



Message 9-3-16
Reeh-See
Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17
Isaiah 66:1-24
Titus 2:11-15

Introduction

This week's portion bids us "rejoice before the Lord God." Our faith should consistently recognize joy as the most fitting response to God's abundant love. As the prophet Joel exclaimed, "Rejoice and be glad, for the Lord has done great things."

Deuteronomy 12:1-5

1 "These are the statutes and rules that you shall be careful to do in the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth. **2** You shall surely destroy all the places where the nations whom you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. **3** You shall tear down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and burn their Asherim with fire. You shall chop down the carved images of their gods and destroy their name out of that place. **4** You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way. **5** But you shall seek the place that the LORD your God will choose out of all your tribes to put his name and make his habitation there. There you shall go. (ESV)

The Israelites were commanded by the Almighty to destroy every single place in the Promised Land where the nations who were living there had worshipped their false gods. They were to destroy the high places any tree that they had worshipped the false gods. They were to tear down the altars and Asherim. They were to chop down the carved images of their gods and destroy the name of those false places of idolatry. After that they were to seek out the place that the Holy One would choose out of all the tribes where He would place His name and dwell there. First that would be in Shiloh in the Tabernacle they had used in the wilderness. Later it would be in Jerusalem where the final Temple would be built and all of the holy things that were in the Tabernacle would be brought to the new Temple.

Along with all of these instructions, which are very clear in saying what the Holy One thought of the gods of the nations living in the land, He had preceded these instructions by saying these were the statutes and rules they were to follow in the land all the days of their lives. The statutes in Hebrew are called *Choq*, and the rules are the Hebrew word *mishpat* or judgments. Both of these are part of the compendium of what we call the Torah or the Law. The word law is a poor translation of Torah. A better definition is teachings or

instructions. These teachings and instructions come from the Lord Almighty and not from any man, even though on the issue of divorce, we are told that divorce was permitted by Moses and not God. God hated divorce. So, do we really believe that Moses made this decision all on his own, devoid of any input from the Creator? I think not because then Moses would have violated what was set down in reference to adding to or taking away from the Torah. Later on when more books were added to the Bible, the adding on and taking away from was extended to include these books as well. However, in the truth of the moment, we must understand that Moses was the vehicle through whom the Lord gave the Torah to teach to Israel, and in turn, it would be passed down from one generation to the next and so on until Messiah returns to teach us how to correctly live out Torah in our lives today.

2 Kings 16:2 Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And he did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD his God, as his father David had done, ³ but he walked in the way of the kings of Israel. He even burned his son as an offering, according to the despicable practices of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel. ⁴ And he sacrificed and made offerings on the high places and on the hills and under every green tree. (ESV)

King Ahaz did exactly the opposite of what the Almighty had commanded Moses to instruct the Children of Israel not to do when they finally entered the Promised Land. It would seem that Ahaz followed in the footsteps of Solomon rather than David's footsteps, and he was not being commended for it but being held up as an example of what you were not supposed to do. It does not take us long to forget the ways of the Lord and follow the ways of men. We wind up doing it all the time, and we wonder why the world is in the shape it is. It is not easy to do the opposite of what the world is doing. When you see people all around you doing things that transgress Torah, and they are not being struck down where they stand, you probably begin to wonder why the hand of the Lord is not moving as it did back in Biblical times. You begin to question so many things that while you start questioning, you are in fact questioning the way the Lord works.

There was a reality in the days of the Children of Israel that does not exist at this point in time, nor has it for a very long time. From the time of the flood in Noah's day to the Tower of Babel was 400 years. In that time frame, even with surviving witnesses of the flood, man had once again come to the point of openly challenging the Almighty by doing what Korah would later try to do. The Tower of Babel brought man together for the express purpose of building a tower that would reach heaven where man would try to take over the throne from the Creator. In Korah's rebellion, he tried to supplant Aaron as High Priest even though he was already a Levite, though not of the priesthood. If that were not enough, he persuaded 250 leaders of Israel to follow him in this open challenge against the God-given authority that had been vested in Aaron and in Moses. We all know what happened with that one.

Going back to the Tower of Babel, we saw man's failure to accomplish what he had set out to do united as one people, and the Almighty saw the direct attempt by His creation to try to unseat the Creator. To counter that assault upon His authority, the Holy One

created new languages where all mankind would no longer be able to communicate as one people. That was successful back then and caused mankind to be dispersed over the earth. Today mankind can communicate as one people if they so desire. There are so many ways that this can now be accomplished through the technology on hand. Yet, even with that ability, we are closer than ever to tearing one another apart over differences that run the political gamut as well as the moral boundaries the Torah had set on us. Instead of working within the guidelines of the Torah, we have pushed those limits to create new ones that we are constantly challenging in one way or another.

