

NITZAVIM - YOU ARE STANDING.

Written by Rabbi Philip Hammond.. Posted in Reconciliation Parashah

RECONCILIATION TEACHINGS FROM THE WEEKLY PARASHAH.

Our next teaching comes from parashah **NITZAVIM – YOU ARE STANDING.**

Devarim/Deuteronomy 29:9[10] - 30:20; Isaiah/Yeshayahu 61:1- 63:9

30 “So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind in all nations where the LORD your God has banished you, ² and you return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, ³ then the LORD your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. ⁴ If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back. ⁵ The LORD your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. ⁶ “Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live. ⁷ The LORD your God will inflict all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you. ⁸ And you shall again obey the LORD, and observe all His commandments which I command you today. ⁹ Then the LORD your God will prosper you abundantly in all the work of your hand, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your cattle and in the produce of your ground, for the LORD will again rejoice over you for good, just as He rejoiced over your fathers; ¹⁰ if you obey the LORD your God to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law, if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and soul. ¹¹ “For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach. ¹² It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will go up to heaven for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?’ ¹³ Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will cross the sea for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may

observe it?' ¹⁴ But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may observe it. ¹⁵ "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity; ¹⁶ in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you will not obey, but are drawn away and worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall surely perish. You will not prolong your days in the land where you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess it. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, ²⁰ by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them." Deuteronomy 30:1-20 [NASB]

It is safe to say HaShem says what He means and means what He says. So when we read the Word of HaShem we can be absolutely confident that this Word is true and factual. Whilst we may struggle at times to fully understand and grasp the Word of HaShem, it is what it is, and we cannot and should not try to twist, change and manipulate it for our own purposes. The purposes and plans of HaShem will unfold despite the best efforts to prevent them, and with those purposes and plans come the fate of peoples and nations depending on their faithfulness to HaShem. The nation of Israel is to have faith in and be faithful to HaShem and He alone. We are to guard our hearts and obey our Father in heaven, and not be lured away to serve other gods.

The "world" of unbelief will make every effort to prevent the purposes, plans and promises of HaShem to take place. Even those that believe but have uncircumcised hearts will also try and prevent this from taking place as they desperately try and change the Word of HaShem for their own purposes; many and varied as they are.

Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, by itself. But someone will say, 'You have faith, and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works'

You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? James 3:17-20 [NASB]

There is much debate surrounding the understanding of faith, yet the truth of the matter is that it is **faithfulness** that gives witness to the degree of faith one has. HaShem rewards faithfulness through His promised blessings.

*“Love HASHEM, all His devout ones! HASHEM safeguards the **faithful**, but He repays for his haughtiness one who acts with arrogance. Be strong, and let your hearts take courage, all who wait longingly for HASHEM.”* Psalm 31:24-25 [AST]

How better to show our faithfulness and fulfil our duties and show one’s “works” than to follow the instructions [Torah] of our heavenly Father! It is the height of haughtiness and arrogance to change the Torah of HaShem and at the same time claim that you are speaking with authority from HaShem. Both Houses have been guilty of engaging in this abhorrent act. I am not talking about genuine mistakes and misunderstandings, but those decisions taken that are in opposition to the instructions and Word of HaShem. I am persuaded that these arrogant and haughty actions will be repaid by refusal to enter the Promised Land. If this is the case then it will matter little whether you are from the House of Judah or Ephraim or one from the nations who want to enter, only those who “play by the rules” will be granted permission to enter the Promised Land when HaMoshiach Yeshua reigns. It is faithfulness to our Father and Moshiach that will have the just weights and measures of HaShem weigh in our favour.

“.....Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” Revelation 2:10b [NASB]

These are the words of the Master Himself, so I strongly suggest we take notice of them.

*¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. **So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants,** ²⁰ **by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him** ; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”* Deuteronomy 30: 19-20

The pattern of recompense based on faithfulness or unfaithfulness is woven right throughout the bible. It began in the Garden of Eden and continues right through to the book of Revelation. If we as individuals and as a nation want to enter into the Promised Land thus choosing life, then the rules we need to play by are plain for all to see.

The heading given to this week’s Parashah is “ Nitzavim – You are standing”, and comes in the opening words of the Parashah.

