



## **TOLMM WEEKLY NEWSLETTER for 3-2-24 KI TISSA**

### ***Ministry News***

***IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU WOULD LIKE PEOPLE ON THE LIST TO PRAY FOR YOU CAN SEND THEM TO US AT [TOLMM@ETZ-CHAYIM.ORG](mailto:TOLMM@ETZ-CHAYIM.ORG) OR BY TEXT MESSAGE TO 575 644-7706 AND I WILL SEND THEM BY EMAIL ONLY.***

Remember that you can support the work of Tree of Life Messianic Ministries with a donation made via PayPal or by check to PO Box 467, Organ, NM 88052. Your donation helps our continued outreach to inmates and the time it takes to put this Newsletter together.

**Donate**



**Tree of Life Messianic Ministries is a 501 C-3 non-profit. To donate go to [etz-chayim.org](http://etz-chayim.org) and click on the PayPal or Venmo Link.**

**Tree of Life Messianic Ministries primarily focuses on its Prison Ministry and helping form groups in the prisons. TOLMM also seeks to help Home Groups and offers a covering for Home Groups and the combined experience of leadership**

from Rabbi Philip Hammond and Rabbi Mordecai Silver. Group leaders can receive recognition as Elders under TOLMM, which will help in an advisory role. Your support is needed for the Prison Ministry due to continuing rising costs. We now have an Affiliate in Australia.

## ***HOME GROUPS, CONGREGATIONS AND PEOPLE SEEKING FELLOWSHIP...***

Shawn Warren lives in Arizona. If you know of someone who is looking for a group in that area, please let me know and I will send the information to Shawn. Elder Shawn Warren is an Elder affiliated with TOLMM and helps with one-on-one correspondence with inmates in our Prison Ministry Outreach. He also encourages people to contact us about affiliating with TOLMM through Home Groups and our help to group leaders.

Elder Gabriel Martinez has a home group in El Paso. If interested let me know and I will send him the information. Gabriel is an Elder affiliated with TOLMM as is his Home Group, Ohr Ha'Brit Messianic Torah Assembly.

There is a Home Group in Las Cruces. For more information email [tolmm@etz-chayim.org](mailto:tolmm@etz-chayim.org).

Elder Michael and Gayle Michelucci are forming a new Home Group in Idaho.

Rabbi Phillip Hammond has a Zoom Bible Study and a Erev Shabbat and Shabbat Service on Zoom Friday evening and Saturday morning at 11:00am. Rabbi Hammond is in Australia and the time difference would be 5:00pm Friday Mountain Time. Rabbi Hammond is looking into starting a men's group focused in the United States. You can contact Rabbi Hammond at [Philip@etz-chayim.org](mailto:Philip@etz-chayim.org). Rabbi Hammond is now affiliated with Rabbi Mordecai Silver and his ministry, Tree of Life Messianic Ministries. Check out Rabbi Hammond at <https://www.etz-chayim.org/australia-affiliate/>.

We thank you for your support. Blessings in Messiah Yeshua, Rabbi Mordecai Silver, Ph. D., and Rabbi Philip Hammond, Ph.D. and our team

## ***General News***

TO SEARCH FOR RABBI SILVER BOOKS ON AMAZON ENTER “**BOOKS BY RAV MORDECAI SILVER**”. MINE ARE AVAILABLE IN PRINT FORMAT ONLY. I HAVE TWO NEW BOOKS ON AMAZON: RAV SHA’UL AND REFLECTIONS ON TORAH. TO SEE MORDECAI’S BOOKS, GO TO: [HTTPS://WWW.ETZ-CHAYIM.ORG/SHOP-OUR-STORE/PRINT-AND-KINDLE-BOOKS/](https://www.etz-chayim.org/shop-our-store/print-and-kindle-books/)

**RABBI MORDECAI HAS A NEW BOOK AVAILABLE. IT IS A SPANISH TRANSLATION OF THE TORAH IS VALID: THE COVENANT OF ISRAEL. IT’S AVAILABLE ON AMAZON.**

FOR RABBI HAMMOND’S BOOK, **HIS PERFECT GRACE**, GO TO AMAZON.COM AS WELL.

CHECK OUT RABBI MORDECAI SILVER’S 3 YEARS OF VIDEO TEACHINGS ON THE TORAH PORTIONS AND FESTIVALS ON YOUTUBE.

WE HAVE 7 PRISON AFFILIATES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES.

