



Taking Messiah Yeshua and Torah to the World!

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Message 1-30-10
BeShalach-When He Let Go
Exodus 13:17-17:16
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Romans 5:8-10

Introduction

The title of this week's Parashah, *Beshalach*, comes from the verse, *Vay'hee beshalach meedor dor*, "And it was that [God] sent them [*beshalach*] from generation to generation."¹

Exodus 14:10-13

10 And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD. **11** Then they said to Moses, "Because *there were* no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? **12** "Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians?' For *it would have been* better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness." **13** And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Standstill, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever.

The Children of Israel had been miraculously delivered out of slavery in Egypt by the hand of the Almighty. There are hardly any people around the world who have not heard the story of the Exodus. While many do not believe the story is true, we who are Bible Believers and followers of the Holy One of Israel do believe in the truth of this story as well as the rest of the Bible. These are not just stories given to us to entertain us but to build us up in our faith in the power of the Lord. To us the hand of the Lord is none other than Yeshua the Son of God. He walks through the pages of the Bible in a way that stands out to us as it should.

Luke 24:44 Then He said to them, "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Torah of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me."

Yeshua refers to the Torah, Prophets and Psalms as speaking about Him. The next verse is interesting because of what it says in relation to this revelation by Yeshua.

¹ From Torah with a Twist of Humor

Luke 24:45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

He opened their minds so they would understand the Scriptures. Of course the Scriptures He is speaking about are what we call the Tanach or "*Old*" Testament. So, the Tanach, which contains the Torah, is not "*old*" to our Messiah but a very relevant part of the Bible because it speaks of Him and His mission for His Father. If people all over the world would drop the idea that the "*Old*" Testament was no longer valid or that it contains parts that are no longer needed we could overcome a huge barrier in sharing our faith with the Jewish people and the misunderstandings on the part of the Church about the place of Torah in one's life today.

If Israel had better understood about their relationship to the Holy One maybe the story of the Exodus would have turned out differently in regards to an entire generation having to die because of their unbelief in the power of God. Then again the stories in the Bible are there to teach us and no matter how often we read or hear these stories there are those who dismiss them as being untrue. This is as true in Judaism as it is in the Church. It always amazes me how someone can call themselves a Believer or follower of Messiah Yeshua yet discount what the Bible has to say about Him in much the same way that Jews do not believe the stories in the Tanach.

Many Jews turn to the holocaust as a prime example that there is no God because how could He allow evil like what happened during the holocaust to happen? One only has to look at the history of the Jewish people to see that things like the holocaust have happened throughout the history of the Jewish people and the Exodus is a prime example of an evil perpetrated upon a nation but God moved in their midst and a miracle came out of the evil and a generation did not believe what their Creator had done for them. He had made a promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and He keeps His promises. Even more than a mere promise this was the spoken word of God given to men who walked according to His ways. When God gives His word He does not break it because His Word is none other than Yeshua the living Word of the Father brought forth at Creation when God began to create.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **2** The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. **3** Then God **said**, "Let there be light"; and there was light. **4** And God saw the light, that *it was* good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

I emphasized the word **said** in verse 3 because of its importance, not just to the creation story, but that through this Word Yeshua was brought into being, the first time in Scripture that God speaks and nothing that God says or does should be taken for granted. That is why Biblical scholars have pored over every word the Bible contains because it is constantly revealing itself because it is not just a book of words it is a living breathing part of the Holy One. The Father speaks and Yeshua joins Him in the process of creating all there will be as well as the Ruach HaKodesh or Holy Spirit.

In verse 2 we see the Spirit or **Ruach** of God hovering over the face of the waters. Through the story of the creation we see the plurality of our Creator or Creator's depending on how you view God. God is spoken about in the Bible as God in the form of El which is singular in Hebrew or Elohim which is plural. The same word Elohim can also be used to describe pagan gods and there are no capital letters Hebrew just an understanding of the language and how the words

are being used. Judaism goes to great lengths to avoid acknowledging the plurality of God but does acknowledge the plurality of pagan gods. It might seem like a small point to you but for me this is one of the barriers that keeps more Jews from seeing Yeshua for who He is. These are barriers placed there by the Rabbis and sages of old to keep the Jewish people from embracing not their Messiah but Christianity. It is sad because Christianity is not the problem but the blindness placed upon the Jew by God Himself. You might wonder why did God do this and the answer is because Yeshua had to be shared with the nations first until the time of the Gentiles comes to a close.

Romans 11:25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

In this passage the Apostle Paul or Shaul is explaining about this blindness that had come upon Israel or the Jewish people at this point in time. Remember that Shaul is the Apostle to the Gentiles or Nations so his ministry is to reach out to the nations to share with them the light of Messiah. Some believe it was Paul that created the Church but in truth it was the Church itself at a later point in time. We need to remember that it was through a Jew that truth was brought into the world so that those who would call upon His name would be saved. It was through His Jewish Apostles that His teachings would go out to the nations because that was His desire.

Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, immersing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.

Here we have what many call the "Great Commission." In their understanding, and how it has been taught for a long, long time the belief is we are to convert people and make them into Christians, when in fact we are leading them into truth and forgiveness of their sins through their acceptance of Yeshua and following His teaching. It is the second part that too many have missed out on because what did He mean teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you?

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

John 15:10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

His commandments – what are His commandments? Simply put they are what He knew and taught and it was what was found in the Torah, the guiding principles of Israel and those of its Patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Genesis 26:5 "because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My **Torahs**."

