

Message 6-17-17
Shelach Lecha-Send for Yourself
Numbers 13:1-15:41
Joshua 2:1-24
Revelation 19:1-8

Introduction

One of the most significant sins committed by the generation in the wilderness involves the spies sent to scout out the land of Canaan. This sin would have repercussions for the entire forty years the Children of Israel spend in the wilderness and even beyond that.

Numbers 14:1-10

1 Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. **2** And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! **3** Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?" **4** And they said to one another, "Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt." **5** Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the people of Israel. **6** And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes **7** and said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land. **8** If the LORD delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. **9** Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them." **10** Then all the congregation said to stone them with stones. But the glory of the LORD appeared at the tent of meeting to all the people of Israel. (ESV)

The congregation that came out of Egypt were never happy, for any length of time, no matter what the situation was. Everything that happened to them they brought upon themselves because of their lack of faith in Lord God Almighty! Lack of faith is not unique to the Israelites. It haunts every one of us today as we plod through life trying to figure out our next move when we should be turning to our Creator for guidance in all things. He is there for us, He said He always would be, and how can we expect any less from the One who created everything there is through His Son Yeshua. It was through His Son we can receive a gift so special – the gift of eternal life.

The Israelites were complaining about the report brought back by ten of the twelve spies who had been sent by Moses into the Promised land prior to Israel going in to take the

land. The problem was despite what was discovered, Israel's lack of faith in the Lord brought them to this moment of decision and an encounter with the Holy One of Israel. It was not going to turn out to their liking. They not only lacked faith in their Creator, but they also turned against Moses and Aaron saying they should choose a new leader and go back to Egypt. Can you imagine that? They had cried out to God to free them, yet they wanted to go back to that place. They wanted to go back to a life of being slaves instead of learning how to place their faith in the living God – the One whose Son would save all mankind if they chose to accept the gift being offered to them. How many of us go back and forth in our faith wondering how things are going to turn out when all we need to do is to consider the word of God, and we will find our answers? We all tend to drift at times – it seems to be a natural thing for all of us to do.

Only two of the spies, Joshua, and Caleb, brought back a good report no matter what the other ten had to say. Because of their faith, they would be allowed to enter the Promised Land, while the rest of Israel twenty years of age and older would die in the wilderness. They would not be allowed to enter the Promised Land. They would wander around the wilderness until they all passed away, the generation after them had grown up, and had been prepared to enter the land to conquer what the Lord had given to them. They would have to fight for what they had been promised, but the Holy One of Israel would go with them and help them if they followed the road He set for them and for all who would follow. They would have to keep faith with God and follow His Torah.

Joshua 2:17-21

17 The men said to her, "We will be guiltless with respect to this oath of yours that you have made us swear. ¹⁸ Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and you shall gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your father's household. ¹⁹ Then if anyone goes out of the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we shall be guiltless. But if a hand is laid on anyone who is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head. ²⁰ But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be guiltless with respect to your oath that you have made us swear." ²¹ And she said, "According to your words, so be it." Then she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window. (ESV)

After Moses had passed away, Joshua would become the next leader of Israel. Moses had sent twelve spies in to the land, and only two had brought back a good report. Joshua chose to send two spies in, possibly to avoid a repeat of what had happened forty years ago. Remember, he had been one of the twelve spies and one of the two who affirmed that with God's help they could overcome anything. The same truth is here for us today. We can overcome with the Holy One's help, not just based on faith in Him, but based on the promise He gave to all of us through His Son Yeshua. The Messiah the Bible speaks about can be found wherever you look in His word. Why – because He is the Living Word of the Father. YHWH is a complicated Being that we have tried to understand with our finite minds. He is an infinite Being, and we are limited in our understanding, but we still try. It's important that we all still try, and we do not give up, but the problem that comes up is in trying to understand Him. Who and what He is causes us to make assumptions

