



Message 4-7-18
Pesach VII
Exodus 13:17-15:26
2 Samuel 22:1-51
John 20:1-14

Introduction

This is the seventh day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread and is a Sabbath Day as well as falling out on a weekly Sabbath, so we have a double Sabbath this year.

Exodus 14:1-4

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, **2** "Tell the people of Israel to turn back and encamp in front of Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of Baal-zephon; you shall encamp facing it, by the sea. **3** For Pharaoh will say of the people of Israel, 'They are wandering in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.' **4** And I will **harden** Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD." And they did so. (ESV)

Exodus 4:21 And the LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles that I have put in your power. But I will **harden** his heart, so that he will not let the people go. (ESV)

Exodus 7:3 "But I will **harden** Pharaoh's heart that I may multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt. (NAU)

02388 קִזַּק chazaq {khaw-zak'}

Meaning: to strengthen, prevail, harden, be strong, become strong, be courageous, be firm, grow firm, be resolute

As we see the word translated as *harden* in all these passages, it has other meanings as well. In fact, when the Jewish people finish reading a book of the Torah, they use the word as part of a phrase commemorating the completion of the reading of the book from the Torah. It has always been assumed by some that God was making Pharaoh do something he did not want to do, but let us look at it from this perspective. Pharaoh was created by the Almighty for this moment in time. God could certainly force Pharaoh to bend to His will, but then that would take away free-will. Where would choice come up in the discussion? But what if all God was doing was making sure Pharaoh did not change his mind to get out of a situation where he found himself tangled up. He did not want to let the Hebrews go, but the Almighty, through Moses and Aaron, brought Pharaoh to his

knees where he could not overcome the God of the Hebrews even though Pharaoh was believed to be a living god with a small g. God did what He did to show Egypt His power. In the end, Pharaoh let the Hebrews go and threw in the gold, etc. from the Egyptians as they left. Once Israel was gone, Pharaoh changed his mind, but this time God did not make him stop what he was going to do because God was not finished with Egypt or Israel. What was going to happen now would burn the image into the minds of Egypt and all the other nations who saw or heard what was happening.

It would also show Israel the power of their God and the man through whom He would work His will – Moses. When Moses was being sent to Egypt by God, he had been told that he would become like a God to Pharaoh, and Aaron would be his prophet. Since Pharaoh was a god to the Egyptians, it would make sense that God would show Moses as a God to Pharaoh and the Egyptians. What happened to Egypt over the course of the ten plagues was utterly devastating, and the final blow would not be the death of the firstborn but the destruction of the Egyptian army in the Red Sea.

2 Samuel 22:1-51

1 And David spoke to the LORD the words of this song on the day when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. **2** He said, "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, **3** my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence. **4** I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies. **5** "For the waves of death encompassed me, the torrents of destruction assailed me; **6** the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me. **7** "In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I called. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry came to his ears. (ESV)

This is a mirror to the song Moses led the people in at the Red Sea, and then Miriam went out with the women with their tambourines and sang praises to the Holy One of Israel.

Exodus 15:1 Then Moshe and the people of Isra'el sang this song to *ADONAI*: "I will sing to *ADONAI*, for he is highly exalted: the horse and its rider he threw in the sea. **2** *Yah* is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation. This is my God: I will glorify him; my father's God: I will exalt him. **3** *ADONAI* is a warrior; *ADONAI* is his name. **4** Pharaoh's chariots and his army he hurled into the sea. His elite commanders were drowned in the Sea of Suf. **5** The deep waters covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone. **6** Your right hand, *ADONAI*, is sublimely powerful; your right hand, *ADONAI*, shatters the foe. **7** By your great majesty you bring down your enemies; you send out your wrath to consume them like stubble. **8** With a blast from your nostrils the waters piled up—the waters stood up like a wall, the depths of the sea became firm ground. **9** The enemy said, 'I will pursue and overtake, divide the spoil and gorge myself on them. I will draw my sword; my hand will destroy them.' **10** You blew with your wind, the sea covered them, they sank like lead in the mighty waters. **11** Who is like you, *ADONAI*, among the mighty? Who is like you, sublime in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders? **12** You reached out with your right hand: the earth swallowed them. **13** In your love, you led the people you redeemed; in your strength, you guided them to your holy abode. **14** The

