

FAMILY BREAKDOWN – THE REMEDY – WEEK THIRTY ONE.

One of the challenges we face when trying to follow the instructions of HaShem is correctly understanding those same messages our Father is giving us. I remember in Primary school we used to play a game where you whispered a message in the ear of the child next to you and that pattern was repeated for several children. The last child to hear the message was to repeat it to the class room, never was the message the same as the original. Similar results have happened concerning the messages HaShem has had for His Children. Along the way they have become distorted and corrupted. This has happened for various reasons. Some have corrupted the “Gospel” through choice; others have done so through a genuine misunderstanding of the message. The school children taking part in the “message game” didn’t change the message on purpose, but none the less it changed. Imagine the difference a simple change of word or understanding can make. A simple “did” changed to a “didn’t” could cause all kinds of havoc. It is imperative that we understand what messages HaShem has for His Children. Peter touched on this challenge, and we would be wise to listen to what he had to say.

*“Since everything is coming to an end like this, what holy and saintly lives you should be living while you wait for the Day of God to come, and try to hasten its coming: on that Day the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for, relying on His promises, is the new heavens and the new earth, where uprightness will be at home. So then, my dear friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live blameless and unsullied lives so that he will find you at peace. **Think of our Lord’s patience as your opportunity to be saved; our brother Paul, who is so dear to us, told you this when he wrote to you with the wisdom that he was given. He makes this point too in his letters as a whole wherever he touches on these things. In all his letters there of course some passages which are hard to understand, and these are the ones that uneducated and unbalanced people distort, in the same way as they distort the rest of scripture – to their destruction.** Since you have been forewarned about this, my dear friends, be careful that you do not come to the point of losing the firm ground that you are standing on, carried away by the errors of unprincipled people. Instead, continue to grow in the grace and in knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Yeshua Moshiach. To him be glory, in time eternity. Amen” 2Peter 3:11-18 [NJB]*

If we misunderstand what HaShem is saying to us, we can find ourselves defending something that HaShem never wanted us to defend. On the other hand we can find ourselves rejecting, dismissing and even speaking against the very teachings HaShem wants and demands us to embrace. Paul/Sha’ul is a

person whose teachings and encouragements are badly misunderstood by the many from both Houses of Israel. Accusations and false doctrines are often attributed to Paul. This is because those making such accusations and attributing false doctrines to him are either making mischief for their own purposes or completely misunderstand what he is actually saying. To understand and therefore learn what Paul has to say to the people of Israel, we must know his culture, his background, his method of expression and his very Jewish mind set. If one takes the time and effort to study these areas then one will **not** come to the incorrect conclusion that Paul encouraged the Children of Israel to leave aside the Torah of Moshe. Paul followed in the footsteps of the Master, and taught the Torah as Yeshua taught it. Paul left behind some of the laws that the Pharisees introduced, but he never went against the teachings of Moshe. Make no mistake Paul upheld the Torah of Moshe, and we praise HaShem that this is the case. Paul had a mission to take the message of HaShem to the goyim/nations. He was well educated in matters of Torah and Jewish law, and after his encounter with Yeshua on the road to Damascus, plus his time away praying and studying the Torah with a fresh set of biblical eyes he was able to bring the message of HaShem to the nations. Most of these people were uneducated in matters of Torah and Jewish law, so it was a regular challenge and problem that people couldn't and didn't always understand what he had to say, hence the words of Peter. This same problem is still evident today.

I am persuaded both current Houses of Israel would never question the love HaShem has for His nation, therefore His people. As a child of HaShem you will never feel the complete love HaShem has for you unless you follow and embrace His instructions and embrace HaMoshiach of Israel. It is only when you have this mix can you truly experience the absolute warmth and love HaShem has for you. This is the message our Father wants us to receive. This is the message Paul was spreading amongst the nations. He wants us to know what HaShem has truly done for His people. False promises and doctrines that are spread through mischief or ignorance only create false hope and confusion amongst the Children of Israel. There have been countless examples of false prophecies made by people who claim they heard from HaShem. Many people have been hurt and lost faith because of these false Prophets; others have seen the stupidity of such and have moved on to become more stable in their faith and faithfulness to HaShem. If all the Children of Israel accepted that the Torah was for all citizens of biblical Israel and were willing to be educated in the instructions of Torah, then there would be far less hurt and confusion amongst our people.

