



Message 8-6-16
Matot-Tribes
Numbers 30:2-32:42

Masei-Journeys of
Numbers 33:1-36:13
Jeremiah 2:4-28, 3:4
Romans 1:18-23

Introduction

The first portion, *Matot*, deals with oaths and vows, establishing their binding nature for all men and for women. The final portion of the Book of Numbers, or *Bamidbar*, recounts each of the forty-two camps of the Israelites. It is a joyous recollection of God's miracles and a sobering reminder of Israel's many rebellions against God and God's servant, Moses.

Numbers 35:29-34

29 And these things shall be for a statute and rule for you throughout your generations in all your dwelling places. ³⁰ "If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death on the evidence of witnesses. But no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness. ³¹ Moreover, you shall accept no ransom for the life of a murderer, who is guilty of death, but he shall be put to death. ³² And you shall accept no ransom for him who has fled to his city of refuge, that he may return to dwell in the land before the death of the high priest. ³³ You shall not pollute the land in which you live, for blood pollutes the land, and no atonement can be made for the land for the blood that is shed in it, except by the blood of the one who shed it. ³⁴ You shall not defile the land in which you live, in the midst of which I dwell, for I the LORD dwell in the midst of the people of Israel." (ESV)

Part of this passage lays out the requirements for testimony that is given for someone who is accused of murder.

<05221> נָכָה *nakah* (645a)

Meaning: *to smite*

<07523> רָצַח *ratsach* (953d)

Meaning: *to murder, slay*

There should not be any confusion about the fact that the crime of murder is what is being discussed here. The Hebrew word for kill is *nacha*, which means to smite, and the Hebrew word for murder is *ratsach*, and it means exactly what it says – murder, and even if there might be any misunderstanding about this, the Lord lays down rules for bringing the accusation of murder against someone. He says that one witness is not sufficient to bring the accusation, and there must be more than one witness. The Holy One is very clear that the only way to redeem the blood of the person who was slain is by the blood of the one who committed the crime. That is why it is so important to follow His instructions about how to bring the accusation and what needs to be done to redeem the land because the blood of the person who was murdered has defiled the land. We come from the earth. Adam was created from the dust of the ground, made into a human being by the hands of the Lord created in His image both physically and spiritually with the ability to think and ponder His ways.

Deuteronomy 17:6 On the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses the one who is to die shall be put to death; a person shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness. (ESV)

Once again we are told that there must be two or three witnesses who testify against someone who has been accused of the crime of murder. Yet, in our society, we no longer follow His rules. We have surrendered that to the law of men rather than following the law of God. In a court of law, there may be no witnesses, only circumstantial evidence that is weighed against someone for the crime of taking another person's life. This is very important because every human life is precious, even the child in the womb. Our society says that abortion is okay because we would not want to hinder the woman from having her rights to live her life as she wants. What about the rights of the unborn child, and what about birth control? Why isn't that taught to our young people? Why isn't abstinence being taught?

With all the people who cannot have children of their own, why can't these babies be brought into the world and given up for adoption rather than being aborted. Why aren't we crying out "Adoption *NOT* Abortion?" Our society has not advanced but is going backwards. Technologically we may be advanced, but morally we are corrupt and failing, and the witnesses who stand against us are the Lord God Himself, Yeshua His Son and the Ruach HaKodesh. Three greater witnesses there could never be, but are they enough to make us change our ways? Are we being judged by the Most High even now?

Deuteronomy 19:15 "A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established. (ESV)

Scripture is its own witness, as we have read in three different places that two or three witnesses are required, and in Deuteronomy 19:15, we are told this applies to any crime. It is apparent that Israel was judged by the Lord God Almighty, found to have failed, and was sentenced for their crimes.