peoples have heard, and they tremble; anguish takes hold of those living in P'lesheth; ¹⁵ then the chiefs of Edom are dismayed; trepidation seizes the heads of Mo'av; all those living in Kena'an are melted away. ¹⁶ Terror and dread fall on them; by the might of your arm they are still as stone until your people pass over, *ADONAI*, till the people you purchased pass over. ¹⁷ You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain which is your heritage, the place, *ADONAI*, that you made your abode, the sanctuary, *Adonai*, which your hands established. ¹⁸ *ADONAI* will reign forever and ever. ¹⁹ For the horses of Pharaoh went with his chariots and with his cavalry into the sea, but *ADONAI* brought the sea waters back upon them, while the people of Isra'el walked on dry land in the midst of the sea!" ²⁰ Also Miryam the prophet, sister of Aharon, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines, dancing, ²¹ as Miryam sang to them: "Sing to *ADONAI*, for he is highly exalted! The horse and its rider he threw in the sea!" (CJB)

Once again this was the power of the Lord being displayed for all the nations and Israel to see. It was the God of all creation showing humankind His awesome power and the people He had chosen for Himself. The Israelites were on high, but it would only be a matter of days before they started complaining. The Holy One of Israel had called the Hebrews out to be His people, His holy nation, and all they had to do was trust. Even though they lacked the faith they needed to enter the Promised Land, we celebrate their journey to freedom with God leading the way in a Pillar of Cloud by day and a Pillar of Fire at night. By this, He showed Israel He was always with them as He is with us if we learn to trust in Him, walk out our redemption through Messiah Yeshua, and live our lives as He taught us through the Torah.

John 20:1-10

1 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Yeshua loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³ So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴ Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷ and the face cloth, which had been on Yeshua's head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes. (ESV)

The Almighty raised Israel from its lowest point to freeing them from bondage by His might and power. Yeshua leads the way in this through His death and resurrection. He died on Passover fulfilling the role of the blood atonement for the sins of the nation. Three days later, by the power of His Father, He was raised from the dead to walk for a short time among His talmidim before returning to His Father in His heavenly throne room. The story of the Exodus is reenacted every year through the Passover Seder. We tell the story of

how a nation was born by the death of its enemies, but what we need to keep in mind is that this is the story of redemption by the Son of God – Yeshua!

Luke 16:31 He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone **should rise from the dead.**'" (ESV)

Luke 24:46 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah should suffer **and on the third day rise from the dead,** (Luk 24:46 ESV)

Acts 17:2 And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and **to rise from the dead,** and saying, "This Yeshua, whom I proclaim to you, is the Messiah." (ESV)

Acts 26:22 To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: ²³ **that the Messiah must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead,** he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Goyim." (ESV)

We proclaim Yeshua as they did! The Shalichim/Apostles took the message of a risen Lord to the nations to show them there is eternal life. The Jews mocked them, and the same with the nations, but they persevered, and they planted seeds. These seeds were watered, and they grew to become men and women of God. We must stand with those who have gone before us who proclaimed the message of a risen Messiah from the dead. As Joseph went into slavery and prison in Egypt and thought this was the end for him, God raised him from a picture of death to a place of power next to Pharaoh, so Joseph could save his family and prepare the way for what was to come after he died.

God remembered Israel, and He remembers us. The gift of eternal life is still being offered. Israel needed to trust in God and follow His ways. We need to ask for forgiveness for our sins through Messiah Yeshua and walk out Torah in our lives. Redemption is there, my friends – reach out and grab a hold of it just as the woman with the issue of blood did when she reached out and took hold of Yeshua's tzitzit. Grab hold of Him and hold on for the ride. No matter what happens, the ups and downs, they are worth it for the gift we receive.

I'll close with this: Torah Man says: "God has no larger field for the man who is not faithfully doing his work where he is."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

Mordecai Silver

If you are not learning Torah, we invite you to attend Judaic Studies Institute, a Distance Learning Institute for Yeshua based Judaic Studies. Drop us a line at for more information. You can earn an approved Certificate or Diploma and take courses to help you grow in your understanding.



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