

## FAMILY BREAKDOWN – THE REMEDY – WEEK FOURTEEN.

As with all love stories there is a beginning to the journey. The journey will endure a number of “ups and downs” with very important junctions along the way. How many of these take place is dependent upon the health of the relationship between those in the story and the length of time that relationship lasts. As we contemplate this I am reminded of the enduring and everlasting love HaShem has for His nation Israel. The love that HaShem has for Israel is very difficult to fathom. I could almost guarantee if we mere humans were asked to love a person or people who behaved as Israel has behaved towards HaShem, then that love would have ceased long ago. That is why if you are seeking how to actually love someone, then you can do no better than to learn the from the Almighty Himself as there is no better example or set of teachings to follow.

True biblical love produces a love that cannot be broken. The reason the nation of Israel split and continues to be so is because we have failed to learn biblical love. We can only overcome our differences when we have a change of mindset founded on biblical love. This is no easy task and will become a lifelong learning experience for those who choose to engage in adopting this quest.

Sha’ul passed on some timely advice to Timothy. This advice is very applicable to any who are trying to bring the message of Light to a floundering people. We would be well advised to consider the following words.

*“Moreover, understand this: in the acharit-hayamim will come trying times. People will be self-loving, money-loving, proud, arrogant, insulting, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, uncontrolled, brutal, hateful of good, traitorous, headstrong, swollen with conceit, loving pleasure rather than God, as they retain the outer form of religion but deny its power. Stay away from these people! For some of them worm their way into homes and get control of weak-willed women who are heaped with sins and swayed by various impulses, who are always learning but never able to come to full knowledge of the truth. In the same way as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moshe, so also these people oppose the truth. They are people with corrupt minds, whose trust cannot pass the test. However, they won’t get very far; because everyone will see how stupid they are, just as happened with those two. But you, you have closely followed my teaching, conduct, purpose in life, trust, steadfastness, love and perseverance – as well as the persecutions and sufferings that came my way in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. And indeed, all who want to live a godly life united with Messiah Yeshua will be persecuted, while evil people and imposters will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived themselves. But you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, recalling the people from*

*whom you have learned it; and recalling too, how from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which can give you the wisdom that leads to deliverance through trusting in Yeshua the Messiah. All Scripture is God-breathed and is valuable for teaching truth, convicting of sin, correcting faults and training in right living; thus anyone who belongs to God may be fully equipped for every good work. I solemnly charge you before God and the Messiah Yeshua, who will judge the living and the dead when he appears and establishes his Kingdom; proclaim the Word! Be on hand with it whether the time seems right or not. Convict, censure and exhort with unfailing patience and with teaching. For the time is coming when people will not have patience for sound teaching, but will cater to their passions and gather around themselves teachers who say whatever their ears itch to hear. Yes, they will stop listening to the truth, but will turn aside to follow myths. But you, remain steady in every situation, endure suffering, do the work that a proclaimer of the Good News should, and do everything your service to God requires. For as for me, I am already being poured out on the altar; yes, the time for my departure has arrived. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. All that waits me now is the crown of righteousness which the Lord, "the Righteous Judge", will award me on that Day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for him to appear." 2Timothy 3:1 – 4:8 [CJB]*

There is so much to cover within these passages of Scripture, so much so that we could never cover all in such a short space. We will endeavour to concentrate on a number of key points that will help in our quest for reconciliation of relationship between the Two Houses.

We opened up this short article saying that there are important junctions within relationships. These junctions are often "cross roads" in a relationship. Back in 1Kings 11-12, we witnessed such a junction. This was the time of the "family split". So it is vital when similar circumstances arrive we seek the wisdom and counsel of HaShem. If we do not follow the wisdom and counsel of HaShem then what took place those many thousands of years ago will always take place. I am reminded once again how important it is for us to follow in the footsteps of HaMoshiach in this quest for reconciliation.

When you consider the words in the opening verses of chapter 3, does this not remind you of our current societies? We live in Godless societies, whose desires are self serving, devoid of biblical love, enveloped in all forms of darkness. If you are thinking, this has always been the case; then you would have a good point. However what is shameful is that these conditions are found in the households of the Children of HaShem. We are to be a light to the other nations. How can we be such if our own Household is in disarray? We are in need of good counsel, whereby we become full of biblical love and wisdom.