Almost every translation replaces Torahs with laws but in the Hebrew it is Torah. So, we see that the Torah was not given just at Mount Sinai to Moses and then taught by him to Israel. It existed back to the time of Abraham and Abraham followed it. Abraham had faith and he had the Torah – an awesome combination if you ask me.

Judges 5:28-31

28 "The mother of Sisera looked through the window, and cried out through the lattice, 'Why is his chariot *so* long in coming? Why carries the clatter of his chariots?' **29** Her wisest ladies answered her, yes, she answered herself, **30** 'Are they not finding and dividing the spoil: To every man a girl *or* two; for Sisera, plunder of dyed garments, plunder of garments embroidered and dyed, two pieces of dyed embroidery for the neck of the looter?' **31** "Thus let all Your enemies perish, O LORD! But *let* those who love Him *be* like the sun when it comes out in full strength." So the land had rest for forty years.

When Israel would turn back to the Lord He was there waiting for them just as Yeshua is waiting for us today to bring us redemption from our sins. He stands at the door knocking waiting for us to open the door and invite Him in. He will not force His way in but He might make things a little bit uncomfortable for us trying to guide us in the right direction. How many of us can share a story about how we came to Messiah through a series of trials and tribulations? How many of us could share about trials and tribulations in our lives that cause us to have to stop and think about this walk we are on? It is not easy to be a follower of Messiah in this life. It is not going to get any better it is going to get more difficult the closer we draw to the *Last Days*. Being a follower of Yeshua did not bring with it a promise to be kept from the trials and tests that come from the enemy **and** from God. Yes, I said God because as we all know from reading the book of Job that God tests us and uses Satan to accomplish this. It would appear that God was tricked by Satan into being allowed to test Job but God is not a fool my friends. He tests His children to see if they will put Him above all else. All you have to do is read the story of the *Akeidah* or *Binding* of Isaac. This was test by God to see if Abraham was willing to let go of Isaac and cling to God first.

As much as this was a story about Abraham it is also a story about the faith of Isaac. This is in its deepest sense a story of God the Father and His only Son Yeshua. Abraham is the Father and Isaac Yeshua. Abraham did as God asked of him and Isaac did as his father asked of him. In the story of Abraham and Isaac we see the story of the heartbreak of God the Father in asking His Son to die for the sins of the people and in Yeshua's faithfulness and total trust in His Father. Isaac had total trust in his father. The Jewish commentators say that Isaac was 37 years old at the time of the *Akeidah* and Abraham well over a hundred plus years. Isaac could have overpowered his father at any point he wanted to but he allowed his father to bind him and place him on the altar without uttering one protest.

Could we have done what Abraham was asked to do or could we have the trust of Isaac that his father knew what was best? How far does our faith go? Are we willing to sacrifice ourselves and all that we have on the altar of God because that is what He asks us to do when we come to faith in Yeshua.

Revelation 19:9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed *are* those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." **10** And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See *that you do* not *do that!* I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Yeshua. Worship God! For the testimony of Yeshua is the spirit of prophecy." **11** Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. **12** His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written

that no one knew except Himself. **13** He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and **His name is called The Word of God.**

The emphasis is mine but I point this out to you because we are told Yeshua is the Word of God. He was there in beginning and will be there at the end of all things and will lead the way into eternity for all those who have been invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb. When God began to create He spoke the Word and all things came into being at His command. The Torah brings life to those who follow it and death when you do not. I hope to see you there at the wedding supper of the Lamb of God.

Romans 5:8-10

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Messiah died for us. **9** Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. **10** For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

God did not give up on us. If He had it would have been at that moment in the Garden when Adam and Chava ate of the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. When their eyes were opened the glory of God departed from them and they saw they were naked. They could have lived their lives in the comfort of the Garden if they had only obeyed God. They were created in innocence but chose to go against the Word of God. When we choose to go against the Word of God we are choosing to go against Yeshua. There is life to be found through Him and death as well. God created both life and death and good and evil. They are two sides to the equation and must exist in order that all things exist in a balanced state.

It is through our choices that this balance is disturbed and can swing one way or the other. In this world things are leaning towards Satan because he is the ruler of this world. God placed him in charge and it is not a matter of following Satan because he is the power but how do we live a life dedicated to God in this world as it exists? It is not easy but others have done it and persevered to the end no matter what was thrown at them. It is how we react to life that dictates where we wind up.

Job 1:21 And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD." **22** In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

Job spoke these words after he heard about the death of his children. This could not have been easy for Job to say. What do you think might have happened if he knew that God had allowed Satan to test him like this? We know that God allows Satan to do these things to us and it causes people to scratch their heads trying to understand why? Why would God allow this to happen? Why did God allow the Jewish people to be persecuted the way they have been? In some ways Ephraim got off a little bit better because they were exiled and their identity was taken from them and they were made like the nations they hungered after.

Judah was exiled for 70 years but they were permitted to keep their identity but they were persecuted wherever they were sent and as hard as they tried to blend in they always stood out in some way even if it was not by choice. I believe this may have been part of their punishment because they saw what Ephraim had done and instead of learning from what happened to them they followed in their footsteps.

Hosea 5:5 The pride of Israel testifies to his face; Therefore Israel and Ephraim stumble in their iniquity; Judah also stumbles with them.

A planeload of terrified passengers was being bounced around during a severe thunderstorm. A young Catholic woman, desperately trying to cling to her seat in the turbulence, turns to the rabbi sitting next to her, "Rabbi, you're a man of God, please, can't you do something?" "Lady," the rabbi replies, "I'm in sales, not management."²

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

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² From Torah with a Twist of Humor