

FAMILY BREAKDOWN – THE REMEDY – WEEK THIRTY FIVE.

There comes a time when actions must either replace words or at least align with words spoken. Unfortunately, it has often been the case that our enemies match their actions with their words, where as we citizens of Israel are found wanting in matching our words with actions. I look back on some words recorded long ago by our ancestors.

“The entire people responded together and said, ‘Everything that HASHEM has spoken we shall do!’ Moses brought back the words of the people to HASHEM.” Exodus 19:8 [AST]

As a nation we have yet to act upon the above statement. There have been individuals that have acted on them, and there have been segments of our community that have tried very hard to fulfil the statement, but as a nation we have failed. Our failure to follow the commandments of HaShem, commandments we said we would follow, has opened the door for our enemies to gather together and cause havoc upon our nation. We need to remember that our nation, thus our lives are in the hands of HaShem, and the outcome is attached to our commitment in embracing and following the Torah of Moshe and our trust and belief in HaMoshiach. Those that want to destroy and curse Israel are varied and many. These are an ever present danger, and we should be on constant watch to identify them, so we can prepare to guard and defend ourselves as a people and a nation. None the less it is very difficult to guard and defend when we are a broken nation, divided amongst ourselves. The enemy has to do little to cause disruption and division among the people of Israel. The politics and religious beliefs of our people are many and varied. This should never be as we are a people chosen by HaShem to follow His instructions and not our own. Our main challenges actually come from within not from those without. It is not so much the Balaqs and Balaams of this world, [bad as they are], that are the main threat to us, but those who are in our midst.

2 But among the people there were also false prophets, just as there will be false teachers among you. Under false pretenses they will introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, and thus bring on themselves swift destruction. ² Many will follow their debaucheries; and because of them, the true Way will be maligned. ³ In their greed they will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their punishment, decreed long ago, is not idle; their destruction is not asleep! ⁴ For God did not spare the angels who sinned; on the contrary, he put them in gloomy dungeons lower than Sh’ol to be held for judgment. ⁵ And he did not spare the ancient world; on the contrary, he preserved Noach, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, and brought the Flood upon a world of ungodly people. ⁶ And he condemned the cities of S’dom and ‘Amora, reducing them to ashes and ruin, as a warning to those in the future who would live ungodly

*lives; ⁷ but he rescued Lot, a righteous man who was distressed by the debauchery of those unprincipled people; ⁸ for the wicked deeds which that righteous man saw and heard, as he lived among them, tormented his righteous heart day after day. ⁹ So the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and how to hold the wicked until the Day of Judgment while continuing to punish them, ¹⁰ especially those who follow their old natures in lust for filth and who despise authority. Presumptuous and self-willed, these false teachers do not tremble at insulting angelic beings; ¹¹ whereas angels, though stronger and more powerful, do not bring before the Lord an insulting charge against them. ¹² But these people, acting without thinking, like animals without reason, born to be captured and destroyed, insult things about which they have no knowledge. When they are destroyed, their destruction will be total — ¹³ they will be paid back harm as wages for the harm they are doing. Their idea of pleasure is carousing in broad daylight; they are spots and defects reveling in their deceptions as they share meals with you — ¹⁴ for they have eyes always on the lookout for a woman who will commit adultery, eyes that never stop sinning; and they have a heart that has exercised itself in greed; so that they seduce unstable people. What a cursed brood! ¹⁵ These people have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Bil'am Ben-B'or, who loved the wages of doing harm ¹⁶ but was rebuked for his sin — a dumb beast of burden spoke out with a human voice and restrained the prophet's insanity! ¹⁷ Waterless springs they are, mists driven by a gust of wind; for them has been reserved the blackest darkness. ¹⁸ Mouthing grandiosities of nothingness, they play on the desires of the old nature, in order to seduce with debaucheries people who have just begun to escape from those whose way of life is wrong. ¹⁹ They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption; for a person is slave to whatever has defeated him. ²⁰ Indeed, if they have once escaped the pollutions of the world through knowing our Lord and Deliverer, Yeshua the Messiah, and then have again become entangled and defeated by them, their latter condition has become worse than their former. ²¹ It would have been better for them not to have known the Way of righteousness than, fully knowing, to turn from the holy command delivered to them. ²² What has happened to them accords with the true proverb, "**A dog returns to its own vomit.**" Yes, "The pig washed itself, only to wallow in the mud!" 2Peter 2:1-22 [CJB]*

Peter is warning his audience about the dangers of those who are within "the camp". His warning is about false teachers and leaders who tickle the ears of the people leading them astray through different means, claiming to hear from HaShem. There is nothing new in this, as there have always been false prophets, teachers and leaders within the nation of Israel, willing to lead people astray for their own selfish purposes.

