



**Taking Messiah Yeshua and Torah to the World!**

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**Message 4-24-10**  
**Acharei Mot-After the Death**  
**Leviticus 16:1-18:30**  
**Amos 9:7-15**  
**Ezekiel 22:1-6**  
**Matthew 2:1-6**

**Kedoshim-Holy Ones**  
**Leviticus 19:1-20:27**  
**Ezekiel 20:2-20, 22:1-19**

## **Introduction**

There are two reasons why Torah portions are joined together: either to fit the weekly schedules into the annual cycle, or because their subject matters are complimentary. At first glance the themes of this week's double portions seem out of synch. The first one opens with Yom Kippur and the latter concerns itself with such unholy business crimes as theft and cheating. The connection between holiness and commerce is obvious: a desire to infuse meaning into the mundane – and to level the business playing field with honest, fair play.

## **Leviticus 16:1-2**

**1** The LORD spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they drew near before the LORD and died, **2** and the LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron your brother not to come at any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat that is on the ark, so that he may not die. For I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat. (Lev 16:1 ESV)

Notice the Lord tells Moses that He will appear in a cloud over the mercy seat and that Aaron is not to come into the Holy Place inside the veil which is the Holy of Holies because if he does he will die. I really believe that the reason that Nadab and Abihu died was because they were intoxicated and brought strange fire before the Lord by entering the Holy of Holies without being summoned. Even worse was the fact that if they did indeed do this they had supplanted their father's position as the High Priest who was the only one who could enter into the Holy of Holies but only when summoned by the Almighty and this was only on Yom Kippur the holiest day on the Hebrew calendar.

When we see that it says that Aaron's two sons had drawn near before the Lord this is done when one enters the Holy of Holies. The result of their transgression was death by the Holy One

of Israel. Jewish legend says that Nadab and Abihu were consumed from within by a fire from the Lord and nothing on the outside of their bodies was harmed. The story goes on to say that they had been over zealous. I would have to agree that they had been zealous probably over their installation as Priests over the Children of Israel but their bringing strange fire into the presence of the Holy One brought forth a stinging judgment from God that resulted in their deaths.

**Ezekiel 39:7** "And My holy name I will make known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let My holy name be profaned anymore. And the nations shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel. (Eze 39:7 ESV)

The Lord has zero tolerance for those who mix the holy and profane together. He considers those who do this to be profaning His holy name. We are told several times in the Torah and Tanach not to mix the holy and profane together but I really think that many Believers simply do not get it. You are probably asking yourselves right about now, *"What is it we are not getting?"* We are not getting Him – we take things from column A and mix them together with things from column B and declare that we are entering into a deeper walk as a result of our doing this. The problem is we are doing exactly what Nadab and Abihu did as well as the Children of Israel. If we learn anything from their experience and that of Israel is the Almighty does not look kindly on practices like this.

The Lord also does not look kindly on those who denigrate His people Israel and the physical remnant that exists throughout the world in the personage of the Jewish people. It's one thing when we hear the Palestinians and the Iranian president vowing death to Israel and to all Jews but it is another thing altogether when cries like this are coming from Christianity and from within Messianic circles. What this tells me is we are indeed living in the last days and the return of Messiah is very close at hand but lest we forget before His return we have the anti-messiah waiting in the wings for his time. Many feel they will not be here when the Great tribulation takes place believing they will be whisked out of here in the *"rapture."* The church believes they will be taken away to be with the Messiah celebrating as the Bride of Yeshua. Won't they be surprised when they don't get to heaven for a 3 ½ party but that a select group chosen by God will be kept from the time of trial. Who makes up this group is not quite clear.

**Revelation 3:7** "And to the angel of the congregation in Philadelphia write: 'The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. **8** "'I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. **9** Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie--behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet and they will learn that I have loved you. **10** Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. **11** I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. (Rev 3:7 ESV)

Out of the seven congregations that the Apostle John writes about only one receives a promise that they will be kept safe from the hour of trial coming on the whole world. This seems to be a direct collision with the teaching from the Church and among some Messianic communities about the *rapture*. Some say I need to read books written by Christians who show the *rapture* is a true event that will take place. I say all I need is the Word of God to substantiate what I say

and I have provided you with the evidence right from His Word. I am not trying to burst anyone's bubble here but to wake you up to the reality that you might be one of the ones who are "left behind."

**1 Thessalonians 4:17** Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. (1Th 4:17 NKJ)

Many Believers quote this passage written by the Apostle Paul to confirm that they will be taken to heaven to remain there with Yeshua. Nowhere does it say they are going to heaven. It does say they will meet Him in the clouds. What if this is the time when Yeshua gathers His army to do battle with the anti-messiah? It is comforting to believe that we will not have to go through the tribulation. But we need to keep this in perspective.

**Revelation 2:8** "And to the angel of the congregation in Smyrna write: 'The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life. **9** "I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. **10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation.** Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. (Rev 2:8 ESV)

The congregation in Smyrna were commended by Yeshua for their perseverance and yet they were also told that some of them would be tested and would have tribulation for ten days. What is the significance of the number ten? In Jewish thought it is a number of completeness so it is quite possible that after the period of testing the time of completeness will come. It seems the Apostle John was really into the deeper level of Jewish thinking or what is known as Jewish Mysticism or Kabbalistic insight. John had a very long life as a follower of Yeshua and he died a natural death as the last of the original twelve Apostles. He was the one who was the beloved of the Master who leaned upon His chest at the teaching Seder done by Yeshua before His time of trial and testing came.

