



Taking Messiah Yeshua and Torah to the World!

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Message 12-19-09
Miketz-At the End of
Genesis 41:1-44:17
Zechariah 2:14 (10)-4:7
2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Introduction

The title to this week's parashah comes from the opening words, vayehi miketz, "and it was at the end of" Joseph's prison ordeal. This is also the portion for Chanukkah, which arrives during the longest nights of the years, when darkness needs light, and mankind needs additional comforting.¹

Genesis 41:44-46

44 Pharaoh said to Yosef, "I, Pharaoh, decree that without your approval no one is to raise his hand or his foot in all the land of Egypt." **45** Pharaoh called Yosef by the name Tzafnat-Pa'neach and gave him as his wife Osnat the daughter of Poti-Fera priest of On. Then Yosef went out through all the land of Egypt. **46** Yosef was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt; then he left Pharaoh's presence and traveled through all the land of Egypt.

Here we are already at the story of Joseph. Amazing isn't it at how fast we move in the book of Genesis. Things don't start to slow down until we reach the stories about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Even then time seems to just fly by as we watch the Biblical story unfold. Year in and year out we read the Torah, and hopefully you are also studying the rest of the Bible, and we see new things through the power of the Ruach HaKodesh – the Holy Spirit that comes forth from the Father.

From the Jewish Study Bible we read:

Jospeh is once again second in rank. See 39:19-23. Jospeh will indeed rule, just as his brothers feared (37:8, 10-11), but with this crucial qualification: His rule will be rooted not in sheer power, but in the benefit he provides to the less fortunate. This corresponds to an ideal of kingship widespread in the ancient Near East, in which the king is the rescuer and servant of the people (Judges 11:4-11)

¹ From Torah with a Twist of Humor

How much further can Joseph sink but God has something better in store for him. In showing us the Messiah, with both of His comings, Joseph stands in the annals of the Bible as one of the strongest images of the Suffering Servant Messiah and the King Messiah. In Joseph we see that there will only be one Messiah not two or more as some believe in Judaism. The idea of a Messiah is not new to Christianity. They drew it from the teachings of Judaism. The Messianic Age is also from Judaism as are the final battles between God and Satan. This is why Judaism is a lightning rod and why the nations of the earth, past, present, and future are being gathered to come against, not just the nation of Israel, but the Jewish people.

They stand as the visible picture of God's plan, a plan that Satan cannot accept because it spells his doom. Either Satan knows what is going to happen to him or he believes he can change the story or he is just ignoring it. Any of these scenarios fit but only one is true. Satan rebelled against his Creator in the beginning bringing about the fall of mankind. To be honest we cannot blame everything on Satan because we have to make a conscious decision to listen to Satan and reject God and His plan of redemption for us.

Every one of us has freewill. God will not make us do anything against our will and neither can Satan. God can use Satan to test us and He does allow that to happen. Why? I am not God so I cannot say why but when you read the book of Job you see how far God allows Satan to test us.

Job 1:19 and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you." **20** Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. **21** And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." **22** In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

Judaism quotes verse 21 in the Kadeesh to indicate that we come into this world with nothing and when we die we leave it with nothing. How many of us could have spoken these words that Job when he found out all of his children had died? Then go on and see what else Job had to endure until the Lord speaks to him. When the Lord did this He was asking Job rhetorical questions, where He did not want an answer and when Job started to reply he was told to be quiet. How many of us spend way too much time talking and not enough time listening. I am not talking about just waiting on God but also listening to those we come into contact with like our spouses, children, extended family and friends.

Maybe if we spend a little more time listening we could head off some of the problems we wind up going through. Then again we are creatures of habit and we follow the example of our ancestors too much of the time. Every once in awhile someone breaks out of the pack and it is these men and women of the Bible the Lord chooses to bring to the forefront. A prime example of this is Joseph. A better picture of the Messiah cannot be found in the Bible though there are other stories that show us the Messiah. In Joseph we see both the first coming and second coming of Yeshua. Even in his name we see similarities. Yeshua and Yoseph – they sound similar though Yoseph means *"he has added or he increases."* Yeshua means *"the salvation of God or God's salvation"*. My parallel is not just in the striking similarities in their lives but in their names as well. Joseph is he increases or added and Joseph added to the lives of those he came into contact with the same as Yeshua brought salvation to everyone's life who chose to accept Him as Messiah. Joseph saved the known world in his day as well as saving his own family while Yeshua saves the entire world if they choose Him.

The lessons Scripture teaches us is terrific. We need to keep these lessons in mind and not lose sight of them when things go "south" for us. Things are rapidly changing my friends. Are you prepared for what is coming or are you worrying about the things you have no control over, which is just about everything. The ability to choose is one thing we keep control of. As the world continues to spin out of control we must hold fast to the center of our existence and be a light in the darkness that is closing in all around us. Join me as we stand for Messiah Yeshua, the only hope for the world.

