



**Message 5-20-17
Behar-On the Mount
Leviticus 25:1-26:2**

**BeChukkotai-In My Statutes
Leviticus 26:3-27:34
Jeremiah 16:19-7:14
Galatians 4:4-11**

Introduction

Behar begins with an entire chapter dealing with use and ownership of land, the rights and obligations of landowners, and the process of selling and mortgaging the land. Putting these rights and obligations into context is God's assertion that *"the land is Mine; you are but stranger's resident with Me."*

BeChukkotai is an epilogue to the Holiness Code, hence to the Book of Leviticus and expands on the blessings and the curses.

Leviticus 25:1-7

1 `You shall not make idols for yourselves; neither a carved image nor a *sacred* pillar shall you rear up for yourselves; nor shall you set up an engraved stone in your land, to bow down to it; for I *am* the LORD your God. 2 You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary: I *am* the LORD. 3 `If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, 4 then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. 5 Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. 6 I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make *you* afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, and the sword will not go through your land. 7 You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you. 8 Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you. 9 `For I will look on you favorably and make you fruitful, multiply you and confirm My covenant with you. 10 You shall eat the old harvest, and clear out the old because of the new. 11 I will set My tabernacle among you, and My soul shall not abhor you. 12 I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people. 13 I *am* the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that *you* should not be their slaves; I have broken the bands of your yoke and made you walk upright. (NKJ)

This week we have a double Torah portion. They cover different topics, but they are very clear about the Lord's intent. He tells Israel if they do not make idols, keep His Sabbaths, and honor His Tabernacle, He will bless them. If they walk in the teachings of Torah, He will bless them. He will drive out their enemies and give them peace in the Land. He will be their God, and they will be His people. Not anyone else! Not the Church, some of whom claim to be the new Israel, or now that there is a physical Israel, but they now say they are the spiritual Israel. Somehow, they are implying they have one upped physical Israel, when in fact, they have done no such thing. No one can take the place of God's covenant people. The reverse is true when you read about the place of the sojourner or stranger in Israel. They choose to become part of Israel, not the other way around. Despite what things may look like with Israel always on the brink of war and Jews, all over the world, being persecuted simply because of who they are, a pattern emerges. If God chooses you, life will not be easy. You will be blessed if you walk in His ways and remain faithful to His covenant and abide with His Son Yeshua. To the Israelites, His promise to them was, He would bless their time in the Promised Landed if they followed Torah.

Isaiah 30:23 And he will give rain for the seed with which you sow the ground, and bread, the produce of the ground, which will be rich and plenteous. In that day your livestock will graze in large pastures. (ESV)

He had the prophets remind them of what He would do for them, and since basically they were an agricultural society in those days, that had to do with planting and harvesting to meet their daily needs. In our day, we have moved away from being an agricultural society and to one that was industrial but has become more technologically based. Yet, we still need His blessings to prosper and meet our needs. We should remember He meets our needs, not our wants or desires unless He chooses to do so.

Psalms 67:1 <To the Chief Musician. On stringed instruments. A Psalm. A Song.> God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us. Selah ² That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations. ³ Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. ⁴ Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, and govern the nations on earth. Selah ⁵ Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. ⁶ Then the earth shall yield her increase; God, our own God, shall bless us. ⁷ God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him. (NKJ)

The culmination is found in many different Scriptures in the Bible, but this one from Psalm 67 says it all. In verse two, we are told “*Your salvation among all nations.*”

03444 יְשׁוּעָה yeshuw`ah {yesh-oo'-aw}

Meaning: salvation, deliverance, welfare, prosperity, salvation (by God), victory

Since the Hebrew word for salvation is usually Yeshua, we cannot make a case that this verse is speaking about the Messiah. However, the fact that the word is a noun should give us pause so we slow down and consider the fact that the prophets task was to bring

a word of correction to the people when they strayed off course and to encourage them and comfort them as well. What better way to do this than a word of prophecy about future events that will take place in God's time not ours. This is the reality we live in today, and no matter what our lot in life, we owe everything to Messiah Yeshua who gave up everything for us. There are so many Biblical figures whom the Lord blessed yet still went through trials and testing's and made human mistakes. That's why Messiah did what He did to offer us a gift that would get us through to the end and beyond.

Jeremiah 16:19-21

19 O LORD, my strength and my stronghold, my refuge in the day of trouble, to you shall the nations come from the ends of the earth and say: "Our fathers have inherited nothing but lies, worthless things in which there is no profit. ²⁰ Can man make for himself gods? Such are not gods!" ²¹ "Therefore, behold, I will make them know, this once I will make them know my power and my might, and they shall know that my name is the LORD." (ESV)

I look for this. The Lord should be our strength and our refuge in the day of trouble. This could be an end times event, or is it one that could be both with intermediate applications as we live our lives and try to do our best to follow Torah by our faith in Messiah Yeshua and not in the power, or should I say misplaced faith in the Torah alone? The statement in verse 20 is very pertinent for us today. We think that gods that man has made was limited to the carved idols, but there are many different things that could be idols. For instance, wanting what our friends, family, and neighbors have; seeing others making their way in the world and thinking how come they are being blessed and not living their lives according to Torah through faith in Messiah? We forget there is someone else who can bless. Blessings are not just associated with God, and the blessings we think others are getting are not that at all.