He spent time on the isle of Patmos in exile where he had his vision that brought forth the book of Revelation, a book that the early Church fathers were not going to include in the canon of the Apostolic Scriptures because they were afraid it would upset the people. They were going to include a book called the Apocalypse of Peter instead. Eventually they settled on Revelation but it took several times before the final canon was settled on. Even then many congregations had their own set of books they felt were inspired. My reason in sharing this is because of the discussions taking place today centered on various extra-Biblical books that many are turning to for knowledge and understanding as well as the teachings of traditional Judaism and those found in the Kabbalah. It is my long held and firm belief that one has to always keep their eyes on Messiah Yeshua as they delve into His Word or the teachings that come from other sources. One must remain connected to the literal level of Scripture in order to be able to test the things they hear or read. If you take your eyes off of Messiah and cut yourself loose from the literal level of the Word you will become lost finding yourself in a downward spiral that can end up with you denying Messiah as part of the Godhead and ultimately as Messiah. My friends, my brothers and sisters in the Lord, don't wander as Nadab and Abihu did into places you don't belong. Put away the strange fire you are playing with and place your faith in the Lord.

**Amos 9:13-15**

**13** "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow *with it*. **14** I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit *them*; they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. **15** I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them," says the LORD your God. (Amo 9:13 NKJ)

In 1948 this Scripture became a reality when the modern country of Israel was established in the Middle East back in part of land promised by God to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and their descendants. It has not been an easy road for the Jewish people living in the land and for those living outside the land in the Diaspora or Exile. We have been scattered to the four corners of the earth waiting for the day when we will be gathered back to the land of promise. This promise extends beyond just the Jewish remnant but to all of you who believe they are part of the tree of Israel grafted in through the power of the Almighty.

**Romans 11:17** But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree. (Rom 11:17 ESV)

Every one of us has to be grafted into the olive tree of Israel. Whether we were born into Israel or not in the end we are all grafted in through faith in Messiah and through love of Him we turn to His Torah and walk the walk required by God. Many Jews living in Israel today only see themselves as part of a country that is predominately Jewish where they are among others like them protected from the hatred of the rest of the world. Here they find an oasis while the winds of war are gathering in strength around them getting ready to strike at them once again as they have in the past. Against all odds this tiny country has survived while the countries of the world rally against them for no other reason than because the Moslem countries want it this way. The descendants of Ishmael and others have been lining up for millennia to strike a blow against those chosen by the Almighty.

Into this mix we find Christian denominations joining in the battle cry by pointing to the oppression of the poor Palestinian people by the onerous Jewish war machine. First off there is no such thing as a Palestinian just originally Egyptians cast out of Egypt because they tried to bring down the government of their Arab brethren. Their own brethren created them in order to use them to gain a hold in part of the Promised Land so they could ultimately get all of it and drive out and kill all of the Jewish people living there. The problem is based on the Haftarah portion for this week God has planted them back in the land and will not allow them to be pulled up again.

Those of us living in the Diaspora, whether Jewish or not, we need to support our brethren living in the land through prayer and other means of support to keep a Jewish presence in the land while we wait for the time of our Messiah Yeshua's return.

### **Matthew 2:1-6**

**1** Now after Yeshua was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, **2** "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." **3** When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. **4** Gathering together all the chief priests and

scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: **6** 'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.'" [Micah 5:2] (Mat 2:1 NAU)

Herod was an Idumaeon descended from Arabs. He was not a Jew but was a political appointee of Rome. Instead of being descended from the line of David through whom the Kings of Israel would come and finally the Messiah, he broke the mold and the promise. Like any man who takes an earthly throne the power that comes with the position took hold of him and caused him to kill all the males born at the time of Yeshua's birth in order to keep the promised Messiah from fulfilling prophecy. He wanted to secure his throne and upon his death his kingdom was divided among his four sons. Israel was not in the hands of Davidic kings nor was the King Messiah on the horizon despite what the people might have believed. In their longing for the Messiah they forgot about the prophecies of the Suffering Servant Messiah and instead looked for the Davidic King Messiah.

That belief has found its way down through time to our very day. Today the Church looks for the Messiah in Yeshua or Jesus while Judaism looks for a Messiah as yet unnamed. He came two thousand years ago and for a brief moment He was like a flame lighting the way in the darkness. After three and a half years that light was snuffed out but do you want to know something – the miracle was that light continues to burn today in the hearts of a multitude of people yearning for His return while the Jewish people look for His first coming. Won't they be surprised when they look on the way they have pierced?

**Zechariah 12:10** "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. (Zec 12:10 ESV)

**Revelation 1:7** BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS [Daniel 7:13, Zec. 12:10-14], and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen. (Rev 1:7 NAU)

***"Samuel, what's happened to your car?" asks Sylvia who sees it all smashed and covered with leaves, grass, branches, dirt, and blood. "Oh, I ran into a lawyer." "Well that explains the blood...but what about the leaves, grass, branches, dirt?" "oh that, well, I had to chase him all the way through the park."***

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

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