



**Message 5-12-18
Behar-On the Mount
Leviticus 25:1-26:2**

**BeChukkotai-In My Statutes
Leviticus 26:3-27:34
Jeremiah 16:19-7:14
1 Thessalonians 2:4**

Introduction

Once again, we have a double portion. The first portion, Behar, covers a few things about ownership of land, indebtedness, the Sabbatical Year, and the Jubilee year.

The second portion is BeChukkotai and closes out the book of Leviticus as an epilogue to the Holiness Code, which is the book of Leviticus.

Leviticus 26:40-46

40 "But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers in their treachery that they committed against me, and also in walking contrary to me, ⁴¹ so that I walked contrary to them and brought them into the land of their enemies-- if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity, ⁴² then I will remember my covenant with Jacob, and I will remember my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land. ⁴³ But the land shall be abandoned by them and enjoy its Sabbaths while it lies desolate without them, and they shall make amends for their iniquity, because they spurned my rules and their soul abhorred my statutes. ⁴⁴ Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not spurn them, neither will I abhor them so as to destroy them utterly and break my covenant with them, for I am the LORD their God. ⁴⁵ But I will for their sake remember the covenant with their forefathers, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I am the LORD." ⁴⁶ These are the statutes and rules and Torah (instructions) that the LORD made between himself and the people of Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai. (ESV)

When the Creator made His covenant with Israel, it called for a different walk than the one they had been. Since Israel broke that covenant and their remnant, Judah, has denied Yeshua as Messiah, the church has come to believe they are the inheritors of that covenant; therefore, they are entitled to its blessings while Judah receives the curses. They have even gone as far as saying the Jews killed Yeshua. What they forget is that when the Creator makes a covenant, He never breaks it. His word is His bond, and in this

instance, His word is the Messiah Yeshua, the covenant of Torah manifested in the flesh. What the church has forgotten, or has never understood, is that everyone needs to be grafted into the Olive Tree of Israel. Grafting in and adoption are two very important topics the Apostle Paul or Shaul writes. In fact, he muses about this mystery of the Goyim or Nations, being able to share in the gift Yeshua's offers.

Colossians 1:26 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Messiah in you, the hope of glory. (ESV)

What is the mystery about which Paul is talking? The mystery is that God chose to share the Messiah Yeshua with the Nations as well as with Israel. In fact, it goes even further than this. The word tells us that all who come to faith in Messiah are grafted into Israel along with the natural branch represented by Judah. There is no new Israel or a spiritual Israel, which is the church, or a physical Israel, which is the Jewish people. Israel is both physical and spiritual and exists as the Creator made them, not as man has done. Yes, His people have backslidden many times, but He keeps faith with them and has never abandoned them. Ours is a covenant keeping God, and He made that covenant with one people – Israel, the Israel of the Bible. Even in their disbelief of the Messiah Yeshua, He still keeps faith with them. Though, He needs to do what is right, so He disciplines the natural branch and removes them from the tree that is Israel, but He tells us they can be grafted back in again when they come to faith in Messiah and are following the Torah. He is a faithful Creator even when we have lost ours.

The mystery of it all is that the Father offers us redemption through the sacrifice His Son made. Everyone can share in it. There is no difference in salvation for the Jew or the non-Jew. All are equal in the eyes of the Almighty. His covenant people are Israel, but this is not limited to the Jewish people only. As we have said before, the mystery is how the Almighty brings those who were not born into Israel into Israel through grafting in and adoption making them part of His covenant people. The interesting message here is that if one outside of Israel is grafted in, if they look down on the natural part of Israel, the Jew who has been cut off due to disbelief in Messiah Yeshua, they will be cut off from the tree of Israel. If the natural branch comes to faith in Messiah, they can be grafted back into the tree of Israel. What happens if the reverse is true? What I mean is what if the natural branch does believe in Yeshua but rejects the grafted in branch by saying they cannot be part of Israel because they are not Jewish? Common sense would indicate that what happens to a non-Jewish believer who looks down on a Jew who does not believe in Messiah will happen to the Jewish believer. They may be removed from the tree of Israel for the arrogance they display towards the non-Jewish grafted in branch.

