

Shabbat Message for 3-25-17
VaYakhel-And He Assembled
Pekudei-Accountings of
Exodus 35:1-40:38
Ezekiel 45:16-46:18
Revelation 3:12

Introduction

This week we have two Portions or Parashah's. The first one is VaYakhel and is primarily about the building of the Tabernacle. Moses calls for contributions from the people and asks those with talent and ability to help in the project.

The second Portion is Pekudei and has to do with the making of the priestly garments. Then God instructs Moses to erect the tabernacle. Moses does as God commands, and when he finishes the work, "the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the Presence of the Lord filled the Tabernacle."

Exodus 40:34-38

34 Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁶ Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. ³⁷ But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. ³⁸ For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys. (ESV)

The presence of the Holy One of Israel resided in the cloud that filled the new Tabernacle. The cloud represented the glory of the Almighty and was so intense that not even Moses could enter the Tent of Meeting. Moses, the man of God, who was His faithful servant and who could speak to the Lord in an everyday conversation, not even he could enter the Tabernacle. Is it possible the Almighty was making a point in doing this? Was He setting the parameters for His relationship with Israel including its leadership? In keeping Moses from being able to enter the Tent of Meeting, the Almighty was making a statement that He was going to treat everyone the same, and no one was better than someone else, though He did give different gifts and different callings to the people who made up the nation of Israel.

In the cloud, the Lord gave Israel a physical sign of His presence in the camp, and apparently, the cloud remained over the Tabernacle, and if it remained in place, the nation

would stay where they were. If the cloud lifted from over the Tabernacle, then the nation would move to wherever the Almighty wanted them to go to next in their forty-year journey to the Promised Land. So, even though the Children of Israel had the Presence of the Almighty with them in the form of the cloud, which contained the glory of the Lord, they still turned against the Lord and His chosen leaders Moses and Aaron. So, since the Children of Israel had done this in God's presence, how about the way we behave? We don't have the Presence of the Lord in the same way the Israelites did, but we still have the Lord present by being in everything around us and being everywhere He chooses to be. Think about this: In the beginning the only thing that existed was God. In Jewish stories, they say the Lord inhabited the empty space, and as He began the creation process, He pulled back from the space that would contain that which He was creating.

While I understand what the sages are trying to say, I tend to have to disagree to the point that everything that exists is tied to the Holy One because He sustains all life and all the creation. That includes the universe and all it contains as well as the earth and all the life it contains. It is here on the earth that the Almighty chose to place man, animals, plant life, etc. He sustains it all. It all came from Him through His Son Yeshua. The Father used the Son to create everything that exists, and He did this for His Son. In a way, when the Father brought Yeshua back from the grave, He was showing us His power, and if He supported and sustained His Own Son and offers this same gift to us, why would we turn our backs on this? This is the gift of immortality that man has sought from the beginning. This is the ability to live forever in the Kingdom set up by our Creator.

1 Kings 8:10 And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, ¹¹ so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD. (ESV)

In this passage, we see the same thing happen with the dedication of Solomon's Temple that took place with the dedication of the Tabernacle. The Lord was pleased with His new house, and to show His acceptance of it, a cloud filled the house of the Lord to show His acceptance of the Tabernacle. He sent His glory, in the form of a cloud, to come into the new Temple. The priests serving there had to leave because they could not stay there to minister since the presence of the Holy One was so intense, no one could stand in His presence, the same as Moses could not. It does not matter what your station in life is, when we stand before the Holy One of Israel, we are all equal in His eyes, with no one being any better than the next person. The reality is we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

Romans 2:11 For God shows no partiality. ¹² For all who have sinned without the Torah will also perish without the Torah, and all who have sinned under the Torah will be judged by the Torah. ¹³ For it is not the hearers of the Torah who are righteous before God, but the doers of the Torah who will be justified. ¹⁴ For when the Nations, who do not have the Torah, by nature do what the Torah requires, they are a Torah to themselves, even though they do not have the Torah. ¹⁵ They show that the work of the Torah is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them (ESV)

Torah is the standard that the Holy One uses because just as a part of the Almighty resides within every one of us, so too, the Torah must reside within us as well. It's just that we do not know it or understand it, and we have been taught that the Torah has been done away with, yet, we help the poor, the sick, etc. without realizing we are following the Torah when we do this. So, how much more will He require from us when we become aware of what the Torah is, that it lives within our Messiah Yeshua, and in accepting Him as our Redeemer, we are taking on the Torah as well.

