

FAMILY BREAKDOWN – THE REMEDY – WEEK TWENTY EIGHT.

There is little doubt that as a nation and a people we have some challenges ahead of us. We have challenges from without, as many nations gather together to oversee our demise. This should be of no surprise because it has been the pattern over countless millennium for the Children of Israel. Unfortunately it is the enemies from within that actually do us the most damage. HaShem can take care of the enemies from without, but the enemies from within are a responsibility we are expected to take care of. We Children of Israel must address the problems we have within our own ranks. This is not easy, as we fall well short of perfection and we cannot escape the influence of our environments and surroundings. It is very important that we surround ourselves with good people we can trust and learn from. In our case it is vital we immerse ourselves in surroundings that help us come back to HaShem and His Torah.

*“Therefore putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and slander, like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord. And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Yeshua Moshiach. For this is contained in scripture: **‘Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, and he who believes in Him shall not be disappointed.’** This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve, **‘The stone which the builders rejected, This became the very corner stone.’** And **‘A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense’**; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, that you may proclaim the excellence of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light; for you were once not a people of God, you had never received mercy, but now have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshy lusts, which wage war against the soul. Keep your behaviour excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.” 1Peter 2:1-12 [NASB]*

I agree with Rashi, that the Corner Stone is speaking of HaMoshiach. It would appear that the Biblical “concept” of a Moshiach, can only be understood and embraced by those who believe in the God of Israel. It is only the Children of Israel who are given the vision to see HaMoshiach. It is probably worth mentioning that anyone can become a citizen of Biblical Israel, it is not a closed

shop only for elitists. It is open for any who want to join the “ranks”, but obeying the constitution is imperative. Now even though we Children of Israel may have been given this gift, it would seem we would prefer to wear glasses that distort our vision instead of improving it. To follow the instructions of HaShem, the Holy One of Israel, blessed be He, we need to have a clear vision of what is expected of us. The Children of Israel are to be a nation of “priests”. We are to represent HaShem here on earth. When the nations look at Israel, they are in fact to see HaShem. We are so far away from biblically fulfilling that role that we need to go back and almost begin from scratch. We are in a position that we have to re-learn or in most cases actually learn the Word of HaShem. We are indeed like new babies who require milk before we move onto more solid foods. However when we drink milk we must make sure it is authentic milk that will increase our growth and result in improved health for our nation. Surely these past few thousand years should have been enough time for us to grow into the mature nation we should be. Time enough yes, but the results show we are still in a state of “poor health”. HaShem has provided the remedy for recovery, ensuring our improvement and rescue from sickness and death. Yet as a nation we have yet to take our full course of medication. There is a huge danger in only taking a percentage of medication and not finishing the course. When we do this it results in the disease and parasites we are trying to eradicate, actually becoming stronger and immune to the medication. We witness this in both Houses of Judah and Ephraim. Behaviours and teachings that would never dared enter these Houses in times past now take up the majority “seats” in our Houses. Instead of offering up spiritual sacrifices to God through Yeshua HaMoshiach, we expect HaShem to accept ritual and sacrifices that come via and through idols and pagan gods. This is not building a Household of priests to represent HaShem, but instead it is constructing a building that is harbouring parasites and disease. The concern is that we have become so used to living with these parasites and diseases that we no longer see them as unhealthy choices but healthy choices. This is because we have allowed the Torah of Moshe and the Living Torah Yeshua HaMoshiach to become polluted in our Yeshivas and places of worship. There is little value in adhering to a Torah or a Moshiach that is polluted by man, idols and pagan gods. We must come to the living stone, rejected by men but choice and precious in the sight of God. We are to likewise become living stones forming the House of the Living God – the nation of Israel. It is the contention of this author that the living stone is HaMoshiach and the Torah, called the Corner Stone that is a stumbling stone, a rock of offense to many. We stumble because we are disobedient to the instructions of HaShem and HaMoshiach Yeshua. This is a serious situation as disobedience is sin, and the wages of sin is death. The encouraging news is that sin is a defeated foe, if we take the correct medication to destroy it. We find this correct medication in Yeshua HaMoshiach and Torah. Both must be taken undiluted, free of the pollution of man, idols and pagan gods. HaShem has a “cupboard” full of medication, an endless supply of mercy, for those who do Teshuvah/return to Him. I encourage you to go nowhere else other than HaShem for your prescription, and medication.

Both Houses of Israel have been guilty of self-medicating, writing out their own prescriptions and thus are still in a state of sickness. We must come and drink from the Rock, the Rock of healing, the only medication for our suffering souls, because as we are told:

“The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He.”
Deuteronomy 32:4 [NASB]

“and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and that rock was Moshiach.”
1Corinthians 10:4 [NASB]

Let us put aside malice, guile, hypocrisy, envy, slander and other behaviours that go against the teachings given by Yeshua and found in His Torah. May we be found exercising behaviour that glorifies HaShem and Moshiach amongst the Gentiles. We have much work to do, but we know HaShem is able.

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,

Rabbi [Prof] Philip [Yochanan] Hammond. PhD.