



Taking Messiah Yeshua and Torah to the World!

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Message 3-6-10
Ki Tissa-When You Elevate
Exodus 30:11-34:35
1 Kings 18:1-39
Ezekiel 36:16-38
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Introduction

Our sages relate to this Parashah which contains the Torah's most infamous incident of idolatry, the "original sin" of the Jewish people known as the *cheit ha'eigel* ("sin of the calf"), as a watershed in the evolution of Israelite spiritual history; and link it to the later spy debacle as two of the most disastrous events of their 40-year sojourn in the wilderness.

Exodus 31:13-18

11 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: **12** "When you take the census of the children of Israel for their number, then every man shall give a ransom for himself to the LORD, when you number them, that there may be no plague among them when *you* number them. **13** "This is what everyone among those who are numbered shall give: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (a shekel *is* twenty gerahs). The half-shekel *shall be* an offering to the LORD. **14** "Everyone included among those who are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering to the LORD. **15** "The rich shall not give more and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when *you* give an offering to the LORD, to make atonement for yourselves. **16** "And you shall take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shall appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of meeting, that it may be a memorial for the children of Israel before the LORD, to make atonement for yourselves."

From the Jewish Study Bible: Once the land and people are cleansed, God will provide a new heart and a new spirit that will prompt the people to live a holy life in accordance with God's commandments.

We have always known that the Land of Israel and the Children of Israel are intimately tied together. When the Children of Israel did not give the Land its proper Sabbatical year rest God expelled them out of the Land. The Land of Israel was given to the Children of Israel to live in and tend to as stewards of the Holy One of Israel. The Land was not theirs, ownership belonged to God.

Leviticus 25:23 `The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land *is* Mine; for you *are* strangers and sojourners with Me.

Israel is to take care of the Land that has been placed in their care. Do you think the Lord is pleased with the fact that the government of Israel is trading land for peace? How can Israel think they can obtain peace when they are disobeying God and not being proper stewards of the land that has been entrusted to them? He will judge them according to how they are handling the responsibility He has given to them. If they knew what the Torah had to say about what they were doing would they still be doing it? The possibility is they just might and that is the sad reality. Scripture is quite clear that the nations of the earth will turn against the tiny state of Israel until the armies of the world come to the gates of Jerusalem and then Messiah will return.

Zechariah 14:2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. **3** Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. **4** And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, *making* a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south. **5** Then you shall flee *through* My mountain valley, for the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the LORD my God will come, *and* all the saints with You. **6** It shall come to pass in that day *that* there will be no light; the lights will diminish. **7** It shall be one day which is known to the LORD-- neither day nor night. But at evening time it shall happen *that* it will be light. **8** And in that day it shall be *that* living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea; in both summer and winter it shall occur. **9** And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be-- "The LORD *is* one," and His name one.

God will gather the nations to battle against Israel - Jerusalem will be the prize. It seems that throughout history Jerusalem has always been at the center of the spiritual warfare that has taken place on the earth. The attention focused on that tiny speck of earth is amazing in light of the fact that three religions claim it as their own, and are willing to do whatever it takes to take hold of it. If it cannot be taken in war then it will be taken in the political arena if the leaders of the earth can force Israel to continue to barter away their inheritance in the same way Esau did his. You cannot trade land for peace especially when the land is not yours but belongs to the Holy One of Israel. If you mess with the land you are messing with the Creator.

Things are heating up over there and the nations are sticking their noses where they do not belong. There will be a day of reckoning for all those nations who came against Israel. God used Egypt to protect His people. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob went down into Egypt for a time. Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt and grew into many people who would form the early nation of Israel. Yeshua's parents took Him down to Egypt to protect Him as an infant. Yet in the end God says He will discipline Egypt for what they did to His people. If you want to take the broader view Egypt can also represent the nations of the earth and the day is coming when there will be a reckoning between the nations and the God of the universe.

In giving the half-shekel Temple tax God instructed that the rich and the poor would give the same amount showing that everyone was equal before the Holy One of Israel. We have lost

sight of the simplicity of what God has given to us. There are rich and poor in the world today but they are not equal or the same in the eyes of mankind. The rich are set upon a pedestal while the poor are lost in the shuffle. When we all stand before God in the Day of Judgment it will be as equals. God will treat us all the same but from some whom He gave extra He will demand an accounting the same as He will ask from those whom He gave little. What you have done with what your Creator has given into your care will be your testimony before Him. The world turns a blind eye and a deaf ear to the poor while the rich sit in the lap of luxury never turning an eye or ear to those in need. I am not saying it is wrong to have more than others. What I am saying is what you do with it. It is like the parable of the talents. What did you do with what was given to you?

Ezekiel 36:22-28

22 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, `Thus says the Lord GOD: "I do not do *this* for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. **23** "And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I *am* the LORD," says the Lord GOD, "when I am hallowed in you before their eyes. **24** "For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. **25** "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. **26** "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **27** "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*. **28** "Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.

The Holy One of Israel will gather His people together despite the fact that they have profaned His name among the nations where they were sent. Can you imagine the importance of what is being said here? Despite being scattered among the nations because of their sin Israel still profanes His holy name and yet He says He will gather them from among the nations and return them to the land He gave to their fathers – the same land they are giving away today. He will cleanse them and give them a new heart and a new spirit and they will walk in His Torah in His land and we will be His people and our God.