# **MESSIANIC TEACHING ON THE WEEKLY TORAH, HAFTARAH, AND APOSTOLIC SCRIPTURE PORTIONS...**



Rabbi Mordecai Silver [tolmm@etz-chayim.org](mailto:tolmm@etz-chayim.org)

## **MESSAGE FOR 3-2-24 KI TISSA-WHEN YOU ELEVATE**

**KI TISA - WHEN YOU ELEVATE**

*Shemoth 30:11-34:35*

*I Kings 18:1-39*

*I Corinthians 8:4-13*

*Exodus 32:30-33: And it came to be on the next day that Mosheh said to the people, "You, you have sinned a great sin. And now I am going up to Adonai - if I might atone for your sin." And Mosheh returned to Adonai and said, "Oh, these people have sinned a great sin, and have made for themselves a mighty one of gold! And now, if You would forgive their sin, but if not, please blot me out of Your book which You have written. And Adonai said to Mosheh, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I blot him out of My book.*

*Verse 9-10: And Adonai said to Mosheh, "I have seen this people, and see, it is a stiff-necked people! And now, let Me alone, that My wrath might burn against them, and I consume them, and I make of you a great nation."*

***1 Kings 18:21: And Eliyahu came to all the people, and said, "How long would you keep hopping between two opinions? If Adonai is Elohim, follow Him; and if Ba'al, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.***

We see the similarity here between Moses' Israel and Eliyahu's Israel. Turning to what they could see was the easy way. Trusting in Yahveh that had already performed miracles for them, but they could not see, was the hard way.

***Verses 37-39: Answer me, O Adonai, answer me, and let this people know that You are Adonai Elohim, and You shall turn their hearts back to You again." Then the fire of Adonai fell and consumed the burnt offering, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. And all the people saw, and fell on their faces, and said, "Adonai, He is the Elohim! Adonai, He is the Elohim!"***

At this point in the life of Eliyahu, he was the last prophet of Yahveh left alive. He was one man against 850 prophets of Ba'al and Asherah. One man of Yahveh against overwhelming odds.

***1 Corinthians 8:4: We know that an idol is no matter at all in the world, and that there is no other Elohim but one.***

Confirmation of YAHVEH's power as we see in Exodus and 1 Kings. No god of man is more powerful than Yahveh Himself.

***Verse 5: For even if there are so-called mighty ones, whether in heaven or on earth-as there are many mighty ones and many masters-Verse 6: For us there is one Elohim, the Father, from whom all came and for whom we live, and one Master Y'shua Messiah, through whom all came and through whom we live. Verse 7: However, not all have this knowledge. But some, being aware of the idol, until now eat it as having been offered to an idol, so their conscience, being weak, is defiled.***

***Verse 10: For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's place, shall not his conscience, if he is weak, be built up to eat food offered to idols?***

***Verse 11: So, this weak brother, for whom Messiah died, shall perish through***

***your knowledge! Verse 12: Now sinning in this way against the brothers, and wounding their weak conscience, you sin against Messiah.***

***Genesis 4:9: And Adonai said to Qayin, "Where is Hebel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's guard?"***

Yes, we are our brother's keeper. We have a responsibility, according to the knowledge of Messiah that we hold, to share that knowledge with our brothers. Because if we don't, we will be held accountable. Do we want to hear from Yahveh the following from Genesis 4:10?

***And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.***

Do you want to be the stumbling block that causes anyone to not learn of Messiah?

***In 1 Corinthians 8:9: But look to it, lest somehow this right of yours become a stumbling-block to those who are weak.***

We all have a responsibility regarding the knowledge that we each have of the Messiah Y'shua. If we don't choose to share with others that knowledge, we will be held accountable.

Moses, Elijah, Paul and all those great men and women of Yahveh knew this responsibility. They knew that they had to be examples of Yahveh and Y'shua. Because if they stood up and cried to the world that they were servants of the Living Yahveh and then lived as the rest of mankind did, worshipping the idols of this world, and their actions caused another to perish because of them. Then they would be held accountable.

We are our brother's keeper. Yahveh meant it to be that way. We are called the family of Yahveh. We are called the children of Yahveh.

We have this promise if we do the work that we have been called to in Him.

***Romans 8:17: And if children, also heirs - truly heirs of Elohim, and co-heirs with Messiah, if indeed we suffer with Him, in order that we also be exalted together.***

***Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Elijah, David, Paul, Peter, all of these great servants of Yahveh knew the promise. They chose the way of Yahveh rather than the way of man.***

---

We include a Traditional Torah Commentary and my Messianic Commentary. The reason for this is so you can see a Messianic Perspective and a Traditional Jewish one. Remember to use discernment in approaching Traditional Jewish teachings as they do not recognize Yeshua as the Messiah. There are various ideas in traditional Jewish circles about the Messiah and even that there is no Messiah, the thinking in Reform Judaism. So, please be careful to balance the teachings.

We do not agree with the Jewish position on Yeshua, but Believers need to know the Jewish thinking on Yeshua and not buy into this thinking and forsake faith in our Messiah. For those who say they would never do this, we must beg to differ, because we have seen it over our lives as Jewish Believer's in Yeshua. We have been Believer's in Messiah Yeshua for decades. We have seen a lot and had many discussions with our fellow Jews and non-Jews who ultimately turned away from Yeshua because they steeped themselves in Jewish teachings. One does not come out of either traditional Judaism or Christianity and come into the Messianic walk, and then going back, or into, traditional Judaism. *There are many good things in Judaism but denying Yeshua as Messiah is not one of them.* Berachot (Blessings), Rabbi Mordecai Silver, Ph.D., and Rabbi Philip Hammond, Ph.D.

