



Message 9-13-08
Ki Tetse-When You Go Out
Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19
Isaiah 54:1-10
John 19:31

Introduction

Moses reviews a variety of laws. The portion concludes with the commandment to remember for all time what Amalek had done to Israel after they had left Egypt.

Deuteronomy 21:22-23

22 "If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, **23** "his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of God.

What can you line this passage up with from the Apostolic Scriptures? What would this particular Torah command have to do with our Messiah? What would the Torah have to do with Yeshua anyway? Hasn't the Torah been done away with? The only Scriptures that you have that would infer the Torah being away with are those from the letters of the Apostle Paul. Rav Shaul certainly did not do away with the Torah in his letters. By now you should understand that Rav Shaul is Rabbi Saul of Tarsus or the Apostle Paul. I find it to be a good idea to refer to the Apostle Paul in regards to those who believe he had the power to do away with the Torah and Rav Shaul as the Rabbi from Tarsus who is descended from a line of Pharisees who were the forerunners of the Orthodox Rabbis of today.

This passage from the Torah was used in conjunction with the death of our Messiah Yeshua and the tree, stake or cross is the tree being referred to here. In the verses from Deuteronomy we see that this death was reserved for a sinner whose sin would bring the death penalty. The Jewish people have never been known as ones who supported the death penalty and over the centuries they have done all that they can to get out of using the death penalty even if the individual deserved it.

Numbers 15:32 Now while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering sticks on the Sabbath day.

Numbers 15:35 Then the LORD said to Moses, "The man must surely be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp."

We might think that the death penalty for picking up wood on the Sabbath is somewhat extreme but as you will see it was God who decreed that the man was to be put to death for doing work on the Sabbath day. The Lord was making a statement as to how seriously He takes the Sabbath. When the Children of Israel first came out of Egypt into the Wilderness and God provided them with manna He told Israel the manna would only be there for six days of the week but they would have a double portion for the Sabbath. At first the Israelites went out and were gathering more manna than they needed and the extra manna would spoil immediately. Some of the Israelites went out on the Sabbath to look for manna but they did not find any.

What Israel did not understand is that the Sabbath was holy to the Lord in a way that the Israelites would come to understand.

Leviticus 23:1 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **2** "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, these *are* My feasts. 'Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work *on it*; it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

This is how holy the Sabbath is to God. It is the first festival to be listed in Leviticus chapter 23 where we find all the festivals holy to the Lord. In the opening verses we see that the Sabbath leads the way in a manner which is different from the other Festivals. It is the only Festival that is kept every week. Aside from Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonements, no work of any kind may be done. With the first Sabbath God commanded the Israelites to stay in their places for the day. He was teaching them about the Sabbath which would help them to understand the other holy Festivals of the Lord.

I admit that having someone killed for gathering wood on the Sabbath may seem kind of harsh to many of you and even to me but it makes me take His Sabbath seriously. As a congregation in Las Cruces we start gathering as a group before 10:00am when our Shabbat service begins. It usually lasts for about 2 hours and then we gather for a pot-luck lunch. Some people leave after that because it is a long day. Those who stay can join others for prayer from 1pm to 1:30pm. At 1:30pm we start our Bible study time. It is an open and interactive time in which everyone can participate. The discussions can become heated but we control the chaos.

Bible study usually ends about 3:30 or 4:00pm depending on questions. After Bible study we clean up and get ready to have Havdallah services to end the Sabbath. This lasts for about 30 minutes. At the end of this we dance and sing a song saying goodbye to the Sabbath and looking forward to the next one. While it is not sundown when we end the Sabbath we do this because we have several people who come from out of town to our services so we do our best to get them on their way after a long day. By the time my wife and I leave the building after last minute checking we usually arrive home by 5:00pm. In the winter the sun will be setting. We change our clothes and wait and then when sundown comes we leave our home to get dinner. It has been a long day and we just want to relax.

Some of you may think I am not being observant enough from sundown to sundown. We actually begin Erev Shabbat on Friday evening at 6:00pm at our congregation in Alamogordo. By the time we finish Erev Shabbat services the sun has set. We then have to drive home, about an hour's distance, and get up to serve our congregation in Las Cruces for the Shabbat. So lest anyone say we are not keeping the Shabbat in its completeness we beg to differ. In some ways we can be seen to be "working" on the Shabbat but we are serving the Lord much as the Priests or Kohanim did in Biblical days. They were commanded by God to offer sacrifices twice a day on the Shabbat as they did on other days of the week. No sacrifices were brought by the people but the priests offered the sacrifices as servants of the people and of God.

We are servants of God and of one another. Any leader who believes he is greater than the sum parts of his congregation then he needs to find a different line of work. A leader is exalted only in his own eyes and heart if he feels he is better than those he serves. This is why the leaders and teachers have a day of reckoning with their Master. We who teach and lead need to remember this as we go about what the Lord has called you to do.

If you have not been called to this you will have problems. Even if you have been called to this you will have problems but with God's help you will get through them. Leaders get frustrated at times and want to leave the work of the Lord but they need to take a step a back and breathe deeply and consider that they are the Lord's servants and only He can release them from their service. All of us are bond-servants of the Lord and of one another. We are family and we need to keep this in mind when dealing with one another. We must learn to apply love and not a sarcastic tongue. I know of what I speak. Those who know me know I have a sharp tongue at times and I have been working very hard to overcome this. It does not help when a situation is tense but sometimes a bit of humor does.

