

# RE'EH - SEE

*Written by Rabbi Philip Hammond. Posted in Reconciliation Parashah*

Our next teaching comes from parashah RE'EH – SEE.

Devarim/Deuteronomy 11:26 - 16:17; Isaiah/Yeshayahu 54:11-55:5

26 “See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: 27 the blessing, if you listen to the commandments of the Lord your God, which I am commanding you today; 28 and the curse, if you do not listen to the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way which I am commanding you today, by following other gods which you have not known. 29 “It shall come about, when the Lord your God brings you into the land where you are entering to possess it, that you shall place the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal. 30 Are they not across the Jordan, west of the way toward the sunset, in the land of the Canaanites who live in the Arabah, opposite Gilgal, beside the oaks of Moreh? 31 For you are about to cross the Jordan to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall possess it and live in it, 32 and you shall be careful to do all the statutes and the judgments which I am setting before you today. Deuteronomy 11:26-32 [NASB]

As I sit and begin to contemplate what to write regarding this Parashah I feel drawn to our opening word – RE'EH/SEE.

RE'EH- רֵאָה - Look, see and understand: If only as a people, we the children of Israel would LOOK, SEE and UNDERSTAND. It is only when we truly look and see that we can then begin to understand. Thousands of years after these words were spoken and recorded, we still don't understand our Heavenly Father and what He has to say both too and about His nation Israel and therefore too and about His people. How hard can it be to understand the opening passages of this Parashah?

Considering our present condition as a nation, you would be forgiven in thinking that it must be very hard. So what makes it so difficult to understand? Rabbi Mordecai Silver makes an appropriate point in his “Journey Through Torah, Volume VII”, when he says, “We spend way too much time listening to the words of men when we should be focusing on the words of the Lord.”

Unfortunately, this is not a new problem; it had its beginnings back in the Garden of Eden. Our “Parents” Adam and Eve/Chavah set the pattern when they also chose to ignore the Words of HaShem. No more needs to be said regarding this tragic incident, other than there has always been blessings for adhering to HaShem’s instructions and curses for rejecting His instructions. Listening to the words of men, or any other source over and above HaShem’s words will cause one to become or stay blind. When one is in such a state, then that one or community will fail to understand. I bring an example of this failing to understand from the Master Himself, Yeshua HaMoshiach.

After these things there was a feast of the Jews, and Yeshua went up to Jerusalem. 2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the sheep gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew Bethesda, having five porticoes. 3 In these lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered, [waiting for the moving of the waters; 4 for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted.] 5 A man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. 6 When Yeshua saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition, He \*said to him, “Do you wish to get well?” 7 The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me.” 8 Yeshua \*said to him, “Get up, pick up your pallet and walk.” 9 Immediately the man became well, and picked up his pallet and began to walk. Now it was the Sabbath on that day. 10 So the Jews were saying to the man who was cured, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not permissible for you to carry your pallet.” 11 But he answered them, “He who made me well was the one who said to me, ‘Pick up your pallet and walk.’” 12 They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Pick up your pallet and walk’?” 13 But the man who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away while there was a crowd in that place. 14 Afterward Yeshua \*found him in the temple and said to him, “Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you.” 15 The man went away, and told the Jews that it was Yeshua who had made him well. 16 For this reason the Jews were persecuting Yeshua, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. 17 But He answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.” 18 For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God. 19 Therefore Yeshua answered and was saying to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for

whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. 20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel. John 5:1-20 [NASB]

Let us SEE/RE'EH what is taking place here. In verse 18 of John 5 we are told that the Jews, or as "The Scriptures" bible and the "Exegeses ready research Bible" put it, the Yehudim/Yah Hudiym sought to slaughter Yeshua, because not only did He in their eyes, break the Shabbath rules, but He also declared He was Elohim. You must realise, these from the House of Judah had little or no understanding of Yeshua, because they were spending so much time listening to the instructions/torah of men, instead of delving deep into the Word of HaShem. Rabbi Silver makes another appropriate point in his "Journey Through Torah Volume VII" when he writes "...most Jewish people do not even read their Bibles but read the writings of their Rabbis much the same way as most Christians do not read their Bibles but will read books of commentaries on the Bible. Commentary should follow the study of Scripture not take its place."

Yeshua makes the point, that even though these Jews may believe and even be "searching" the scriptures, they fail to understand them fully, thus they are unwilling to come to Him and receive eternal life. To make an even more prominent point on why they continue to fail to understand, and thus fail to bring glory to the Father's name, is because they are focused on receiving glory from one another. When one [in this case some from Judah] seek glory from man and one another, deception and self justification are not far away. Yeshua makes this point when He says:

"You search the Scriptures, because you think you possess everlasting life in them. And these are the ones that bear witness of Me. But you do not desire to come to Me in order to possess life. I do not receive esteem from men, but I know you, that you do not have the love of Elohim in you". John 5:39-42 [ISR]

"I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you would receive." John 5:43 [ISR]

