

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Chapter Eight.

By Rabbi Yochanan Hammond, Ph.D.

uitam@unitedintorah.org

In a previous life when I was the Rabbi at a small assembly, we used to say the following words every Sabbath.

“Come! Let us sing joyfully to HASHEM, let us call out to the Rock of our salvation. Let us greet Him with thanksgiving, with praiseful songs let call out to Him. For a great God is HASHEM, and a great King above all heavenly powers. For in His power are the hidden mysteries of earth, and the mountain summits are His. For His is the sea and He perfected it, and the dry land – His hands fashioned it. Come! Let us prostrate ourselves and bow, let us kneel before HASHEM, our Maker. For He is our God and we can be the flock He pastures, and the sheep in His charge – even today, if we but heed His call! Psalm 95:1-7 [AST]

Even though we read and spoke those words, I wonder if we really absorbed the wisdom there in. It is very easy to become blasé in relationships and familiar territory.

We recited these words before entering into a time of praise and worship through song to HaShem. In this Psalm we are encouraged to call out to HaShem with a loud clear voice in song, showing our appreciation for His arm of Salvation. I am persuaded many of us take this Arm of Salvation for granted. Many of us have become somewhat lacklustre in our worship of HaShem and His Arm of Salavation Messiah Yeshua. It is an easy condition to fall into and it can take place at a rate that we do not notice or are aware of. Our lives become so busy and complex that we find these elements forcing HaShem from our lives. It is rarely done by considered choice, but rather done by stealth intrusion from other “gods” into our lives. We can suddenly find ourselves outside the boundaries HaShem has set

us through His Holy Torah. This puts us in a dangerous position because we are feeding from neighbouring pastures that are not under the management of HaShem and can be riddled with disease and weeds.

In Psalm 96 we are also encouraged to do the following:

“Sing to HASHEM, bless His Name; announce His salvation daily. Relate His glory among the nations; among all peoples, His wonders: That HASHEM is great and exceedingly lauded; awesome is He above all heavenly powers.” Psalm 96:2-3

This is the responsibility of our nation, the people of Israel. On the back of this, it is reasonable to ask: “How well are we doing in singing the praises of HaShem and how well are we doing in relating His wonderful glory amongst the nations”? Personally I am of the thought we are well short of a “pass mark”. It is almost impossible for Israel to make an impact on the other nations [regarding the glory of HaShem] when we ourselves fail to live within the borders of our homeland and feed from His pastures. It is similar to someone saying they support and barrack for a certain team, then turn up in opposition colours and barrack for the opposition team to win. Countless people profess to follow the bible and believe it to be the Word of God, yet support homosexual unions, lobby to see the so-called Palestinians take possession of Israel, reject and belittle the Torah of Moshe, celebrate holidays of idols, hate religious Jews, engage in dubious practices and attribute such practices to HaShem etc etc. No wonder our words have no authority or impact on the nations. The very people who should laud the majesty and power of HaShem, either abuse the privilege or badly misrepresent Him. Countless billions say they know the Messiah of Israel, then, at the same time say this One has done away with the Torah and changed the rules for biblical Israeli citizenship. This can never be. Never will HaMoshiach turn from Torah and encourage others to do so. For those who believe that the Torah is of no importance and should actually be rejected, I would ask that you consider the following:

“Remember your leaders, who preached the word of God to you, and as you reflect on the outcome of their lives, take their faith as your model. Yeshua HaMoshiach is the same today as he was

yesterday and as he will be forever. Do not be led astray by all sorts of doctrines.” Hebrews 13:7-9a [NJB]

It is utter foolishness for the Children of Israel to follow any other path than the path set down by HaShem via the Torah. It is the Torah that teaches about and exposes HaMoshiach. If you stray from the Torah, you are in fact straying from HaMoshiach Yeshua. If you claim to love Yeshua as HaMoshiach, then you must embrace that which He embraces and followed, the Torah. Consider for a moment the home Yeshua came from. Consider his parents for a moment. Consider the day He was circumcised on. Consider the blessing He gave His disciples as recorded in Luke 24:50. The description given of lifting up hands fits with the Aaronic Blessing found in Number 6:24-26. This blessing or b'rakah was given by the Priests in this manner well before the birth of Yeshua and well after His death. Consider that Yeshua comes from the descendants of King David. Consider that Yeshua is called the Lion of Judah and the Root of Jesse. I brought these facts to your attention because Yeshua in actual fact was born a Jew, lived His life as a Torah obedient Jew, died a Jew, and importantly was resurrected a Jew. Yeshua was Jewish, is Jewish and will return as a Jewish King ruling over all citizens of Israel according to Torah.

If you consider these things carefully and begin to visualise the fact that Yeshua as HaMoshiach always kept and insists on keeping Torah then you may want to carefully consider the following words the Master spoke.

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in your name perform miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’” Matthew 7:21-23 [NASB]

If you view a Greek Lexicon you will notice that the word translated as “**lawlessness**” is the Greek word “**anomia**”. This carries the meaning of: Transgressing the law; not knowing or acknowledging the law; iniquity against the law; wicked and unholy. In other words these people are those who reject and live without the Torah. They may talk the talk but do not walk the walk of Torah.

There has been and still is much misinformation in the “market place” when it comes to understanding the role of Torah. In actual fact keeping or trying to keep Torah is not about earning your salvation, but is all about faithfulness to HaShem and HaMoshiach Yeshua.

How can we say we are His sheep, residing in His pastures, if we are outside the boundary of Torah and feeding from other pastures?

“Is not Wisdom calling? Is not Understanding raising her voice? On the heights overlooking the road, at the crossways, she takes her stand; by the gates, at the entrance to the city, on the access-roads, she cries out, ‘I am calling to you, all people, my words are addressed to all humanity. Simpletons, learn how to behave, fools, come to your senses. Listen, I have something important to tell you, when I speak, my words are right. My mouth proclaims the truth, for evil is abhorrent to my lips. All the words from my mouth are upright, nothing false there, nothing crooked, everything plain, if you can understand, straight, if you have acquired knowledge. Accept my discipline rather than silver, and knowledge of me in preference to finest gold. For wisdom is more precious than jewels, and nothing else is so worthy of desire.” Proverbs 8:1-11 [NJB]

May the grace, love and wisdom of HaShem and Yeshua HaMoshiach be with you!