



Message 2-11-17
BeShallach-When He Let Go
Exodus 13:17-17:16
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Introduction

While the Hebrews gather their things, Moses meticulously gathers the remains of their ancestor Joseph to bring him to his final resting place in the Promised Land. Just as Joseph oversees the burial of his father, Jacob, in the Land, so he deserves to have the same care taken with his remains. Later, the remains of Moses will be cared for by none other than God!

Exodus 13:17-19

17 When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, "Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt." ¹⁸ But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. And the people of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle. ¹⁹ Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for Joseph had made the sons of Israel solemnly swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones with you from here." (ESV)

Notice how the Lord takes the people of Israel away from the Philistines and to the wilderness of Sinai, apparently preparing them for the long way to the Promised Land before they have even reached Mount Sinai. We know the Lord knows everything past, present, and future. It is what it is to Him, but He takes serious interest in the way we do things. Israel was nothing more than a conglomeration of different tribes and a mixed multitude who had been slaves in Egypt where the Lord had brought them to save them from the famine in Canaan in Jacob's day. They would now embark on a journey that would determine who they would become as a people, whether they would choose the way the Lord set before them or decide things were better for them in Egypt. However in reality, it wasn't, but people can persuade themselves that it is easier not to try than it is to try. God's way is not always the easiest way to reach our goals, but it is always the best way to walk according to Torah. Torah is His way and not always man's way. Israel struggled for forty years to walk by God's instructions, but most of the generation that came out of Egypt twenty years of age and up died due to their lack of faith. It is a lack of faith to walk by Torah. It is a lack of faith when we do not put Messiah Yeshua first and Torah second. We cannot do one without the other. They go hand in and hand, so when we have one group who follows only Yeshua and the other groups only follow Torah,

things are bound to get uncoordinated, and we must get coordinated with our Creator. We have no choice in this, and yet we do. I have come to the belief that while God gave us the freedom to choose, we must make a choice in life whether to follow God's way or the world's way, and the world's way is the way of the world's ruler – HaSatan.

When Moses honored Israel's commitment to take the bones of Joseph with them back to the Promised Land, his commitment was honored by the Holy One when He chose to bury Moses Himself. Moses was a man of God totally dedicated to Him once he committed himself to him at the burning bush. It was not an overnight commitment. It was one born out of a personal relationship with God that most of us will never really know because how many of us can say we can speak to God face to face and not in dreams and visions? Moses had to take a disorganized group of slaves whose faith in God seemed to be all over the place as evidenced by the Golden Calf. They also had a lack of faith in their leadership, which many congregations face today and have faced for a very long time. Loyalty to Israel and loyalty to congregations is tough. When any disagreement arises, it is usually blamed on the leadership, and this shows a lack of faith in the leadership of a congregation as is shown to us in how the people of Israel treated Moses and Aaron. I have always said that if we look to Israel, there are so many lessons we can learn, but we rarely do. I understand when people disagree with decisions leadership may make, but shouldn't the first thing that should be done is to ask to talk to leadership and try to understand why they made the decision they disagree with rather than go around trying to stir up people against leadership? I don't understand this at all. Also, sometimes leadership is not free to discuss some things if it involves others in the congregation, and the people involved desire to keep it private. Also, we need to understand that leadership does not wish to be the ones who start lashon hara, slander, or gossip against anyone, even if they disagree with what the person said or did because usually it comes back on the leader in a negative way. Many times, leadership is caught between a rock and hard place when it comes to things like what to share and what not to share.

Exodus 4:31 And the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped. (ESV)

The people of Israel believed that the Lord had sent Moses to free them from slavery in Egypt, and he even performed signs and wonders for them. They professed belief, but I guess over the long haul of becoming a free people, the Israelites must have thought this was going to be a one-two-three super miracle, and they would be leaving Egypt immediately. Wouldn't they be surprised at what they would have to go through before the Lord brought them out of Egypt because it wasn't just for their benefit but for the Egyptians as well as the other nations who would see what happened and hear about what happened. We know this to be true because we are told that when Israel was finally ready to enter the Promised Land and Joshua sent in two spies to check out the land, they were told by Rahab that the people of Canaan had heard about what the God of Israel had done to the land of Egypt forty years before. Maybe it was necessary that the journey to the Promised Land had to take forty years so the lesson would sink into the

hearts and the minds of the Israelites down to our day as well as the rest of the nations, though like Israel, most of those nations have forgotten what the Lord did to Egypt and to the other nations that came against His people. Today about 90% of the Israelis are not religious, though who knows how many profess to believe in the God of Israel? Religious ways are not for everyone, but faith and belief are. How else do you explain how a nation as small as Israel can survive amid being surrounded by their enemies for all of these years?

Judges 4:4-5

4 Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. ⁵ She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the people of Israel came up to her for judgment. (ESV)

In the time of the judges of Israel, they were basically the leaders until the time of the kings came. Even then the prophets had an important place in the leadership of Israel, as they were entrusted by the Almighty to hold the kings accountable. Can you imagine if we had this system today? It would upend the governments of all the nations on the face of the earth. This is something we desperately need as the world is spinning out of control. Are we in the end times or last days? Who really knows, except that there appears to be movement towards something out of the ordinary, and it originates with the Middle East, and Israel is being pulled into it as Israel is the center for all things spiritual.