Ruth 1:16 But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. (ESV)

This declaration by Ruth is a statement of fact that one does not have to go through "conversion" to be a part of Israel. It is based on faith in the God of Israel and acceptance

of the people of Israel, which would include the covenant of Torah. I realize that my believing Jewish brethren will not be happy with what I have just shared, but what is good for the goose is good for the gander. It has nothing to do with Judah and Ephraim and everything to do with the united Israel of all believers in Yeshua and following the covenant of Torah. Only the Holy One of Israel can set limitations on who can be a part of His covenant people. If we follow the Messianic Jewish thinking, then Ruth cannot be a part of Israel, even though the Bible says she is and she married Boaz, who is Jewish, bears a son who becomes a descendant of King David and in turn the Messiah Yeshua.

Israel tried to deny Caleb a full portion of his inheritance because his father was a Kenizzite.

Joshua 14:6 Then the people of Judah came to Joshua at Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, "You know what the LORD said to Moses the man of God in Kadesh-barnea concerning you and me. (ESV)

Joshua 14:14 Therefore Hebron became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the LORD, the God of Israel. (ESV)

Caleb is not denied his inheritance by Joshua. In fact, Joshua was from the tribe of Ephraim, and from what tribe was Caleb?

Numbers 13:6 from the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh. (ESV)

He was from the tribe of Judah, was chosen to be one of the twelve spies to go in to survey the Promised Land, and along with Joshua is one of the two who bring back a good report while the other ten do not causing the Holy One to sentence Israel to wander for forty years in the wilderness until the rebellious generation age twenty and older pass away, except for Joshua and Caleb.

My Messianic Jewish brethren need to get up to speed on what Scripture says and stop re-interpreting who God says can be part of Israel. What they have done is no different than what the church has done in taking over the identity of Israel when they are not the same Israel as the one Yeshua came to redeem. His Israel is made up of all types of people who, like Ruth, have placed their faith in the God of Israel, have accepted Yeshua as the Biblical Messiah, and walk in the covenant God made with His people – the Torah!

Jeremiah 17:5-8

5 Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. ⁶ He is like a shrub in the desert and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. ⁷ "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. ⁸ He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit." (ESV)

Don't you find it interesting that we are told "*cursed is the man who trusts in man and whose heart turns away from the Lord.*" Yet, *blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord.* What greater reward can we receive than to trust in the Lord rather than man and to reap the rewards He wants to give to us for our faith in His Son Yeshua, through whom we receive the gift of eternal life. But, that gift is contingent on having faith in Messiah Yeshua, asking for forgiveness for our sins, and then living a life pleasing to Him. How do we do this – live a life that is pleasing to Him? We follow His guidebook, His manual, His teachings, and His instructions – the Torah. The Torah was not given to man to watch him fail and then to provide him with another way that was easier to follow. To walk in Messiah's footsteps is to walk in the Torah as taught by Yeshua to those who would listen, either in Israel or outside of Israel. What I mean is Torah is the only covenant God made with man, He entrusted it to Israel, and through Israel eventually to the Jewish people, the last remnant remaining, yet containing parts of the other tribes but not all of them. This covenant was to be shared with the nations as well as with Israel, but the expectation is that everyone who professes faith in Messiah also needs to live their lives according to Torah. If we believe that God made an easier way for us because we failed to live according to Torah and He replaced Torah with a covenant based on love, they are sadly mistaken because Torah is love and Torah is Messiah Yeshua. We have also failed to live a life of love based on our behavior, and we are fooling no one, especially our Creator.

1 Thessalonians 2:4 Instead, since God has tested us and found us fit to be entrusted with Good News, this is how we speak: not to win favor with people but with God, who tests our hearts. (CJB)

What is the Good News, my friends? The Good News is Messiah has come the first time, will come again, and through faith in Him all can be redeemed. What did the Messiah teach in His first coming? He taught the people the correct way to follow Torah – a Torah whose foundation is Messiah and the Father, who sends forth the Ruach HaKodesh to live within all those who believe to help them to live and understand Torah. This is the love the Creator offers us. Will you accept it or not? The choice, as always, is yours.

Torah Man says: "Arguing with a fool shows there are two."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

Mordecai Silver

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