



Message 10-1-16
Nitzavim-You Are Standing
Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20
Isaiah 61:10-63:9
Yochanan 14:5-7

Introduction

Moses summons all of Israel-men, women, children, and the sojourners-to ratify the covenant. This covenant is so inclusive that it reaches beyond those present at the time.

Deuteronomy 30:11-20

11 "For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. ¹² It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' ¹³ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' ¹⁴ But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it. ¹⁵ "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore, choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them." (ESV)

As we are quickly approaching the end of the Torah cycle for this year. we also are approaching the end of Moses' life. Even as his death approaches, he prepares the people for his death and the ascension of a new leader chosen by YHWH. Moses opens this week's message to all of Israel and even to those who are not of Israel who are gathered before him as well as extending the promise of the covenant to the generations to come. He tells them the commandment is not too hard for them to do, nor is it somewhere that is too hard to find it. The covenant of Torah is planted in each and every one of us because we were there when Moses gave this message to those who were with him and to those who were to come afterwards. The Torah can be life (good) or death (evil), but not because the Torah is bad but because of what it reveals to us – sin. Sin is

the transgression of the Torah, plain and simple. There is nothing complicated about it. Once we come to a realization that we have done things that have caused us to transgress YHWH's Torah, we then come into the understanding we need a Redeemer because we cannot redeem ourselves. That is why Messiah Yeshua came. He is the Kinsman Redeemer, the closest relative we have because we have been created by Him. It is in His image we have been made as the Father brought the Word to life; the Word brought us to life also. The covenant of Torah is life and death, blessing and curse, and it is up to us to grab hold of the promise and hold on to it dearly because it is life through redemption by our Messiah Yeshua, the Son of the Highest. Does the Torah give us redemption (salvation), or does it save us from anything? No it does not! It tells us what sin is and what the Creator expects from us. If we do as He tells us, we will receive a blessing, and if we choose to not follow Him, we will receive a curse.

Even as believers in Yeshua, the gift of redemption is ours for the asking, but we have to ask. When we do, it is not because we are following the letter of the Torah. It is because we follow what YHWH desires us to do because we have placed our faith in His Son Yeshua, and the Torah brings us to Him. Does what we have done before receiving salvation cause us to lose that salvation? No! His sacrifice covers everything we have done. If, in our walk with Him, we make mistakes and inadvertently sin, do we lose our salvation? No, we do not. The only thing that can take away our salvation is if we turn away from Messiah and fall back into our old habits that cause us to transgress Torah. The Torah is the blueprint for us to follow.

Isaiah 45:18 For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): "I am the LORD, and there is no other. ¹⁹ I did not speak in secret, in a land of darkness; I did not say to the offspring of Jacob, 'Seek me in vain.' I the LORD speak the truth; I declare what is right. ²⁰ "Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, you survivors of the nations! They have no knowledge who carry about their wooden idols, and keep on praying to a god that cannot save. ²¹ Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me. ²² "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. ²³ By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: 'To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.' (ESV)

The Lord, Himself, has sworn, His Word has gone forth, and it cannot return to Him. Why? It is because He has released His Word in the form of Messiah Yeshua brought forth from the Father. He was not created, but in some manner He was separated from the Father in much the same way as Chavah was separated from Adam and made into a separate human being. I doubt that Yeshua was brought forth in the same way because God is all powerful, and when He speaks, it must be done. If we choose to follow other gods, pray to them, and carve their likeness in wood, stone, gold, etc., we are violating the Torah and praying to false gods that cannot do anything for us. That is why the Holy One of Israel commanded us not to make the likeness of anything in heaven and earth and pray

to it because it is a false god who has no power. He tells us we shall bow the knee and swear allegiance to one true God, the Father as we come before Him in spirit and in truth.

Romans 10:4 For the goal at which the *Torah* aims is the Messiah, who offers righteousness to everyone who trusts. ⁵ For Moshe writes about the righteousness grounded in the *Torah* that the person who does these things will attain life through them. ⁶ Moreover, the righteousness grounded in trusting says: "Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend to heaven?"- that is, to bring the Messiah down- ⁷ or, "Who will descend into Sh'ol?"- that is, to bring the Messiah up from the dead. ⁸ What, then, does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart." - that is, the word about trust which we proclaim, namely, ⁹ that if you acknowledge publicly with your mouth that Yeshua is Lord and trust in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be delivered. ¹⁰ For with the heart one goes on trusting and thus continues toward righteousness, while with the mouth one keeps on making public acknowledgement and thus continues toward deliverance. ¹¹ For the passage quoted says that *everyone* who rests his trust on him will not be humiliated. ¹² That means that there is no difference between Jew and Gentile - *ADONAI* is the same for everyone, rich toward everyone who calls on him, ¹³ since *everyone* who calls on the name of *ADONAI* will be delivered. (CJB)

We are all the same in Messiah Yeshua who gives the gift of salvation to everyone who calls on Him, but we must call on Him. The goal of the Torah is to bring us to Him because it is through the Torah that we find Yeshua, but we must have faith in Him and trust Him that He will do what He has promised to do. Has the word of the Lord ever failed us? Remember that the Word is near to us and is in our mouths and hearts. Speak the truth of Messiah, know the truth of Him in your heart, and you will know Him, and we will be delivered.

Isaiah 61:10-11

10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations. (ESV)

We will be brought close to Him, and there will be those of us who will become the bride of the Messiah. This gift is not for everyone, and we don't know who will be part of the bride, but there is a promise in the parables that Yeshua taught that at His wedding celebration there will be the bride, the guests and the servants. Everyone will be part of the wedding celebration, each assigned to their place in the kingdom. If you are not chosen to be part of the Bride, then rejoice for those who have been, and give thanks you have been chosen to be included in the wedding feast of the Lamb and to be part of His Kingdom, the Kingdom of His Father, who has chosen His Son to rule with Him forever.

Yochanan 14:5-7

5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6 Yeshua said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." (ESV)

Thomas expresses his innermost fear that his Master is leaving, and he does not know where Yeshua is going and how are they to find the way. Yeshua tells Thomas that He, Yeshua, is the way, the truth, and the life meaning that if we place our faith in Him, we will find the way that brings us to the Father through the Son. What better promise can we ever hope to have than this? Think about it. As the world tumbles out of control and we watch everything beginning to fall apart, we have hope because of faith in Messiah and following the way He laid out for us in the Torah. The Hebrew word for the way is:

01870 דֶּרֶךְ derek {deh'-rek}

Meaning: way, road, distance, journey, manner, way, path, journey, direction, manner, habit, course of life, of moral character

In the Shaliach Shaul's time, the followers of Yeshua came to be known as Followers of the Way – *derech*. What does it mean to be a follower of the Way? It means you completely give yourself over to Messiah, and as a follower of His teachings, you are following the Torah because it is through the Torah that you are brought face to face with the Kinsman Redeemer. Embrace the thought, grab hold of Him, and never let go. He is the source through whom all that is came into being. We have been created in His image because He was the first who came forth from the Father; not one who was created but one who had always been with the Father and now was given to us. The Word of the Father brought into a physical existence becoming the pattern that we have all been created. Adam was the first one created in His image, then Chavah, and so on and so forth all the way down the line to us.

As Moses stood that day sharing the story of Israel with the new generation who was to go in and take the line as their own because of His promise to them, what Moses had to say to them was meant for all of us as well. Will we listen to his words or follow our own way like so many are doing? The choice is yours – choose wisely.

Torah Man says: "It is easy to acquire the fault-finding habit but it is hard to be liberated from it."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

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