In times like this, we could use prophets, not the kind of people we have going around claiming they are prophets. We need the real prophets of the Bible. These men and women who judged Israel by resolving disputes among the people and holding the nation of Israel and its leaders accountable. Even Samson, with his behavior, was a judge of Israel and kept them safe from their enemies, though his moral character was lacking, showing us that even those called by God were still human with their faults, but they could still be used by YHWH. Deborah showed us that God does not place one person higher than another simply based on whether that person is a man or a woman. He calls anyone He chooses to do His bidding, and Deborah was the one He called for that time. She would call the nation to go out to war, and she would lead them into battle when the man she asked to lead the army would only do it if she went with them. He deferred to Deborah, and she told him she would go, but that the victory would not be his but would be hers because he did not step up to lead the army when he was called to do it.

Women were an important part of Israel and anywhere else. While the tendency is to place the woman as being subservient to men because of the curse placed on them by YHWH in the beginning, the higher accountability was placed on the man because he stood by while the serpent tempted Chavah, she fell, and so did Adam. All hell was literally released at that moment, it is still with us today, and the longer it is with us the, worse things will get paving the way for the greatest judge and prophet of Israel – Yeshua! Yeshua, born of a woman, chosen by the Father, without the aid of a man but through the Ruach HaKodesh-the Holy Spirit. Yes, women are the spiritual connection to God that men lack. That was one of the parts that was removed from man when woman was created. Women have a strong spiritual connection, and through this, they can help their

husbands find the path the Almighty wants them to walk. They were meant to be partners from the beginning. Things took a turn, but in the end, the man needs the woman and vice-versa. We need judges walking in the power of Deborah today. They provide balance to the man, and that is something that is desperately needed.

Hebrews 11:22

22 By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones. (ESV)

Joseph had spent most of his life in Egypt. It was where YHWH wanted him to be so he could watch over Israel and see them grow as a people until the time came when he could no longer do it. Yet, no matter how long he lived in Egypt or how powerful he became, his desire was to eventually return to the Promised Land where he had lived as a boy knowing fully the covenant the Almighty had made with Abraham, Isaac, and his father Jacob. He knew what the future held for Israel, and if he could not be there in life, he wanted to be there in death and made Israel promise to bring his bones back to the Promised Land where he would be buried so he could rest there forever until the day of resurrection.

Genesis 50:25 Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." (ESV)

Joseph knew the Lord's promise to Israel, and his only desire was to return to the land he was taken from by the hand of his brothers, but it was part of God's plan for Israel. Eventually Joseph's brothers would come down to Egypt as he had, but it was not because Joseph wanted revenge for what they had done. Over time he had come to understand that YHWH had put all of this into motion, and it was part of His plan for the eventual return of Israel to Canaan, the land He had promised to them. No matter how long someone is gone from his home or who may never have been there, the sense of needing to be there is strong. It can only be described as a spiritual connection to a place that is holy unto the Lord, and it is the land He calls His own as the whole earth is His and everything that exists on it, but He set aside one part of it for Himself. Why – who knows the mind the Lord.

1 Corinthians 2:11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? **So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.** (ESV)

Who knows the mind of the Lord? No one except for the Spirit of God. Who God is a complicated question, and while some may think they know the answer, Scripture is very clear we don't. He is God, and we know Him by what He chooses to share with us about Himself, but the fact that He is described as a plurality rather than an absolute singular entity gives us an idea of the complexity of our Creator. The fact is He said from the beginning that man was incomplete because he had no companion, even though he was as complete as he could be when the Maker created him. What he created was a singular creature that was incomplete because he had the desire for someone else since he saw the pairs of the animal world the Lord had created, but he was only one person, and he

sensed he was incomplete. Because Adam knew he was incomplete, YHWH took part of him and formed Chavah who was to be his companion. He would no longer be incomplete, but even though a part of him had been removed, he knew it was good for him not to be alone. As man and woman, they were complete, and with children they were even more so. So too is God. He is not a singular being but a plurality of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; each part independent of the other with a specific calling, yet they are one Being in mind, heart, and purpose. He is our example showing us the way to becoming whole as He is. The day is coming when we will become one with Him as it was always meant to be. As it is for God now, so one day soon it will be for us.

Joshua 24:32 As for the bones of Joseph, which the people of Israel brought up from Egypt, they buried them at Shechem, in the piece of land that Jacob bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for a hundred pieces of money. It became an inheritance of the descendants of Joseph. (ESV)

In the end, Joseph returned home to the Promised Land where he had always wanted to be. He was laid to rest in the land of Shechem in a piece of land that Jacob had purchased. As Abraham had purchased the cave in Machpelah and the surrounding land for a burial place for Sarah, he was buried there as well as Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob, and Leah. Joseph's bones were buried in Shechem. Abraham and Jacob had each bought land in the Promised Land tying them to the land that God had promised to them as an inheritance. Yet, no one owns the land. When you think about it, we are only caretakers because God owns the land and everything else. One day soon He will ask for an accounting of what we have done with what He has loaned to us. What will be your answer? Your salvation depends on what you have done with your inheritance. Will you be like Jacob or like Esau? The choice is yours. It always has been.

Torah Man says: "When it comes to self, we look more for men's approval than for needed correction and help."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

Mordecai Silver

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