## ***A TRADITIONAL JEWISH PARASHAH AND HAFTARAH COMMENTARY***



# Parashat Ki Tisa: Summary

*Exodus-Shemot 30:11-34:35*

***God continues describing the Tabernacle to Moses; the people worship the Golden Calf, Moses pleads on their behalf, and God forgives them.***

God was with Moses on Mount Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights. God had already commanded Moses how to build a Tent of Appointed Meeting for God. This Dwelling Place was a moveable holy sanctuary where the people can bring offerings to God. Priests were to wear special garments and wash before officiating in this sanctuary. Each person, rich and poor, was to donate half shekel to finance the service in the sanctuary.

“As for you, Moses,” God continued, “take the finest spices and the finest olive oil and make a holy anointment. You shall anoint the Tent of Appointed Meeting, the Ark of the Testimony and all within the sanctuary. Sanctify them so that they become holy and that all who touch them become holy.

“Tell the children of Israel to keep My Sabbaths so that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you. For those who profane My Sabbath, their soul shall be cut off from among the people. Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the Lord. This shall be a perpetual covenant, a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever, for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day God ceased from work and rested.”

When God finished speaking, God gave Moses the two stone Tablets of Testimony written with the finger of God.

At this moment, the people were beginning to wonder if Moses would ever return. They gathered against Aaron saying, “Make us a god who shall go before us, for we do not know what happened to Moses.”

## The Golden Calf

“Remove your gold earrings and bring them to me,” Aaron answered. And the people did. Aaron then melted the gold and molded it into a golden calf. The people exclaimed, “This is the god, O Israel, which brought us out of the land of Egypt.”

Aaron built an altar before the golden calf, proclaiming, “A festival to the Lord, tomorrow.” Early the next day, the people feasted and made offerings.

Back on Mount Sinai, the Lord said to Moses, “Go, descend, for the people brought from the land of Egypt have become corrupt. They strayed quickly. They made a molten calf and worshipped it as if it were Me. Now let Me alone so My anger may destroy them.”

But Moses pleaded with God, “Why destroy the people whom You saved? Why should the Egyptians say, God saved them with evil intent, to kill the people later? Reconsider. Remember your promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to multiply their offspring like stars of heaven and give them the promised land.”

And the Lord renounced the punishment planned for the people.



Moses left Mount Sinai with the two stone Tablets of Testimony in his hands. On these Tablets, written on both their sides, was the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God.

As soon as Moses saw the calf and the dancing, his anger flared. He cast the Tablets out of his hands and shattered them. Then Moses took the calf, burnt it with fire, ground it to powder, threw it upon the water and made the children of Israel drink it.

Moses confronted Aaron, "What did these people do to you that you permitted such a great sin?"

"Do not be angry," Aaron answered. "You know the people are predisposed toward evil. They said to me, 'Make us a god, which shall go before us, for we know not what has become of Moses, who brought us out of the land of Egypt.' So, I told them to bring me their gold jewelry and I cast it in the fire and out came this calf."

Moses saw the people were out of control since Aaron had let them get out of control. So, Moses stood outside the camp gate and said, "Whoever is for the Lord, come here!" Inside the camp some three thousand people were then killed.

The next day, Moses said to the people, "You have sinned a great sin. Now I will go to God and try to make atonement."

Moses went to God and said, "If you cannot give the people forgiveness, then blot me out from Your book which You have written."

God responded, "Whoever has sinned against Me, him I will blot out from My book! But when I remember their sin, on that day, there will be a reckoning." Then God sent a plague upon the people.

"Now go, Moses, and take the people to the land flowing with milk and honey, as I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I will send an Angel before you and drive out the native peoples. But I will not go in your midst, since you are a stiff-necked people, lest I destroy you on the way."

When the people heard this harsh warning, they mourned, and no one put on their fine jewelry.

Moses erected the Tent of Meeting outside the camp. Whoever sought God would go out to the Tent of Meeting.

### **Moses in the Tent**

Whenever Moses went to the Tent, all the people would watch as a pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the Tent while the Lord spoke with Moses. When the people saw this pillar of cloud, all the people stood and worshipped God.

"Oh, God," Moses said in the Tent of Meeting, "let me behold Your Presence."

God answered, "I have singled you out by Name. I will make all My goodness pass before you. I will be gracious to those to whom I will be gracious and show compassion to those to whom I will show compassion. But you cannot see My face, for no human may see Me and live. But stand on the rock and when My glory passes by, you shall see My back, but My face may not be seen."

God then said to Moses, “Now come back to the mountain and carve two tablets of stone like the first. I will inscribe upon the tablets the words that were on the first tablets you broke.”

Moses did as God said and brought two new tablets of stone up to Mount Sinai. The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with Moses. God proclaimed,

“The Lord, the Lord, God, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in goodness and truth, extending mercy unto the thousandth generation, forgiving Iniquity and transgression and sin, but Who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and unto the fourth generation.”

Moses bowed his head, worshipping and asking God to pardon the sins of the people and take them as an inheritance.

God said, “Behold, I make a covenant, I make distinctions such as never have been created in all the earth, nor in any nation. All the people shall see the work of the Lord. Observe what I am commanding this day. I will drive peoples off their land, lest you follow their ways or sacrifice unto their gods.

