

# Tree of Life Messianic Ministries

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**Message 1-26-08**  
**Yitro-Jethro (Abundance)**  
**Exodus 18:1-20:23**  
**Isaiah 6:1-7:6, 9:6-7 (5-6)**  
**Acts 5:1-11**

## Introduction

This week's portion describes the experience of the people at Mount Sinai.

## Exodus 20:19-23

**19** Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." **20** And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin." **21** So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was. **22** Then the LORD said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'You have seen that I have talked with you from heaven. **23** You shall not make *anything to be* with Me -- gods of silver or gods of gold you shall not make for yourselves.

Notice that the people told Moses to listen to the words of the Almighty and then come to them with what He had to say. The people were terrified of the Eternal One but Moses told them that this was a test from Him so that they would understand that they should not sin. Moses approached the thick darkness while the people kept their distance. The Almighty spoke to Moses and not to the people.

It is sad when you think about what the people could have had in their relationship with Him? What about all the countless generations that have come and gone since this time that could have had the relationship that Moses had with the Creator? Imagine being able to speak with our Creator? It humbles me to think that I, a lowly sinful man, could have the opportunity to be His child and have Him teach me His ways.

**3372** יָרֵא' yare' {yaw-ray'}

**Meaning:** to fear, revere, be afraid, to stand in awe of, be awed, reverence, honor, respect, to be fearful, be dreadful, be feared, to cause astonishment and awe, be held in awe, to inspire reverence or godly fear or awe, terrify, to shoot, pour

**Origin:** a primitive root; TWOT - 907,908; v

**Usage:** AV - fear 188, afraid 78, terrible 23, terrible thing 6, dreadful 5, reverence 3, fearful 2, terrible acts 1, misc 8; 314

Fear in this passage comes from the Hebrew word *yare* and *yare* is the root for Torah. *Yare*, while meaning fear, afraid, awe and reverence also means to shoot or pour and I always remember how I was taught that Torah is like an arrow that is shot at the target and sometimes hits the mark – our hearts – where it can settle in and show us the ways of the Creator. So, it is not just about being afraid of the Almighty but it is to respect Him with an awe that should come over us to think that our Creator wants to have a relationship with us. That should boggle your mind to think that He desires this intimate relationship with us.

As a husband and wife *know* one another this is the level of intimacy that He wants with us. I know that I am blown away when I think about this. We all should be! When we have the fear of the Almighty within us this should cause us to look at Him in awe and reverence. Before us is the Creator of the universe and all that is in it. If that isn't enough to blow your mind then I don't know what else it would take to do this?

**1 Samuel 12:14** "If you fear the LORD and serve Him and obey His voice, and do not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then both you and the king who reigns over you will continue following the LORD your God.

In this passage Samuel is speaking to the Children of Israel and telling them that here was the king, Saul that the Almighty had chosen for Israel. He had given them what they wanted and not what He had wanted but He still told them that if the king would listen to the voice of the Almighty, the same as the people should, and then all would be well with Israel. We all know how that one turned out – don't we? The Eternal One of Israel does not make things that difficult for us to obey Him. Look at what His Son Yeshua had to say about the subject.

**Matthew 11:29** "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."

What is the yoke Yeshua is speaking about? He is speaking about the yoke of Torah and following the Torah in its proper way rather than the way the Torah had been turned into a burden for the people by the teachers of the Torah – the scribes and Pharisees. Interesting enough we will see later in Scripture that scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees would come to believe in Yeshua. The Torah was meant to bring us rest from the burdens of the world. Every week we taste a sample of the rest we should find in the Almighty on His weekly Shabbat. This is a taste for what is ahead of us during the Messianic Age and ultimately in eternity. This is what it is all about folks and we come back to square one in our weekly Torah portion to find the Children of Israel refusing to listen to the word of the Lord and asking that Moses be His intermediary showing us what Yeshua's task was.

It is amazing how much we can learn from the Torah and the Prophets about Yeshua. Many Christians and even Messianic's should not be that fast to disregard the Torah or for that matter the Tanach in their search for the truth. Yet this is the reality that faces us as we work our way through all the pitfalls in the way back to the truth of the Almighty. I said the way back because we have to return to where we came from in order to be able to move forward. Yeshua told Nicodemus that we

must be born again. Nicodemus expressed confusion over this when the reality is we must become like innocent little children who have not been corrupted by the world and the sins of humanity. This is why Yeshua always desired the children to be allowed to come to Him because they were truly innocent and in them He saw the hope for tomorrow.

This is why the Ruach HaKodesh has been given to us to help us on the road to discovery of the truth of the Almighty. We are to turn to the Almighty One of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and trust in Him as they did. They are our fathers, whom He called out to be His children who would father a nation that would be unlike all the nations that would have gone before them or would come after them. This is the nation of Israel that He has called out of the Wilderness and into the light. Everyone of us is faced with the same choices that the Children of Israel were faced with the day they could have chosen to hear the word of the Almighty for themselves and chose not to.

### **Isaiah 6:11-13**

**11** I then asked, “How long, my Lord?” And He said, “Until the cities become desolate without inhabitant, the houses without a person, and the land becomes desolate, wasted; **12** and *the Lord* will drive the people far away, and abandonment will be great amid the land. **13** There will be ten more [kings] in it, then it shall regress and become barren – like an elm and an oak which, when shedding [their leaves], still have vitality in them, so with the holy seed be the vitality of [the land].”

