



Taking Messiah Yeshua and Torah to the World!

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Message 2-6-10
Yitro-Jethro (Abundance)
Exodus 18:1-20:23
Isaiah 6:1-7:6, 9:6-7 (5-6)
Hebrews 7:26-28

Introduction

This week's Parashah is named after a gentile, Yitro or Jethro, who was Moses' father-in-law, but he was also a pagan high priest from Midian, an ally of Amalek, and a leader of several sects of idolatry. The question is obvious: Why?¹

He is not the first Gentile to mix with the Israelites. The main clue to Jethro achieving Judaism's eternal recognition appears right in the opening, with the words *Vayishma Yitro*, "and Jethro heard"...heard what?

Exodus 19:5-8

5 `Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. **6** `And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel." **7** So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the LORD commanded him. **8** Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." So Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.

This is one of my favorite passages of Scripture along with several others. The Lord God Almighty tells Israel they will be a special treasure to Him above all people. As true as these words were when God spoke them to Moses they are just as true today as they were back then. Why – because God does not go back on His word because His word is His Son Yeshua. Yeshua laid down His life for mankind offering them the gift of eternal life if they repented of their sins by accepting Yeshua as Messiah receiving forgiveness from God. The fact that only God could forgive sin should not be lost on us because it is for this transgression that Yeshua was accused of blasphemy before the Sanhedrin in the dark of night against the laws of Israel.

Matthew 26:63 But Yeshua kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Messiah, the Son of God!" **64** Yeshua said to him, "*It is as* you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." **65** Then the high

¹ From Torah with a Twist of Humor

priest tore his clothes, saying, "**He has spoken blasphemy!** What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! **66** "What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death."

I have emphasized the line in verse 65 to show you why Yeshua was sentenced to death by the Sanhedrin. Now remember that the Jews did not have the authority to execute under Roman law. That is why they sought Pilate to do what they could not do but when they presented their case to Pilate it was not on the basis of what we read here but on the basis that Yeshua claimed He as a king and the Jewish leadership said they had no king but Caesar but this was not true either because they had King Herod. The absurdity of the charges leveled against Yeshua by the Jewish leaders' shows you how desperate they were to silence the Messiah.

All Israel needed to do was to submit to God and all would have been fine. Instead they chose to go their own way, making their own rules and disregarding Gods'. This is no different from the sin of our parents Adam and Chavah when they disobeyed one simple command from God. Man has difficulty conforming to the ways of his Creator. It has been this way all through the Bible and is very evident today as well. All you need to do is to look around you at all of the Christian denominations, Jewish denominations, and the multitude of other religions and belief systems. Man has a problem doing what God desires of him. God called out of Egypt a people who were to be His special treasure. How many nations have ever received that gift?

There are many nations that claim this right but it is man given not God given and there is a world of difference between them. When Moses brought back God's words to the people they said in verse 8 that all that the Lord has spoken we will do. Did they – no they did not?! They questioned, they struggled, and in the end they rebelled against Moses which brought them into conflict with the One who had sent Moses – the Lord God Almighty. He would bring them out of Egypt and they would be kicking and screaming all the way into the Wilderness of Sinai causing them to be sentenced to death in the desert never being able to cross over into the Promised Land – not even Moses.

Serving our Creator is not easy no matter what anyone thinks? To do as our heavenly Father desires' is a matter of faith and obedience, something man has struggled with since the beginning, hence, the reason God sent His only begotten Son into the world to redeem His creation.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **17** "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

It takes God to forgive sin, so if Yeshua is not God then how can He forgive sin? The question then is Yeshua God or not? As we draw closer to the *Last Days* we are seeing more and more Believers denying the deity of Yeshua and then Messiah Himself giving in to the deception of the Adversary. I recently encountered this in one of my congregation causing me to have to make the decision to walk away because the people were hell-bent on following the road to destruction. Those leading the way put forward that Yeshua is not God come in the flesh, that Yeshua is not necessary for salvation, and that the Jews can be saved by the keeping of Torah alone.

All of this flies in the face of Scripture and shows us the path some are taking as God slowly removes His covering from this world. We are not a treasure to our God any longer. He is allowing the ruler of this world to exert more and more power to draw out those who have chosen to walk in the ways of darkness rather than in the ways of light that leads to truth. Over the years I have been in ministry I have seen this type of situation happen before but now it is picking up steam under the cloak of being *Biblical*. There is dissension over the calendar resulting in about five different calendars being used by various Believers. How does this promote unity? How about those who claim to be supporters of Israel as long as they don't have to have anything to do with that *Jewish stuff*? That Jewish stuff was lived and taught by our **JEWISH** Messiah Yeshua. The Apostle Shaul taught these things to his congregations. Imagine that – Paul taught the Jewish ways to Gentile congregations.