Is it to "imaginative" to view these words that Yeshua spoke as a warning against some of the excessive Rabbinical halakhah and claims found in the world of Orthodox Judaism? I ask this question because over the years sects of Judaism have claimed a number of leading Rabbis as the Messiah, thus receiving one who has come in his own name, instead of receiving the true and living Moshiach Yeshua. This then extends to the

fact that these same groups are devoid of the love of God, but full of the love of self and ‘Rabbinic heroes’. Over the years there have been various sects claiming various men as HaMoshiach, with Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson the latest in a line of such claimants. In saying this I must emphasise that not all in the Chabad movement agree with this claim, but there are many who do. There is an intriguing twist to these claims of a Moshiach, especially regards Rabbi Schneerson. In my research about Rabbi Schneerson it appears he never went to Israel, yet he could be seen as HaMoshiach by his followers. If only those who make such claims applied the same rules to the likes of Rabbi Schneerson as they do to Yeshua HaMoshiach, then we wouldn’t have these outrageous claims made. Imagine HaMoshiach as “someone” who never visited Israel, and as it seems in Schneersons case, never appeared interested in doing so. Talk about unjust weights and measures. Yes HaMoshiach will rule from Jerusalem, but it will not be Rabbi Schneerson on the throne but Yeshua as HaMoshiach. I do not say this to denigrate Rabbi Schneerson in any manner, as he did wonderful works for “humanity” and furthered the cause of Judaism. But as usual when man gets unbalanced and worships “his own name”, [as many do with Rabbi Schneerson], instead of the One who actually has the authority from HaShem [Yeshua HaMoshiach] then things begin to go astray and fall apart.

Yeshua says:

“If you believed Mosheh, you would have believed Me, since he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how shall you believe My words”. John 5:46-47

All of Orthodox Judaism would claim to “believe Mosheh”, yet these same Orthodox people do not believe in Yeshua as HaMoshiach, therefore, the fact is, that they do not believe in Moshe’s writings, thus they do not believe Yeshua’s words.

You see the problem is that the words of Yeshua HaMoshiach challenge the teachings of the establishment of Orthodox Judaism. Unfortunately Judah has gone well outside its mandate of protecting and giving the Torah. They have been very industrious setting up measures that they saw as a means of “protecting the Torah”, but as Rabbi Silver points out, ‘these measures have grown to such an extent that they are seen as equal or above the Torah of Moshe’.

This then results in Judah believing and following those who come in their own names, instead of believing and receiving Yeshua as the Living Torah, HaMoshiach of all Israel.

It must also be noted that Christianity suffers from the same fate. How many millions believe and “receive” the Pope over and above the writings of Moshe and the words of Yeshua!! How many millions of Pentecostals and charismatics believe and receive the nonsense of their own “leaders” instead of the writings of Moshe and the words of Yeshua!! How many millions of Protestants believe and receive the teachings of Calvin, Luther etc over and above the writings of Moshe and the words of Yeshua!! The list goes on.

The Children of Israel [all Israel-Both Houses] are blinded to some degree. Yes, we all have spots of blindness, but when one is wilfully blind to the Word of HaShem, then trouble lies at the door. I suggest that many in the various sects of Judaism are wilfully blind to the notion that Yeshua is HaMoshiach, they will not even contemplate the possibility. There are historical reasons behind this, and if Yeshua was as the Christian Church presents Him, then He could not be HaMoshiach. However with the availability of information now at hand there is little excuse for “Judah” not to take this claim seriously, and actually apply the criteria of the Torah of Moshe to re’eh if Yeshua is indeed HaMoshiach. Again the problem is the fact that Judah has received the teachings/torah of men who have come “in their own name”, instead of receiving the Word of Moshe which tells about HaMoshiach Yeshua. When we receive and follow the “torah/instructions” of men, over and above the Torah of Moshe then we have the situation of which Yeshua speaks of:

“But He answered and said ‘Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted shall be uprooted. Leave them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both shall fall into a ditch.’” Matthew 15:13-14.

The Plant the Father planted is obviously The Tree of Life, “whose branches” are Yeshua HaMoshiach and the holy Torah. It is the Living Torah Yeshua, Who gives the light that never fades or goes out, thus preventing the Children of Israel from falling into dangerous and deadly ditches.

Please understand that biblical faith without Biblical Torah is like having a torch without batteries, and that biblical faith without Yeshua HaMoshiach is like having batteries

without a torch; both need to be present and in good working condition to provide the light needed to RE'EH.

Both Kingdoms/Houses of Israel are in a large degree of darkness, floundering and falling into various ditches. Both Kingdoms/Houses are under a “curse/q'lalah” from HaShem, meaning both houses are somewhat diminished in substance, undeserving of blessings, and will receive a serious shaking, to bring us to our senses. This must take place before we will be allowed to enter into the Promised Land, a Land flowing with the blessings of HaShem.

Children of the whole House of Israel, don't worry about what is facing the so-called unbeliever, go and read what is facing the rebellious, blind, and stiff necked nation of Israel. Before HaShem blesses us by letting us into the Promised Land and driving out our enemies, both Houses are going to be shaken to the core, whereby, [as written in Hebrews 12:27], only those things that cannot be shaken remain. Let us be reminded that Yeshua HaMoshiach and the holy Torah and Eretz Yisrael are “things” that cannot or will not be shaken by HaShem. These remain steadfast, because:

“ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.” John 1:1-4 [NASB]

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.