“Instead, you shall break down their altars and smash their pillars. For you shall bow down to no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God. You shall make no molten gods. Passover shall you keep. The Sabbath you shall keep. Shavuot you shall keep. You shall redeem your firstborn. You shall give the first of your produce to the Temple of God. Do not cook a kid in its mother’s milk. Write these words of my covenant. According to these words have I sealed a covenant with you and Israel.”

Moses remained with the Lord for 40 days and 40 nights and did not eat bread nor drink water. God wrote upon the Tablets, the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

When Moses came down from the Mount Sinai with the two Tablets of Testimony, Moses did not know that his face radiated because he had spoken with God. When Aaron and the people saw the way Moses’ face radiated, they were afraid to come toward him. Moses beckoned them forward. First, he gave the Commandments to the priests and rulers and then to all the children of Israel. Moses gave them all that the Lord had spoken upon Mount Sinai.

When Moses was done speaking, he put a veil on his face. When Moses went to speak to God, he took the veil off. When the children of Israel saw Moses’ face radiating, Moses put the veil back upon his face until he went to speak again with God.

### Parashat Ki Tisa Discussion Questions

- 1) Moses’ face radiated because he had spoken with God. What makes your face radiate?**
- 2) When Moses is delayed in returning from Mount Sinai, the people ask Aaron to make another god for them to worship. Do you ever get impatient with God and consider worshipping a different god?**
- 3) God is known here as a Jealous God. How do you feel when you are jealous? What does being a Jealous God mean?**

4) Moses asks to see God's face but God says no human can ever see God's face, lest s/he die. Do you ever wish you could see God? Why? How does it make you feel to know that God doesn't want you to physically see God?

## Haftarah for Ki Tisa

### 1 Kings 18:1-39

#### *Elijah takes on Ahab and worshippers of Baal.*

In *Parashat Ki Tisa*, Moses confronts the consequences of the worship of the Golden Calf. The Haftarah for Parashat Ki Tisa focuses on Elijah, and his mission to disprove the power and existence of two other foreign gods, Baal and Asherah.

Elijah was a prophet who lived in the ninth century BCE, during the time that King Ahab and Queen Jezebel ruled Israel. When the Haftarah begins, Elijah has been hiding east of the Jordan River for three years after bringing a drought upon Israel at the beginning of his career (17:1). God commands Elijah to appear before the king, who has been searching the land for water with his servant Obadiah. Obadiah comes across Elijah and brings Ahab to meet the prophet.

Ahab taunts Elijah, calling him, "troubler of Israel," (18:17) for bringing the draught upon Israel, but Elijah reverses the insult, saying, "It is not I who have brought trouble on Israel, but you and your father's house, by forsaking the commandments of the Lord and going after the Baalim" (18:18). Elijah then asks Ahab to summon all of Israel to meet him on Mount Carmel, along with 400 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah.

#### Challenge on the Mountain

When everyone has gathered on the mountain, Elijah issues a challenge to the other prophets. They will take two bulls, one for the prophets of Baal and Asherah, and one for Elijah. Each bull will be slaughtered and put on top of a wooden base as a sacrifice, but no fire will be applied to the meat. Then the prophets of Baal and Asherah will call out to their gods, and Elijah will call out to his God. "The god who responds with fire, that one is God," (18:24) Elijah says.

The prophets of Baal go first, preparing the animal and calling out to Baal. They call all morning, perform a hopping dance, and even slice their own flesh with knives when Elijah taunts them. But there is no fire.

Then Elijah repairs damage that had been done to a pre-existing altar, setting up 12 stones to correspond with the 12 tribes for the new altar. He makes a trench around the altar, lays the meat on top, and fills the trench with water, getting the wood of the altar completely wet.

Finally, Elijah comes forward and says, "Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that You, O Lord, are God; for You have turned their hearts backward" (18:37)." Fire then comes down from the heavens and consumes the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the earth, even drying up the water that was in the trenches. When the people see this they fling themselves to the ground and cry out, "The Lord alone is God, The Lord alone is God!" (18:39)

## Challenge on the Mountain

When everyone has gathered on the mountain, Elijah issues a challenge to the other prophets. They will take two bulls, one for the prophets of Baal and Asherah, and one for Elijah. Each bull will be slaughtered and put on top of a wooden base as a sacrifice, but no fire will be applied to the meat. Then the prophets of Baal and Asherah will call out to their gods, and Elijah will call out to his God. "The god who responds with fire, that one is God," (18:24) Elijah says.

The prophets of Baal go first, preparing the animal and calling out to Baal. They call all morning, perform a hopping dance, and even slice their own flesh with knives when Elijah taunts them. But there is no fire.

Then Elijah repairs damage that had been done to a pre-existing altar, setting up 12 stones to correspond with the 12 tribes for the new altar. He makes a trench around the altar, lays the meat on top, and fills the trench with water, getting the wood of the altar completely wet.

Finally, Elijah comes forward and says, "Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that You, O Lord, are God; for You have turned their hearts backward" (18:37)." Fire then comes down from the heavens and consumes the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the earth, even drying up the water that was in the trenches. When the people see this, they fling themselves to the ground and cry out, "The Lord alone is God, The Lord alone is God!" (18:39).



