



Message 9-15-18
VaYeLech - and he went
Deuteronomy 31:1-30
Hosea 14:2-10
Joel 2:15-17
Micah 7:18-20
Luke 1:68-75

Introduction

God calls Moses and Joshua to prepare the transfer of leadership by directly appointing Joshua. Then God informs Moses that the Israelites are going to disobey in the future, and He instructs Moses to compose a poem-song that will warn the Israelites and serve as to witness to them about the punishment that will come upon them for their disobedience.

Deuteronomy 31:8-12

8 But *ADONAI*- it is he who will go ahead of you. He will be with you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you, so don't be afraid or downhearted." ⁹ Then Moshe wrote down this *Torah* and gave it to the *cohanim*, the descendants of Levi who carried the ark with the covenant of *ADONAI*, and to all the leaders of Isra'el. ¹⁰ Moshe gave them these orders: "At the end of every seven years, during the festival of *Sukkot* in the year of *sh'mittah*, ¹¹ when all Isra'el have come to appear in the presence of *ADONAI* at the place he will choose, you are to read this *Torah* before all Isra'el, so that they can hear it. ¹² Assemble the people- the men, the women, the little ones, and the foreigners you have in your towns- so that they can hear, learn, fear *ADONAI* your God and take care to obey all the words of this *Torah*. (CJB)

Moses knew his time was ending, and he has spent the last forty years building a nation out of former slaves and their descendants leading them to the Promised Land. Now they stand on the borders of the land the Lord promised long ago to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their descendants. We are told in this passage that Moses wrote down the Torah and gave it to the priests. He instructed them that at the end of every seven years, during the Festival of Sukkot, all Israel is to come to stand before the Lord at the place He will choose. The place He would choose is obviously the Tabernacle and the Temple. It would be there that all of the Torah would be read to all Israelites: men, women, children and the sojourners as well so they would all learn to hear and fear the Holy One of Israel, so the people would remember to obey all the words of the Torah.

I've always questioned why at this point near the end of his life that Moses wrote down the Torah. How did he teach it before this? Was it transmitted orally to the people and then, at the end of his life, Moses finally commits to writing down the Torah, so the people would have it after he was gone? It is very clear that the purpose of Deuteronomy was to teach the Children of Israel their history that brought them to the point where they were at that moment in history. For forty years Moses lead the people putting into place everything the Holy One instructed him to do. From a people coming out of bondage to a nation ready for war to take the Promised Land, Israel's time was upon them, and even in our day and time, Israel's fate is upon them once again as it is for the rest of mankind. What nation has ever risen from the ashes of no longer being a nation to being reborn and to stand on the world stage?

As we have read before, Israel was not the biggest nation but one of the smallest. Their power was not based on their size but on their faith in their God and to find their way to the revelation of the Messiah Yeshua.

Psalms 78:6 that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, ⁷ so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God but keep his commandments. (ESV)

Our hope needs to be in our Creator, and we are told that we must do this: remember what He has created and to keep His Torah. Everything there has was created by the Father through His Son Yeshua, the Living Word. To follow Yeshua is to follow the Torah. The Torah is not the law but life itself because it is the Living Word who took upon Himself to become a human being to walk among us and to teach us that way to the Father is through Him. Deny it all you want, but it is a truth that cannot be changed, no matter how hard some try.

Joel 2:15-17

15 Blow the shofar in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. ¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, "Where is their God?" (ESV)

When you hear the shofar sounding from on high, it is time for the people to come together in a solemn assembly and keep a fast. The congregation of the Holy One of Israel will prepare herself to receive her bridegroom. The culmination of the book of Deuteronomy is not the passing of Moses but the continuity of those who have been called to be part of the bride of Yeshua. Israel has been built up over the millennia to be a nation, not only of the twelve tribes but of those who have chosen to sojourn among Israel. Call them what you want – Judah and Ephraim, the Two Houses, One house, One Torah and more. The bottom line is we are all Israel, grafted into the tree whose roots are Messiah, and we are united in Messiah and Torah.

Psalm 19:1 *To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.* The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. ² Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. ³ There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. ⁴ Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, ⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. (ESV)

Look to the heavens to see the glory of the Holy One of Israel! Look to the sky and the worlds that are out there and here we are, alive, on the one place in the entire universe that He chose to create man and dwell with him in covenant. The bridegroom is coming. Are you ready?

Matthew 23:29-39

29 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, ³⁰ saying, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' ³¹ Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. ³² Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. ³³ You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? ³⁴ Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, ³⁵ so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. ³⁶ Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation. ³⁷ "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁸ See, your house is left to you desolate. ³⁹ For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'" (ESV)

Messiah calls out to His people laying their deeds at their feet because they believe they are innocent even though they helped to kill the prophets that were sent to Israel to bring the news of the coming Messiah and to prepare the way of the Lord by calling out to Israel to return to the Torah and walk in His ways and not in their own. He cries out to Jerusalem and muses how He would have desired to gather its children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but they were not willing. We all need to turn back to Torah and walk the path that brings us to Yeshua. Torah cannot save us, only Messiah can, but Torah teaches us about Messiah, His Father, and the love they have for us.

Isaiah 49:5 And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him-- for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength-- (ESV)

Torah Man says: "In order to mold His people, God often has to melt them."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

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