Psalm 106:32 They angered him at the waters of Meribah, and it went ill with Moses on their account, ³³ for they made his spirit bitter, and he spoke rashly with his lips. ³⁴ They did not destroy the peoples, as the LORD commanded them, ³⁵ but they mixed with the nations and learned to do as they did. ³⁶ They served their idols, which became a snare to them. ³⁷ They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons; ³⁸ they poured out innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was polluted with blood. ³⁹ Thus they became unclean by their acts, and played the whore in their deeds. ⁴⁰ Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against his people, and he abhorred his heritage; ⁴¹ he gave them into the hand of the nations, so that those who hated them ruled over them. ⁴² Their enemies oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their power. ⁴³ Many times he delivered them, but they were rebellious in their purposes and were brought low through their iniquity. (ESV)

The Psalmist is very clear when he says Israel did not do as the Lord instructed them, so He gave them over to the nations who hated them, and even today Israel faces the nations again even though they have their own country, but the world wants to take it away. God has delivered His people time and time again, but they have not listened, and they wonder why they find themselves in the situations they are in everywhere they live throughout the world scattered as the Lord commanded. They have been punished, and the Lord has allowed a remnant to return to the land while the rest live in the Diaspora or exile. How many times has Israel been punished, but have they learned anything? Israel is the example set before all of us so that we might learn what it means to live in covenant with the Holy One of Israel through His Son Yeshua. Yeshua is the conduit between God and His people. The Lord desires that all would be saved, but we have fallen short of the mark that He set for us.

There is still time to make things right. Look to Israel for your lead, but as Yeshua said:

Matthew 23:1 Then Yeshua said to the crowds and to his disciples, ² "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, ³ so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. (ESV)

Did Yeshua mean we are to obey everything the Pharisees told us to do? If one sits in the seat of Moses, they should be teaching what Moses did, and that is Torah, not man-made rules. That is why He told them to do as they were taught but not the way they did them because they were living out the Torah according to their interpretation, probably based on their oral teachings which could transgress against the Torah of Moses and go much further than the Torah teaches. We must be careful of those who sit in the seat of Moses proclaiming the teachings of Moses but actually teaching their own Torah, a Torah not given by God to Moses at Mount Sinai.

Is the Torah greater than Yeshua? No! Why – because Yeshua is the Torah and lived it out as only He could in perfect righteousness because He is the Living Word of the Father through whom everything there is was created.

Jeremiah 2:9-13

9 "Therefore I still contend with you, declares the LORD, and with your children's children I will contend. ¹⁰ For cross to the coasts of Cyprus and see, or send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has been such a thing. ¹¹ Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit. ¹² Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, ¹³ for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water. (ESV)

The Lord continues to tell us how He will contend with us and those who come after us. Israel is God's chosen nation, and despite the things they have done to that relationship, He still holds to His covenant. Israel chose the wrong path. They diverged away from the Almighty and found themselves following the false gods of the nation's instead of the one true God. Not only have we done this because we all are the children of the Most High, we have filled ourselves with the teachings of others that do not take away our thirst. We have turned away from the Living Water that has been offered to us. That Living Water is Yeshua, the Living Word – the Torah made flesh. We are to pattern our lives after Him because He was the only one who ever lived out the Torah perfectly. To follow Him is to live according to His teachings, and He taught Torah – plain and simple.

Psalms 36:9 For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light. (ESV)

John 7:38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" (ESV)

Where is your faith? If you say you have faith, then you should be filled with the Living Water that is the source of life everlasting – Messiah Yeshua.

Romans 1:18-23

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. (ESV)

The bottom line is very clear. What idols have you placed in your life that interfere in your relationship with the Father? If there is something in your life that interferes in your relationship with Him, then it is interfering with your relationship with Yeshua who is the mediator between God and man. We have filled ourselves up with the teachings of those who claim they know God, but is the god they follow the same as our God, the same as

our Messiah, and the same as the Gospel? What is the Gospel? It is the revelation that there is now a way to be reconciled to the Father. How? It is through Messiah Yeshua who teaches us that Torah reveals the way to the Father not through blind obedience to Torah but coming into an awareness that Torah points the way by revealing our sins, our transgressions against the Holy One. The Torah does not have the ability to save anyone through blind obedience. Salvation comes from on High through the Messiah who can forgive us for our sins, and once we come to an understanding of this, we realize we must follow in Yeshua's footsteps walking in Torah as He walked in Torah. Faith and Torah go hand in hand. You cannot have one without the other.

Berachot (Blessings) in Messiah Yeshua,

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