## ***From the Desk of Rabbi Philip Hammond. Ph.D.***

Rabbi Hammond can be contacted at – [Philip@etz-chayim.org](mailto:Philip@etz-chayim.org)

### **Way Above My Pay Grade**

#### **Way above my pay grade - 3**

- The world is in a dark place ... especially if you compare - Government, corporate, and individual policy decisions against biblical instruction from YHVH.
- Yet despite all this we read in our bibles:
- **3** This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you; in them I am trying to arouse your sincere intention by reminding you <sup>2</sup> that you should remember the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken through your apostles. <sup>3</sup> First of all you must understand this, that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and indulging their own lusts <sup>4</sup> and saying, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since our ancestors died, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation!" <sup>5</sup> They deliberately ignore this fact, that by the word of God heavens existed long ago and an earth was formed out of water and by means of water, <sup>6</sup> through which the world of that time was deluged with water and perished. <sup>7</sup> But by the same word the present heavens and earth have been reserved for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the godless:

- <sup>8</sup> But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, **not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.** <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be destroyed with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. <sup>11</sup> Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup> waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and destroyed and the elements will melt with fire?  
2 Peter 3:1-12 [NRSVUE]
- I find the statement **“not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.”** intriguing when compared to some scriptures written in the account of the exodus:

## Way above my pay grade - 3

- **...not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance** Yet we have the following
- <sup>21</sup> And YHVH said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders that I have put in your power, but I will **harden** his heart, so that he will not let the people go. <sup>22</sup> Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the LORD: Israel is my firstborn son. <sup>23</sup> I said to you, “Let my son go that he may serve me.” But you refused to let him go; now I will kill your firstborn son.’” Exodus 4:21-23.
- <sup>3</sup> And I will **harden** Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt. Exodus 7:3
- <sup>10</sup> Then the YHVH said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh, for I have **hardened** his heart and the heart of his officials, in order that I may show these signs of mine among them <sup>2</sup> and that you may tell your children and grandchildren how I have made fools of the Egyptians and what signs I have done among them —so that you may know that I am the YHVH.” Exodus 10:1-2
- Here we find YHVH hardening the heart of the mighty Pharaoh – we all know the outcome of this... so do we find a contradiction in our Fathers behaviour, and promises within these scriptures – as Paul would say “God forbid”:

## Way above my pay grade - 3

- So, let's have a closer look at these scriptures and see if there is discrepancy or agreement... and what it means for us today.
- It is the nature of YHVH for His creation to have life eternal not death eternal. Hence Him not wanting any to perish, His dealings with Adam and Eve, and of course the death and resurrection of Yeshua our Saviour – The Messiah.
- Back to our Exodus account:
- There are 3 different Hebrew words used for the word **harden** or **hardened** in Exodus.
- **Exodus 4:21** Harden/Chazaq קָזַח Firm, stubborn, strengthen, courageous... @ **Exodus 7:13; 7:22...**
- **Exodus 7:3** Harden/Qashah קָשָׁה Severe, stiffen, sharpen, stubborn... @ **Exodus 13:15.**
- **Exodus 10:1** Hardened/Kabed קָבַד Become heavy, boastful, be important, glory, @ **Exodus 7:14; 8:32 [28].**

## Way above my pay grade - 3

- Considering these accounts & the text of 2 Peter 3:9, can we draw some thoughts perhaps a conclusion on all this?
- All things biblically point to Repentance and Yeshua. There is a saying, “follow the money trail”, I suggest we follow the repentance trail – it leads to Yeshua. So what about **the hardening** of Pharaoh's heart?
- I suggest it was all about repentance – for the children of Israel, and an opportunity for Pharaoh to repent, and lead his people to repent. Now I know YHVH would have known the outcome, but He still gave Pharaoh a chance. Allow me to explain my thoughts, and how it even applies to us:
- **How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.**<sup>17</sup> **The highway of the upright avoids evil; those who guard their way preserve their lives.**<sup>18</sup> **Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.**<sup>19</sup> **It is better to be of a lowly spirit among the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud.**<sup>20</sup> **Those who are attentive to a matter will prosper, and happy are those who trust in the LORD.**  
Proverbs 16:16-20
- Pharaoh was full of himself, and wallowed in wealth, and power:

## Way above my pay grade - 3

- Often the only way we change our direction is if we lose that which we hold valuable. Hence the reason some have to come to the end of themselves to seek YHVH.
- So Yahweh: **Exodus 4:21** Harden/Chazaq חזק Firm, stubborn, strengthen, courageous... @ **Exodus 7:13; 7:22...** **Exodus 7:3** Harden/Qashah קשה Severe, stiffen, sharpen, stubborn... @ **Exodus 13:15. Exodus 10:1** Hardened/Kabed קבד Become heavy, boastful, be important, glory, @ **Exodus 7:14; 8:32 [28]**. Pharaoh's heart was given the chance to change through challenging his pride and self importance. At the same time Israel was also given this chance, and all were reminded of the power and grace of YHVH.
- I have gone through these thoughts for the purpose of suggesting we have some Israelite and Pharaoh in ourselves. The patterns of our Father don't change, and He will give all, including us to dispose of the elements that impede a fuller relationship with our Father.
- Today we are witnessing the rise of many Pharaoh's. Nearly everywhere you look you find a Pharaoh. Someone wanting to rule the world, refusing to yield to YHVH. So-called leaders denying the power of YHVH, because they deny His existence or His deity. Like Pharaoh they have a shock coming if they don't take the opportunity given. Kind of reminds me:

