

V'ETCHANAN - AND I PLEADED

Written by Rabbi Philip Hammond.. Posted in Reconciliation Parashah

Our next teaching comes from parashah V'ET'CHANAN – AND I PLEADED.

Devarim/Deuteronomy 3:23 - 7:11; Isaiah/Yeshayahu 40:1-26

As we approach the end of this series, where we have been looking at the weekly parashah portion as it relates to the subject of reconciliation, I want to try and build your enthusiasm for the Promised Land. I will try and focus on the importance of having a yearning to dwell in the Promised Land and how that strong yearning will help build your understanding of the importance of reconciliation between the two Houses.

23 "I also pleaded with the Lord at that time, saying, 24 'O Lord God, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your strong hand; for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as Yours? 25 Let me, I pray, cross over and see the fair land that is beyond the Jordan, that good hill country and Lebanon.' 26 But the Lord was angry with me on your account, and would not listen to me; and the Lord said to me, 'Enough! Speak to Me no more of this matter. 27 Go up to the top of Pisgah and lift up your eyes to the west and north and south and east, and see it with your eyes, for you shall not cross over this Jordan. 28 But charge Joshua and encourage him and strengthen him, for he shall go across at the head of this people, and he will give them as an inheritance the land which you will see.' 29 So we remained in the valley opposite Beth-peor. Deuteronomy 3:23-29 [NASB]

4 "Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I am teaching you to perform, so that you may live and go in and take possession of the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you. 2 You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you. 3 Your eyes have seen what the Lord has done in the case of Baal-peor, for all the men who followed Baal-peor, the Lord your God has

destroyed them from among you. 4 But you who held fast to the Lord your God are alive today, every one of you.

5 “See, I have taught you statutes and judgments just as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should do thus in the land where you are entering to possess it. 6 So keep and do them, for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ 7 For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as is the Lord our God whenever we call on Him? 8 Or what great nation is there that has statutes and judgments as righteous as this whole law which I am setting before you today?

9 “Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons. 10 Remember the day you stood before the Lord your God at Horeb, when the Lord said to me, ‘Assemble the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.’ 11 You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire to the very heart of the heavens: darkness, cloud and thick gloom. 12 Then the Lord spoke to you from the midst of the fire; you heard the sound of words, but you saw no form—only a voice. 13 So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone. 14 The Lord commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that you might perform them in the land where you are going over to possess it. Deuteronomy 4:1-14 [NASB]

Moshe this great man of HaShem, the one whom was on “speaking terms” with HaShem continues to yearn to enter the Promised Land and we find Moshe speaking the words, “*Adonai HaShem /Lord God.....*”.

When Moshe addressed HaShem as Adonai, [Sustain, provide base, Master] he was expressing his total dedication to HaShem and regardless of the answer given to his request he accepted HaShem’s, the Masters judgement, and made a decision to surrender himself to the Masters will. I strongly believe Moshe knew that to have the full experience of HaShem, one needs to dwell in the Promised Land. This is shown in the words, “*You have begun to show Your servant....*” I believe Moshe knew there was so

much more to come and that “much more” would have to be experienced in the Promised Land. It is without doubt the best our Father has to offer His children, is found within the confines of the Promised Land.

What an emotional time this had to be for Moshe. A man who was looked upon as a friend of HaShem:

“HaShem would speak to Moshe face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.....” Exodus 33:11 [NJB]

This same Moshe who was “a friend” of HaShem and was given the privilege of serving Hashem, and bringing the people of Israel to the borders of the Promised Land, now found his most cherished request rejected. I believe it would be safe to say Moshe yearned to enter the Promised Land, as he loved HaShem and served Him with dedication and passion, and therefore Moshe loved what HaShem had to “offer” the children of Israel, and this included the Promised Land.

I find it fascinating and sobering that despite Moshe’s position before HaShem, as loyal servant and “friend”, he was not allowed to enter the Promised Land. When we consider the word friend, surely we can feel Moshe’s pain.

Friend-reya - coming from ra’ah = tend, satisfy needs: Associated with – lead to pasture, shepherd a flock.

For Moshe the Promised Land would have been as green pastures are to a flock of sheep, something they crave for and Moshe would have had a desperate longing to enter the Promised Land and partake of its lush green pastures. We must keep in mind that this friend and servant of HaShem had been a shepherd to Israel through both good and trying times and had led them to the lush green pastures of the Promised Land. Yes it was Moshe’s “job” to lead the children of Israel to the Promised Land but the disappointment of not being able to enter the Promised Land with them would have been overwhelming.

