

FAMILY BREAKDOWN – THE REMEDY – WEEK THIRTY FOUR.

Lies, propaganda, deception and intimidation have a great affect on a society. Take for instance the lies, propaganda, deception and intimidation that are used by Governments to control the people. Even in a so-called democratic country these tactics are constantly used, especially at election time. Unfortunately these tactics are found in almost every aspect of life. The reasons behind these tactics are usually attached to power and corruption. Simply put, it is misleading the people. People from all walks of life need to be on the alert regarding these tactics. It is no different for the Children of Israel. We also need to be very aware and alert to these well used and utilized tactics. These tactics are usually practiced by those who lack faith and faithfulness or “bullies”, people who must have their own way. There are many ways to employ these tactics and unless we are on guard against them we can easily fall victim to them. As time marches on and we await the coming of Moshiach ben Dovid, there is perhaps a greater need to be aware of our surroundings and the environment in which we live. It is believed by most biblical sages and commentators that the closer we are to the coming of HaMoshiach the more delusions we will face and the more likely we are to be misled. Let us view a discussion the Master had with His talmidim on this subject.

*13 As Yeshua came out of the Temple, one of the talmidim said to him, “Look, Rabbi! What huge stones! What magnificent buildings!”² “You see all these great buildings?” Yeshua said to him, “They will be totally destroyed — not a single stone will be left standing!”³ As he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the Temple, Kefa, Ya‘akov, Yochanan and Andrew asked him privately,⁴ “Tell us, when will these things happen? And what sign will show when all these things are about to be accomplished?”⁵ Yeshua began speaking to them: “Watch out! **Don’t let anyone fool you!**⁶ Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and they will fool many people.⁷ When you hear the noise of wars nearby and the news of wars far off, don’t become frightened. Such things must happen, but the end is yet to come.⁸ For peoples will fight each other, and nations will fight each other, there will be earthquakes in various places, there will be famines; this is but the beginning of the ‘birth pains.’⁹ “But you, watch yourselves! They will hand you over to the local Sanhedrins, you will be beaten up in synagogues, and on my account you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them.¹⁰ Indeed, the Good News has to be proclaimed first to all the Goyim.¹¹ Now when they arrest you and bring you to trial, don’t worry beforehand about what to say. Rather, say whatever is given you when the time comes; for it will not be just you speaking, but the Ruach HaKodesh.¹² Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will turn against their parents and have them put to death;¹³ and everyone will hate you because of me. But whoever holds out till the end will be delivered.¹⁴ “Now when you see **the abomination that causes devastation** standing where it ought not to be” (let the reader understand the allusion), “that will be the time for those in*

*Y'hudah to escape to the hills. ¹⁵ If someone is on the roof, he must not go down and enter his house to take any of his belongings; ¹⁶ if someone is in the field, he must not turn back to get his coat. ¹⁷ What a terrible time it will be for pregnant women and nursing mothers! ¹⁸ Pray that it may not happen in winter. ¹⁹ For there will be **worse trouble** at that time **than there has ever been from the very beginning**, when God created the universe, **until now; and there will be nothing like it again.** ²⁰ Indeed, if God had not limited the duration of the trouble, no one would survive; but for the sake of the elect, those whom he has chosen, he has limited it. ²¹ “At that time, if anyone says to you, ‘Look! Here’s the Messiah!’ or, ‘See, there he is!’ — don’t believe him! ²² There will appear false Messiahs and false prophets performing signs and wonders for the purpose, if possible, of misleading the chosen. ²³ But you, watch out! I have told you everything in advance! Mark 13:1-23 [CJB]*

