where we will probably wish we could seek the solitude of the Wilderness like the Children of Israel did but remember they entered the Wilderness because of their disobedience and not by their choice. Ephraim was sent into a 2700 + exile still waiting for God to call them back. Judah may have come back after 70 years but look at their history and where they have been since then? The only difference between Ephraim and Judah has been one nation lost who they were in their punishment while the nation of Judah has been allowed to remember who they are but are still being punished for their sin.

There have been moments, on the part of people from both kingdoms, where they have risen to new heights in their devotion to the Holy One of Israel but for the most part we have clawed and struggled in our attempt to return to the good graces of our Creator when all He has ever asked of us is to believe in Him and His Son and to follow His guidelines – the Torah so we could find our way in the darkness.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, a royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; **10** for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY. **11** Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against

the soul. **12** Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation. [Isa. 43:20, Deu. 10:15, Isa. 61:6, 66:21, Exo. 19:6, Deu.7:6, Exo. 19:5, Deu. 4:20, Deu. 14:2, Isa. 9:2, Isa. 42:16](1Pe 2:9 NAU)

This is a promise for Israel my friends, and each and every one of you is a part of that glorious nation that God called out of Egypt to be His own people. We were there when Moses gave his farewell address to the people and we were there when they stood before God at Mount Sinai. They failed at Mount Sinai having been prepared for that moment when they would meet their God and hear His covenant to them. They turned to Moses and told him to meet with God and hear His words and then share them with them. Was this a monumental failure on the part of this people or could it be at all possible that God already knew what the people were going to do and by them turning to Moses to be their intermediary between them and God we were looking at the laying of the foundation of Messiah and His relationship with us?

The pictures we find in the word of God are awe inspiring to say the least. They happen time and time again and yet we miss them until we slow down and take a look at what is happening around us to finally see what God has laid out in His word for us to discover about Yeshua and the plan God has for His people. God did not create us just to let us all go down the toilet slipping away into a place none of us really want to go to. Faith is such a fragile thing that we have to reach out and grab hold of it before we let it slip away from us. Life is the same way and the only way out the mess we are in is to reach out in faith and grab hold of the promise we find in God's Son Yeshua. I don't say this because I am a man of great faith. On the contrary I am a man who has seen his faith tested over and over again but each time I find myself holding on to the one thing that really has never failed me and that is God and the love He has for me.

In a moment of anger Moses vented that anger and paid for it by being denied the one thing he had longed for and that was the Promised Land. He had served God to the best of his ability and he had served him well. Even though he had been denied the opportunity to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land he picked himself up and made sure the people remembered what he had taught them for 40 years about God's Torah and their relationship with Him. To this day Moses is known as the "the Lawgiver" and the world knows his name and they have heard about the God he served. They may try to discount the stories but the truth is one day soon they will discover the stories were true and the God of Moses will be sending His Son back to finish what was started over 2,000 years ago.

Isaiah 40:1-2

1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. **2** Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. (Isa 40:1 ESV)

The Lord punished Israel because of their sins by punishing the city of Jerusalem – the City of David. It would seem that Jerusalem is a very intricate part of God's plan so it is an intricate part of Satan's plan as well. Jerusalem has been destroyed several times, rebuilt several times and ruled over by different peoples many times. It has been fought for by Israel of old, taken by the Muslims and the Christians and fought over by the Muslims and Christians while the Jews sat on the sidelines watching. Today it continues to be fought over, though through the war of words called politics. If Satan cannot get the entire great city he will settle for half of it or any part he can get his hands on. He does not care what he has to do or who he has to destroy to get what

he wants and that is not the city of God but the throne of God. When Nimrod built the Tower of Babel it was to reach heaven and sit upon the throne of God. Even though the story is about Nimrod it is really about Satan and his age old battle with his Creator.

Genesis 11:4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth." (Gen 11:4 ESV)

It was not just about making a name for themselves it was about making a name for themselves that would wipe out the name of God so they could become gods in their own right when all it has ever been about is Satan wanting to take God's place. Satan was cast down from heaven because he rebelled against God and caused 1/3 of the heavenly host to join him in that rebellion. It would appear that the angels had free will as well as we did because 1/3 of them joined with Satan in turning against their Creator. Satan had to know the power of his Creator or was he so blinded by his ambition that he lost all understanding of what it was he was doing? Was Satan such a charismatic being that he could turn 1/3 of the angels against God or is the true Satan found in the picture of silky tongue of the serpent?

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" **2** And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, **3** but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" **4** But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. **5** For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Gen 3:1 ESV)

While the Garden of Eden was paradise on earth Satan and the evil he represented were present there and Satan would bring man to the point of separation from God. In that separation, while it was a time of sadness, also brought the hope of a future redemption where man would be restored in his relationship with His Creator through the death and resurrection of His Son Yeshua. Evil in the fall of man there was hope of life everlasting for the people of God. It is a hope and promise that none of us should ever take lightly because without it there is nothing to live for because without it there is only a future of eternal separation from our Creator. The redemption and salvation I find in Messiah Yeshua and the relationship I have with God is all I can hold on to when life fails me. When I am at my moment of deepest despair I reach out and He is there, He is always there. I have had many ups and downs in my walk as a follower of Yeshua. I have come to understand that one cannot be His disciple based on emotion alone. We must have a foundation and that foundation is faith and direction from God found in His Torah. Faith brings comfort in the form of Yeshua who has walked before us paving the way for all to follow.