Isaiah 66:12-16

12 For thus says the LORD: "Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip, and bounced upon her knees. ¹³ As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bones shall flourish like the grass; and the hand of the LORD shall be known to his servants, and he shall show his indignation against his enemies. ¹⁵ "For behold, the LORD will come in fire, and his chariots like the whirlwind, to render his anger in fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. ¹⁶ For by fire will the LORD enter into judgment, and by his sword, with all flesh; and those slain by the LORD shall be many. (ESV)

Many times I have made the comment that while the Lord has promised never to destroy mankind by another flood, He never said He would not use fire. Fire is the ultimate refiner as it purifies the unclean nature of the metal or whatever is passed through it to bring something to its purest possible state. In Isaiah 66:12-16, the Holy One tells us He will comfort His people, and He will do this in Jerusalem. Jerusalem, the city everyone wants a piece of, but they don't want the Jewish people or anyone affiliated with them to have it either. If the world had its way, they would divvy up Jerusalem and the land of Israel and give to everyone but the people the Lord gave it to. The Middle east is a chessboard with the game in motion, and by all appearances, Israel is losing the game; however, in reality this game is being played on a higher level that most do not understand. Satan and the Holy One are moving their pieces around the board, and you might think Satan has the upper hand. Perhaps he only thinks he has the upper hand because he is so deluded by himself he would never admit he was losing or that he will lose the whole game in the end.

In this passage from Isaiah, we are told very clearly that the Almighty will come in fire and his chariots like a whirlwind to render His anger in fury and His judgment in fire. In the end, the Lord will use fire as His means of judgment, and by His sword, those slain by the sword of the Lord will be many. Who is the sword of the Lord? Who will come in fire, anger, and fury to judge mankind? Who is the right hand of the Lord? Of course you know the answer is Messiah Yeshua!

Ezekiel 37:1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ² And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³ And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD." ⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. ¹¹ Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' ¹² Therefore prophecy, and say to them, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD." (ESV)

How many times has this prophecy come to pass? Several times in fact. It is when Israel has been removed from the land through its own transgressions, then forgiven, and returned back to the land. However, in the final days all of Israel will be united by the hand of the Almighty, He will put His Ruach into His people, and bring them all back into the land He promised to them in full. It won't be into the land as it is today but will be according to the promise the Lord gave to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. A lot of the countries in that part of the world will be very unhappy, but no matter how they might complain, threaten, and even try to attack Israel, the Lord will have no part of that. It will either be when Yeshua returns to make it happen, or it will be when Israel and Jerusalem are about to fall at the hands of the nations gathered against it.

Titus 2:11-15

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Yeshua the Messiah, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all Torahlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. ¹⁵ Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you. (ESV)

Though these words were written 2,000 years ago, they are as true today as they were back then. We are called to live godly lives no matter what the age is which we live. No matter what the world wants you to do, you must do what God calls you to do. Even

though we are told we must be accountable to the laws of the land we live in, we must set the example of a better way than the one that rules this world at this point in time and has ruled since being given the authority to do so. As Satan was allowed to test Job, so too, was he given the power to rule over us to test us as well. You have to decide if you will let the world cause you to compromise what you believe in and to who that you believe. To follow the way of the world is to follow Satan as so many have throughout the ages, or will you follow Messiah Yeshua as many have since the beginning when the truth of Yeshua was plated inside each and every one of us.

Isaiah 53:10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. ¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors. (ESV)

If any passage of Scripture clearly mirrors Messiah Yeshua, this one does. Isaiah 53 is a very Messiah-based passage and one of the main ones the Jewish people refuse to accept in the truth and reality of finding different ways to interpret it, claiming it has nothing to do with the Messiah and everything to do with Israel. Yes, they have been blinded to the truth, but slowly and surely the veil is being lifted the closer we get to the **End Times**, in Hebrew the *Chevlay shel Moshiach* of the *Birth pangs of the Messiah*. We are getting very close people, but the Lord might decide to hold Yeshua back from returning until everything lines up the way the prophecies tell us it will happen, and even then we cannot be 100 per cent sure because the Holy One has His ways, and we have our expectations of what we want to see happen.

Galatians 1:3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Yeshua the Messiah, ⁴ who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father. (ESV)

What is the present evil age, my friends? Back when Galatians was written, they thought it was the end of days. The Shaliach Shaul, also known as the Apostle Paul, was seen through his early writings as being very apocalyptic in his leanings. In his later writings, you do not see this as much, and he stresses patience, taking a wait and see attitude, and encouraging the congregations he oversaw to hold fast to their faith and to live according to the covenant of Torah as it was originally given. It was not a set of mindless rules to gain redemption but to think about all that the Almighty had done and would do when Yeshua came back to redeem His people and gather them back together as one in His hand, Judah, the Ten Tribes and the Nations.

Torah Man says: "Worse than the sin you criticize is the sin of criticism."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

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