Ezekiel 11:17 "Therefore say, `Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will gather you from the peoples, assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel." **18** "And they will go there, and they will take away all its detestable things and all its abominations from there. **19** "Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, **20** "that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

Ezekiel 18:31 "Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel?"

Jeremiah is not the only place where a new heart and a new spirit are spoken about. Ezekiel speaks about it as well and having the two prophets talking about the same thing is confirmation to us by two witnesses that God will do what He says He will do. I differ with the Church as to what this new heart and new spirit are. When God says He will write His law or Torah on our hearts of flesh that is what He is going to do. If the Torah has been done away

with then how can He write His law on our hearts? Is it a new Torah He is going to write within us or the same consistent covenant He has had with His people since the beginning?

All the way back we see God making an animal sacrifice and using the skins to cover Adam and Chava's nakedness symbolic of their sin which was what was being covered. God shed's an animal's blood to cover sin. Because it takes the constant sacrifice of animal's to cover man's sin we know this is not the permanent solution to the problem. We move forward to Cain and Abel and see them bring an offering to the Lord. One brings an animal sacrifice and the other from his harvest. Too many think that Cain's offering was rejected because it was not an animal. This is not true. The problem was what he brought to offer to the Lord.

Genesis 4:3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. **4** Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering.

Cain brought fruit but Abel brought of the firstborn of his flock and the fat. We know that God desires the fat of the offering to be given to Him because He instructs Moses later on about this very thing so Torah had to exist in some way, shape and form all the way back because we see it in operation consistently so it makes no sense whatsoever to say the Torah has been done away with and replaced with something better. That would be the same as saying God made a mistake.

The Torah has always been at the heart of everything that guides God and what guides His people. His Son was the only sacrifice that could bring animal sacrifices to their logical fulfillment in Him – the once and for all perfect will of the Lord. He will write the fulfilled Torah on our hearts in the day when we come to completion through Him. The Torah will reside within us so that we follow it with our hearts and not just our minds. We must internalize Torah and allow it to take over our lives. In doing this we will have allowed Yeshua to take up residence within us and take over our lives as it was always meant to be.

2 Corinthians 3:2-4

2 You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; **3** clearly you are an epistle of Messiah, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, *that is*, of the heart. **4** And we have such trust through Messiah toward God.

We are the letters of the Lord written upon our hearts by the Ruach HaKodesh of the Holy One. The living God lives in us and will direct our lives if we only let Him do so. We need to become a blank slate and allow Him to write His Torah within us. This is the covenant that is brought to its natural conclusion. God has always desired to live within us from the very beginning but man decided to take a different direction. When man fell from following the way of the Holy One of Israel God put His plan into effect. This has always been God's plan from before we were created because God knows all and knew what we would do but He loved us even before He created us and brought us into being. He used His Word – His Son – to bring us into existence and breathed His Ruach into the nostrils of Adam and brought Him to life. We are made up of the three parts of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and many of us miss this vital truth. If we have been created in the image of God then is not the Torah a part of our very being? Isn't it engraved into our very DNA? Think about it my friends and decide if the Torah has been done

away with if the Living Torah, Yeshua, was used to create all things. The Torah is life and we are life and when we turn away from the road God set us on we turn away from God.

Psalm 73:26 My flesh and my heart fail; *but God is* the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

King David wrote these words thousands of years ago and they are just as true today as when he wrote them. Our flesh and heart may fail but God does not fail and is there for us. There are times when things get tough and the only way we can get through those times is through God's strength in us. There is going to be trials and tribulations in our lives that will test us and discipline us but God will be there for us to see us through.

We must learn that that Torah and our hearts have always been meant to link together. One is incomplete without the other and that means that without Torah we are missing a vital part of the connection and without Messiah the other part because both are meant to dwell in our innermost being. I am defined not by my Judaism but by my faith in Yeshua and my observance of God's covenant of Torah. They define who I am. My Judaism brings life to the mix and makes me a part of a people whose roots go all the way back to who is Israel. If I remove any part of the mix I lose something – something I will know is missing but over time what is missing will become foggy and I will begin to not remember it. This is what happened when God exiled the ten northern tribes and scattered them into the nations.

He took away their memories while He allowed Judah to keep theirs. Judah was given the responsibility to take Torah and teach it to the nations. This is what Yeshua told the talmidim to do before He ascended to His Father.

Mark 16:14 Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. **15** And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

They hesitated before doing what they had been commanded to do but in the end they did as their Master instructed them to. Eleven Jews who turned the world upside down for Yeshua and then later the message went out and a Jewish Rabbi – a Pharisee by the name of Shaul did an about face when he encountered His Lord on the road to Damascus where he was going to persecute Jews for believing in Yeshua. Today this man is known as Paul and he went into the entire world and changed it – some say for the better others for the worse. I say he changed it for God – bringing the truth of Yeshua and Torah to the nations.

A son calls his elderly Yiddish mama and asks, "Ma, how are you?" "Not too good, I'm feeling very weak." "Why ma?" "Because I haven't eaten in 23 days." "That's terrible. Why haven't you eaten in 23 days?" "Because, I didn't want to have my mouth full just in case you called!"

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

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