that we try to turn into some hidden knowledge when the truth is **He is the Almighty**, who through His Son, the Living Word Yeshua, all things in heaven and on earth were created. It's a concept that staggers the imagination, and many cannot fathom that or grasp how important it is to place one's faith in a being who exists outside our plane of existence. He dwells in a place so close and yet so far. He can be there right next to us, and we don't know it, yet there are times in our lives when we can feel Him right there guiding us and wanting to help us. He does this through His messengers, the angelic host, and through His *Ruach HaKodesh*, the Holy Spirit. His Spirit is planted inside each one of us, and it is my belief, just mine, that all of us have His spirit in us, and all we need to do is turn a key that brings it to life to help us. The way to do this is to accept His Son Yeshua as our Savior, our Redeemer. When we do this, we have made the decision that changes things. We are now called to walk a road that brings into synch with the Creator. It is not an easy road to walk in this life because this world is not patterned after the One the Creator wants for us but belongs to the one who tried to overthrow the Creator – Satan. Satan, a created being, an archangel, rebelled against his Maker and was cast down from heaven to the earth being given dominion over it. He was followed by one-third of the heavenly host who also decided to follow him and rebel against the Almighty. They were cast down as well and serve Satan without any hope for redemption. Why? It is because they were created as immortal beings from the very beginning, and once they made a decision, it sticks with them forever. In the end, Satan will be cast into the Lake of Fire where He will spend all eternity being punished for what he did.

The two spies made a covenant with Rahab, and it was sealed by their promises to which all agreed. To mark that covenant, Rahab was to tie a scarlet cord by her window so it would mark her and all who were in her home when the Israelites conquered Jericho so they would be safe from harm. The red cord, symbolic of the blood of Messiah which was shed for us and by His blood we are saved. He was the sin sacrifice for each one of us. He would redeem this earth from the enemy, Satan. He would bring redemption to all who will reach out and grab hold of it. One day that red cord and the blood shed to bring us salvation will change and become something different, something clean.

Revelation 19:1-8

1 After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, ² for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants." ³ Once more they cried out, "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever." ⁴ And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!" ⁵ And from the throne came a voice saying, "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great." ⁶ Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. ⁷ Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; ⁸ it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"-- for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. (ESV)

The day is coming, and it might just happen in our lifetime, when the Messiah will be sent back to the earth to finish the mission the Father has given Him from the beginning of all things. Are you ready for what is coming? Have you read the books of the Prophets and the Book of Revelation? The Book of Revelation is a compilation of many of the central themes in the prophetic books. It is meant to prepare us for the last days in the same way the Torah was meant to bring us closer to the Father and to find His Son. Without acceptance of Messiah, through faith in Him, you will never be able to enter what Judaism calls the *Olam Haba*, the world to come. Is there a life after this one? I believe there is because to think that life is limited to the time we spend on this earth only to die one day and everything is over just does not set right with me. I believe the Lord planted a desire in each one of us that gives us a desire to seek out more than what this life offers.

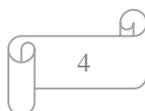
There must be more than just this. I say this with all sincerity. As I grow older, as many of do, we begin to wonder about what there is beyond this life. It can't be just this. I believe that is why the Creator placed in us this desire to know more about what we call the spiritual life that lives within each of us. This is that spark, as the Chassidic describe it, that lets us know He is there waiting for us to make the next move. Everything up to that point has been set in motion by Him waiting for us to make the right decision. Hopefully we do make the right one because if we don't, life won't be any longer than what time we are given to dwell in this physical place of existence. One day there will be a merging of both realms of existence with a blending of the two because of who Messiah Yeshua was. He chose to be born into our world, to live as we did, and to die as we die, but in the end the Father brought Him back to life becoming something both physical in appearance and spirit at the same time. He ate in His resurrected form, lived, taught, but walked through walls. While in the flesh, He had bits of the power He had when He existed purely with the Father. However, now in this new form, He was something more, something different showing us the coming together of Torah and Spirit enabled by our faith and His faith in trusting His Father to do what He promised to do. Yeshua had faith in the Father. We are asked to place our faith in Messiah. He chose to have faith, and we must do no less than He did.

Torah Man says: "The light that shines farthest shines brightest at home."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

Mordecai Silver

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