Zechariah 2:14-17 (Tanach) (Christian Bible 2:10-13)

14 "Sing, daughter of Tziyon; rejoice! For, here, I am coming; and I will live among you," says *ADONAI*. **15** When that time comes, many nations will join themselves to *ADONAI*. "They will be my people, and I will live among you." Then you will know that it was *ADONAI-Tzva'ot* who sent Me to you. **16** *ADONAI* will take possession of Y'hudah as His portion in the holy land, and He will again make Yerushalayim His choice. **17** Be silent, all humanity, before *ADONAI*; for He has been roused from His holy dwelling."

This is a mirror to when God dwelt in the midst of Israel in the newly constructed Mishkan or Tabernacle. While God removed Himself from being in the midst of the people because of their sin He will once again choose to dwell among His people. What a joy it was when God came into the camp of His people Israel only to depart because Israel could not keep faith with their God. The same thing happens today and is growing every day. People cannot keep faith with the God of their fathers. They cannot walk in the ways of the Holy One of Israel. Today, many claiming to be Messianic in practice are not Messianic because the word is attached to Judaism and has always been attached to the ways of Judah.

There are many who getting tired of hearing of hearing and seeing the ways of Judah getting a bad rap as they have in the Church. That is why Messianic Judaism came into existence. It was a place where Messianic Jews could freely express themselves but as different types of Messianic congregations and Believers have come about this is changing and it is not always for the best. It seems that Messianic's have forgotten that Yeshua was Jewish and He lived as a Jew. He chose to come into this world through the line of Judah and did not turn His back on His people and His heritage. Even the Shaliach Shaul (the Apostle Paul) upheld and taught the traditions to the Gentile congregations he went to.

1 Corinthians 11:2 Now I praise you because you remember me in everything and **hold firmly to the traditions**, just as I delivered them to you.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 So then, brethren, **stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught**, whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us.

It is very clear that Shaul stood by the ancient ways of his people – the Jews. He did not turn from the ways he had been taught and even taught them to the nations he went to. So why did the Church turn away from the path that had been clearly marked by the Apostles? Why the passive and overt anti-Semitism seen within the Church and now within many Messianic congregations and organizations? Wasn't Judah given the responsibility to carry Torah and teach it to the nations as well as their own people? Yes, there are those among Judah who will not teach Torah to the nations or Gentiles even when they desire it more than anything. This is not right and the truth be told there are many Messianic Jews who do not keep Torah. They

believe they are to be examples to their unbelieving brethren through the keeping of Jewish customs and traditions but why put on the window dressing when underneath there is nothing?

I call for all of you out there to stand up for our Messiah who was Jewish and put some meat on the bone. Show Judah you stand with them and you want the Torah to be taught to you because it is part of your birthright. We are all sons and daughters of Abraham the father of the faithful. Abraham was a Gentile or Goy as the Hebrew of the Bible shows us. He was the first Hebrew after the promise of the Holy One of Israel that His covenant would be with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They walked the ways of God and became the mature men of God that He desired they become. He blessed them for their faith and He wants to pour out His blessings on us as well.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and Torahlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? **15** Or what harmony has Messiah with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? **16** Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. [Ex. 29:45, Lev. 26:12, Jer. 31:1, Eze. 37:27, Ex. 25:8] **17** "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; [Isa. 52:11] And I will welcome you. **18** "And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me," says the Lord Almighty.

You cannot mix the holy and the profane together. It is like trying to mix oil and water – it does not work people, I know, from personal experience. Each separates and stays that way. That is why when they have an oil spill the oil floats on the water. Now granted it is a mess and that should tell you something about what happens when you mix the things of God with those of the nations. God told His people to keep themselves separate and not to intermarry with the nations. Why did God do this if we are all one people - because of the bringing together of what is from God and what is from the nations and their ways? Too many have come into the Messianic Movement with the idea that Christian and Messianic mean the same thing. On paper they might but in truth they do not.

I call on you, my brethren, to hold fast to the ways Yeshua taught and Paul taught. Torah is our birthright – **all of us!** Do not let someone tell you otherwise but respect the ways of those who have gone before you. Don't look down at them because there is a penalty to pay for that.

Romans 11:17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you- a wild olive- were grafted in among them and have become equal sharers in the rich root of the olive tree, **18** then don't boast as if you were better than the branches! However, if you do boast, remember that you are not supporting the root, the root is supporting you. **19** So you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." **20** True, but so what? They were broken off because of their lack of trust. However, you keep your place only because of your trust. So don't be arrogant; on the contrary, be terrified! **21** For if God did not spare the natural branches, he certainly won't spare you!

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Messiah Yeshua.

Praise be to our God and His Messiah Yeshua! Amen!

Four Jewish grandmothers are sitting around their retirement home playing cards, when the first bubba suddenly sighs, "Oy..." The second nods, sighs, and adds, "Oy Vey!" The third goes, "Oy veys meer!" "Okay, Okay," interrupts the fourth, "enough talk about the children, let's get back to the game!"

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

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