

## Tree of Life Messianic Ministries

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**Message for 8-1-09**  
**Ve Etchanan-And I Pleaded**  
**Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11**  
**Isaiah 40:1-26**  
**Luke 13:23-28**

### Introduction

This week's portion turns from a review of history to a restatement of the Torah.

### Deuteronomy 4:26-31

**26** I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will soon utterly perish from the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess. You will not live long in it, but will be utterly destroyed. **27** And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you. **28** And there you will serve gods of wood and stone, the work of human hands, that neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell. **29** But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul. **30** When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to the LORD your God and obey his voice. **31** For the LORD your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.

Has Israel learned from their mistakes – no!?! Have we learned from the mistakes of Israel – no!?! It is a sad commentary on the state of affairs as they have existed throughout the history of mankind and Israel's relationship with the Holy One of Israel. As Moses stood before the Children of Israel and called upon heaven and earth to stand as witness against Israel he went on to tell them that they would be driven out of the land by the Lord for disobeying Him. The Almighty had revealed to Moses what Israel would do after he had died.

Can you imagine how Moses must have felt when the Lord informed him what the Children of Israel would do after he was no longer around? He had led Israel for 40 years and had brought the Torah of the Holy One to Israel. He taught them, during those 40 years, the ways of the Lord. He labored and toiled doing the work the Holy One had given to him on the mountain at the burning bush. At first Moses had resisted the Lord's call on his life only to find out, as many others had, that arguing with the Lord gets you nowhere. We might not like what He has called us to but He is never wrong.

God called Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to do His bidding, the twelve sons of Jacob, the twelve tribes of Israel, Moses, Joshua, the Judges, the Prophets and the Kings. Today He calls those whom He would use to bring His word to His people wherever they are on the face of the earth.

How do you know if someone has been called by the Lord? The words they speak line up against the Torah, Prophets, Writings and the Apostolic Scriptures. If they turn, by even a hair, you must turn from their words and seek out the true servant's of the Holy One of Israel. We live in perilous times as we are possibly looking at the Last Days coming to pass right before our eyes. Many generations have come and gone and some of them believed they are where we are today, so we must not believe ourselves to be so blessed that we think we are that generation when the Messiah Yeshua returns. Other generations have thought the same thing before us but we must be ready if we are indeed living in the days when Yeshua comes back.

He will come looking for a bride waiting for Him, one that is prepared to receive Him as He is her. Are you part of that group or are you destined to be left out in darkness? Believe me this can happen to anyone of us and we will find ourselves out in the darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**Matthew 7:21** "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. **22** On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' **23** And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.' **24** "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. **25** And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. **26** And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. **27** And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

Notice that the kicker here is found starting in verse 24. It is not what you do in His name but why you did them. Did you listen and obey the words of Yeshua? There will be those who say, "Yes I did" when they really did not understand what it was He was saying. Now, you would think that there should be some grace if you do not grasp what it is Yeshua was speaking about and there will be a measure of grace but as we race full speed ahead towards the unknown there will be those who know where we are headed but will hide their eyes and close their minds and hearts to the truth.

I know of many of those who call themselves Messianic's who will be part of this group the Messiah says will find themselves being told to depart from Him, I never knew you. We, as those who have embraced the Torah, should know better but we have become arrogant towards those who do not know Torah but yet He has a place for them. We are too ready to cast the first stone instead of trying to help them understand what it means to truly follow Torah. The Torah is not just of the mind but must be of the heart. The heart and the mind go together in a balance that is needed to walk the path of Torah.

The Torah is a blessing and not a curse. The Torah is life everlasting because it points the way to the source of this life – Yeshua. The Torah is grace, loving-kindness, and mercy. It was never intended to place us into bondage but to free us from bondage – the bondage of sin the Torah reveals. Does this make the Torah, as many claim the Apostle Paul says? Of course not! Paul was schooled in the

Pharisaical school of Shammai. He was educated in the Torah of God and the law of man. He knew what many of us understand and that is the Torah is not evil or bad and places no one under bondage. It brings freedom to those who hear it and follow because it brings freedom in knowing the ways of the Almighty.

If Yeshua said in **Matthew 5:17** "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Torah or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. **18** For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Torah until all is accomplished.

