



Message 7-21-18
Devarim-Words
Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22
Isaiah 1:1-27
Matthew 3:7-12

Introduction

Here we are beginning the final book of the Torah once again. As we have noted before, this book is Moses' farewell address to the Children of Israel. Moses knew he would not be entering the promised land in this life, so he needed to prepare Israel for this and the coming transfer of power from himself to Joshua.

God is one. And, thank God, the Torah has many paths. As you walk along your path to God, remember to reach out a hand. That way, we'll all get there together.

Deuteronomy 3:12-13, 18-20

12 "When we took possession of this land at that time, I gave to the Reubenites and the Gadites the territory beginning at Aroer, which is on the edge of the Valley of the Arnon, and half the hill country of Gilead with its cities. ¹³ The rest of Gilead, and all Bashan, the kingdom of Og, that is, all the region of Argob, I gave to the half-tribe of Manasseh. (All that portion of Bashan is called the land of Rephaim. **18** "And I commanded you at that time, saying, 'The LORD your God has given you this land to possess. All your men of valor shall cross over armed before your brothers, the people of Israel. ¹⁹ Only your wives, your little ones, and your livestock (I know that you have much livestock) shall remain in the cities that I have given you, ²⁰ until the LORD gives rest to your brothers, as to you, and they also occupy the land that the LORD your God gives them beyond the Jordan. Then each of you may return to his possession which I have given you.' (ESV)

Israel is now on the verge of entering the Promised Land. What a moment this must have been for this new generation that had grown up during the years of the wilderness wanderings. How exciting it must have been for them to know that the promise between Israel and the Holy One was about to happen. The promise He made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was about to come to fruition. Moses had led Israel for the past forty years, and He had finally brought the nation to the land they had only dreamed about for forty years. Moses knew he would not enter the land with the people. He had disobeyed the Almighty because of his anger with the people at the waters of Meribah.

Numbers 27:12 The LORD said to Moses, "Go up into this mountain of Abarim and see the land that I have given to the people of Israel. ¹³ When you have seen it, you also shall be gathered to your people, as your brother Aaron was, ¹⁴ because you rebelled against

my word in the wilderness of Zin when the congregation quarreled, failing to uphold me as holy at the waters before their eyes." (These are the waters of Meribah of Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.) (ESV)

The Holy One of Israel holds His leaders to a higher level of accountability as shown to us here in the book of Numbers. As a congregational leader, I take to heart what happened to Moses in being denied what he had strived for during the past forty years. He had faithfully followed the Almighty's instructions in forming a nation whose foundation was based on being slaves. These people did not just contend with Moses, but through Moses they contended with their Creator. They paid a heavy price for their disobedience. Leaders pay an even higher price as in the case of Moses. But in the end, we know that Moses' work serving the Almighty was rewarded because on the Mount of Transfiguration, we read about the Messiah, in all of His glory, and Elijah and Moses standing there speaking with Him about what was coming Yeshua's way through the crucifixion and possibly His resurrection. Moses had finally made it into the Promised Land. Maybe not in this life but in the life to come. His service to the Holy One was not for nothing, and I will never believe that Moses ever thought it was.

Joshua 22:4 And now the LORD your God has given rest to your brothers, as he promised them. Therefore, turn and go to your tents in the land where your possession lies, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you on the other side of the Jordan. (ESV)

Joshua was releasing the tribes of Ruben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh to go the land Moses had given to them for an inheritance once they had completed helping their brethren take the Promised Land. Sadly, we know that Israel never fully conquered all the land that had been given to them, but perhaps it was not meant to be because Israel needed to be tested beyond the generation that helped take the land. The Almighty had told Moses that Israel would fall away from following the covenant of Torah, which Moses had received from the Almighty and taught to Israel. As we know from the book of Deuteronomy, the covenant of Torah was not just for the generation standing there the day Moses reconfirmed the covenant with Israel but for every generation who would come after them.

Isaiah 1:21-27

21 How the faithful city has become a whore, she who was full of justice! Righteousness lodged in her, but now murderers. ²² Your silver has become dross, your best wine mixed with water. ²³ Your princes are rebels and companions of thieves. Everyone loves a bribe and runs after gifts. They do not bring justice to the fatherless, and the widow's cause does not come to them. ²⁴ Therefore the Lord declares, the LORD of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel: "Ah, I will get relief from my enemies and avenge myself on my foes. ²⁵ I will turn my hand against you and will smelt away your dross as with lye and remove all your alloy. ²⁶ And I will restore your judges as at the first, and your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness, the faithful city." ²⁷ Zion shall be redeemed by justice, and those in her who repent, by righteousness. (ESV)

Malachi 3:3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. (ESV)

When I look at the world as it is now, I see it through the lens of this passage from Isaiah and from the other books of the prophets. The world is teetering on the brink right at this moment in time, but I cannot say this is the beginning of the time of tribulation. All we can do is pray that we are ready for whatever is coming, we will stand by our faith in Messiah Yeshua, and walk the walk He showed us when He walked this earth over two thousand years ago. He set the example for all mankind by His sacrifice through which we have all been redeemed and offered the gift of eternal life. It is not about what political party you belong. Yeshua did not belong to a political party because politics does not play any part in the work He was sent to do by His heavenly Father. The world is on the brink of possible all out conflict, and Israel and Iran are battling in Syria because Iran has troops there right on their border. Russia has attempted to intercede to get Iran to move back, but so far Iran has not responded except to state they are staying put having finally gained the foothold they have desired.

The verse from Malachi is speaking about Yeshua when He returns as King over all the nations. He will refine the nations and Israel. Even His covenant people will need refining. He will refine Levi and offerings will be brought to the Lord by way of the Son, Yeshua. We must not be afraid about what may be coming. We must hold fast to our faith in Messiah as He held fast to faith in His Father.

Matthew 3:7-12

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his immersion, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ "I immerse you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will immerse you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." (ESV)

John the Immerser was the forerunner of Messiah Yeshua. They were related through their mothers, and Yochanan or John knew Yeshua while both were in their mother's wombs. John paved the way for Yeshua by immersing in water. He prepared the way for Yeshua to come to immerse in the Ruach HaKodesh/the Holy Spirit. His immersion would be by Spirit and fire to refine those who walk in His covenant and to be immersed into life through the joining of their sinful natures with His because He took our sins upon Himself and bore the ultimate sacrifice one friend could make for another – death. He died and took our sins with Him, and three days later the Father raised Him from the grave and restored Him to His rightful place at His side until the day comes when He sends Him back at the head of His army to take back the earth and all of creation the Adversary

stained by his touch and that of his followers. That time is coming, my friends. Are you ready?

Torah Man says: "Choose your friends for what they are, and not by what they have."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

Mordecai Silver

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