Moshe speaks some very important words to the nation of Israel:

5 “See, I have taught you statutes and judgments just as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should do thus in the land where you are entering to possess it. 6 So keep and do them, for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples

who will hear all these statutes and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' 7 For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as is the Lord our God whenever we call on Him? 8 Or what great nation is there that has statutes and judgments as righteous as this whole law which I am setting before you today? Deuteronomy 4:5-8 [NASB]

These statutes and judgements are to be carried out in Eretz Yisrael, the land HaShem has ordained as a heritage for His people. One of the key reasons Israel is to carry out the statutes and judgements of HaShem is to bring glory to the name of the Holy One of Israel. Israel is to be a set apart nation, a nation that follows the instructions/Torah of HaShem.

Moshe goes on to warn the people of falling into idolatry and submitting to the practices of the heathen nations occupying the land.

“Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons. Deuteronomy 4:9 [NASB]

25 “When you become the father of children and children’s children and have remained long in the land, and act corruptly, and make an idol in the form of anything, and do that which is evil in the sight of the Lord your God so as to provoke Him to anger, 26 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will surely perish quickly from the land where you are going over the Jordan to possess it. You shall not live long on it, but will be utterly destroyed. 27 The Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the Lord drives you. 28 There you will serve gods, the work of man’s hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. Deuteronomy 4:25-28 [NASB]

As I write this in 2015, the events described above are unfortunately taking place in Eretz Yisrael. Israel, as it stands today, is not even close to being the nation it should be. We children of Israel offer very little that brings glory to the name of HaShem. Our attraction to idols, false gods and rebellious practices should never be allowed in the Promised Land, and be confident there is approaching a time when no such practices will be allowed in this Land, a Land given by HaShem as a gift to Yisrael.

We have the words *“There you will serve gods, the handiwork of man, of wood and stone, which do not see, and do not hear, and do not eat, and do not smell.”* Deuteronomy 4:29

Serve/Avad - Work subjects to another's will, giving service, directing energies to another's goal.

Gods/elohim - masters, rulers, those in control.

These prophetic words Moshe is speaking are a travesty for the nation of Israel, as Moshe tells us a time is approaching when Israel will be conducting their lives according to the rules and regulations of man instead of HaShem. This prophetic Word of Moshe unfolded and sadly holds true even today. The result of such rebellious, foolish action results in the “Children of Israel” taking orders and following the ways of the Goyim/Nations instead of HaShem.

Becoming and being a corrupt nation in the Promised Land is not and will not be tolerated by the Holy One of Israel. HaShem will not put up with such behaviour from His children and as Eretz Yisrael is to be a set apart Land He cannot allow His people to reside in the Promised Land polluted by the corruption of the Goyim. This rebellious behaviour will and does result in the people of Israel ejected from the land. Ejected from the land, Israel will find themselves under the subjection of “Pharaoh and Mitzrayim/Egypt” once again; taking orders from heathen masters.

When this takes place we find a historical pattern repeating. The Children of Israel once again become very happy residing outside the land, willingly working for foreign masters, often embracing the idols of the Goyim and showing very little if any regards for the Torah or the Promised Land. Not only have we forgotten we are THE KINGS children, but most don't even care or want to know about their heritage.

Rabbi Yisachar Shlomo Teichtal makes a strong and effective point when he compares the Promised Land as Israel's true mother, and any land outside of eretz Yisrael as the ugly step mother. His thoughts stem from:

“Like a man whose mother consoled him, so will I console you, and in Jerusalem will you be consoled.” Isaiah 66:13 [AST]

“This is My resting place forever and ever, here I will dwell, for I have desired it.” Psalms 132:14 [AST]

I anticipate that Rabbi Teichtal uses “mothers” as a metaphor because mothers are to provide comfort to their children and the children of Israel will only receive full comfort in Eretz Yisrael.

We the people of Israel have made a monumental mistake in finding comfort in Chutz-LaAretz [outside the Land] Many of us have built kingdoms and castles in Chutz-LaAretz, and established roots so deep we cannot contemplate leaving them. These kingdoms and castles are handed onto our children and our children’s children, making a mockery of the Shema, because we are teaching our children about the glories of “Egypt”, instead of the wonders of Eretz Yisrael. This has been a deadly mistake of many generations and we only have to cast our minds back 75 odd years to see what can happen in Chutz-LaAretz in a very short time. Even now the comfort we have found in other nations is turning out to be a pseudo comfort, with a dramatic rise in anti-semitism. There is no permanent home for the Children of Israel outside of the Promised Land.

The Master Himself had some advice on these so-called comforts:

“Yeshua looked around and said to His talmidim, ‘How hard it is going to be for people with wealth to enter the Kingdom of God!’ The talmidim were astounded at these words; but Yeshua said to them again, ‘My friends, how hard it is to enter the Kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through a needles eye than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God.’” Mark 10:23-25 [CJB]

The riches of man are found outside of Israel, and if one places their life in the hands of such riches then one will want to follow the system dominated by man. This leads to rejecting the torah of HaShem and accepting the law of man.

