

Message 1-20-18 Bo-Enter Exodus 10:1-13:16 Jeremiah 46:13-28 John 19:31-35

Introduction

Israel leaves Egypt. This night of their journey into freedom has been commemorated throughout the ages.

Exodus 13:8-9

8 You shall tell your son on that day, 'It is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.' ⁹ And it shall be to you as a sign on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the Torah of the LORD may be in your mouth. For with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt. (ESV)

What is the sign on the hand and a memorial between your eyes? In observant Jewish practice, this is what is called the "laying of tefillin." These are the small black leather boxes that have leather straps attached, which allow one to wrap them around one's forearm and place it on one's forehead. Is this the proper way to fulfill this commandment from the Almighty? It is the way the sages of old have discerned the way to fulfill it in their understanding. Some believers today say this is a spiritual fulfillment as they would any command found in the Torah, and we no longer must physically do the commandments in the Torah because it is now written on our hearts. But, herein lies the problem. When we spiritualize away all the Torah, what do we have left, and how do we know what it is that the Almighty expects from us? Didn't He say He would write the Torah on the flesh of our hearts, not the stony hearts? Didn't Moses break the first set of stone tablets because of the sin of the Israelites at the Golden Calf while he was on Mount Sinai receiving the first set of tablets? Why did it take the Almighty another forty days and forty nights to inscribe another set of tablets? Didn't the Almighty carve out the first set of tablets but made Moses cut out the second set? What changed between the giving of the first set and the second set? Something had to have changed in the relationship between man and God because of what happened at the sin of the Golden Calf.

The Holy One of Israel had just brought the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt through a series of plagues that could only be supernatural in nature, and yet the Hebrews immediately lost sight of what the Almighty had done for them, what He was going to do, and reverted to form. They did not appreciate the gift they were being given as we all have at one time or another in our lives. I am writing this as the Christmas season is upon

us, and I marvel at how the world moves into this time of year thinking this is what God wants them to do, when it is not what God wants but what man wants. If you decide to create a holiday to celebrate the birth of the Son of God, I would assume that is what you are going to do, but you don't! The world is not even close and, yet we have those who say we will put Merry Christmas back into the holidays. Where is the Messiah in all of this? Did the Father tell us to create a time to celebrate the birth of His Son in the Bible? His festivals are listed in Leviticus chapter twenty-three, and I defy you to show me where it tells us Christmas is one of the holidays we are to celebrate. If it seems I am being harsh here, I apologize, but the way the world is going, where is the Messiah in all of this? Why are we not following His Biblical Moedim – Appointed Times? The first of His Moedim is the seventh day Shabbat. We can't even do this one, let alone the rest of them.

We have taken the seventh-day Sabbath and turned it into the first day of the week, when the Almighty never changed it. Maybe this is one of the reasons Moses cast down the first set of tablets because he could see what would be coming, and he was not just upset with Israel and what they were doing then but also what was to come in Israel and the world. Doesn't anyone see the reality that all Christmas, Easter, and other man-made holidays do is to take our eyes off the Biblical times He gave to us? Lost in the man-made holidays are the true festivals He wants us to follow. Since when does Black Friday or Cyber Monday have anything to do with Yeshua and His Father? We need to get back to the fundamentals of our faith, or we will be up a creek without a paddle, my friends. Time is growing short, we need to get our houses in order and back on track following the Holy One of Israel.

Jeremiah 46:10

10 For that day belongs to the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, so as to avenge Himself on His foes; and the sword will devour and be satiated and drink its fill of their blood; for there will be a slaughter for the Lord GOD of hosts, in the land of the north by the river Euphrates. (NAU)