Furthermore Paul said in **Romans 7:12** So the Torah is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. Do these sound like the words of someone who taught the Torah had been done away with and as it was did Paul have the authority to change the Word of the Almighty if the Almighty Himself, did not change His word? Paul knew that it was not the Torah that was bad. The Torah had been given by God to man to bring blessings to mankind. It was the sin the Torah revealed that was bad. It was sin that Yeshua had come to conquer and in doing so it took the shedding of an innocent's blood to cleanse our sin, both corporate and individually.

The rule of Torah will come when Yeshua sets up the Messianic Kingdom for 1,000 years. Under His rule the Torah will come into force in a way that it has never been seen before. We came close under the leadership of Moses but under Yeshua Torah comes full circle.

#### **Isaiah 40:3-5**

**3** A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. **4** Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. **5** And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

If you cannot see Isaiah in Revelation then I have no idea what it is you are looking at. Revelation is a compilation of several different Prophets brought together in the vision shown to the Apostle John while he was in exile on the island of Patmos, a penal colony. This final book of the Canon of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation was not going to be in the Bible at all. It was debated over by the Church fathers when they were trying to come up with a Bible for the Church. Judaism had the Tanach, conveniently called the *Old Testament*. The Church wanted a Bible of their own and they finally came up with one. Theirs had an *Old Testament* and a *New Testament*. Some of the teachings of Yeshua were in theirs as well as some of His life. What was ignored was the fact that He quoted Torah, time and time again. When Yeshua was tempted by Satan He defeated him by quoting Torah. This is the power of Torah. While the Holy One of Israel calls His prophets to bring His Word to His people it was Yeshua who went into the wilderness and took on Satan and defeated Him with the Word given by His Father through Him – the Living Torah.

**Matthew 11:28** "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. **29** "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. [Jeremiah 6:16] **30** "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

**Jeremiah 6:16** Thus says the LORD: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'

Look at how Yeshua took the words of the Prophet Jeremiah and made them into words of hope. The words of Jeremiah were words of rejection, on the part of the people, against Torah. The words of Yeshua are words of life found in Torah. The prophet's brought words of correction which led to Yeshua who brought hope, the true life found in the Torah because Yeshua is nothing more or less than Torah. When I study Torah and read its words I feel lifted up even in the sins of the people? Why – because I see the love and mercy of the Almighty in its pages. It is a covenant that has been passed on down since the beginning. It was handed over to Abraham, his son Isaac, and his son Jacob. Throughout their story we see the weakness of men and the power of redemption found through Torah and its promise.

Isaiah brought this hope to the people despite the fact they had turned their hearts away from the Almighty. This is what all of the prophets had done and those who came before them. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were prophets. Joseph was a prophet as well as Moses who is said to have been the greatest prophet of all.

**Deuteronomy 34:10** And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, **11** none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, **12** and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

Moses was both the Father and Son to the Children of Israel. With the help of the Holy One of Israel he brought forth the nation that would become Israel, a nation that despite what man would try to do at the behest of Satan, man and Satan would not be able to extinguish its light from the world. Even in its exile its light could not be hidden from the world. They are the beacon for the Messiah when He returns.

### **Luke 13:23-28**

**23** And someone said to Him, "Lord, are there *just* a few who are being saved?" And He said to them, **24** "Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. **25** "Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, 'Lord, open up to us!' then He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know where you are from.' **26** "Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets'; **27** and He will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.' [Psalm 6:8] **28** "In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being thrown out.

Yeshua was always careful to teach that the way to the Holy Kingdom was not a wide highway but a small, narrow, and bump road upon which we are called to travel. Being a Believer is not for the faint-hearted, it is for those who can stand the test of time as good comes with the bad and when we are bent so far backwards we wonder when we will break. It is when this happens that we will feel the Almighty's presence in a way we never have before. Look at the trials and tribulations Job went through. He lost his children, his wealth, his health and still he clung to God in a way I hope we never have to. If you were faced with the same situations that Job was how do you think you would turn out?

**Luke 21:25** "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, **26** people fainting with fear

and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. **27** And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. **28** Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

***Even if Israel be exiled among the nations, if it immerses itself in Torah, it is as though it were not in exile...Midrash***

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

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