

# FAMILY BREAKDOWN - THE REMEDY - WEEK ELEVEN

*Written by Rabbi Philip Hammond. Posted in Reconciliation 2015-2016*

1 From: Sha'ul, by God's will an emissary of the Messiah Yeshua

To: God's people living in Ephesus, that is, those who are trusting in the Messiah Yeshua:

2 Grace to you and shalom from God our Father and the Lord Yeshua the Messiah.

3 Praised be Adonai, Father of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, who in the Messiah has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heaven. 4 In the Messiah he chose us in love before the creation of the universe to be holy and without defect in his presence. 5 He determined in advance that through Yeshua the Messiah we would be his sons — in keeping with his pleasure and purpose — 6 so that we would bring him praise commensurate with the glory of the grace he gave us through the Beloved One.

7 In union with him, through the shedding of his blood, we are set free — our sins are forgiven; this accords with the wealth of the grace 8 he has lavished on us. In all his wisdom and insight 9 he has made known to us his secret plan, which by his own will he designed beforehand in connection with the Messiah 10 and will put into effect when the time is ripe — his plan to place everything in heaven and on earth under the Messiah's headship.

11 Also in union with him we were given an inheritance, we who were picked in advance according to the purpose of the One who effects everything in keeping with the decision of his will, 12 so that we who earlier had put our hope in the Messiah would bring him praise commensurate with his glory.

13 Furthermore, you who heard the message of the truth, the Good News offering you deliverance, and put your trust in the Messiah were sealed by him with the promised

Ruach HaKodesh, 14 who guarantees our inheritance until we come into possession of it and thus bring him praise commensurate with his glory.

15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your trust in the Lord Yeshua and your love for all God's people, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you. In my prayers I keep asking 17 the God of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, the glorious Father, to give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you will have full knowledge of him. 18 I pray that he will give light to the eyes of your hearts, so that you will understand the hope to which he has called you, what rich glories there are in the inheritance he has promised his people, 19 and how surpassingly great is his power working in us who trust him. It works with the same mighty strength he used 20 when he worked in the Messiah to raise him from the dead and seat him at his right hand in heaven, 21 far above every ruler, authority, power, dominion or any other name that can be named either in the 'olam hazeh or in the 'olam haba. 22 Also, he has put all things under his feet and made him head over everything for the Messianic Community, 23 which is his body, the full expression of him who fills all creation.

2 You used to be dead because of your sins and acts of disobedience. 2 You walked in the ways of the 'olam hazeh and obeyed the Ruler of the Powers of the Air, who is still at work among the disobedient. 3 Indeed, we all once lived this way — we followed the passions of our old nature and obeyed the wishes of our old nature and our own thoughts. In our natural condition we were headed for God's wrath, just like everyone else.

4 But God is so rich in mercy and loves us with such intense love 5 that, even when we were dead because of our acts of disobedience, he brought us to life along with the Messiah — it is by grace that you have been delivered. 6 That is, God raised us up with the Messiah Yeshua and seated us with him in heaven, 7 in order to exhibit in the ages to come how infinitely rich is his grace, how great is his kindness toward us who are united with the Messiah Yeshua. 8 For you have been delivered by grace through trusting, and even this is not your accomplishment but God's gift. 9 You were not delivered by your own actions; therefore no one should boast. 10 For we are of God's making, created in union with the Messiah Yeshua for a life of good actions already prepared by God for us to do.

11 Therefore, remember your former state: you Gentiles by birth — called the Uncircumcised by those who, merely because of an operation on their flesh, are called the

Circumcised — 12 at that time had no Messiah. You were estranged from the national life of Isra'el. You were foreigners to the covenants embodying God's promise. You were in this world without hope and without God.

13 But now, you who were once far off have been brought near through the shedding of the Messiah's blood. 14 For he himself is our shalom — he has made us both one and has broken down the m'chitzah which divided us 15 by destroying in his own body the enmity occasioned by the Torah, with its commands set forth in the form of ordinances. He did this in order to create in union with himself from the two groups a single new humanity and thus make shalom, 16 and in order to reconcile to God both in a single body by being executed on a stake as a criminal and thus in himself killing that enmity.

17 Also, when he came, he announced as Good News shalom to you far off and shalom to those nearby, 18 news that through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

19 So then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers. On the contrary, you are fellow-citizens with God's people and members of God's family. 20 You have been built on the foundation of the emissaries and the prophets, with the cornerstone being Yeshua the Messiah himself. 21 In union with him the whole building is held together, and it is growing into a holy temple in union with the Lord. 22 Yes, in union with him, you yourselves are being built together into a spiritual dwelling-place for God! Ephesians 1:1-2:22 [CJB]

These are some of my favourite verses and teachings in the “Apostolic Scriptures”. There is a tremendous amount of teaching and information just within the verses above. Can I do these verses “justice” in this short chapter, probably not, but those reading this can go on and do further study looking for the gems contained therein.

I hope that those who have read and come this far would understand that this author believes that there are Two Houses/Kingdoms of Israel, having come about, as briefly explained, in the opening chapter of these writings. With this in mind it is important that we view the setting regarding the audience of this letter to the Ephesians. Historians tell us the Ephesus was a city of Iona in Asia Minor. It was in the affluent region and came to prominence due to the many visitors coming to worship Diana in the much celebrated Temple of Diana. It was mainly settled and inhabited by Greek colonies, but it also had a

population of Jews, as Shaul/Paul dropped by briefly and taught in their synagogues as recorded in Acts.

