

FAMILY BREAKDOWN – THE REMEDY – WEEK FORTY.

After forty weeks we bring this series to a close and I pray that some may have received encouragement in some small way.

It is never easy to repair a damaged relationship and unless all parties are willing to participate in a genuine manner it cannot be done.

What is very concerning is our inability to learn from our history. We wandered around in the “wilderness” for forty years failing to appreciate our rescue from Egypt. We voted for a King in Saul that brought trouble. We have a chequered history in deciding to do our “own thing” far too often. We have a chance as previous generations have had a chance to change our direction and actions. We must question our loyalties as a nation with mature minds and Godly intent. We should no longer be satisfied with the status quo and be happy in our own little world, a world far removed from the destiny of our nation. As a nation and a people we are guilty of practicing sin before HaShem. We need to hear the call proclaimed in Isaiah.

“Come, now, let us reason together, says HASHEM. If your sins are like scarlet they will become white as snow; if they have become red as crimson, they will become white as wool. If you are willing and obey, you will eat the goodness of the Land. But if you refuse and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword – for the mouth of HASHEM has spoken”.

Isaiah 1:18 [AST]

We should be looking forward with joyful expectation, a joy so great it is difficult to describe, of dwelling in the Promised Land with all of the promised blessings from HaShem. We have yet to achieve this because of our repeated and ongoing rebellion, so we have been devoured by the sword. There is no joy in writing this but we cannot deny the facts. When will we obey the Voice of HaShem? When will we live according to His Torah? When will we accept the position and privilege of being the “chosen nation”? When will we follow in the footsteps of HaMoshiach Yeshua? When will we discard the “Golden Calves” we have managed to build and fortify? When will we choose the Light of HaShem, HaMoshiach and Torah over the darkness of images and practices that offer no lasting life? These are all legitimate questions that the Children of Israel should not have to ask, yet due to our condition we must. I fear that the words recorded in 1Peter are very appropriate for us today.

“For the time has come for the judgement to begin. It begins with the household of God; and if it starts with us, what will the outcome be for those who are disobeying God’s Good News?” 1Peter [CJB]

Many of us believe we are obeying the “Good News”, but perhaps we should review our belief in this area and test it against Torah. The Good News is found in Torah, and the Good News for our nation is practicing Torah. We are a fragmented Household because we refuse to embrace and practice Torah. The actual percentage of people [who believe they are the Children of Israel], that practice Torah to the best of their understanding and abilities is very low. This should not be the case, as **all** Children of Israel should live a biblical Torah lifestyle. Make no mistake when HaMoshiach rules from Jerusalem ALL citizens of biblical Israel will be living in the Promised Land following the instructions set down by HaShem and these instructions will mirror the Torah of Moshe. We will be taught from the Master, and yes there will be changes because we have so muddied the waters we have confused ourselves and others. We look forward to this blessed time. However it does appear that there will be considerable pain brought upon us before our redemption and reconciliation takes place. This pain can only be described as self afflicted as we have been given countless warnings by HaShem on the outcomes stemming from disobedience. It is important to note if the instructions of HaShem are not followed then cohesion and unity disappear. Take any married couple, or family, if they don’t build their relationships on the foundations and instructions found in the Bible you will find problems therein. People don’t have to have a belief in HaShem, but if they follow His instructions you will mostly find a “successful” and happy family.

Why then do we Children of Israel neglect the very instructions that will bring cohesion and unity to our “Household”? Until we admit our problem and seek the answers that will heal us, we will continue walking the same path of destruction. As Children of the Almighty we have an obligation to seek the remedy that will reconcile us as a nation, bringing glory to HaShem. In doing this we are reminded of the words of Sha’ul.

“Don’t delude yourself: God is not to be fooled; whatever someone sows, that is what he will reap. If his sowing is in the field of self indulgence, then his harvest from it will be corruption; if his sowing is in the Spirit, then his harvest from the Spirit will be eternal life.” Galatians 6:7 [NJB]

To heal a damaged relationship requires hard questions and an exhaustive inspection of those involved. Wounds need exposing and cleaning with a healing balm that restores life to dead flesh. Pride must be put aside, replaced with an honest humility willing to accept the suggested remedies given by the physician. The nation of Israel is blessed because we have the ultimate “Physician” in our midst. HaShem is not only capable of bringing about our healing and reconciliation, but He guarantees it will happen. Let us be very confident that He who has begun a good work in us will indeed finish perfecting us for the coming of Yeshua HaMoshiach. This gives us a blessed hope as we look forward in

becoming a cohesive nation after we witness the walls of partition being removed and destroyed.

“¹³ But now in Messiah Yeshua, you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of the Messiah. ¹⁴ For He is our shalom, the One who made the two into one and broke down the middle wall of separation. Within His flesh He made powerless the hostility— ¹⁵ the law code of mitzvot contained in regulations. He did this in order to create within Himself one new man from the two groups, making shalom, ¹⁶ and to reconcile both to God in one body through the cross—by which He put the hostility to death.” Ephesians 2:13-16 [TLV]

The only reason we have division and dissention is because we have failed to follow the full instructions of HaShem. Let us strive to break our historical record of rebellion and segregation and find a way forward that will result in the biblical reconciliation of the Two Houses. We have before us a path paved with opportunity and challenge, but these opportunities and challenges are from our Father and we can face them with confidence. Small steps are appropriate as we negotiate the journey ahead, but we should not be discouraged as there is always the need to walk before running.

Perhaps as a nation we could echo the prayer of King Dovid.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. ⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. ⁶ Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. ⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. ¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. ¹⁶ For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. ¹⁸ Do

*good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;
19 then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole
burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.” Psalm 51:1-19
[ESV]*

We could not leave this series without quoting the following.

*“If it is evil in your eyes to serve HASHEM, choose today whom you
will serve: the gods your forefathers served across the river, or the
gods of the Amorite in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my
house, we will serve HASHEM.**” Joshua 24:15 [AST]*

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.