



**Message 5-28-16**  
**Behar-On the Mount**  
**Leviticus 25:1-26:2**  
**Jeremiah 32:6-27**

**Introduction**

God states that *"the land is Mine; you are but stranger's resident with Me."* Since God is the land's only true owner, our task is to maintain the land on behalf of its true owner. As a sign of God's dominion, the people are commanded to *"proclaim liberty throughout the land and to all the inhabitant thereof."*

**Leviticus 25:18-22**

**18** 'You shall thus observe My statutes and keep My judgments, so as to carry them out, that you may live securely on the land. <sup>19</sup> 'Then the land will yield its produce, so that you can eat your fill and live securely on it. <sup>20</sup> 'But if you say, "What are we going to eat on the seventh year if we do not sow or gather in our crops?" <sup>21</sup> then I will so order My blessing for you in the sixth year that it will bring forth the crop for three years. <sup>22</sup> 'When you are sowing the eighth year, you can still eat old things from the crop, eating *the old* until the ninth year when its crop comes in. (NAU)

Notice what the Lord is saying about the seventh year Shabbat for the land. He promises Israel that if they obey His Torah, they will live securely on the land. They will have food to eat in the years it takes to replant after the seventh year rest beginning with the planting in the eighth year and the harvest in the ninth year when they will begin to be able to eat from what the land produces, but this will only happen if they follow the Torah and faith with the Holy One of Israel. Why? It is because the land has been loaned to Israel and belongs to the Almighty who created it. He chose Canaan as the promised Land, and He is the one who, through His Son Yeshua, created everything there is in the world and the entire universe. Everything belongs to Him and to Him alone, and He loans it to us to see if we will be proper stewards of what He had provided for us. Have you ever wondered how it was that the reborn Israel was able to turn a devastated and barren land into the land it became after each one of Israel's returns from being in exile?

Look at what happened when modern day Israel turned over Gaza to the Palestinians. They left hot houses for the people to have the means to make a living and prosper, and what did they do with what they had been left? They destroyed everything! What does that tell you about the people living there? If they indeed claim they are descendants of

the nations that lived in the land before Israel came to take possession of it by the command of their God, then the Israelites should have destroyed them as they were commanded to do by the Lord. They failed to do so and wonder why they have been unable to live peacefully in the land promised to them by their God in His covenant of Torah. Yet, they did not follow the Torah continuously as they had been commanded at Mount Sinai. It was while Moses was on Mount Sinai that three thousand rebelled against God and made a Golden Calf that they said was their God, and they worshipped it while the true Lord and Master was giving Moses His covenant. This was simply the beginning of the rebellion of Israel that would last down through the ages, through the exiles, and even now exists in a land that they hold, not through their own power, but by His promise. It is a promise that Israel and the world does not fully understand because Torah is the way of the old world. We live in a modern day society where anything goes, and you make your way in the world on your own with the help of the lord of this world and not the Lord of the universe.

How different things could have been if Israel had just followed the instructions of their God. When Israel came back from the Babylonian exile with Ezra, things changed under his leadership. He brought back the Torah and told the men of Israel to put away their foreign wives so they would not be tempted. The time of the Torah as a covenant had come again, but this time it would be used as a club on the people to force them to follow it no matter what. The leaders of Israel under Ezra were afraid if they disobeyed the covenant of Torah again, they would be sent into exile, and they were right because it would come again after the destruction of the temple 70 C.E. The more things change, the more they stay the same. Israel did not learn from their history. They did not learn from their leaders. They did not learn from their God. By the time of Yeshua, they were under Roman domination, and as they had in Egypt, they cried out to the Holy One to save them, and He did. He sent them His Son Messiah Yeshua to fulfill the promise of the Messiah ben Joseph **NOT** the promise of the Messiah ben David because it was not yet time for Yeshua to come forward. First redemption of the people and then mankind had to come. Man had to admit that they were sinners and turn to the one who could give them the gift of redemption – Yeshua. To this day, man is still seeking that redemption and still missing the mark because they leave either Torah out of the equation or faith and trust in the Holy One. But the day is coming when everything will come together, and as Israel return to the land, and the people of God spread all over the world come into an understanding of who they are, the promise of the Messiah ben David will finally come to pass.