Matthew 23:37-38

37 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you have killed the prophets and you have stoned those who were sent to her. How many times have I wanted to gather your sons like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings and you did not want [to be gathered]? **38** Behold, your house is left to you desolate. **39** For I say to you, you will not see me from now until you say, BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD." [Psalm 118:26] (Mat 23:37 MGI)

Jerusalem is a stone in the shoe of mankind. Jerusalem is a very old city and dear to heart of God because of something we read about in Scripture.

Genesis 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. **19** He blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; **20** And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." He gave him a tenth of all. (Gen 14:18 NAU)

<08004> שָׁלֵם *Shalem* (1024a)

Meaning: 'peaceful,' an early name of Jerusalem

4442 מַלְכֵי־צֶדֶק Malkiy-Tsedeq {mal-kee-tseh'-dek}

Meaning: Melchizedek = "my king is Sedek" 1) king of Salem and priest of the Most High God to whom Abram paid tithe after the battle he fought to free Lot; 'the order of Melchizedek' the order of the priesthood to which Yeshua belongs

It is generally accepted by Biblical scholars that Salem was the forerunner of Jerusalem and there has to be truth to this because of Melchizedek whose name means "Righteous King." He was not only a king but a priest of the Most High One. He worshipped the One True God of heaven and earth and it would be this city that would stand down through the ages as God's chosen place on the earth by which He would place His Temple. Jerusalem is so important to God that the earthly Jerusalem will one day be replaced by a heavenly city that has been there from the very beginning.

Revelation 21:2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, come down from heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (Rev 21:2 MGI)

The nations of the earth, led by the children of Ishmael and Esau, want to usurp the rightful King of Jerusalem Yeshua. As David's son Absalom tried to take the throne away from his father, so Abraham and Isaac's children are trying to take the throne away from the rightful King of Jerusalem Yeshua, another Son of Abraham and a descendant of Jacob's son Judah. The brothers have been fighting since the beginning when Abel chose God and to do what God had instructed him to and Cain who thought less of God and chose to disobey Him by bringing only an offering rather than the first or best of his harvest. Jerusalem has been God's gift to mankind, a sign of His covenant with the people of the earth, but we have spurned His gift and instead we have fought over it to gain possession of what belongs to God alone. The land may be given away or taken away by men but it belongs to God in the end. Jerusalem may be torn down and built up and evidence of God's people having lived there ages ago may be removed but in the end Satan will go down to defeat and no matter what he may try to do he will not win. **HE WILL NOT WIN!**

I choose to believe in the promises of my God and no matter what life throws at me I will hold fast to the faith of my fathers – a faith passed down from the time of Moses and even from before then. It is a faith born in the beginning of time that has connected all the way back to our father Adam. Adam walked with God and spoke face to face with Him and yet he took his relationship for granted. I don't want to do that and I ask that you do not do the same. Hold to the faith that was given to us through the sacrifice of God's only Son Yeshua.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 because God has not appointed us to wrath, but to the possession of life in our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, **10** who died for us, that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. **11** Because of this, comfort one another and build one another up, as also you have done. **12** And we beg you, my brothers, recognize those who toil among you and stand before you in our Lord and teach you, **13** that they may be regarded by you with abundant love. And because of their work, come to agreement with them. **14** Now we beg you, my brothers, instruct the wrong-doers and encourage the faint-hearted [ones] and bear the burden of weak [ones] and be long-suffering to everyone. **15** And beware that none of you should repay evil for evil, but always pursue good [things] to one another and to everyone. **16** Rejoice at all times **17** and pray unceasingly. **18** And in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Yeshua the Messiah for you. **19** Do not extinguish the Spirit. **20** Do not reject prophecies. **21** Search everything and hold that which is good (1Th 5:9 MGI)

One day God's plan will come to completion and we will see all the pieces of the puzzle come together and we will finally understand everything. Just walk the walk and no matter what is thrown in your path you can make it to the end of the road because Yeshua is already there. You will have personal trials as a Believer in Yeshua if someone tries to tell you otherwise just turn to the book of Job and ask them to explain the story of Job to you and if that doesn't work share these two verse with them:

John 9:1 And as He passed by, He saw a man who was blind from the womb of his mother. **2** And His disciples asked him and said, "Our Master, who sinned, this [man] or his parents, that he was born being blind?" **3** Yeshua said to them, "He did not sin, nor his parents, but that the works of God may be seen in him. (Joh 9:1 MGI)

This gives you something to ponder and consider when someone tries to tell you if something bad happened to you then you must have sinned. The truth is God may have allowed it to happen so that men might see the power and the glory of the Mighty One of Israel. Amen.

A priest, mullah, and rabbi debate which is the best position for prayer. "Kneeling before the cross," says the priest, "is definitely the best!" "No," interrupts the mullah, "lying prostrate, face down on the floor, towards Mecca is the most effective prayer position!" "I get my best results," says the rabbi, "standing in front of the bema with my hands outstretched to heaven." A nearby telephone repairman has been quietly listening, and objects, "Hey, fellas, the best prayin' I ever did was the day I found myself hangin' upside down danglin' from a telephone pole."

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

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