



Message for 7-28-18
Ve Etchanan-And I Pleaded
Deuteronomy/Devarim 3:23-7:11
Isaiah/Yeshayahu 40:1-26
2 Peter/Shimon 3:8-10

Introduction

All the core teachings in the Torah that make us who we are as a nation can be found in this Parashah. Here the greatest prophet and teacher of Israel reminds us that who we are is to live in accord with the teachings of God – to conduct ourselves and our dealings with others in such a way that we cultivate the wisdom, compassion, and justice possible for all human societies.

Deuteronomy/Devarim 7:1-11

1 "When the LORD your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations more numerous and mightier than you, ² and when the LORD your God gives them over to you, and you defeat them, then you must devote them to complete destruction. You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them. ³ You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons, ⁴ for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the LORD would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly. ⁵ But thus shall you deal with them: you shall break down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and chop down their Asherim and burn their carved images with fire. ⁶ "For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸ but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹ Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, ¹⁰ and repays to their face those who hate him, by destroying them. He will not be slack with one who hates him. He will repay him to his face. ¹¹ You shall therefore be careful to do the commandment and the statutes and the rules that I command you today. (ESV)

This passage of Scripture can seem somewhat harsh when you read it. It has to do with how Israel is to treat seven nations that reside in the Promised Land. Moses brings the

instructions of the Almighty concerning this issue, and Israel is told they must destroy them completely. They are not to make a covenant with them. They are not to intermarry with them because the Almighty knows that if they do, their hearts will be turned away from following the God of Israel, and they will serve other gods. The penalty for doing this is to destroy those who turn from Him and His covenant of Torah. If you keep the covenant of Torah, He will love you to a thousand generations. Moses closes this part with the command to be careful to follow and live out the Torah in our lives that the Holy One gave to us. We cannot use the excuse that we are not born into Israel because we are all part of Israel by faith in Messiah Yeshua and following the Torah. The intent of the Torah is to make us aware we have a covenant with our Creator, and He expects a certain lifestyle that relates to being part of His people. He allows those outside of Israel to become part of Israel by faith in Messiah, repenting of our sins, and we are grafted into an Israel that is both physical and spiritual.

Nehemiah 1:5 I said, "I beseech You, O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who preserves the covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments. (NAU)

He has already made the first move by giving us His covenant to show us what He expects from us and what He considers to be sin. Once we understand we are sinners, we can ask for forgiveness for our sins by coming before His Son Yeshua. By asking for forgiveness for our sins and living a life based on Torah, we are promised the gift of eternal life in the *Olam Haba* or the World to Come. We are living in a day and time that anything could happen by prophecies we read in the Bible. Could these prophecies happen in our day, or are they for something that will happen at a future time? Whatever the outcome will be, we must be ready, and I do not mean ready in the way of stocking food, water, etc. I mean we must make sure we are right with the Almighty and have received His gift of redemption through the forgiveness of our sins by His Son Messiah Yeshua.

Isaiah/Yeshayahu 40:1-5

1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. **2** Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. **3** A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. **4** Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. **5** And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." (ESV)

The Holy One of Israel loves His people Israel. Right now, Israel is represented by the Jewish people, who are composed of remnants of the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, some of Levi, and the other tribes, but that is far from all of Israel. They are only a remnant, and there are many others who are out there having been seeded among the nations for their sins against God. Physical Israel is there in the Middle East seated among its many enemies, yet sometimes there are strange bedfellows, as with Israel, Saudi Arabia, and some other Arab countries. They are serving a purpose with possible redemption through

Yeshua once the eyes of the Jewish people are opened no matter where they live all over the world. It's quite possible that as anti-Semitism rises throughout the world, as it is beginning to, that this will begin to open the eyes of not just the Jewish people but those of the nations as well.

Psalm 68:5 Sing to God, sing praises to his name; extol him who rides on the clouds by his name, *Yah*; and be glad in his presence. (CJB)

Yah would be the singular form of His name, while others believe the complete name is pronounced as *Yahweh* or *Yahveh*. Recently, some have said His name is Yehovah. I have no idea. My question is this: Why is it so important that we know the name of the Almighty? Is this as important as reciting the sinner's prayer to ask forgiveness for one's sins. Is there a special way to receive salvation from Messiah Yeshua? Everything is a guideline, but basically, we are to learn from reading the Torah what God considers to be sin. You will be very surprised at what God says is sin versus what man's law says is and isn't. Sin is why we require redemption, and the standard is by Torah, not man's laws. Israel was to live by the Torah given by the Holy One to Moses to teach to Israel. Those of us who are trying to live according to His rules find ourselves as a minority. Whether from the Jewish people or from the nations, we all must follow the same covenant as shown to us in the Torah and confirmed by the rest of the Bible.

2 Peter/Shimon 3:8-10

8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. (ESV)

We can take this passage from 2 Peter and go right back to our passage from the Torah reading for this week. The Almighty created time, but He dwells outside of it because His plan involves us, His creation, and we are placed within the confines of this time line, so His plan can play itself out. His covenant moves from one generation to another giving everyone the opportunity to repent and receive forgiveness, but as many that receive the gift, many more have turned away from it. As we advance as a society technologically, we are regressing as a caring people following what the Messiah Yeshua taught us to do. What He taught us through His teachings are straight from the Torah. The foundation for all of Scripture is based on Torah, the first five books of the Bible.

Psalm 90:4 For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. (Psa 90:4 ESV)

A thousand years has been a reference point in the Bible. There will be a thousand years of the Messianic Age before time begins to wind down. Once time winds down, everything must be set right before eternity takes over and the physical and the spiritual merge into what was always meant to be. Sadly, so many will be left out, but there is still time for

those of you who do not know Messiah Yeshua to repent of your sins. If you do not know what sins you have done, just read the Torah, the first five books of the Bible, and then move on to the rest of the Bible to learn about what God has planned and what part we play in this, and Satan, and the Messiah Yeshua.

Salvation is waiting, my friends. All you have to do is reach out, grab hold of it, and ask Yeshua for forgiveness because He died for all of our sins so we could have eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven right here on the earth. A new heaven and a new earth. What else could you ask? Redemption for our loved ones? Pray! Pray as hard as you can for them to find salvation before it is too late. The clock is ticking, and time is running out.

Torah Man says: "He who ceases to be your friend never was a good one."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

Mordecai Silver

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The business card features a logo with a tree and the text "etz chayim" in a stylized font, with "Tree of Life Messianic Ministries" written below it. The card is divided into sections of light purple, light orange, and dark orange. Contact information for Rabbi Mordecai Silver, Ph.D. is provided, including telephone, fax, website, and email addresses, as well as the physical address in Organ, New Mexico.

etz chayim
Tree of Life Messianic Ministries

Rabbi Mordecai Silver, Ph.D.

Tel: (866) 874-7250
Fax: (866) 800-2390
www.etz-chayim.org
tolmm@etz-chayim.org

P.O.Box 467, Organ, New Mexico. 88052