¹⁰ ***You stand today, all of you, before the LORD your God: your chiefs, your tribes, your elders and your officers, even all the men of Israel, ¹¹ your little ones, your wives, and the alien who is within your camps, from the one who chops your wood to the one who draws your water, ¹² that you may enter into the covenant with the LORD your God, and into His oath which the LORD your God is making with you today, ¹³ in order that He may establish you today as His people and that He may be your God, just as He spoke to you and as He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.***

¹⁴ ***Now not with you alone am I making this covenant and this oath, ¹⁵ but both with those who stand here with us today in the presence of the LORD our God and with those who are not with us here today.*** Deuteronomy 29:10-15 [NASB]

Rav Samson Raphael Hirsch, follows the teachings of most Jewish sages and commentators and says this about verses 14 – 15 [13-14]:

“Just as obligation in the covenantal oath is not limited to certain [classes or categories of] people, so it is also not limited in the duration of its validity. This obligation applies to all people counted among the nation of Israel, in all times. Scripture here unequivocally refutes the false notion that the commitment to the Torah is only temporary, or that one can release himself from this obligation.” The Hirsch Chumash page 694.

If Rabbi Hirsch’s comments hold true and I believe they do, then all people who claim citizenship to biblical Israel are actually standing before HaShem, having to make the same choices those had to make thousands of years ago. This is a sobering thought when you take all this into account and deserves our complete attention. HaShem is the same yesterday, today and forever and does not change.

“For I, the LORD do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.” Malachi 3:6 [NASB]

“Remember your leaders, who preached the word of God to you, and as you reflect on the outcome of their lives, take their faith as your model. Yeshua HaMoshiach is the same today as he was yesterday and as He will be forever. Hebrews 13:7-8 [NJB]

The faith of Godly leaders is the message of faithfulness to HaShem, no matter what the circumstances are. It is not faithfulness without mistakes, but it is a faithfulness that produces repentance/teshuva when the need arises. It is a faithfulness that strives to follow the instructions of the Holy One of Israel, and a faithfulness that is to be pasted onto all the Children of Israel. This kind of faith and faithfulness comes

from the preaching of the Word of HaShem, a Word untainted by the pollution of other gods, idols and belief systems. We are told Yeshua [Who is the living Word] does not change, so what was true in the past, is true in the present and the future. HaShem is watching for our response to His instructions, His decisions are made according to His Torah as the Word of HaShem is binding. HaShem has rules that He requires His Children to abide by, these rules and regulations [The Torah] are the **perfect** set of instructions for His [our] nation Israel. They have been formulated to give us **perfect life**. They have been formulated so we can return to Him and live in the Promised Land, as a light to the other nations. King David has some encouraging words for us and a word of warning:

“The eyes of HASHEM are toward the righteous and His ears to their cry. The face of HASHEM is against evildoers, to cut off their memory from earth.” Psalm 34:16-17 [15-16]
[AST]

We are told our Father will hear the cry of the righteous/Tzaddeq. This carries great weight, when you consider the condition and position of both Houses. We may cry out, even demand to be let into the Promised Land, but unless we are a righteous nation, whereby we are considered a nation of priests in the eyes of HaShem, our cries will not be considered. In our present condition we fall well short of being a nation of righteous priests, we are more a nation of evildoers, as we are a stiff necked people who continue to reject and change the Torah as given to us by our Father. If I am reading the above correctly this means being cut off completely never to be remembered.

We must judge our position before HaShem via His Torah, not via feelings or the teachings of false “prophets” who peddle false promises. Sadly, you will find such teachers and leaders in both Houses. I repeat, I am not talking about teachers who are not perfect and make mistakes, as only HaShem and Moshiach Yeshua are perfect, but teachers and leaders who wilfully reject the Word and encourage the Children of Israel to follow the ways of false gods and idols. Teachers who reject the Torah and preach that it is “old fashioned” or only for the Jews, are to avoided, as they will lead you into darkness, and cause your memory to be blotted out.

Some will find it difficult to leave the institutions and places of worship that they place their faith and faithfulness in, but if these institutions and places of worship do not follow the Torah, then we are told to remove ourselves from their presence.

“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, ‘Come out from her, my people, that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues; for her sins have

piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.” Revelation 18:4-5
[NASB]

Where would our future lie if not for the grace and mercy of our heavenly Father? How would we find our way back if not for Yeshua HaMoshiach? People of both Houses and your companions, we stand before HaShem this day, naked and wretched, with a decision to make! Do we accept the outstretched arm of HaShem and serve Him or do we fall for the false promises and bright lights of the enemy, an enemy who is focused on taking the Children of Israel away from the Light and instructions of HaShem? I truly hope you can say:

“.....but as for me and my house, we will serve HASHEM.” Joshua 24:15

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.