To fool someone is to mislead someone, and the one doing the misleading is either doing it with the full knowledge they are doing so, or they are doing it out of ignorance. As this portion of scripture comes from what is commonly called the New Testament, commentary is mainly from Christian sources. Most modern commentaries come from a position whereby they believe it is the Jewish people who are being fooled or will be fooled. These commentators believe that unless you become a Christian and follow the tenets of Christianity, you will be lost or as they put it, go to hell. Christianity is a faith that strongly believes that they have the answer to salvation for all mankind. They are passionate and spend countless hours and monies focusing on evangelism, hoping to convert peoples from all walks of life to their faith. Christianity has been involved in some unsavoury historical incidents. None the less it must also be said that Christianity has brought more “good” into the world than “bad”. Christians are people and all peoples are prone to engage in abhorrent behaviour. This is not excusing this behaviour, but we must be balanced and weigh things with just weights and measures. There are plenty of incidents when Jewish people have engaged in unsavoury behaviour. No one has the monopoly on bad or good behaviour. None the less I am digressing somewhat. So let us return to the matter at hand. Yeshua was emphatic in telling His Talmidim not to let anyone “fool” them. He was telling them that many would come “in His name” and as such fool many people. This was a message Yeshua wanted His Talmidim to understand well. It was a message for His time, a message for later years, a message for the future and a message we would do well to heed at this important hour.

It is worthwhile asking the question: Which group of people who claim biblical faith are the ones most likely in the “fooled” camp? Considering our topic of “reconciliation” between the Two Houses of Israel, which House is the most misled? This is a very important question especially as we may be facing the coming of Moshiach ben Dovid in the not too distant future. As I type those words I must say this is just my opinion. Who knows how long HaMoshiach will tarry? None the less expecting HaMoshiach at any time it is a healthy position to take and we should be ready for His arrival. So how will we actually recognise

HaMoshiach when He comes? To recognise HaMoshiach one must not be in the “Fooled/misled” camp, otherwise there is a danger of embracing a false Moshiach. History shows there have been many who have claimed to be the Messiah. Barnes in his “Popular Commentary” on the New Testament writes that, ***“The names of twenty five false Messiahs are recorded as having appeared between the time of the Emperor Adrian and the year 1682.”*** [Page 251]. Today there are many in the Chabad sect of Judaism who believe, that Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson was and is the Messiah. Christians badly misrepresent Yeshua and if He was as the Christian faith teaches, He would also fall into the false Messiah camp.

Remembering the meaning of “Moshiach” may help us guard against being misled or fooled. Simply put it means “Separate out; anointed by HaShem”. The Priests were anointed, the altar was anointed, King Dovid was anointed, Prophets were anointed and all point to the Messiah of Israel, as HaMoshiach will fulfil all these roles. Notwithstanding it is not only THE “false Messiah” that we must guard against but those who claim to be anointed from God. The many false prophets associated with the Charismatic and Pentecostal world of Christianity come to mind. The claims made by the founders of the Jehovah Witness sect, the Seventh Day Adventists are examples of false anointing claims. Then of course we have the Pope who claims to be the “Vicar of Christ”, which actually means, in place of Moshiach, leading the pack of false “Messiahs”. There are those within Judaism who practice Kabbalah, claiming to be anointed from HaShem, requiring a cautious approach. As the saying goes there are plenty of “traps for young players”.

It is only through knowing and studying Biblical Torah that we gain the necessary tools to protect us from becoming fooled and misled. HaShem in His unfathomable grace and mercy has given us His Holy Torah. These instructions are to keep us set apart as His set apart nation. However, if we continue to be fooled and misled by those who have “false anointing”, then we will stay a divided House and may well be guilty of delaying the appearance of Moshiach ben Dovid. Do not be fooled into thinking that the Torah belongs in the realms of history and only applicable to those Jews who do not believe Yeshua to be HaMoshiach. The Torah is applicable for all citizens of biblical Israel. It will be the Torah that brings all the citizens of Biblical Israel back to the Father’s House. We cannot have the Torah without Moshiach and we cannot have Moshiach without the Torah. In other words we cannot embrace the Torah without receiving anointing from HaShem, and we cannot receive anointing from HaShem unless we embrace Torah.

Let us finish with some wisdom and encouragement from the Word of HaShem.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: A good understanding have all they who do His commandments: His praise endureth for ever.” Psalm 111:10 [KJV]

“....In my prayers I keep asking the God of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, the glorious Father, to give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you will have full knowledge of him. I pray that he will give light to the eyes of your hearts, so that you will understand the hope to which he has called you, what rich glories there are in the inheritance he has promised his people, and how surpassingly great is his power working in us who trust him....” Ephesians 1:16b-19a [CJB]

All Children of Israel will find great wisdom and protection within the Torah, giving us the means to protect ourselves against false Messiahs, but more importantly allow us to recognise HaMoshiach. As Yeshua said; “Don’t let anyone fool you!”

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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