Please understand that the Torah came from the Holy One of Israel, blessed be He, this One who loves Israel with an everlasting love. HaShem has given us the ultimate set of instructions that result in the perfect Household, a Household full of the love of HaShem. The perfect extension of this love [that comes through Torah] has been demonstrated with the coming of Moshiach Ben Yoseph and will

be further demonstrated in the future coming of Moshiach Ben Dovid, whom I believe to be Yeshua. Paul had experienced this love and was prepared to die to bring this message to the nations. He was maligned by many of his own people, who tried their best to discredit him, accusing him of things he was not guilty of. He was accused by some Jews of destroying the Torah. When one reads the book of Acts we see how Paul was treated by his own brethren. However we also see how HaShem was with Paul and chose him to do the work needed amongst the Children of Israel.

“Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.’ And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.” Acts 18:9-11 [NKJV]

“Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.” Acts 19:11-12 [NKJV]

Paul was used mightily by HaShem, and it is imperative to our faithfulness to HaShem and HaMoshiach Yeshua that we fully understand what messages Paul was bringing from The Almighty. Allow me to share just one glaring example whereby the Christian Church completely misunderstands Paul.

“But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? You observe days and months and seasons and years. I am afraid for you, lest I have laboured for you in vain.” Galatians 4:9-11 [NKJV]

Without understanding and taking into account background, scripture and circumstances it is almost impossible to arrive at the correct message Paul was giving. It is commonly taught that Paul was afraid for their “salvation” because they were on the verge of embracing the Moedim or appointed times of HaShem as given in the Torah. Paul was not teaching against the biblical Torah, he was worried by the influence that “Judaizers” were having on these people who were new to correct biblical faith. He may have been concerned about the many added laws and regulations that the Judaizers imposed upon the people that actually took them away from faith in HaShem and HaMoshiach. Today we call them Rabbinical laws, Jewish laws or the Oral Law. These are very different to the Torah of Moshe which is the instructions from HaShem for His people. However it is very probable he was concerned about them going back to their previous practices of idol worship that involved worshipping non biblical days, full moons and giving credence to pagan “season gods”. I say this because in verse eight we read ***“But then, indeed when you did not know God, you served those***

which by nature are not gods.” Then we read, *“But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak.....”*

Paul is outlining or reminding the people of their previous condition before they came to know HaShem. What does Paul say about their previous condition? He says they were in bondage, they were enslaved and in servitude to the worthless elements that are associated with worshipping false idols and gods. So what Paul is actually saying here is they were in serious danger of returning back to their old “religious” rites and practices. These practices were not those found in the Torah because they didn’t know HaShem or His instructions in their previous days. Dare I say it but the “days, months and seasons” Paul was referring too, and challenging them about were more aligned with Christmas, Easter, Full moons and Halloween. Never are the Moedim of HaShem called weak and beggarly elements by The Almighty. Only those who are ignorant of the facts or oppose HaShem and His Moshiach make such disgraceful statements concerning the Moedim and the Torah of Moshe.

This is only one small sample of people misunderstanding the writings of Paul. There are countless others and I suggest if you haven’t read Rabbi Silvers Book **The Torah is Valid**, then I encourage you to do so, as Rabbi Silver explains these facts in much more detail. It is vital that we Children of HaShem understand the messages He has for us, as it is these messages that bring us back to Him. Paul was a vessel HaShem chose to help us return and know the Holy One of Israel, but if we twist and damage the message as well as the messenger we only do damage to the Whole House of Israel. It takes time and effort to learn and fully appreciate what Paul has to say to the Children of Israel. Paul didn’t go to “Gentiles” to build a following for himself or to become rich and famous, he was only interested in serving HaShem to the best of his abilities, as given to him by HaShem. If you read any passage within the bible and believe it tells you to reject or dismiss the Torah then you are misunderstanding that passage. HaShem is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow and He has the same set of instructions for His people. He wants us and will make us one nation made up of many peoples, but we will all be living according to the “constitution” of biblical Israel and that constitution is the Torah. The only way both Houses of Israel can become echad is for us to be united in Torah, as this means we will be following in the footsteps of HaMoshiach and walking the path HaShem has set before us. Why do so many continually refuse the instructions of our Father in heaven? If you are one of those only you can answer that question.

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,

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