In both of my congregations I have been trying to get the people into a joyful mood as they come before the Lord. The liturgy can make people somber at times but only if you are not paying attention to the words of the prayers. The Rabbis of old who came up with the prayers we find in the Jewish prayer book called the Siddur came up with some great prayers that honor the Lord and His Son Yeshua. While they do not realize what He has done as the blinders are lifted many other Jewish people are as well as Gentiles or non-Jews. As they come into an understanding of the prayers they are filled with a love for God. It takes them to a new level that we all would love to stay at all the time. One day it will but not right now. We look forward to that day.

Isaiah 54:4-8

4 " Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and will not remember the reproach of your widowhood anymore. **5** For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is His name; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth. **6** For the LORD has called you like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, like a youthful wife when you were refused," says your God. **7** "For a mere moment I have forsaken you, but with great mercies I will gather you. **8** With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you," says the LORD, your Redeemer.

What a great passage this is from Isaiah. Your Maker is your husband, the Lord of Hosts is His name. Who made us? Yeshua made us as His Father used Him. Who is the Lord of Hosts? The Lord of Hosts is Yeshua, the Son of God and leader of His Father's army. He is our husband. He is

our Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel and the God of all the earth. My goodness you can see Yeshua all over this verse. You can see His Father in this verse as well in the verse 7 about being forsaken for a moment by Him. Yeshua was forsaken for a moment as He took our sins upon Himself. It was for a moment and then the Lord God turned back to His Son and gathered Him to Himself. He extended mercy to us because of His Son and not for any other reason.

If you believe you can earn your salvation you are sadly mistaken. He will bring His wrath for but a moment and then He will give us His everlasting kindness and mercy from the Lord our Redeemer. He is our Kinsman Redeemer as Boaz was the kinsman redeemer of Ruth who came to know the God of Israel through her mother-in-law Naomi. She would become part of Judah and Israel and become an ancestor of the Messiah Yeshua Himself. Yeshua is of His Father but He is also of us, and yet He is our Husband as well. He is God come in the flesh but He will become the groom of His bride Israel. We see God in all of this and we must pay close attention or else we will lose sight of Him completely and wander down a road you do not want to go.

John 19:31

31 Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the tree on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.

The day they were talking about was Passover. Passover is the day of preparation and the High Sabbath would be the first day of the Festival of Chag HaMatzah or Unleavened Bread. While the Jewish people see Passover as eight days it is really a one day Festival that is not a Sabbath or a Festival as we might understand it. This was the day the lambs were brought to the Temple to be offered and to be readied for the Passover Seders that would begin as sundown as Passover the day of preparation ended.

The understanding of Passover was that the Lamb of God, the ultimate Lamb, was going to be offered to take away the sin of every human being that had lived, was living, and would live. His offering was the fulfillment of this day and His resurrection came in fulfillment of the Omer, the wave offering that was brought before the Lord as the first of the harvest of the new creation that had been brought into existence through Messiah. As we are beginning to come to the end of the Torah we are also preparing to begin studying it all over again. This is the blessing of the Torah that as we study it cycle after cycle we continue to learn more and more.

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

To believe in Messiah is not foolishness but to not believe in Him is. This world is has lost its way and we must look to God to show us the right way. Without Him we have nothing but with Him we have all.

1 Timothy 6:13 I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and *before* Messiah Yeshua who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, **14** that you keep *this* commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Yeshua the Messiah's appearing.

Rav Shaul hearkens back to his testimony before Pontius Pilate as an affirmation of his calling and he encourages Timothy, who is his son spiritually, to keep the faith and fight the good fight. Shaul

knew his time was drawing to a close. He had been shown that the end was coming and he was preparing those who would carry on after him. Shaul had planted several congregations persevering with them through their trials and tribulations. Timothy was his eyes and ears on the ground much in the same way that Joshua had served as Moses' assistant for forty years. Even in our generation there are new leaders and teachers coming up within the Messianic Movement. The Messianic Movement has changed in many ways from what it once was to what it has become. There are many challenges raising their heads that will need to be dealt with. I would like to see better cooperation between brethren and less pointing of the fingers.

Congregations are needed if this movement is to survive or become of the Church that it came from originally. Yes, believe it or not, the Messianic Jewish Movement came out of the Church as its founders wanted to present a Jewish witness to their Jewish brethren. It was the witness that was important to them not the Torah. In many ways Messianic Judaism still represents Church thinking as many within the Messianic Jewish movement still reject Torah as the basis for their lives. I pray that their eyes will be opened as I pray that the rest of the Messianic Movement has their eyes opened as well and they turn back to Torah. The keys to the kingdom will be found in faith in Messiah and in the Torah.

When we love, we are blind to the faults of those we love; when we hate, we are blind to their virtues...Moses ibn Ezra

for other Torah Studies check out:

Tony Robinson at www.devoted.to/Torah (sign up)

Mark R. Ensign at mrensigh@arn.net (request to be added to list)

Ardelle Brody [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*

If you have been blessed by what you have read in these daily e-mails or by what you have read or listened to on our website at www.etz-chayim.org please make a donation to Tree of Life Messianic Ministries on our website by clicking on the donation button in increments of \$25.00 and you can increase your donation by changing the quantity...

If you would like to have your group listed on our website at www.etz-chayim.org/directory.htm drop us an e-mail with your information...

Check out our different e-mail groups at <http://etz-chayim.org/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi>

Tree of Life Messianic Ministries is a legally incorporated non-profit ministry with 501 (c) (3) status...