### **Jeremiah 32:27-32**

**27** "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me? <sup>28</sup> Therefore, thus says the LORD: Behold, I am giving this city into the hands of the Chaldeans and into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he shall capture it. <sup>29</sup> The Chaldeans who are fighting against this city shall come and set this city on fire and burn it, with the houses on whose roofs offerings have been made to Baal and drink offerings have been poured out to other gods, to provoke me to anger. <sup>30</sup> For the children of Israel and the children of Judah have done nothing but evil in my sight from their youth. The children of Israel have done nothing but provoke me to anger by the work of their hands,

declares the LORD. <sup>31</sup> This city has aroused my anger and wrath, from the day it was built to this day, so that I will remove it from my sight <sup>32</sup> because of all the evil of the children of Israel and the children of Judah that they did to provoke me to anger-- their kings and their officials, their priests and their prophets, the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. (ESV)

The prophet Jeremiah brought the word of the Lord to Israel, all of Israel and did they listen – **NO!** They turned a deaf ear to what he had to tell them as they have with most of the prophets sent by the Almighty. In fact, they threw him down a well to shut him up, and it was the enemy, Babylon, who rescued him. What would have happened if they would have listened to Jeremiah, who was speaking the word of the Lord? Israel was so caught up in its sin worshipping Baal and other gods, they forgot their Master and His covenant of Torah and down came Jerusalem, and into the Babylonian captivity went Judah and some of the ten tribes as well. The Holy One had a plan though, and that was to bring back the remnant of Israel to the land and rebuild the kingdom. This would happen in the time of Ezra and Nehemiah.

**Ezra 7:8** says that **Ezra** arrived in Jerusalem in the seventh year of king Artaxerxes, while **Nehemiah 2:1–9** has **Nehemiah** arriving in Artaxerxes' twentieth year. If this was Artaxerxes I, then **Ezra** arrived in 458 and **Nehemiah** in 445 BCE. **Nehemiah 8–9**, in which the two appear together, supports this scenario.

They were allowed to return, rebuild Jerusalem, and fought against the odds because of the people that were living there who were opposed to them being there. Not much has changed over the course of history, as Israel is punished, exiled, and other nations come into the land and claim it as their own. However, there has always been a remnant of the people of Israel living in the land since the promise was given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and that promise and covenant still stands today because the Lord God Almighty is in control, not the men and nations who believe they are in control.

**Daniel 9:8** To us, O LORD, belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you. (ESV)

Yes, Israel, Judah, and the Ten Tribes have sinned against the Almighty and have paid the price for it. Can you imagine if they had been obedient to the covenant of Torah? What if we were obedient to the covenant of Torah and placed our faith where it belongs in the One who created all there is? Look to the heavens and watch for the return of the Son of Man, Yeshua the Messiah, the Messiah ben David coming back in His power and His might to do the will of His Father and take back this world from the Adversary who had been given control for a short time to prepare the way for the Messiah to return and take up the throne to put all things right once and for all.

#### **Matthew 6:24-34**

**24** "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. <sup>25</sup> "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food,

and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? <sup>27</sup> "And who of you by being worried can add a *single* hour to his life? <sup>28</sup> "And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. <sup>30</sup> "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, *will He* not much more *clothe* you? You of little faith! <sup>31</sup> "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' <sup>32</sup> "For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. <sup>34</sup> "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. (NAU)

What is Messiah Yeshua trying to teach us here? It follows right along with what we have been reading in this week's Torah and Haftarah portions. What we are being told is not to worry about what we have or what we need because by faith we will be provided for by the Almighty. Had Israel had the faith Messiah was speaking about, we would have nothing to worry about. However, being who we are, we do worry, look for what we want and need, lose sight of what is really important, and that is to follow the Holy One of Israel and hold true to His Torah, His covenant, and everything will turn out the way it was meant to be. Every day will take care of itself. There is nothing we can do about it, so seek His kingdom and His righteousness because each day has enough trouble of its own.

**1 Timothy 4:8** For although physical exercise does have some value, godliness is valuable for everything, since it holds promise both for the present life and for the life to come. (CJB)

This is the promise that holds forever. Hold fast to the Holy One, put your faith in His Messiah Yeshua, and tomorrow will take care of itself. Why – because by faith and covenant we walk in the way of the Lord, and the promise holds true for the present and for the world to come, or as it is known in Hebrew ***Olam HaBa***.

Berachot (Blessings) in Messiah Yeshua,

Mordecai Silver

***Torah Man says: "A little oil of courtesy will save a lot of friction."***



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