The enemy can "*bless*" if that is what we think he is doing. Many people claim to be followers of Messiah, but it is in the way they live that tells us whether this is true or not. If someone says they are a believer in Messiah but they say they do not need to be forgiven or they have never asked for it, I have to pause and consider this because of what the Bible says.

Acts 26:18 to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' (ESV)

We receive forgiveness from Him, not the other way around. No one person can handle the weight of the sins of all of mankind except for Yeshua. He was brought forth by the Father just for this purpose. He knows we cannot handle the weight of our sins, and we have all sinned – He tells us this, but we don't listen!

Amos 5:6 "Seek the LORD that you may live, or He will break forth like a fire, O house of Joseph, and it will consume with none to quench *it* for Bethel, ⁷ For those who turn justice into wormwood and cast righteousness down to the earth." ⁸ He who made the Pleiades

and Orion and changes deep darkness into morning, Who also darkens day *into* night, Who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the surface of the earth, the LORD is His name. (NAU)

“*Seek the Lord that you might live.*” Truer words were never spoken or written down, my friends. Many of you hear me say the same thing repeatedly. It needs to be said so we all pay attention, and that includes me as well. The Lord repeats these various things throughout the Bible, but sometimes we think it is a story book, when it is a story about God’s covenant with people and a nation He called to be His own. The lead in from God is to bring us to Messiah and understand He is part of the Godhead. Is the Godhead three individuals, as we understand it, or three as one as in the Hebrew word *echad*? *Echad* denotes a plurality as in husband and wife, but the husband and wife come together as one unit, showing us the multiplicity of God and how the Godhead functions through the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If Yeshua were not God or part of God, then how could He have died for us to redeem us from our sins because the shed blood of a human being is not enough to get the job done.

Galatians 4:4-11

4 but when the appointed time arrived, God sent forth his Son. He was born from a woman, born into a culture in which legalistic perversion of the *Torah* was the norm, ⁵ so that he might redeem those in subjection to this legalism and thus enable us to be made God's sons. ⁶ Now because you are sons, God has sent forth into our hearts the Spirit of his Son, the Spirit who cries out, "Abba!" (that is, "Dear Father!"). ⁷ So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if you are a son you are also an heir. ⁸ In the past, when you did not know God, you served as slaves beings which in reality are non-gods. ⁹ But now you do know God, and, more than that, you are known by God. So how is it that you turn back again to those weak and miserable elemental spirits? Do you want to enslave yourselves to them once more? ¹⁰ You observe special days, months, seasons and years! ¹¹ I fear for you that my work among you has been wasted! (CJB)

So, now we arrive at the crux of the situation where we must decide if the Apostle Shaul is correct and those who reject Yeshua as Messiah because He is simply a human being are wrong. What does Shaul mean by the legalistic perversion of the *Torah*? This translation is from the Complete Jewish Bible in which the Apostolic Scripture part is what is defined as a Dynamic Equivalent or in simpler terms a paraphrase. In this case, it gets the point across that it is not the *Torah* or Law that is wrong but the interpretation that brought about the Oral law of the rabbis. That was the perversion Shaul is talking about, and as one who was trained as a Pharisee, whom would know better than him?

Then he moves on to deal with those who were into idolatry because they did not know the one true God. He then has to deal with the problem of how could these onetime idolaters who professed faith in Messiah revert to their former lives and once again placed themselves under the control of false gods. This brings us to the closing verse of this passage where in verse ten, Shaul talks about special days, months, seasons, and years. Too many people have skipped over the part between the opening where he is talking about legalists of the Oral Law and connect that to verse ten in trying to say he is talking

about the Jewish festivals. That rules out the fact that what he is talking about is the pagan holidays, not the Biblical ones given to us by God. It becomes too easy to place the blame for problems in the Christian belief system on the Jewish people. The problem lies not with them, except for their messing with the written Torah. The problem lies with Christian beliefs that are built on a false foundation based on paganism and which still exist today in Christianity. It has been passed down since the time of Shaul and shows us the problems the Apostle to the Gentiles had to deal with in the congregations he planted among the nations. But in the end, there is always a way out of the problem.

Isaiah 7:14 Assuredly, my Lord will give you a sign of His own accord! Look, the young woman is with child and about to give birth to a son. Let her name him Immanuel. (TNK)

The promise in Isaiah 7:14 is one the Jewish people have rejected for thousands of years, and it revolves around the Hebrew word commonly translated in Christian Bibles as virgin, but here in the Tanach it is translated as young woman, where they try to make the case that Miriam, the mother of Yeshua, was not a virgin. There is a problem with that thinking because the Hebrew word can be translated as either young woman or virgin because it can mean the same thing. A young woman of marriageable age who should be a virgin is what is implied here. Is it such a stretch to go to such lengths to try to wipe out any possible connection to the Messiah of Israel? So, we began this week's Torah portion with the problem of idolatry interfering with God's covenant if that was the way the people chose to go, and we end it in the same way with the same choice facing the people of Shaul's time and even down to ours. Is Yeshua the Messiah or not? Is He the Redeemer from our sins or not? The choice is up to you. It always has been because the one thing the Lord makes you do is you have to choose one way or the other.

Torah Man says: "Is your passport for eternity in order? Do not neglect, you may need it sooner than you think."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

Mordecai Silver

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