This is a very Messianic passage of Scripture, as much of Isaiah is, and many do not see it. In verse 13 we are told about the Holy Seed. This Holy Seed shall manifest itself at the end of days when everything looks hopeless. It is in that day we need to look to Israel to see the hand of the Almighty at work. He will allow the nations to come to the gates of Jerusalem, His holy city, and it will appear that Satan will have his final triumph at last. But that is where the nations will make their mistake because they chose to follow Satan and not the Holy of Israel. He will not allow Jerusalem to fall and it will be at this moment in mankind’s history that the Father will send His Son to right the wrongs Satan has done.

Not all of Satan’s evil will be undone because though Satan will be bound in the pit for the thousand years of the Messianic Age he will not be put down once and for all. This will only come at the end the age after he has been released to go around and stir things up once more. Then when the Almighty has had His fill of Satan’s doings He will have Yeshua bring permanent peace once and for all to this planet and to the rest of the universe.

**Revelation 20:7** Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison **8** and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.

Pay particular attention to the fact that the thousand years have ended when Satan is released for one last time. It does not say for how long Satan will be released but I do not believe it will be for a long time. This will be the final battle between Satan and the Holy One of Israel. After this is finished everything will be set right. The Great White Throne judgment will take place after Satan has been cast into the Lake of Fire to be tormented forever. What we see here is that the Almighty has total control over Satan and he knows it. He does not like it and he does not like Believers who seek the truth of what the Word has to say.

Messianic congregations are being torn about like never before and this is because the time is growing short and Satan knows it. He will tear apart a congregation that seeks the truth of the Holy One from within or from the outside. He does not care how he does it as long as he accomplishes what he set out to do. Then again, it could be the Almighty testing His people to see if they are up to the challenges that lay before them. If we do anything right in these last days it should be that we are Bereans of the Word and seekers of the truth of the Holy One of Israel. In order to accomplish this we need the help of the Ruach HaKodesh – the Holy Spirit. The Spirit empowers us; it fills us with a love for the ways of the Almighty and comforts us when the going gets tough.

**Ecclesiastes 3:1** To everything *there* is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.

Unfortunately, I will be revealing how old I am by sharing that this was an old folk song at one time. The group called the Byrds sang this song and it was very popular for awhile. In this verse from Ecclesiastes we see that everything has its time and purpose under heaven. The Almighty has placed everything and everyone where they belong in order to accomplish His purpose. Don't you think He knew what Satan would do before He created him? Don't you think He knew what man would do before He created him? I don't believe any of the actions of any part of His creation has been a surprise to Him. This is why Yeshua had to become our sin sacrifice so that the creation and the Creator could be made one again. We are told about a new heavens and a new earth. Does this mean He will create a new heaven and a new earth or will He cleanse what already is or refresh it to put it back into the state it was originally? Can He roll back time to the beginning while holding us somewhere safe until He is done? If He is the One I know He can do whatever His little old heart desires by simply speaking or thinking it. One day the desolation of the land of Israel and its people will finally be over. In that day we will have the Holy Seed to grab on to. All you have to do is have a little faith.

### **Acts 5:1-11**

**1** But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. **2** And he kept back *part* of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of *it*, and brought a certain part and laid *it* at the apostles' feet. **3** But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back *part* of the price of the land for yourself? **4** "While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." **5** Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. **6** And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried *him* out, and buried *him*. **7** Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. **8** And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much." **9** Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband *are* at the door, and they will carry you out." **10** Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying *her* out, buried *her* by her husband. **11** So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.

This passage is not so much about tithing as it is about the power of the Holy Spirit that lives and works within us and what we can do if we give the Almighty control of our life. O what we could do for Him if we would only submit ourselves to His control and allow Him to use us for His purpose and to stop getting in His way. This couple had sold property and had intended to give the proceeds to the new Body of Messianic Believers. Then Satan entered in to both the husband and the wife

and they decided to hold back a portion for themselves while telling everyone they were giving everything from the sale. Some might think, what does this passage have to do with anything and the answer would be it has everything to do with the power of the Ruach HaKodesh working in us. Peter had submitted himself to Yeshua and in turn he was given the gift of the Spirit, as were the other Apostles and Believers on that Shavuot 2,000 years ago.

In the early part of the book of Acts we see the power of the Spirit working through Peter and later through Paul. Peter, who had denied His Master three times in His hour of need and Paul who had persecuted the early Messianic congregation. The holy One's Spirit had turned these two men into two of the greatest of His messengers the world would ever see. They went into the known world of that day and brought the message Yeshua into every place they set foot in. Once filled with the Holy Spirit they never looked back they only looked towards where the Spirit of the Almighty would take them. What could we do if we gave ourselves over to Him completely?

Every single night before I go to sleep I pray for my family and for friends and for my two congregations. I pray for the truth of the Holy One to be revealed to all of them and that the Ruach of the Almighty would fill each one of them so that they would have the joy of the Holy One of Israel. We lack this joy in our lives and in our congregations. In many Messianic congregations we have focused on the letter of the Torah rather than on its Spirit. We have lost our way in our quest for truth. In our desire to find the truth we enter into Torah and we have allowed the letter of the Torah to take away our joy. We have left the Spirit of the Almighty behind us. We need to find the Spirit and put it to work in our lives.

Instead of focusing on the negative we need to look for the positive in all things. I, more than others, need this in my own life. I tend to focus on the negative and in doing that I have lost sight of the positive that is right there before my eyes. I want and need the Ruach HaKodesh within me. I know it is there I have just lost sight of it as many others have. We must learn to unite the Holy Spirit and the Torah together so that we can walk in the might and power of the Holy One of Israel.

***As I receive Torah, so may I, through what I am and what I do, be a revelation of Torah to those around me. Make of me a scroll for truths You will inscribe on my heart.***

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*Ardelle Brody [[abrody@mchsi.com](mailto: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*

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