On the other hand Eretz Yisrael is to be under the control of righteous leaders, who follow the instructions of HaMoshiach Yeshua, the living Torah, and impress upon the people to be obedient to Hashem’s torah. It is under these conditions that you will find and receive the riches of HaShem, the Holy One of Yisrael blessed be He.

Many reading this teaching will have a yearning to reside in Israel now, but cannot due to Government restrictions that are implemented under the influence of the “Ultra

Orthodox” arm of Judaism. If you cannot prove you are Jewish [according to their laws] you cannot become a citizen of Israel. You may well be a Torah abiding person, from “Ephraim” but if you cannot prove you are from “Judah” you are not welcome to make Aliyah. The good news is that HaShem is in full charge of who enters and resides in the Promised Land and He is in the “business” of bringing us home to the Promised Land. In order to do this, there is a need to disrupt our comfortable lives, often using our enemies to cause this disruption and have us truly engage in Teshuvah. What is difficult to fathom is why we as a people and a nation choose to live our lives in such rebellion as to force this action upon us. Why aren’t we desperate to dwell in the Promised Land, the Land our Father has given us?

“Now, O Israel, listen to the decrees and the ordinances that I teach you to perform, so that you may live, and you will come and possess the Land that HASHEM, the God of your forefathers, gives you.” Deuteronomy 4:1 [AST]

“You shall observe His decrees and His commandments that I command you this day, so that He will do good to you and to your children after you, and so that you will prolong your days on the Land that HASHEM, your God, gives you, for all the days.” Deuteronomy 4:40 [AST]

The Promised Land, a Land flowing with “milk and honey”, is a Land waiting to be blessed by HaShem. Yet it cannot receive this “blessing” when the Father’s children are absent. Everyday people throughout the world are looking for places to buy homes, places to live, places they can dwell in peace and settle down with their families. For the Children of Israel, this should not be the case. We have a Land waiting for us to take up residence in, a wonderful land, a unique Land, put aside for our nation Israel, yet as said, as a nation we reject this invitation from HaShem. Is it because we refuse to do the work needed to possess the Land? I suspect this is the case, because this work involves total dedication to the Holy One of Israel, and an emptying out of self. It involves following the instructions of HaShem, and leaving aside any that oppose those instructions.

“You shall be careful to act as HASHEM, your God, commanded you, you shall not stray to the right or to the left. On the entire way that HASHEM, your God commanded you shall you go, so that you shall live and it will be good for you, and you shall prolong your days in the Land that you shall possess.” Deuteronomy 5:29-30 [AST]

Our rebellion against the Torah is the reason we do not possess the Promised Land. Our rebellion against the Torah is the reason we have lost total protection from our enemies. Without a change of heart in what and who we are willing to work for, then taking possession of the Promised Land will be more like a night mare than a wonderful dream.

Before we close this teaching we must view the following:

“This is the commandment, and the decrees, and the ordinances that HASHEM, your God, commanded to teach you, to perform in the Land to which you are crossing, to possess it, so that you will fear HASHEM, your God, to observe all His decrees and commandments that I command you – you your children, and your grandchildren – all the days of your life, so that your days will be lengthened. You shall hearken, O Israel, and beware to perform, so that it will be good for you, and so that you will increase very much, as HASHEM, the God of your forefathers, spoke for you – a land flowing with milk and honey.” Deteronomy 6:1-3 [AST]

Please note; for Eretz Yisrael to be a land flowing with milk and honey [the riches of HaShem], then the whole nation of Yisrael, that is all the citizens are to adhere to the Holy Torah. It is adherence to the Torah that determines the riches of the land, thus flowing over to the blessings of HaShem poured out on His Children. Please understand no adherence to the Holy Torah, will result in no milk and honey, only enemies trying to destroy our land and our people.

So how do we ensure that Eretz Yisrael will become and stay a Land of milk and honey freely flowing with the riches of Hashem? Well the answer is found in the following:

4 “Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 [NASB]

We have a responsibility to teach the Torah to all citizens of Israel; the Torah is not for Judah only but is the constitution for all the “Children of Israel”. When HaMoshiach Yeshua brings us home to the Promised Land, we will all be living under Biblical Torah

as taught and dispensed by Him, so let us serve Him in the manner He so deserves and desires – Loving His Torah; the “Blue print” for all Israel; and loving Eretz Yisrael, the land HaShem has chosen for us.

We serve a wonderful God, as there is no God like the God of Israel, and no nation like the nation of Israel, and no land like Eretz Yisrael.

Blessings to all citizens of biblical Israel,

Rabbi Philip Hammond.