“When they reached Ephesus, he [Paul] left them, but first he went alone to the synagogue to debate with the Jews. They asked him to stay longer, but he declined, though when he took his leave he said, ‘I will come back another time, God willing.’ Then he sailed from Ephesus.” Acts 18:19-21

So the letter to the Ephesians had a “Two House” audience. It had the House of Judah, [the Jews] and it had the House of Ephraim [Those from the nations]. As this is the case, it is important when studying the topic of reconciliation between Judah and Ephraim, that we search this letter to see if there is valuable information to help the cause.

Shaul opens this letter by addressing those [Both Houses] who are Holy/set apart through faith in HaMoshiach Yeshua. He then goes on to make a startling statement. HaShem chose us “in Moshiach” before the foundation of the world. With this comes the responsibility to follow in His footsteps, thus to be holy [set apart through application of Torah] and without defect [through application of Torah]. Then further on he makes another statement of tremendous significance. Shaul/Paul tells us that through Moshiach we would receive an inheritance. Our biblical heritage is made claimable through HaMoshiach Yeshua. This heritage was locked away for us by HaShem before the very foundation of the world. One vital issue we must face is that this inheritance, this heritage, is only for those who are true biblical citizens of Israel. One must become a citizen of Israel to make a claim on this inheritance and thus be a part of this heritage. We are to be a united people with One Shepherd.

“I will establish over them a single shepherd and he will tend them – My servant David; he will tend them and he will be a shepherd unto them. I, HASHEM, I will be a God to them, and My servant David a prince among them. I, HASHEM, have spoken. Ezekiel 34:23-24 [AST]

“My servant David will be king over them, and there will be one shepherd for all of them; and they will follow My ordinances and keep My decrees and fulfil them. They will dwell in the land I gave to My servant Jacob, within which your fathers dwelled; they and their children and their children’s children will dwell upon it forever; and My servant David will be a leader for them forever. Ezekiel 37:24-25 [AST]

Most Jewish and Christian scholars and commentators agree that these verses naming David as the Shepherd also mean the coming Moshiach. So both Houses are to be united under the one shepherd that is HaMoshiach. Make no mistake there is a Moshiach coming as Moshiach Ben David and He will rule and Torah will be the constitution for all citizens of biblical Israel; that is both Houses and we will be known as the nation of Israel, not the nation of Judah or Ephraim.

“Also I have other sheep which are not from this pen; I need to bring them, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock, one shepherd.” John10:16 [CJB]

In the book of Matthew 15:24, Yeshua said He was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. Yeshua is in the “business” of bringing back the lost sheep of Israel. These are the sheep that are out of the “pen” of Torah. Is it not the House of Ephraim/Israel that is termed as “lost” and as such need to be brought back into the Household that operates under the Torah/Instructions of HaShem?

Shaul/Paul pointed out that those from the nations [Goyim] were outside of the “commonwealth of Israel”. Paul went on to say that not only were they estranged from the national life of Israel but also without God and without hope. This was because they followed the instructions of the world as laid down by the prince of the power of the air. The citizens of Ephesus were heavily engaged in pagan worship and amongst those guilty of such were citizens who should have been following HaShem. The only way to deal with this and the family problems that were associated with such disobedience was for HaMoshiach Ben Yosef to come as the suffering servant and lead His people home. Paul tells us this was achieved through the shedding of Moshiach’s blood. Paul tells us that it is HaMoshiach Yeshua that is our Shalom and it is through him the dividing wall that separates us is broken down. Yes people, it is through HaMoshiach that the family reunion takes place. It is HaMoshiach that brings Israel back to the light of Torah and thus back into the fold. Paul goes on to say that Yeshua did all this in order to create in union with Himself ONE GROUP from the TWO. Paul then continues on to say that this also brings about reconciliation to HaShem. Paul confirms all this with a reminder that those who were not citizens of biblical Israel and were once classed as aliens or foreign visitors are now actually fellow-citizens along with the set apart people of HaShem. In fact these “converts” are now classed as part of God’s Household. We are told by Paul that our foundations are the apostles and prophets, with Moshiach Yeshua the chief cornerstone. This can be condensed into saying that it is the Torah which lays our

foundations upon which we are “built”. Please allow me to state: If you are looking at a way to show your love for HaShem and Moshiach Yeshua then you can do no better than to follow the set apart Torah. This is the foundation that allows us to be knitted together into a “holy temple” growing in perfect step and union with our Moshiach.

Surely this brings great joy and encouragement for those who eagerly seek citizenship in biblical Israel, when Moshiach Ben David reigns. The Right Arm of HaShem is outstretched beckoning His Children to return home. He awaits His Children to forgo all the teachings and practices that are opposed to His Torah. Moshiach Ben Yoseph has done all the “hard work”. He has created a wonderful and safe path home. He has resting places along the way, where He promises to meet us on a regular basis. These are called His Moedim or His appointed times. We have the holy Sabbath; Pesach, Hag HaBikkurim; Shavuot; Yom Teruah; Yom HaKippurim; Sukkot; and Shemini Atzeret. These are the appointed times when our Moshiach awaits our presence. Why would you neglect these appointed times of HaShem, practiced by our Moshiach and prefer Christmas, Easter, Halloween, Sunday etc, practiced by pagan gods and their followers. Thank God for His love and mercy, without which we would be dead in our sin.

May we let the Shalom of HaShem that is beyond our understanding guard our hearts and thoughts in Moshiach Yeshua.

Truly there is no God like our God, the God of Israel and no nation like the Nation whom He elected.

Blessings to all citizens of biblical Israel,

Rabbi, [Prof] Philip Hammond. PhD.