



Message 7-14-18
Matot-Tribes
Numbers 30:2-32:42

Masei-Journeys of
Numbers 33:1-36:13
Jeremiah 2:4-28, 3:4
Romans 1:18-23

Introduction

This week we have the two final positions from the book of Numbers or Bamidbar. We are rapidly heading to the close of another cycle. How often do we face acts of injustice or callousness with silence? A derogatory joke in our presence, an act of selfishness or cruelty, or simply reading about political oppression in our newspapers – all these instances summon us to choose a side. We can either verbalize our opposition immediately, or, through our silence, become allies of the act or words we abhor. There is no neutrality. Silence is assent.

Amid the world we live in, we, too, need to remember our eternal calling – to sanctify the Holy One of Israel in the midst of the people.

Numbers 33:50-56

50 And the LORD spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho, saying, ⁵¹ "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you pass over the Jordan into the land of Canaan, ⁵² then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you and destroy all their figured stones and destroy all their metal images and demolish all their high places. ⁵³ And you shall take possession of the land and settle in it, for I have given the land to you to possess it. ⁵⁴ You shall inherit the land by lot according to your clans. To a large tribe you shall give a large inheritance, and to a small tribe you shall give a small inheritance. Wherever the lot falls for anyone, that shall be his. According to the tribes of your fathers you shall inherit. ⁵⁵ But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then those of them whom you let remain shall be as barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall trouble you in the land where you dwell. ⁵⁶ And I will do to you as I thought to do to them." (ESV)

The Lord instructed Israel to drive out the inhabitants of the land once they entered. Israel did not accomplish what the Lord instructed them to do, and they have paid a price for that down to this day. Today, Israel does not inhabit anything close to what the Lord had given to them, and back in Joshua's day, they were to also destroy any idol worship and pagan worship places they found, and they did not accomplish that as shown to us in

Scripture during the time of the kings. By not being able to do this, the Israelites found themselves being pulled down and into idolatry repeatedly. Today, Israel finds itself, like the rest of the world, at a crossroads following either Satan or the Creator and His Son Yeshua. Satan has no intention in redeeming anyone. In fact, he cannot redeem anyone because his intention is to pull away whoever he can from God. There is a war going on right now in the spiritual realm that crosses over into the physical plane of existence where we live. We are the pawns in a chess game that is taking place. The one redeeming quality we have is that the Holy One is always one step or more ahead of the Adversary.

The one thing we must keep in mind is not to fall into the trap set by the enemy that draws us away from the Messiah Yeshua. He will do anything, and I mean anything, to turn us away from the source of our salvation. The way the world is now, we are just beginning to get a taste of what is coming in the last days. Some have believed we have been in the last days since Yeshua ascended to the Father over two thousand years ago. Events that have taken place in history seem to bear that out, but are we in the latter days getting ready to enter the tribulation time or even the great tribulation?

The Lord God Almighty did not hand the Promised Land to the Israelites. They had to fight for it showing us we must fight for our salvation and our relationship with Yeshua. We must constantly be on guard against the lies of the enemy and the testing the Almighty brings our way. To be one of His children, you must want it more than anything else in the world.

Jeremiah 2:9-13

9 "Therefore I still contend with you, declares the LORD, and with your children's children I will contend. ¹⁰ For cross to the coasts of Cyprus and see or send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has been such a thing. ¹¹ Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit. ¹² Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, ¹³ for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water. (ESV)

The prophet Jeremiah was not one that was welcomed by the people. His message was one of *teshuvah* for the people. *Teshuvah* means to turn back to the Lord. From what are turning back? To begin with, you are turning back from turning away from Him. Jeremiah spoke to the people and told them they had turned away from the glory the Lord had given to them as His covenant people. They had turned away from Him and turned to idols. Idols are the work of Satan to draw people away from God. He wants to be God and believes He should be not only God but the redeemer as well. He led one-third of the heavenly host in rebellion against their Creator and wound up being cast out of heaven down to the earth where they live today bringing havoc to our lives. Instead of embracing the God who gives us living water to quench our spiritual thirst, we have made cisterns that are broken and cannot hold the living water. Instead these cisterns, which are us, hold the lies of the Adversary and do not give us water to quench our thirst.

Romans 1:18-23

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So, they are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. (ESV)

We must learn how to differentiate between what God has made for us and what Satan tries to pervert. If we do not learn how to tell the difference and to give ourselves over to Messiah, we will be lost forever. Redemption is a gift from the Father to us through His Son Yeshua. When the wrath of God is poured out upon mankind, all hell will break loose upon the earth. In many ways, it seems like that today, but what we are seeing now is just the beginning of what may very well be the beginning of the end. Are you ready for what is coming? Have you made peace between yourself and your maker? Are you on the road that leads to Messiah or on the one that may bring you face to face with the Adversary, and you don't even know it.

In the United States, as it is in other countries, we place too much emphasis on to what political party one belongs. In the scheme of things, do you really believe the Holy One of Israel, the Creator of the universe, belongs to a political party? Is salvation found through a political party? To what party does Yeshua belong? Did He belong to one when He walked the earth over two-thousand years ago? Focus on the covenant we have with the Father through the Son. That covenant, Torah, belongs only to those who willingly enter it by faith in Messiah Yeshua. Man's creation cannot save, only God can.

Torah Man says: "Promises may get friends, but it is performances that keep them."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

Mordecai Silver

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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

