



Message 11-10-18
Toldot-Generations
Genesis 25:19-28:9
Malachi 1:1-2:7
Galatians 4:1-7

Introduction

Forced to live a nomadic life by the Philistines, Isaac must move from place to place. As God once blessed his father, Abraham, in Beersheba, so God blesses Isaac there. One of the most repeated verses in the Torah is: *You shall have one Torah for yourself and the stranger who dwells in your midst.*

Genesis 26:1-6

1 Now there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Gerar to Abimelech king of the Philistines. **2** And the LORD appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you. **3** Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. **4** I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring, all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, **5** because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my teachings (*Torahs*)." **6** So Isaac settled in Gerar. (ESV)

The Holy One of Israel continually promises that the lands where he dwells will be given to him and to his descendants. He will multiply Abraham's offspring, and that is an interesting point because he will only have one son, Isaac, but through Jacob things change. He tells Abraham through his offspring all the nations of the earth will be blessed. Why – because Abraham obeyed the Almighty's voice, kept His charge, his commandments, his statutes and His teachings which in Hebrew is Torah. Abraham kept all the Torah as given to him by God. Did Abraham receive the same Torah that Moses did, or did he receive the Torah that was pertinent to his walk in his times living in the land where God blessed him and Isaac. The nations living in the land saw how Abraham's God blessed him, and they respected him for that. When we read the story of Abimelech, king of the Philistines, we see how Isaac follows in his father's footsteps and lies about who his wife is, the same as Abraham had when he had gone down to Egypt during a drought. The Lord reveals to Abimelech who Rebecca really is and forbids him from having any relationship with her. Abimelech sends for Isaac, asks him why he did what he did, and Isaac answers him as to why.

Abimelech gives gifts to Isaac, tells him to leave his land, and get away from them. Isaac followed in the footsteps of his father in the lie but still did his best to walk in the ways of the teachings of his father, the Torah they had. It doesn't matter how much of Torah they had, we are told they had Torah. This runs right along with the fact that we see Torah being practiced pre-Moses all the way back to Cain and Abel. It is obvious Seth knew the Torah and passed it on to his descendants with those who chose to who would walk in its ways. We become very detailed oriented when we get to Moses and the forty years in the wilderness. The obvious question we would ask is what was different about the Torah that those who came before Moses had and what Moses received, or was it because the Hebrews had spent all those years in Egypt losing knowledge of the covenant that now had to be given anew because it has been forgotten by most of the Hebrews.

The Almighty did not forget His people and had prepared the way through those who came before Moses going back to the accepted patriarchs of Israel, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For me, I see this going all the way back to Seth and those who are descended from him like Enoch, Shem, and possibly Japheth. Our God keeps His covenant alive even after Adam and Chavah break it. They receive their punishments as befits breaking the Holy One's covenant, much the same as others would, even those of us trying to walk in Torah today. It is not an easy way to walk, so imagine how it must have been for Abraham and Isaac living in a land that had been promised to them and to their descendants but seeing all the Torahlessness going on all around them. Lot chose to live in the city of Sodom despite the sin that permeated the place and other cities that were nearby. It seemed to be the sin central in Biblical days in a land that God holds dear to Himself, and Satan seems hell bent on taking it away from Him.

Isaac is the bridge between Abraham and Jacob, but yet he stands on his own as a man of God who does not simply inherit the promise of his father Abraham but obeyed his Creator as best as he could being an active participant when the Almighty called Abraham to bring Isaac to the place He would show him to offer him as a sacrifice. Isaac did not have to obey his father, but he trusted his father and obeyed him, no matter what would happen. We tend to spend a lot of time on Abraham because of the time the story spends on his participation in the event, but we should never lose sight of Isaac and his story.

Malachi 2:4-6

4 So shall you know that I have sent this command to you, that my covenant with Levi may stand, says the LORD of hosts. ⁵ My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of fear, and he feared me. He stood in awe of my name. ⁶ True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity. (ESV)

The tribe of Levi was blessed by the Almighty for stepping up when Moses asked for someone to come forward to stand up for the Almighty at the sin of the Golden Calf. It would be given to the line of Aaron the priesthood, while the rest of Levi would serve in the Tabernacle and then in the Temple as a blessing for what they did to show Israel the depth of their sin. It would then be entrusted to the priests to teach the Torah to the people

and watch over the kings of Israel that they write a copy of the Torah for themselves in which to rule Israel. When man believes he knows better than his Creator, then we are in real trouble, and that is exactly where the world finds itself today. This journey towards the end has been going on for some time, but it seems to be picking up speed. I don't know exactly what it is that is making it feel that way, but I have always wondered what the people were feeling and seeing in Yeshua's day that a heightened anticipation of the coming of the Messiah was being felt by the people. The Levites guarded the Name of the Holy One, walked with Him in peace, and taught Torah to the people. By Yeshua's day, the Levites had veered off course as did the nation of Israel itself. Instead of faith in God, it became faith in man. I am sure you can see the difference.

Galatians 4:1-7

1 I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, ² but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. ³ In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the Torah, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the Torah, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. (ESV)

Many times, there are those who believe much of what the Apostle Paul had to do with putting the Torah aside when he uses the Torah as his reference point to teach about the covenant that was made with Israel. The Almighty refers to Israel as the Children of Israel, indicating they are under the covenant of Torah to understand the way the things of the world bring us into bondage. However, when the time was right, He brought His Son, who had been born under the Torah to redeem those who were under the Torah freeing them from salvation by Torah which is impossible. The Torah was meant to teach His children, so they would find salvation by the blood of the Lamb of the Father – Yeshua. As His children come to redemption, it is because under Torah they became aware of the fact they had sinned according to the Almighty's instructions.

Then, they brought the nations into the covenant because first Israel received adoption apart from Torah, but Torah guided them in God's ways. Then the nations became sons and daughters through the same adoption Israel entered as those who had come before Israel found adoption by the redemption of the Messiah, who has been with the Father from the very beginning before anything was created. In this we gain our freedom and are no longer slaves to sin as defined by Torah, but now we are the sons and daughters of the Father through the sacrifice of the Son as pictured in Abraham and Isaac.

Torah Man says, "God wants men, but He does not need them; Men need God, but they do not want Him."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

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