“But HASHEM said to me, ‘These prophets prophesy falsehood in My Name! I did not send them nor command them nor speak to them. A false vision, divination, emptiness, and the deception of their heart are they prophesying to you.’” Jeremiah 14:14 [AST]

“The visions your prophets had for you were deceptive whitewash; they did not lay bare your guilt so as to change your fortunes: the visions they told you were deceptive.” Lamentations 2:14 [NJB]

“My hand will be against the prophets who have futile visions and give false predictions; they will not be admitted to the council of my people, their names will not be entered in the roll of the House of Israel, they will not set foot on the soil of Israel; and they will know that I am the Lord Yahweh. This is because they have misled my people by saying peace! When there is no peace. When my people were repairing a wall, these men came and plastered over it.” Ezekiel 13:9-10 [NJB]

Before we continue let us view two words and their meaning.

Peace/Shalom - שָׁלוֹם - Root meaning: Harmonize; complete. It means being whole and complete.

False/Shav - שָׁוְא - Lacking content; deceitful; empty; full of lies; worthless; vanity.

It is crucial that we understand the biblical meaning of these two words within the context of our topic. HaShem says that He is against those who say Shalom, shalom, when there is no shalom. He also is against those who bring false words to His people. So let us briefly review this.

When we have “prophets, teachers and leaders”, saying to the people of Israel, that they are whole and complete, when according to the word of HaShem they are not, it is a serious matter. Anyone who teaches the Children of Israel that there is no need to embrace and follow the Torah is bringing a false message. Such a message lacks content and is damaging to the growth and maturity of Israel. Anyone who teaches that there is no Moshiach of Israel, and we have no need of such, is also one who brings a false message devoid of content and hope. As a nation we require the presence of both the Torah and HaMoshiach in our midst.

As Peter tells us, there has been, there is present now and there will be false teachers and prophets amongst the people of Israel. These bring havoc and continue to bring havoc, as we try and reconcile as a people and nation. It is unfortunate that we have people from both Houses deliberately choosing to

disrupt and bury the work of reconciliation. This behaviour is like those that come and plaster over a wall that is under repair, but has not yet been completed. We must be careful not to become stumbling blocks to those who are trying to find their way back to the Father's House. If we become stumbling blocks then we are in grave danger of becoming false teachers and prophets. I implore those reading this article that you re read the scriptures chosen and absorb the promises HaShem made against those misleading His people. In addressing this issue it is also important that we understand that even the best of human teachers and leaders will not have all the answers and will make mistakes. However those who mislead the Children of Israel through choice and rebellion are on shaky ground and we are told that is very likely they will not set foot in the Promised Land when HaMoshiach reigns.

If these teachers, prophets and leaders are not allowed into the Promised Land at the end of "this age", then it is possible those who follow in their footsteps will not enter into the Promised Land when HaMoshiach reigns from Jerusalem. Peter tells us that these false teachers make promises of freedom, but these are false promises as they come from those that have wandered from the straight and narrow way. Please consider the seriousness of those who teach that the Torah [instructions of HaShem] has been done away with. This will never be, and may I suggest those who make an informed decision to reject the Torah will be left outside of Israel and thus will not be included in the Whole House of Israel. As citizens of biblical Israel we are not only obliged to embrace the Torah and HaMoshiach, but unless we do so our citizenship could well be rejected. Let us not be deceived by false teachers, prophets and leaders. Many have been deceived in the past, many are deceived in the present and sadly this pattern will continue into the future. We are told in the quote from Lamentations that these false prophets refuse to tell the people about their guilt, thus preventing them from knowing the need for change. This is equivalent to telling our people there is no need to know, embrace and follow Torah. How can we know the need for change if we do not know the Torah? We will be left in our sin, guilty before HaShem.

As we close this short article I want to make a statement some may view as controversial. There is only one guaranteed way of guarding and protecting ourselves against these deceitful, lying, and misleading teachers, prophets and leaders and that is to know biblical Torah. How much heartache could have been avoided if the Children of Israel had known the Torah? How much heartache could have been avoided if the Children of Israel had indeed done all that HaShem had said? The acceptance and belief in the Torah is vital to our continued existence and redemption. Without the Torah you will not spot a false teacher, prophet or leader, but much more importantly you will not recognise the biblical Moshiach of Israel. This is the same for both current Houses of Israel. HaShem gave us His instructions so we would not stray as a people and if we did stray [which we have done] we could find our way home by following Torah or as some say following in the footsteps of HaMoshiach Yeshua. As HaMoshiach is

the living Torah it is one and the same thing. It is only HaMoshiach and Torah that brings redemption for our people! Let us not only talk the talk but let us walk the walk of Torah, a walk that will bring us home to the Promised Land under the Kingship of HaMoshiach.

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.