



**Message 3-18-17**  
**Ki Tissa-When You Elevate**  
**Exodus 30:11-34:35**  
**Ezekiel 36:16-38**  
**1 Peter 1:18-21**

**Introduction**

This week's Portion begins with a census of the Israelites over the age of twenty, and the assessment of a half-shekel poll tax on each of them. This tax is a ransom to God, so the people will escape plagues. The rich do not pay more, nor do the poor pay less.

**Exodus 30:11-16**

**11** The LORD said to Moses, <sup>12</sup> "When you take the census of the people of Israel, then each shall give a ransom for his life to the LORD when you number them, that there be no plague among them when you number them. <sup>13</sup> Each one who is numbered in the census shall give this: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel is twenty gerahs), half a shekel as an offering to the LORD. <sup>14</sup> Everyone who is numbered in the census, from twenty years old and upward, shall give the LORD's offering. <sup>15</sup> The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less, than the half shekel, when you give the LORD's offering to make atonement for your lives. <sup>16</sup> You shall take the atonement money from the people of Israel and shall give it for the service of the tent of meeting, that it may bring the people of Israel to remembrance before the LORD, so as to make atonement for your lives." (ESV)

Notice that this census includes everyone in Israel who is twenty years of age and older. It does not limit this to men only, as many of the rabbis claim. This had to do with the Lord's offering, on the part of the individual, to make atonement for their lives, and this offering is to go to the service of the Tent of Meeting, where the sacrifices would take place. All Israel was to participate in this, and everyone was required to give a half shekel. It made no difference whether the person was rich or poor, it was the same for both. The Almighty was showing the people He was impartial concerning the status of individuals, and it did not matter whether the person was a man or a woman. Equality in the atonement was the requirement. Everyone was equal in the eyes and the judgment of the Holy One of Israel. Here we have the mightiest Being in the universe treating everyone the same despite their status in life.

The bigger picture was regarding Yeshua. The Messiah, the Son of God, the second most powerful Being in the universe treated everyone the same as well, extending the gift of redemption for all men and women. No one was exempt from needing forgiveness, even

if the person claims they do not need forgiveness. Anyone who says this had better be very careful because one day they should stand before the King of kings and Lord of lords having to give an accounting of their lives and what they have done. It's not as if the Lord, God, Almighty doesn't know what each of us has done. He does, but He wants to hear us tell Him where we think we stand with Him. Do you think it matters to God that you are rich or poor, a king, prime minister, president, or whatever title you might have? Are these words the greatest honor you could receive:

**Matthew 25:19** Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' <sup>21</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup> And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' <sup>23</sup> His master said to him, **'Well done, good and faithful servant.** You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup> He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, <sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup> But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? <sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup> **And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'** <sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. (ESV)

You have exact opposites here, my friends. In the first instance, He commends the servant for handling what was entrusted to him. In the second instance, He chastises the other servant for failing to do anything with what was given to him. His reward, if you want to call it that, was to be cast into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. This is not the first time we have heard Yeshua say this. You might think He is speaking about non-believers, but I think He is speaking about believers who should know better and believe they are doing what He wants only to discover, when it is too late, that they were wrong. We must not be misled by self-righteous people who think they are doing the will of God only to find out they never had been. On the other hand, what if He is also speaking about non-believers and correcting them for squandering the gifts that were given to them? The Almighty chooses whom He wants to bless according to His will and foreknowledge. He knows what someone will do with the blessings He

gives to them, and everyone must give a reckoning one day. You won't have a choice. Ignorance might be bliss to some, but to God it is not something He likes. He wants us to be students of the Word and followers of His Son Yeshua. He gave His Son a mission to handle, and Yeshua did as He was asked to the point of giving up His life to cover our sins because we are unable to do it ourselves.

