

Message 8-11-18 Reeh-See Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17 Isaiah 54:11-55:5 Galatians 4:21-31

Introduction

Parashah *Reeh* bids us "rejoice before the Lord our God." Our faith should cause us to recognize joy as the most fitting response to God's abundant love. As the prophet Joel exclaimed, "Rejoice and be glad, for the Lord has done great things."

Deuteronomy 11:8-18

26 "See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: ²⁷ the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, ²⁸ and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way that I am commanding you today, to go after other gods that you have not known. (Deut. 11:26 ESV)

A condition of the covenant between Israel and the Lord is they are to keep the whole commandment and go in and take possession of the land. When they lived in Egypt, they had to plant the seed and irrigate the crops to be able to get food. In the Promised Land, the Almighty watches over the land and provides rain in its due season. Once again, Moses tells the people they are keep the Torah, to love the Almighty, and serve Him with all their heart and soul. If they do this, He will give them the early rain and the latter rain, so they can gather in their grain and wine and oil. There will be grass for their livestock, but there is a condition to this covenant, and that is they are not to be deceived and turn away from their God to serve other gods and worship them. If Israel falls into this trap, the rains will stop, there will be no fruit, and the people will perish off the land. We know this



happened several times in Israel's history, and while they are back in the land today, it is not all of the land that the Holy One had promised to them. Neither do they follow the Torah of God, rather they follow the teachings of men. Many have turned away from the Torah that Moses received from the Almighty and are like empty shells with nothing on the inside.

The Torah fills us with understanding what it is the Creator desires from us. This, in turn, helps to bring us closer to Him and Him closer to us. In return, He fills us with His *Ruach HaKodesh,* so we can begin to understand His teachings which points the way to redemption through the sacrifice of His Son Yeshua.

Psalm 119:2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, ³ who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! (ESV)

Once again, we are told that those who are His witnesses and keep His Torah will be able to walk in His ways, not our ways. We need to seek Him with our whole heart. This means we are to give ourselves over to Him by accepting the gift His Son, Yeshua, offers to us. He died to set us free from our sins which lead to death. He has paid the penalty through His sacrificial death and in His resurrection three days later to fulfill the Festivals of Passover, Unleavened Bread, and First Fruits. Everything that exists He made through His Son and for His Son. So, we were created through the Son to be His from the beginning. We are the ones who strayed off course. He never strayed and has stayed the way to be light for us in the darkness. No matter how bad the days ahead might get, He will be there for us to see us through it all. There will be bad times along with good times. We are to stay on the right path and be a light to others who need help along the way.

Psalm 119:34 Give me understanding; then I will keep your *Torah*; I will observe it with all my heart. (CJB)

Do we need to understand the Torah to keep it? Isn't there some parts of it that we do understand that we should be keeping? We will not understand all the Torah until Messiah



comes to teach us, but the *Ruach* will be there to help us understand what we need to know. If we lay down an ultimatum that says we will follow the Torah once we understand it, it is like when Jacob was willing to make the Holy One his God if He came through for him. This is like a child trying to trick his parents into doing what they want them to do when the parent knows they are being manipulated. Do you really think the Almighty does not know what you are trying to do?

Isaiah 54:1-5

1 "Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married," says the LORD. ² "Enlarge the place of your tent and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. ³ For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left, and your offspring will possess the nations and will people the desolate cities. ⁴ "Fear not, for you will not be ashamed; be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more. ⁵ For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. (ESV)

His people will grow, spread out, and the tent under which they gather will need to be enlarged. Israel is to be a light, and all that has befallen them before this time will be forgotten, their shame will be gone, and widowhood will vanish as we fulfill the covenant our Maker, our husband, who is the Lord of hosts, made with His people. His people are Israel, but Israel is more than just twelve tribes born of a certain bloodline. There will be those removed from the tree that is Israel, and others will be added to the tree that is Israel. Our Husband, Yeshua, is the Holy One of Israel and our Redeemer. He is the God of the whole earth. Everyone will fall down on their knees before Him as He turns the throne over to His Father and takes His rightful place by His side.

Galatians 4:21-31

21 Tell me, you who want to be in subjection to the system that results from perverting the Torah into legalism, don't you hear what the Torah itself says? ²² It says that Avraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and one by the free woman. ²³ The one by the slave woman was born according to the limited capabilities of human beings, but the one by the free woman was born through the miracle-working power of God fulfilling his promise. ²⁴ Now, to make a *midrash* on these things: the two women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai and bears children for slavery- this is Hagar. ²⁵ Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Yerushalayim, for she serves as a slave along with her children. ²⁶ But the Yerushalayim above is free, and she is our mother; ²⁷ for the Tanakh says, "Rejoice, you barren woman who does not bear children! Break forth and shout, you who are not in labor! For the deserted wife will have more children than the one whose husband is with her!" ²⁸ You, brothers, like Yitz'chak, are children referred to in a promise of God. ²⁹ But just as then the one born according to limited human capability persecuted the one born through the Spirit's supernatural power, so it is now. ³⁰ Nevertheless, what does the *Tanakh* say? "Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for by no means will the son of the slave woman inherit along with the son of the free woman!" ³¹ So, brothers, we are children not of the slave woman, but of the free woman. (CJB)

What is it the Apostle Paul is trying to teach us? Abraham had two sons. One, Ishmael, was born to a slave woman, while the other son, Isaac, was born to a free woman. The one had limited understanding of what the Almighty desired because he could not see what the future held for him, and he was limited in his bondage. The other son was free and had the understanding to be able to see the promises of the Holy One that had been given to his father Abraham. These two sons and their mothers represented two covenants. One for here and the other from above. One was intended to teach us how to live according to the restrictions of this earthly life, while the other would free us to be able to embrace everything our Creator wanted to give to us.

We are the children of promise and the wife of the Son of God. We are not bound to this earth doomed to die and be buried in the dust in which we had been created. When our father, Adam, was created from the dust of the ground, the Almighty was telling us that if we turned from His Torah, the Torah that set us free, we would be bound to the earth

forever doomed to return to it never to rise again. So, who are we? The Apostle Paul tells us: *"We are children not of the slave woman, but of the free woman."* We are the sons and daughters of Torah, the Torah given from above written by the finger of God.

Torah Man says: "God provides food for every bird, but He does not place it in their nest."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

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