Sha'ul makes a statement that applies to some patterns we find in both Houses. He says that some people are always learning, but despite all this learning, never come to the full knowledge of the truth. This must apply to both Houses of Israel, because we have had centuries of learning, yet we still find ourselves in such disarray. I am persuaded it is because we have yet to understand the difference between knowledge and wisdom. HaShem has given us His Torah so we can gain the knowledge to become wise in the way we conduct our lives. It is the continued application of HaShem's instructions that produce wisdom. Allow me to repeat. It is the continued application of HaShem's instructions/Torah that gives us the wisdom to live Godly lives. Just learning the instructions of HaShem without application is like theory without practice. Someone may have a theory but until that theory is tested and put into practice it has no real value. Until it is tested it is just that, a theory, and one cannot know if it has value or not. Knowledge has no real value, unless put into practice and for it to have value it must improve the situation, not make it worse. This requires wisdom. So how do we acquire this wisdom? Well we follow Sha'ul's advice. We stay away from those who take us away from the biblical Torah of HaShem. The counsel of those who reject Torah is useless. We know this because the fruit it produces is rotten and leads to our societies becoming like those described in our text. The only way for the Two Houses to reconcile is through the application of Biblical Torah! As Sha'ul pointed out, this will have immense challenges. People do not want to hear the Word of HaShem, as it goes against that which the "world/Egypt" promotes. Sadly not even the Children of Israel want to hear the Word of HaShem, instead most [at this stage] would rather embrace the words of teachers who pacify their itching ears. Ephraim has had centuries of following after myths, false gods and Torahless practices. Judah has also committed its fair share of sinful practices, in fact scripture tells us we have had the sin in our hearts inscribed with an iron pen.

*"The sin of Judah is inscribed with an iron pen, with a hard metal fingernail; etched onto the tablet of their heart and into the corners of your altars. As they remember their children, [so they remember] their altars and their Asherah-trees, beside leafy trees and upon lofty hills. O [idolaters] on mountains in the field: Your wealth, all your treasures, shall I make into booty, because of your high places [made] in sin throughout your boundaries. You will be forced to withdraw from your heritage that I have given you, and I will enslave you to your enemies in a land that you knew not; for you have ignited a fire in My wrath, and it will burn forever. Thus said HASHEM; Accursed is the man who trusts in people and makes flesh [and blood] his strength and turns his heart away from HASHEM. He will be like a lone tree in the desert, and will not see when goodness comes; it dwells in parched lands in the wilderness, in a salty, uninhabited land. Blessed is the man who trusts in HASHEM, then HASHEM, will be his security. He will be like a tree planted near water, which spreads out its roots along a brook and does*

*not see when heat comes, whose foliage is ever fresh; it will not worry in a year of drought and will not stop producing fruit. The heart is the most deceitful of all, and it is fragile – who can know it? I, HASHEM, plumb the feelings and test the innermost thoughts, to give to man according to his ways, the fruit of his deeds.” Jeremiah 17:1-10 [AST]*

As we have said countless times, we [both Houses] have left the instructions and wisdom of HaShem. When we leave one set of instructions and associated wisdom, then we will pick up another set of instructions and associated wisdom. This has caused the House of Israel [all Israel] to splinter and become estranged not only from one another but from HaShem. The road to recovery will be a difficult one, because many within the Two Houses will want to stay in their present “rooms”. You may be surprised to learn that many who see themselves as of the House of Judah [Jews] do not believe in HaMoshiach, let alone believe Yeshua to be HaMoshiach. So for those who believe that HaMoshiach is coming as Moshiach Ben David and those who believe He has already come as Moshiach Ben Yoseph and wait Moshiach Ben David, persecution is assured from within. It is those who espouse evil and wisdom outside of Torah and HaMoshiach that reject and oppose the truth of HaShem's holy Word. These are as Sha'ul says, imposters, who not only deceive but are deceived themselves. Make no mistake when one tells a lie long enough that one ends up believing it to be the truth. Truth is only found in the “mouth” of HaShem, and unless we Children of Israel learn, adhere to and practice the Torah of HaShem, we will be devoid of the wisdom required to rebuild the divided House of Israel. Wisdom comes from experience, and Sha'ul had experienced a journey that brought him too many junctions throughout his life. HaShem met him at these junctions; junctions that were life changing in so many ways. Sha'ul was rescued from many situations that arose from persecution. He was also met and shown the Light of Israel, and was installed with a love for all the people of Israel. He went from an angry young man, full of knowledge, having sat at the feet of Gamli'el, to a man full of love and wisdom. He went from a man who was only circumcised in the flesh to a man who was circumcised in flesh and heart. Sha'ul indeed fought the good fight, finished the race and kept the faith. He had gained the wisdom of HaShem and was well qualified to instruct Timothy on how to conduct himself. Sha'ul ever a Pharisee not only had knowledge of Torah, but learned how to apply it in a biblical manner that changed his direction and heart. He heard the voice of God, the Holy One of Israel and chose to follow Him over man and thus became entitled to a crown of righteousness. He knew how to reconcile the people of Israel, but sadly most rejected his wisdom, wisdom built on his trust and faithfulness in the Torah and Yeshua as Moshiach Ben Yoseph who not only came as the suffering servant, but would lead the people back to biblical Torah. Sha'ul learnt the value of walking in the footsteps of HaMoshiach Yeshua, footsteps that show the way home. Walk in the footsteps of Yeshua and you will walk in the footsteps of love. Walk in the footsteps of Yeshua and you will find yourself in the Kingdom of God. Walk in the footsteps of Yeshua and you will be protected from the influence of darkness. Walk in the footsteps of Yeshua and you

will be healed, because these are the footsteps of Torah. These footsteps are not tainted with the knowledge and wisdom of man, but are soaked in the knowledge and wisdom of HaShem, the Holy One of Israel, blessed be He.

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 [Yochanan] Hammond. PhD.