



Message 2-23-19
Ki Tissa-When You Elevate
Exodus 30:11-34:35
1 Kings 18:1-39
Matthew 6:19-24

Introduction

This week's Parashah begins with a census and the assessment of a half-shekel tax on each of them to be used in the operation of the Mishkan and later the Temple. The rich do not pay more, nor the poor pay less.

Exodus 30:11-16

11 The LORD said to Moses, ¹² "When you take the census of the people of Israel, then each shall give a ransom for his life to the LORD when you number them, that there be no plague among them when you number them. ¹³ Each one who is numbered in the census shall give this: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel is twenty gerahs), half a shekel as an offering to the LORD. ¹⁴ Everyone who is numbered in the census, from twenty years old and upward, shall give the LORD's offering. ¹⁵ **The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less, than the half shekel, when you give the LORD's offering to make atonement for your lives.** ¹⁶ You shall take the atonement money from the people of Israel and shall give it for the service of the tent of meeting, that it may bring the people of Israel to remembrance before the LORD, so as to make atonement for your lives." (ESV)

The one main thought or teaching we see here is that in the eyes of the Almighty, everyone is equal, and no one is better than someone else no matter what. The value of a rich man is no more or less than a poor one. Their value is a half-shekel each. Even Yeshua paid the Temple tax indicating He did not see Himself as being more valuable than a human being because He had created us by the power of His Father, and then He became one of us, though without sin, so He could take our sins upon Himself and redeem us from eternal death to bring us into eternal life. He is the King appointed by His Father to rule over mankind during the Messianic Age and beyond into eternity. We owe Him everything, and all He desires is that we accept Him as the lamb slaughtered to redeem us. He shed His blood upon the tree for us. He created us and all there is, and He did not want to see it all go to waste. He knew what mankind would do to the Creation, and it would be through His sacrifice that all would be set right.

The Adversary fights against this, but he is doomed to lose no matter what he does. He believes he can overcome the Son of the Highest, and that will never happen. What will

happen to the Adversary is already written in Scripture. He is doomed along with his servants, the Beast and the False Prophet, to be cast into the Lake of Fire to be tormented forever. It is their punishment for what they tried to do. The Adversary tried to take the place of the Son of the Holy One, and there is no way the created can take the place of the Creator. The Adversary is an imitator of what has been created. He perverts, into what is an imitation, what Messiah already brought into existence as the arm of His Father. Yeshua is the Living Word spoken into existence, the Torah of the Father. His teaching was given to mankind to help them find their way in the darkness that is coming over the face of the earth. There are changes happening all over the earth, but rest assured, He has His hand on the controls and knows exactly what He is doing.

1 Kings 18:21

18:21 Eliyahu stepped forward before all the people and said, "How long are you going to jump back and forth between two positions? If *ADONAI* is God, follow him; but if it's Ba'al, follow him!" The people answered him not a word. (CJB)

As much as the Torah portion about the half-shekel Temple tax was about the equality of all mankind in the eyes of the Creator, the Haftarah portion is about making a choice. We are told by the Prophet Elijah that we must choose. We cannot keep jumping back and forth between the Almighty and the Adversary, in this case the false pagan god Baal. Elijah tells the people to make a choice. They cannot keep going back and forth. Even though this is speaking to the people gathered there at that moment in time, it is meant for a us as well. We must choose! Elijah was the lone representative of the Holy One squaring off against 450 prophets of Baal. This is an encounter meant to show Israel the power of their God in the same way the Almighty humbled Egypt by sending Moses to stand against Pharaoh.

Who is greater, Baal or Yehovah? Who will stand for eternity while the other falls and faces an eternal punishment. The sad thing we learn from this is how wishy-washy the people of the Holy One of Israel are. This is not limited to Biblical times. It stands as a truth even in our day. No matter how advanced we believe we are, everything we have comes from Him, and what we do with it is up to us. He wants us to make the right choice, to follow the right path, and to walk out of the darkness into the light where Yeshua waits for us.

Matthew 6:19-24

19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.²² "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light,²³ but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!²⁴ "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. (ESV)

Messiah tells us we cannot serve two masters. One we will hate and the other we will love, but which one is it? Do we choose the darkness or the light where the Holy One dwells? Who lives in the darkness? Those who choose to follow the Adversary. You might be following him and not even realize it, but your walk will give you away. It's not about making mistakes because we all make them. It's about how you handle the mistakes and the road you choose to travel. One road leads into the darkness with no way out if you don't turn around. The other road brings us into the light that is the forgiveness of the Holy One. We come to the Father through His Son Yeshua. Yeshua is the light in the darkness because He became that darkness that was in each one of us and turned it around, so we could find our way home.

Galatians 1:10 Now does that sound as if I were trying to win human approval? No! I want God's approval! Or that I'm trying to cater to people? If I were still doing that, I would not be a servant of the Messiah. (CJB)

Do we serve man or God? The stories we find in Scripture are about these things. They are not fairy tales but truth that will set us free from the Adversary. Are we trying to please man or our heavenly Father? Do you need the approval of mankind so badly you would endanger your salvation? Why do you want to please Baal when it is your Creator to whom you need to turn? Only He can show you the way out of the darkness. Only He can give you the gift of eternal life if you follow Him and give yourself to Him. If you want to please men, then there will be no hope for you and no way out of the quagmire which you find yourself sinking. It's easy to serve men. It is not easy to serve God because this world does not follow the God of the Bible. They make up their own rules, walk their own way, and want everyone else to be like they are. If that is the choice you want to make, then go right ahead.

We need to choose Messiah Yeshua, not His exact opposite. One way leads to redemption, the other way leads to condemnation. The world is barreling right ahead travelling like a bat out of hell! I say we must yell out, "Stop this train and let me off before it is too late." That is the choice you need to make. Yeshua not HaSatan. Amen!

Torah Man says: "Do God's will at any cost."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

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



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