

FAMILY BREAKDOWN – THE REMEDY – WEEK FIFTEEN.

“Blessed is anyone who perseveres when trials come. Such a person is of proven worth and will win the prize of life, the crown that the Lord has promised to those who love him. Never, when you are being put to the test, say, ‘God is tempting me’; God cannot be tempted by evil, and he does not put anybody to the test. Everyone is put to the test by being attracted and seduced by that person’s own wrong desire. Then the desire conceives and gives birth to sin, and when sin reaches full growth, it gives birth to death.” James 1:12-15 [NJB]

We all live lives full of various trials and tribulations. It is something we cannot escape in this fallen world we presently live in. It is how we cope and react to these trials that HaShem is interested in. Many of our challenging trials are brought on due to our own sinful natures, desiring that which goes against the instructions/Torah of HaShem. One of the most painful trials that we face is one of divorce or separation. A close relationship that has been destroyed through any means is one that causes immense pain and often results in long term estrangement, injury and even death. There are a variety of emotions that surface with such a situation and the separation of the Two Kingdoms is a perfect example of the result of these emotions.

To repair a relationship that has been destroyed to the extent that happened with the Two Houses/Kingdoms of Israel is no easy task. It certainly takes plenty of perseverance. None the less we know HaShem hates divorce and we should do everything within our strength to avoid it. However it is too late to prevent the separation of the Two Houses as it has already occurred, so our duty as citizens of biblical Israel is to heal this rift. This is what the previous 14 weeks has been focusing on and we will continue to focus on the process of healing through our claimed love of HaShem. I say claimed because when we test our love for HaShem it constantly comes up short of where it needs to be. We find ourselves in positions of fighting and bickering with each other, usually blaming the other party. This is a very common occurrence in matters of divorce. Yeshua had some appropriate words regards divorce.

“They said to him, ‘Then why did Moses command that a writ of dismissal should be given in cases of divorce?’ He said to them, ‘It was because you were so hard hearted, that Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but it was not like this from the beginning.”
Matthew 19:7-8 [NJB]

It is because of hard hearts that the road to reconciliation is so difficult. No one wants to yield, because as HaShem Himself said, we are a stiff necked/obstinate people, who want our own way. We must face facts; there is no easy solution to repairing relationships that have been severely damaged. It takes hard work and

constant looking in the mirror to view our complexion against Torah. If we cannot make the necessary adjustments to pull our own lives into shape, then how can we expect to help others? We can only repair the damage done by following the instructions of our Father in heaven. Now comes the tricky part. Which House has the best teachings for the Children of Israel to follow? Which House best follows the teachings of HaShem? These are critical questions to ask, because it is only the wonderful instructions of HaShem that can guide us and bring to us to the point of biblical reconciliation.

If we are just asking which House has best kept and followed the Torah of Moshe, instructions that are meant for all citizens of biblical Israel, then we must answer Judah. This should be of no real surprise as Judah was given this mandate by HaShem Himself.

“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a scholar from among his descendants until Shiloh arrives, and his will be an assemblage of nations.” Genesis 49:10 [AST]

“Mine is Gilead, mine is Manasseh, and Ephraim is the stronghold of my head; Judah is my lawgiver.” Psalm 60:9 (7) [AST]

What we need to take into account is that Psalm 60:9 (7) is written by King David and thus it is actually King David who is saying that Judah will be his lawgiver. However, it is HaShem who is the true and only “giver” of His Law/Torah.

“For HASHEM is our judge, HASHEM is our Lawgiver; HASHEM is our King; He will save us.” Isaiah 33:22 [AST]

So back to the question of which House is best suited to pass on the instructions of HaShem? This author believes it to be Judah. It is from Judah that we should seek guidance and help from to engage ourselves with the Torah of the Holy One of Israel. Blessed be He. This then brings us to another question, one we have asked before to some extent. Which form of “Judaism” should we seek help from? Despite what many would try to tell us, there are many and various forms of Judaism. This is not something new, and it was thus in the time Yeshua walked and taught on the earth, and it was something Shaul/Paul had to contend with on a constant basis. JSI and its extensions try our best to follow the Judaism the Master Yeshua walked and taught. It is the same Judaism that Shaul/Paul embraced, and evidence points to the fact that it was not that far removed from the Judaism taught by the Pharisees. It was and is a Judaism that has the Light and balance of the Master Yeshua. Remember Paul was a Pharisee and never renounced that position, but he did embrace Yeshua that gave him the Light and balance he needed to carry out the work he was chosen to do. The arguments that both Yeshua and Paul had with the “established elite of Judaism” were the same arguments we are having today. It is about interpretation of Torah, added regulations in an effort to further protect Torah, leadership qualifications and of

course the biggest of all is over Yeshua as HaMoshiach. Unfortunately if Moshiach tarries we will still be arguing over these things in a hundred years or more to come. Yet this does not excuse us from continuing to work towards a biblical reconciliation pleasing to HaShem.