## Way above my pay grade - 3

- <sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world, <sup>16</sup> for all that is in the world —the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches —comes not from the Father but from the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God abide forever. <sup>18</sup> Children, it is the last hour! As you have heard that **anti-messiah** is coming, **so now many anti-messiahs have come**. From this we know that it is the last hour. 1 John 2:15-18
- **Anti-messiah** = In place of, in opposition, equal too, challenging.
- So our prayer should be for our Father to show us the little Pharaoh's we have running around in our hearts – and for our Father to give us the wisdom, strength, and humility to change our positions. If not we could find ourselves drowning in the sea of rebellion, and darkness.
- Fortunately we have One Who has stepped forward, Who yielded to the instructions of the Father – Who's heart wasn't hardened. Yeshua HaMashiach. Let us leave today:



## Way above my pay grade - 3

- 3 Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, partners in a heavenly calling, take notice of *Yeshua*—the Emissary and *Kohen Gadol* we affirm. <sup>2</sup> He was faithful to the One who appointed Him in His house —as was Moses also. <sup>[a]</sup> <sup>3</sup> For He has been considered worthy of more glory than Moses, even as the builder of the house has more honor than the house. <sup>4</sup> For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God <sup>5</sup> Now Moses surely was faithful in all God 's house as a servant, for a witness of things to be spoken later. <sup>6</sup> But Messiah, as Son, is over God 's house —and we are His house, if we hold firm to our boldness and what we are proud to hope. **Listen and Obey, or Harden and Fall Away** <sup>7</sup> Therefore, just as the *Ruach ha -Kodesh* says, “Today if you hear His voice, <sup>8</sup> **do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,** on the day of testing <sup>[c]</sup> in the wilderness. <sup>9</sup> There your fathers put Me to the test, though they saw My works for forty years. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I was provoked by this generation, and I said, ‘They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways.’ <sup>11</sup> As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’” <sup>12</sup> Take care, brothers and sisters, that none of you has an evil heart of unbelief that falls away from the living God. <sup>13</sup> But encourage one another day by day —as long as it is called “Today” —so that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. <sup>14</sup> For we have become partners of Messiah, if we hold our original conviction firm until the end. <sup>15</sup> As it is said, “Today if you hear His voice, **do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.**” Hebrews 3:1-15
- Truly there is no God ...

# ***Jewish Practices***



## **Kosher Food: What Makes Food Kosher or Not**

*The word "kosher" literally means "fit" or "appropriate."*

### **Kashrut 101**

Ask an average person to describe kosher food and they might say it is food “blessed by a rabbi.” The word “kosher,” however, is Hebrew for “fit” or “appropriate” and describes the food that is suitable for a Jew to eat. With its roots in the Hebrew Bible, the system of defining which foods are kosher was developed by the rabbis of late antiquity. Its application to changing realities has been the work of subsequent generations, including our own.

### **Kashrut’s Biblical and Talmudic Origins**

Close readers of the Torah might notice that according to the book of Genesis, vegetarianism was commanded by God as the ideal diet (see [Genesis 1:29](#)). However, in the course of the biblical narratives, this changed to include a variety of different animals. According to the Torah ([Leviticus 11](#)), only certain kinds of animals are considered inherently kosher. For land animals, any creature that both chews its cud and has split hooves is kosher. For sea creatures, any fish that has both fins and scales is acceptable, and for birds, only those birds approved by the Torah (or others that later authorities have judged to be like them, a list that excludes scavengers and birds of prey). In addition, it is repeated three times in the Torah that it is forbidden to cook a baby goat in its own mother’s milk.

The rabbis in the Talmud further developed these principles of *kashrut*. In order to consume kosher land animals and birds, it is necessary to slaughter them in a prescribed way, in a manner that has been described as a more humane method than is practiced commercially. In addition, the prohibition of cooking a baby goat in its own mother’s milk is the basis for the complete, physical, hermetic separation of all milk and meat products. These are the fundamental elements of *kashrut*.

### **Keeping Kosher Today**

All questions, problems or issues about keeping kosher ultimately revolve around the basic principles of *kashrut* described above. Usually, the questions have to do with the last basic element, the complete separation of milk and meat products. The use of different sets of dishes and pots and pans, developed in order to ensure a greater separation between milk and meat foods. This is also the basis of waiting

several hours after eating a meat dish before eating a dairy product, so that the two types of food shouldn't even mix together in our stomachs!

Whether a particular food is considered kosher or not usually has to do with whether any substance or product used in its manufacture was derived from a non-kosher animal or even an animal that is kosher but was not slaughtered in the prescribed manner. Rabbinic supervision of the production of food (a practice called *hashgacha*) enables it to carry a "seal of approval" (but no, it is not "blessed by a rabbi").

### The 3 Categories of Kosher Foods

#### Dairy

Often described with the Yiddish word *milchig*, these are foods, such as cheese, milk, yogurt, ice cream, etc.