### **Ezekiel 36:16-23**

**16** The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>17</sup> "Son of man, when the house of Israel lived in their own land, they defiled it by their ways and their deeds. Their ways before me were like the uncleanness of a woman in her menstrual impurity. <sup>18</sup> So I poured out my wrath upon them for the blood that they had shed in the land, for the idols with which they had defiled it. <sup>19</sup> I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed through the countries. In accordance with their ways and their deeds I judged them. <sup>20</sup> But when they came to the nations, wherever they came, they profaned my holy name, in that people said of them, 'These are the people of the LORD, and yet they had to go out of his land.' <sup>21</sup> But I had concern for my holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations to which they came. <sup>22</sup> "Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. <sup>23</sup> And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. (ESV)

The people of the Almighty were scattered among the nations because they profaned the holy name of the Almighty and for falling into idolatry. He cannot abide this and what it not only did to the people of Israel but to the land they had been given as an inheritance. They were to be caretakers of the promise as it was spelled out in the covenant – in the Torah. He never replaced the Torah with any other covenant. The Torah has always existed since the beginning because Yeshua has always existed, and He is the Living Word of the Father. If you believe that all you need to do is believe in Yeshua, then you might be in for a rude awakening. Faith must go hand in hand with works. What works? The works spelled out in the Torah and reinforced in the teachings of Yeshua. Yeshua did not come to bring a new covenant. He came to fulfill the one that already was in place.

**Romans 2:6 He will render to each one according to his works:** <sup>7</sup> to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. (ESV) [Psa. 62:12 and Pro. 24:12]

**Psalm 62:12** and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love. For you will render to a man **according to his work.** (ESV)

**Proverbs 24:12** If you say, "Behold, we did not know this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not **repay man according to his work?** (ESV)

This is not talking about a works-based salvation. Salvation comes from the Almighty like everything else does. It's what you do with this gift that concerns Him. Didn't Yeshua heal the sick, raise the dead, teach the people the proper understanding and place of Torah in their lives? What did the Apostle James have to say about this?

**James 2:18** But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. (ESV)

You cannot claim you have faith but do nothing with it. You must put your faith into action. There is no other way to the Father but through Yeshua, and while faith in Yeshua is a good first step, that is all it is – the first step in a journey on the road that not only brings you to Messiah and through Him to the Father, but it brings you the gift of the *Ruach HaKodesh*-the Holy Spirit who will see you through until then end. All parts of the Godhead work together in unison and because God is a plurality, it does not mean He is a pagan idea. Paganism is a poor imitation of the Biblical truth which came before everything else. Before man existed, there was God. Before man existed, God created everything else on the earth, then He created man, then woman, and gave them the Torah, His teaching, for them to live by. They were not to eat of the Tree of Knowledge or Good and Evil, but they did anyway. They set the tone and the terms for what was to follow leading to the coming of idolatry where man believed he could create his own gods and make them do what he wanted. What was it that man wanted? It was to do whatever he wanted to do that the one true God told him he couldn't do. And what did it get us?

### **1 Peter 1:18-21**

**18** knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Messiah, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. <sup>20</sup> He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you <sup>21</sup> who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. (ESV)

Your faith and your hope are in God. No man can do for you what God can and what He has already done through His Son Yeshua. The shed blood of Messiah ransomed us, but there are those who say God cannot die, so Yeshua cannot be God or His Son because of this. Why? Because we say so? We set the conditions? Are we the Creator? We are trying to box Him in because of our finite thinking. We are the ones who are placing limitations of the Creator and how He has chosen to reveal Himself to us. Why can't He be more complicated than a singular God? Why do we think we know more than Him? The Creation seeks to define the Creator and what did that get us?

Friends, surrender yourself to the One who offers you the way out of sin – the only sacrifice that was ever made without spot or blemish. For thirty-three years, He walked the face of this earth, just like one of us, to show us it was possible to live according to the Torah and put it into action, not from legalism, but from love and mercy. When His time was over, He surrendered Himself to His Father's will and gave Himself up for us because His Father asked Him to do it. Did this make Yeshua any less the Son of God

because He became human? He showed us the way – all He asks is that we follow Him and accept Him as Lord and Master, the Son of the Most High, who made the ultimate sacrifice for us demonstrating the fullness of the covenant of Torah. Not just as a legal document but a covenant born out of love.

***Torah Man says: “One of the hardest secrets for a man to keep is his opinion of himself.”***

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

Mordecai Silver

If you are not learning Torah, we invite you to attend Judaic Studies Institute, a Distance Learning Institute for Yeshua based Judaic Studies. Drop us a line at [student.support@jsi-edu.org](mailto:student.support@jsi-edu.org) for more information. You can earn a certificate or diploma and take courses to help you grow in your understanding.