As with all counselling that involves the healing of a serious rift, where trust is low, respect has gone, and the hurt from wounds is high, decisions on the paths to be taken and rejected have to be faced. Question not to be avoided are: Is reconciliation even desired by both parties? Is the work required worth the result? Are the results guaranteed? Who takes the first step? How much must one compromise to achieve the result? Is it even possible to reconcile? What am I prepared to do and not do in trying to achieve reconciliation? What are the expectations of each party?

Whilst these questions are valid for the reconciliation of the Two Houses of Israel, they are subject to the will of HaShem who has said that there will be reconciliation between His Children. As individuals we can decide not to be involved or decide to reject the teachings of HaShem, but as a collective nation we have little choice. It will happen with or without certain individuals. Unfortunately, I can see a lot more pain coming our way before we have our stiff necks reshaped according to the Mighty Hand of HaShem. Perfect counsel can be given, but unless the parties respond in a positive manner that counsel will fail.

“One who loves knowledge loves discipline, but he who hates rebuke is a boor. A good man draws forth favour from HASHEM, but a scheming man causes wickedness. A man will not become established through wickedness, but the root of the righteous will not falter.” Proverbs 12:1-3 [AST]

“A wise son [desires] a father’s discipline, but a scoffer has not heard chastisement.” Proverbs 13:1 [AST]

“The lips of the righteous one will nourish many, but the foolish will die through lack of [an understanding] heart. It is a blessing of HASHEM that enriches, and one need not add toil with it.” Proverbs 10:21-22 [AST]

“My child, heed my words and store up my commandments with yourself. Heed my commandments and live, and [heed] my Torah as the apple of your eyes. Bind them on your fingers; inscribe them on the tablet of your heart. Say to wisdom, ‘You are my sister,’ and call understanding a friend, that they may safeguard you from a forbidden woman, from a strange woman who makes her words glib.” Proverbs 7:1-5 [AST]

For the Children of Israel our knowledge and wisdom, therefore our counsel; must come from HaShem. It is the Torah that will keep us from following the seductive counsel of a forbidden “woman”. It is the instructions of HaShem that will help us understand and thus persevere in our quest for reconciliation. Teachers that take you away from HaShem and His Torah and His Moshiach can be classed as seductive women. These are those that Yeshua and Paul had many an argument with. Consider the following words of Yeshua.

‘Beware of false prophets who come to you disguised as sheep but underneath are ravenous wolves. You will be able to tell them by their fruits. Can people pick grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles? In the same way, a sound tree produces good fruit but a rotten tree bad fruit. A sound tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor a rotten tree bear good fruit. Any tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown on the fire. I repeat, you will be able to tell them by their fruits. It is not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord,” who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven. When the day comes many will say to me, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, work miracles in your name?” Then I shall tell them to their faces: I have never known you; away from me, all evil doers! Therefore, everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on a rock. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and hurled themselves against that house, and it did not fall: it was founded on a rock. But everyone who listens to these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a stupid man who built his house on sand. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and struck that house, and it fell; and what a fall it had!’ Yeshua had now finished what he wanted to say, and his teaching made a deep impression on the people because he taught them with authority, unlike their own scribes. Matthew 7:15-29 [NJB]

Yeshua equates His words as that of someone who has built his **house** on a rock. HaShem is seen as the Rock of Israel.

*“When I call out the Name of HASHEM, ascribe greatness to our God. The Rock – perfect is His work, for all His paths are justice; a God of faith without iniquity, righteous and fair is He. Corruption is not His – the blemish is His children’s a perverse and twisted generation.”
Deuteronomy 3-5 [AST]*

The words and teachings of Yeshua are the words and teachings of HaShem. Houses that can withstand all the force that comes upon them must be built on the foundation of Yeshua. He is the One who withstood the mighty forces of evil. Satan thought he had destroyed a Divine relationship when Yeshua hung from a tree, crying out and asking why God had forsaken Him. Yet Yeshua arose and

the relationship with His Father was completely restored. Surely in the quest for biblical reconciliation it is within our interests and responsibility to weigh up the words and teachings of Yeshua with **just weights and measures**. I am convinced there is no better well to drink from than the well of Yeshua, a well that Moshe had the Children of Israel to drink from.

“Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses, in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all ate the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Messiah. But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.” 1Corinthians 10:1-6 [NKJB]

Want to restore a broken House, a broken relationship, then, you can do no better than build upon the Rock of Israel and drink from the pure refreshing waters that come from that Rock. HaShem has provided all the necessary instructions and means that will bring restoration and reconciliation to the nation of Israel, concluding in the full and complete restoration of the House of Israel.

Decision time! Either the words of Yeshua and therefore Torah should be embraced or thrown out. Which is it to be?

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,

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