#### Meat

Often referred to with the Yiddish word *fleischig*, this includes all kosher animals and fowl slaughtered in the prescribed manner, and their derivative products.

#### Pareve

A Yiddish word meaning "neutral," this describes foods that are neither dairy nor meat, such as eggs and fish, tofu, nuts, seeds, fruits and vegetables, and the like, provided they are not prepared with any milk or meat products.

In keeping kosher, it is necessary to keep all dairy and meat foods completely separate — which, unless one is vegetarian, necessitates separate sets of dishes and cooking utensils. Pareve foods, however, may be mixed in and served with either category of food since these foods are neither milk nor meat.



# The 11 Best Ladino Expressions and Phrases To Know

***Learn some choice phrases, including the most epic sneeze response ever, in this Sephardic language also known as Judeo-Spanish.***

While often called Ladino, the language of the Sephardic Jews who settled in the lands of the Ottoman Empire after their expulsion from Spain in 1492 is also known as Judeo-Spanish.

But neither term captures the multiple cultural influences that shaped the language for more than five centuries of life in the eastern Mediterranean, resulting in a marvelous blend of Spanish, Portuguese, Hebrew, Turkish, Arabic, Greek, Italian and French. Like Yiddish, Ladino was traditionally written in Hebrew characters and known as *Djudezmo* and *Djudyo*, words that mean “Jewish.” Below are a few popular Ladino expressions, with a pronunciation guide at the top.

## Ladino Pronunciation Guide

**j** as in French “bonjour”

**h** as in English “hot”

**dj** as in English “joy”

1. *Ijo de ken sos tu?*

איז'ו די קין סוס טו?

**Pronunciation:** EE-jo de ken sos tu

**Meaning:** You are the child of whom?

**How to use it:** You meet someone, realize you might know people in common, and begin playing Sephardic Jewish geography with the question: “Ijo de ken sos tu?”<sup>2</sup>. *Haberes buenos!*

בואינאס חאביריס!

**Pronunciation:** ha-BEAR-es BWE-nos

**Meaning:** Good news!

**How to use it:** This can be used either to announce good news or as a way to ward off bad news.

**Sample uses:** You aced your exam and tell you parents: "Haber buenos! I got an A!"

You find out *Nona* (grandma) broke her hip and, to ward off the bad news, reply, "Haber buenos!"

3. *Dezmazalado de mi!*

מי די דיזמאזאלאדו!

**Pronunciation:** dez-ma-zal-A-do de MEE

**Meaning:** Pity me! I'm out of luck.

**Sample use:** You haven't texted me in weeks! *Dezmazalado de mi!*

4. *Djente de piron*

פירון די ינטי'ג

**Pronunciation:** DJEN-te de pee-ROAN

**Meaning:** The one percent (i. e. rich folks)

**Literal translation:** "People of the fork": owning a fork (and not just a spoon) was once a sign of high-class status.

5. *Kome kon gana!*

קומי קון גאנה!

**Pronunciation:** KO-may kon GA-na

**Meaning:** Bon appetit!

**Literal translation:** "Eat with desire."

6. *Engleneate!*

אינגליניאטי!

**Pronunciation:** en-glen-AY-a-te

**Meaning:** Have fun!

**Literal translation:** Entertain yourself!

7. *Hadras i baranas*

חאדראס אי באראנאס

**Pronunciation:** HAD-ras ee bar-an-AS

**Meaning:** An outrageously big fuss. Being pretentious and really noisy at the same time.

**How to use it:** When someone is really making a scene: "Look at all that *hadras i baranas!*"

8. *Bavajadas de benadam*

אדם בן די אדאס'אז'באב

**Pronunciation:** ba-va-JAD-as de ben a-DAM

**Meaning:** Human foibles

**Literal translation:** Stupidities of mankind

**Sample sentence:** Water cooler chatter reveals the *bavajadas de benadam*.

9. Bivas, kreskas, engrandeskas, komo un peshiko en aguas freskas! Amen!

אמן ריסקאס'פ אגואס אין פישיקו און קומו אינגראנדיסקאס קריסקאס אס'ביב

**Pronunciation:** BEE-vas, KRES-kas, en-gran-DES-kas, KO-mo un pesh-EE-ko en AG-uas FRES-kas! a-MEN!

**Meaning:** An elaborate “bless you” after a sneeze (or multiple sneezes)

**Literal translation:** Live; thrive; grow; like a little fish in fresh water! Amen!

10. *Kaminos de leche i miel!*

מייל אי י'ליג די קאמינוס

**Pronunciation:** Ka-MEE-nos de LE-che ee MEE-el

**Meaning:** Bon voyage!

**Literal meaning:** May you follow paths of milk and honey

11. *Sano i rezio!*

סאנו אי ריזיין

**Pronunciation:** SA-no ee REZ-yo

**Meaning:** Farewell!

**Literal meaning:** May you be healthy and strong

**עֲבָרִי - Hebrew**

**Word (s) of the Week**

After / **אַחֲרֵי**

**Pronounced: ah-khah-RAY**

***Acharei* shares a root with the word *acher*, other.**



## ***A Taste of Jewish Humor***

### **A Good Smoke**

Cecil and Morris are walking to services. Cecil asks, "I wonder whether it would be all right to smoke while praying?"