1 Corinthians 11:2 Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered *them* to you.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, **that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition** which he received from us.

Shaul, Paul, and the Apostle the Church quotes as being against the Torah is teaching his congregations in Corinth and Thessalonica the traditions of the Jewish people. If he was so against these things why would he be teaching them? It makes no sense unless the Church has been wrong in its teachings. Even more than that how about those claiming to be Messianic's or some variation thereof?

Some other things that are not bringing unity to the Messianic Body of Messiah is the New Moon. This one sights the New Moon, this one uses the calendar, and this one looks to the new moon as being the first sliver. Another looks to the full conjunction and another to the full moon itself. Then we have the lunar Sabbath. This belief purports that the Jews either have had it wrong for all of these millennia or they have deliberately been deceiving everyone. Then we have the battle between Messianic Jews and Ephraimites or Two House proponents. The Messianic Jewish position that the Jews are the only ones who are Israel is as Biblically wrong as wrong can be. On the flip side the position that because the Messianic Jews won't treat us as equals we then return in kind is just as wrong.

We are supposed to be about His work not ours! Think about it – think about building communities in unity not out of differences. There are many parts to the Body and they are to work together for the health of the Body.

Romans 12:4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, **5** so we, *being* many, are one body in Messiah, and individually members of one another.

My friends, look to become the Body of Messiah, as Israel united in Him, by Him, and through Him.

Isaiah 6:4-5

4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. **5** So I said: "Woe *is* me, for I am undone! Because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."

Did Isaiah really see the Lord of hosts or did he see Yeshua since the Father cannot be seen without one dying? But the point here is that Isaiah knew he was a man who was unclean and he lived in the midst of a people who were unclean. He believed he did not deserve to see the Lord of hosts, the one who leads the army of the Holy One of Israel – Yeshua. Remember what Yeshua had to say about Himself and His Father?

John 14:8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." **9** Yeshua said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? **10** "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*, but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. **11** "Believe Me that I *am* in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

Yeshua is making the definitive statement about the Godhead and the unity of God in a plurality. There are some who say that there is no one at the right hand of God because Yeshua and the Father are one and the same. If this is true then this denies the truth of Scripture. We would have to assume that Scripture is wrong because everywhere Yeshua is mentioned the writers got it wrong. There should be no mention of Yeshua at all because why the need? All this is, is another attempt at removing Yeshua from the equation. Once more we have disunity in the Body of Messiah and when you deny Yeshua you are no longer a part of the Body of Messiah because there is no Messiah to you when you follow this course.

I am not sitting in judgment of you. I am simply saying if you are doing everything you can to deny Him then He will deny you. We have been given free will by our Creator and because of that we can choose Yeshua or we can decide we no longer wish to believe in Him. When you do that it is a very sad and God does not desire that you do that but free will is free will. Even the angels were given free will because 1/3 decided to follow Satan and were cast down from heaven to the earth. It would seem in their case that their decision cannot be undone and they are doomed to everlasting punishment because they stood in His presence and they still denied Him and followed the lie.

Hebrews 7:26-28

26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; **27** who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. **28** For the Torah appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the Torah, *appoints* the Son who has been perfected forever.

This passage from Hebrews hearkens back to our Haftarah portion from Isaiah 6:4-5. There the Prophet bemoans his situation because he feels he is unfit to be in the presence of the Holy One. In Hebrews the situation is reversed and the High Priest the writer is talking about is none other than the Holy Son of the Holy One, our High Priest and the High Priest of His Father –

Yeshua! Yeshua came after the High Priests of Israel and yet He was before they were and is a High Priest after the order of Melchizedek, the priesthood of the first born. He is the first born of those brought into being by the Word of His Father and He is the Creator who called everything there is into being.

In Hebrews 7:28 we are told the Torah appoints High Priests who are men and they are weak but Yeshua is not appointed by the Torah because He is the Torah – the Living Word of God. That is the beauty of Scripture – we are told the story of God, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and how they all worked in unison to bring all there is into being. The Spirit hovered over the face of the deep as the Father spoke the Word – Yeshua – and all there is began. In unity the Godhead brought us out of the darkness where the enemy dwells and into the light that is Messiah Yeshua. He has been there from the beginning with His Father waiting for the time He would be used to create us and then to redeem us.

If you do not believe that Yeshua is God then my heart goes out to you and I will lift you before the throne of the Holy One of Israel. Those who believe in Him have become part of Israel destined to receive a new name in the day of new beginnings. My friends join me in bringing unity to the Body of Messiah.

Baruch, editor of a weekly Jewish newspaper, was sick and tired of all the abusive letters-to-the-editors he received following his editorials, so he decided to run the Ten Commandments one week instead of his usual commentary. A few days later came a letter: "Cancel my subscription. You're getting too personal."²

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

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² From Torah with a Twist of Humor