This day the Prophet Jeremiah is talking about is coming. Are you ready for this, or are you looking for the "Escapism Clause" that so many believe is in the Bible? What do I mean by the "Escapism Clause?" I am talking about the rapture. The event, not in the Bible, called the rapture is where all the church is taken away to heaven for 3 ½ years while the time of the Great Tribulation is taking place on the earth. Where are we told this? You say the Apostle Paul tells us about this? Yes, he does speak about the return of the Messiah from heaven, which many interpret to be His coming to gather the church together. Unfortunately, the rapture is simply the English translation for a Latin word found in the Bible Translation known as the Latin Vulgate accepted as having been translated by a church father called Jerome. Latin was the language of the Catholic Church, and I guess it is fine because Catholic means Universal implying the one true church. Here is the problem. The early congregations of believers were Jewish in nature and practice. Catholicism is one of the early churches of non-Jewish or Gentile believers being organized from their pagan roots into followers of Messiah Yeshua who they called Jesus.

2 Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous for you with God's kind of jealousy; since I promised to present you as a pure virgin in marriage to your one husband, the Messiah; ³ and I fear

that somehow your minds may be seduced away from simple and pure devotion to the Messiah, just as Havah was deceived by the serpent and his craftiness. ⁴ For if someone comes and tells you about some other Yeshua than the one we told you about, or if you receive a spirit different from the one you received or accept some so-called "good news" different from the Good News you already accepted, you bear with him well enough! (CJB)

If someone comes and tells about another Yeshua or Jesus or another gospel, we are ready to accept it as the truth when it is nothing more than a lie straight from the mouth of the serpent filled with the spirit of Satan. As Satan believed himself to be the most wonderful being ever created, so too the serpent became filled with himself opening himself up to being able to be filled with the lies of the enemy that helped bring man and woman down.

John 19:31-35

31 Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the stake 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. ³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³ But when they came to Yeshua and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵ He who saw it has borne witness-- his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth-- that you also may believe. (ESV)

The Holy One of Israel brought a series of miracles to bring the Hebrews out of Egypt and to bear them along during their forty years in the wilderness. Despite their rejection of His covenant, He permitted them to live for forty more years, and they died one by one until none remained except for Moses. The last of that generation that would die, Moses, was granted a look at the Promised Land before the Almighty took his life. He granted that rebellious generation a forty-year reprieve from their death sentence before following through on it. Think about how long He has given us since then? In the interim, He gave us His Son Yeshua and the truth of His covenant of Torah. What have we done with that? Do we still know the Messiah spoken about in the Tanach? Do we understand the truth about Yeshua revealed to us in the pages of the Apostolic Scriptures, or has this collection of letters confused us even more than we were before?

Why is it so many claim to have the truth when it is not the truth they have? What was being spoken about called the Day of Preparation in John 19:31? This was the Passover, which the church calls Good Friday, because they do not have a clue about what day it is according to the Holy One. On the day He was resurrected, they call it Easter Sunday, but it was the Day of First Fruits, Messiah being the First Fruits from the dead. People, people, people, we have lost our way. When will we get back on the right path that leads the way to true redemption through the Messiah Yeshua? Are there many ways to God, as others say, or is that just a repeat of the warning the Apostle Paul gave about another Yeshua and another gospel or good news?

John 19:31-35 is a compilation from different prophetic books in the Tanach or what is known as the Old Testament, but if it is old, then why bother to read it? The Apostle was quoting from sources he held as being Scripture because the Tanach was the only book of Scripture he knew. There was nothing known as the "New Testament" in his day or for another hundred years or more after that. The revelation that brought so many into the faith over two thousand years ago came from the pages of the Torah and the rest of the books that composed the Tanach. This was His Holy Word, accepted as truth by the nation of Israel and those who came after, including the early believers in Messiah Yeshua.

This is the beginning and the end of the story with many twists and turns in between. You need to walk down this road to find the answers you seek, but do not become so hard fixed on what you have been taught by the teachers of today who try to apply Scripture straight across the board to all situations when it was tailored to the time and places they were written in and have never meant to be applied cart blanche to everything.

There was a song called the "Times they are a'changing," when in truth they really have not. Berachot-Blessings in Messiah Yeshua with all glory to Abba!

Torah Man says: "You may depend on the Lord, may He depend on you?"

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

Mordecai Silver

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