"Why don't you ask the rabbi?" says Morris.

Cecil sees Rabbi Golden and asks, "Rabbi, is it permissible for me to smoke while I pray?"

"No, you may not. That's utterly disrespectful to our tradition!" answers the rabbi.

Cecil goes back to his friend and tells him what the good Rabbi told him.

"I'm not surprised. You asked the wrong question. Let me try."

Morris goes over to the rabbi and asks, "Rabbi, would it be ok if I prayed while I smoke?"

To which Rabbi Golden eagerly replies, "By all means, my good man. By all means."



## ***This is not your Bubbie's Chicken Soup Recipes shared by Cooks and Bakers***

### **Israeli Halvah Recipe**

***The most ancient of desserts.***

While its ancient origins are disputed –some say India, others Turkey, others say it was definitely Byzantine — there is no doubt that halvah is one of the most common desserts in the world. The flaky, dense, tahini-based candy known to American and Israeli Jews is only one of hundreds of different types of halvah eaten across the globe.

Halvah (also known as halwa, halva, halava, helva, etc.) is a broad term used to describe desserts made with a base of flour or nut butter, such as sesame tahini, and sometimes including vegetables (such as carrots) or nuts. It is eaten in India, Central and West Asia, North Africa, the Balkans, and of course, in Israel and in Jewish delis throughout the United States. Each culture has its own halvah, united only by name — which derives from the Arabic word for “sweet” — and the fact that each is a sweetened candy or dessert, often an ancient and beloved recipe.

A trip to Israel is not complete without sampling the country's halvah. Taking a stroll in Jerusalem's Machane Yehuda market you can't miss the halvah merchants, their tables piled high with huge slabs of the treat in a multitude of flavors, filled with different nuts and seeds, colored and flavored with various extracts. And because the dessert is pareve — neither meat nor dairy — it has always been the perfect kosher deli dessert. Many American Jews grew up on Joyva Halvah; Joyva brought the ancient treat to the United States in 1907, and more than a century later, production continues.

In addition to the Israeli Tahini Halvah recipe below, you may want to try Indian Carrot-Cardamom Halvah, and Greek Semolina Halvah. Or Halvah Swirl Brownies. The only special tool needed is a candy or instant-read thermometer, for the Israeli halvah. Otherwise, these recipes are very simple to make —



any recipe that has survived 3,000 years should be! Each of these recipes can handle many variations. You can substitute different nuts or dried fruit, or add extracts, such as coffee, coconut, and vanilla. They will also keep very well, so they are great for making ahead and keeping on hand for last-minute guests.

It is challenging to achieve the flakiness so famous in Israeli halvah without good experience in candy making. However, even if it comes out smoother and chewier than you are used to, and more like caramel or fudge, this halvah will be incredibly delicious and satisfying.

## Ingredients

2 cups honey

1 1/2 cups tahini, well stirred to combine

Up to 2 cups toasted sliced almonds or other nuts (optional)

## Directions

Heat honey on medium heat until your candy or instant-read thermometer reads 240° F, or indicates the “soft ball” stage of candy making. To confirm that you are at the “soft ball” stage, drop a bit of the honey into a cup of cold water. It should form a sticky and soft ball that flattens when removed from the water.

Have the tahini ready to heat in a separate small pot, and once the honey is at the appropriate temperature, set the honey aside and heat tahini to 120° F.

Add the warmed tahini to the honey and mix with a wooden spoon to combine. At first it will look separated but after a few minutes, the mixture will come together smoothly.

Add the nuts, if using. Continue to mix until the mixture starts to stiffen, for a good 6-8 minutes. Pour mixture into a well-greased loaf pan, or into a greased cake pan with a removable bottom.

Let cool to room temperature and wrap tightly with plastic wrap. Leave in the refrigerator for up to 36 hours. This will allow the sugar crystals to form, which will give the halvah its distinctive texture.

Invert to remove from pan and cut into pieces with a sharp knife.

Will keep for months in the refrigerator, tightly wrapped in plastic—if you don’t eat it all first!

**Donate**



**Tree of Life Messianic Ministries is a tax exempt 501 (C) 3 non-profit. To donate go to [etz-chayim.org](http://etz-chayim.org) and click on the PayPal or Venmo Link.**

Ministry Outreaches  
 \*Prison Outreach  
 \*Weekly Newsletter + more-subscribe (free)  
 \*Become an Affiliate  
 \*Bible Studies and Home groups  
 \*Erev Shabbat and Shabbat Zoom group

Contact us for more info -  
[tolmm@etz-chayim.org](mailto:tolmm@etz-chayim.org)

*Tree of Life Messianic Ministries  
 Australia Affiliate*

Shabbat Service  
 Saturday 11am  
 [AEST]  
 Zoom

Bible Study  
 Wednesday  
 7:00pm [AEST]

Men's Group  
 Sun: 7:30pm

*Philip Hammond  
 Phone: 0416087400 or  
 61 + 416087400  
[Philip@etz-chayim.org](mailto:Philip@etz-chayim.org)*

