



Message 1-5-19
VaEra-And I Appeared
Exodus 6:2-9:35
Ezekiel 29:12-16
1 Corinthians 9:24-10:6

Introduction

God summons Moses to demand that Pharaoh free the Hebrews and to establish a unique relationship: *"I will take you to be My people, and I will be your God."*

Exodus 9:33-35

33 So Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh and stretched out his hands to the LORD, and the thunder and the hail ceased, and the rain no longer poured upon the earth. ³⁴ But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, he sinned yet again and hardened his heart, he and his servants. ³⁵ So the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people of Israel go, just as the LORD had spoken through Moses. (ESV)

Moses continues to give Pharaoh the opportunity to do what is right – to free the Israelite slaves. Once Pharaoh gets what he wants from Moses, the plague ceasing, he reverts to form, sins again, hardens his heart, both Pharaoh and his servants, but this is exactly what the Almighty told Moses would happen as everything is beginning to aim for the confrontation that will bring Pharaoh to the point where he has no alternative but to release the Hebrews. If we learn anything from the story of Pharaoh, Moses, the plagues and the Almighty, is the Almighty always wins. What He wants is what will happen. Pharaoh had the opportunity several times to repent from his sins of disobeying the Holy One of Israel, and he refused because he believed he was a living God when in truth he was no god at all but only a man who had sinned repeatedly.

We are exactly like this people. How many opportunities does the Almighty give us to repent of our sinful ways and turn back to Him committing our lives to the Messiah Yeshua and the covenant of Torah? If the starting point is coming to Yeshua for forgiveness that is great. But that is not the end. One must learn what it is the Holy One expects from us once we repent. In Jewish thinking, this is called *teshuvah* or turning back. The concept is we have turned away from God, and now we are turning back to Him, but to what are we turning back? In repentance, we are expected to learn what it is the Almighty desires from us. He desires us to live by His covenant of Torah, just as He expected the Israelites to do, but the generation that came out of Egypt who were twenty years of age and older did not grasp this concept of repentance and obedience to their God and His covenant.

They missed the understanding that Moses was a picture of the Messiah freeing them from slavery in Egypt, which represented them in the sin state. Moses, as a form of Messiah, obeying his Father, brought redemption through faith in the Almighty to the Israelites, and they turned to false gods like the Golden Calf they made and worshipped. In a way, they were an experiment on a larger scale than the Lord had done before this. As most of mankind has failed over and over, again and again, so too, has Israel. They broke faith with their Creator and His Redeemer, Yeshua. Moses showed them the way, brought Torah to the people, and when they agreed with what they heard, they listened and obeyed. But when they did not like what they heard, they disobeyed, broke Torah, and brought punishment down upon themselves. They had no one to blame but themselves just as most of humanity today has no one to blame for their behavior but themselves. We need to learn that after redemption comes obedience to Torah. Torah is a way of life for all of us. If the Bible teaches us anything, it is that the Almighty is a covenant giving and a covenant keeping God. He expects the same from His people.

Ezekiel 28:25-26

25 "Thus says the Lord GOD: When I gather the house of Israel from the peoples among whom they are scattered and manifest my holiness in them in the sight of the nations, then they shall dwell in their own land that I gave to my servant Jacob. ²⁶ And they shall dwell securely in it, and they shall build houses and plant vineyards. They shall dwell securely, when I execute judgments upon all their neighbors who have treated them with contempt. Then they will know that I am the LORD their God." (ESV)

This promise has been partially fulfilled because in order to live in a type of peace, Israel must be on its guard 24/7. Not all of Israel has returned to the land, for one reason or another. They have built homes and planted vineyards, but I believe this passage is speaking about a time to come when all things are set right and Israel is reunited from among the nations where they have been scattered. When He brings them all home, He will manifest His holiness in the sight of all the nations. This is a promise that has only been partially fulfilled. Israel exists now as a thorn in the side of the Adversary and the nations in which he has control. Israel exists amid its enemies, and its enemies are not limited just to the Middle East.

We know this because of what took place on October 27, 2018, in a synagogue located in Pittsburgh, PA., where eleven Jewish people were killed by a man spewing anti-Semitic words as he began to shoot the congregants to death who had gathered for the Sabbath. There is no rhyme or reason for what happened, but if we learn anything from this, it is that this evil is not limited to the land of Israel. It has taken place all over the world, and the evil of anti-Semitism is raising its head once again. What do we do when we are faced with this? We must turn to the Holy One of Israel and pray that Messiah's return will be soon.

Amos 9:13 "Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when the plowman shall overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed; the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. ¹⁴ I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant

vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit. (Amos 9:13 ESV)

“Behold the days are coming, “declares the Lord” ... He is coming. He has promised this. He will restore Israel in all its intended glory. They will live in peace in the land given to them by the Almighty. Into Israel will come the redeemed from the nations and the redeemed from the twelve tribes of Israel. Israel, from a Biblical standpoint, is not just the Jewish people who were one of the tribes and the southern kingdom that went into the Babylonian captivity. While they returned seventy years later, not all of them came back. Many had established lives in Babylon and remained there. Then we have the northern kingdom of *Ephraim/Joseph/Israel*. They were taken into the Assyrian captivity and disappeared having lost their identity. There are those kept some of the practices, and over the years they were passed down from one generation to another becoming mixed in with local practices. Many kept them but did not understand what it was they were doing. The flame was being kept alive within them as it had within Judah.

That flame still burns today, and the brighter it burns, the more the Adversary is drawn to it, and wants to snuff it out. Are we going to let him do this, or are we going to step up? In our faith in Messiah Yeshua and the power of the *Ruach HaKodesh* within us, we will prevail. But we also need to remember to live our lives according to Torah, the teachings of the Almighty given through the Living Torah – Yeshua. In Him redemption is found, and once found we will find ourselves called to a different road to walk. One where we are guided by the Torah, Messiah Yeshua.

Mark 6:41-44

41 And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² And they all ate and were satisfied. ⁴³ And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴ And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men. (ESV)

I find it kind of interesting that it says in verse 41: *“And He divided the two fish among them all.”* Being I veered to a two kingdom/one kingdom line of thinking, I am reminded of that when I read this verse that from the two kingdoms all the world will be satisfied and will be content. Considering that in the book of Revelation He will set apart 144,000 witnesses from all the tribes of Israel, not just Judah, the Holy One will have brought them back home and called forward these 144,000 Israelites to be His emissaries in the *Last Days*. They will be sealed unto the Holy One of Israel to carry the message of the gift of redemption offered through Yeshua HaMoshiach. As the two parts come together, a United Kingdom finally emerges, one that welcomes anyone who has accepted Messiah and lives according to the covenant of Torah. Too many people get hung up on the Two Houses or Two Kingdoms. It is what exists today, and the Bible teaches about it. It also teaches the two will become one. Will we all be Jewish because Judah is the predominate tribe or kingdom for now? What do you think? It's open for discussion.

Torah Man says: "Little is much if God is in it."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

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TORAH: LEARN IT, LOVE IT, LIVE IT AS YESHUA DID! PSALM 119.