Ezekiel 45:9

9 "Thus says the Lord GOD: Enough, O princes of Israel! Put away violence and oppression, and execute justice and righteousness. Cease your evictions of my people, declares the Lord GOD. (ESV)

The Holy One of Israel grows tired of the way the leaders of His people have behaved and are behaving. Leaders are there to serve the people, not lord it over them. They are supposed to care for all the people, not just some of them. This is a fundamental principle of Torah and the Messiah's teaching. Love your neighbor as yourself, and unless you hate yourself, you need to do as the Lord instructs you to do. Of course, there are quite a few instructions in the Torah, but here is the reality of all of it: You can only do those instructions that pertain to you. Would a man follow a commandment geared for a woman or vice-versa? Would someone who is single have to follow the rules that are meant for a family? The Jewish sages say there are 613 laws contained in the Torah, and there are Christian scholars who say there are 1,050 in the "New" Testament. Isn't that mind boggling to think there are more rules in the Apostolic Scriptures than in the Torah? Which ones do you follow? Of course, many of the Apostolic Scripture rules are based on the Torah, it's just that most Christians don't know this. Can you imagine their shock when they discover that Yeshua taught more than just love? His teaching on love was built on the foundation of how the Torah defines love, not man.

Jeremiah 22:3 Thus says the LORD: Do justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place. (ESV)

The verse from Jeremiah draws itself from what the Torah teaches. The Torah has been with us from the beginning and is revealed in Genesis in the creation. The Torah is the living word of the Father, who is Messiah Yeshua, and He has been with the Father always brought forth as one part of the Godhead as the Son. In conjunction with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, everything that is came into being built on a foundation of Torah. So, if Torah is the Living Word and Yeshua is that Living Word, then everything there is, is built on the foundation of that word which is Messiah. It is a fundamental truth that creation did not come about by happenstance. That would be an insult to the Master. Science is theory, and theory is subject to change. This flies in the face of the reality that God never changes, and Yeshua is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Revelation 3:12

12 The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. (ESV)

There exists in the heavenly realm the New Jerusalem. The one that is here on the earth pales in comparison to the one that is in heaven. It will be something to behold when it comes down from heaven to take its rightful place here on the earth. I am going to make a statement that may offend some people, but you need to think about it. There are many who believe in what is called the “*rapture*”, the taking away of the “*church*” to heaven where they will stay for three and a half years during the time of the great Tribulation. They say they will be in heaven spared from what is going to happen on the earth and all because of their faith in Messiah Yeshua. I would pose this Scripture to you for you to think about.

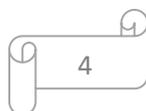
Revelation 3:7-10 "And to the angel of the congregation in Philadelphia write: 'The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. ⁸ "I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ⁹ Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie-- behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. ¹⁰ **Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.** (ESV)

These verses precede the ones about the New Jerusalem, and out of the seven congregations, they are the only one who receive this promise. The congregation in Smyrna received a similar commendation as Philadelphia did, but they were told they would go through the Great Tribulation. I would offer this to those of you who believe they will be gone during the time of the Great Tribulation as a proof-text that there is no promise about a “*rapture*” despite how some interpret what the Apostle Paul has written. These words were given by the Messiah Himself, and I would offer that His words take precedent over those of the Apostle Paul, so it would behoove us to go back and take a closer look at what Paul wrote and put it into its proper context.

When the New Jerusalem comes, we will gather in it because there will be no Temple in this city. Yeshua and His Father will be the Living Temple, and Yeshua promises that He will write the name of His Father on us, the name of the city and finally His own new name! What a glorious way to begin eternity being forever in the presence of God.

Torah Man says: “An egotist is an “I” specialist.”

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 for more information. You can earn a certificate or diploma and take courses to help you grow in your understanding.



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