WORDS OF WISDOM.

Chapter Thirty One.

From the Desk of Rabbi Yochanan Hammond

Franklin D. Roosevelt said, *"The task that we Americans now face will test us to the uttermost. Never before have we been called upon for such a prodigious effort. Never before have we had so little time in which to do so much."*

This was an important statement for an important time. Yet how much more important would this statement become if we wrote the following, *"The task that we **CHILDREN OF ISRAEL** now face will test us to the uttermost. Never before have we been called upon for such a prodigious effort. Never before have we had so little time in which to do so much."*

Make no mistake the task that lies ahead for the Children of Israel is no small task. That task, [as mention on many occasions] is to be a Light to the Nations. This charter is something that we have failed to undertake as a people! Unless we become a cohesive nation, a people joined together through our FAITHFULNESS to HaShem, the Holy One of Israel, then we will no doubt continue on our wayward journey.

Self interest lies at the root of our behaviour. This has been our problem since Adam and Chava partook of the "forbidden fruit".

> *"When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her and he ate."* Genesis 3:6 [NASB]

Overcoming the results of the above account is a daily battle for most of us. We are required to recognise this, but we are also required to handle the situation within a biblical frame work. In other words, we are to address our sin according to the Torah of The Almighty.

This is one key reason we at JSI encourage people to see that you cannot separate Yeshua HaMoshiach and biblical Torah. You cannot have one without the other. Self-interest and human wisdom would have you believe such nonsense, but the Holy One of Israel is not beholden to the wisdom of humans. Torah leads you to Yeshua and believe it or not Yeshua leads you to Torah, a "code" He wants and expects us to live by.

How can we be a united nation, if each one of us lives by what we see as right in our own eyes? When it comes to living correctly as Children of Israel, we must follow the direction, teachings, and commandments of The Master. Yeshua addressed a very similar situation as recorded in John.

> [22] Then came Hanukkah in Yerushalayim. It was winter, [23] and Yeshua was walking around inside the Temple area, in Shlomo's Colonnade. [24] So the Judeans surrounded him and said to him, "How much longer are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us publicly!" [25] Yeshua answered them, "I have already told you, and you don't trust me. The works I do in my Father's name testify on my behalf, [26] but the reason you don't trust is that you are not included among my sheep. [27] My sheep listen to my voice, I recognize them, they follow me, [28] and I give them eternal life. They will absolutely never be destroyed, and no one will snatch them from my hands. [29] My Father, who gave them to me, is greater than all; and no one can snatch them from the Father's hands. [30] I and the Father are one." John 10:22-30 [CJB]

Once again we ask the question: "Whose voice are we listening too"? Are we listening to our own overbearing voices, thus crowding out the voice of Yeshua, or are we actually listening to the voice of Yeshua and engaged in following His teachings as given through the Torah?

FAITHFULNESS in Yeshua is born out through the embracing and application of Torah! Folks you cannot be faithful to Yeshua and engage in Mistletoe and Santa Clause! You cannot be faithful to Yeshua and dismiss the Sabbath and the Moedim [Appointed times] of the Father as outlined in Leviticus. Institutions, individuals are free to go their own way, of this there is no doubt. However, if you regard yourself as a Child of The Almighty, as a citizen of biblical Israel, then you are required to accept the constitution of

Israel, as outlined by our Father and confirmed by Yeshua. Again, allow me to strongly reiterate, that the acceptance of Torah and trying to live thereby are **not to earn salvation** but to show our faithfulness to our Father and Redeemer through obedience.

One cannot but be reminded of the words Miriam spoke at the wedding in Kanah, when she said, "Do whatever He tells you". Are not these words appropriate for us all? Yet we continue to disobey His instructions on a constant basis.

We are wasting valuable time with useless arguments against The Almighty. The challenge we have is, who do we obey? The answer is of course the Father, but the real challenge is, who is speaking the Word of The Almighty? Torah provides the answers. If someone in priestly garments insists that you worship on the 1st day of the week over and above the 7th, who do you obey? If someone with a PhD in theology tells you that the "Christian Church" is the new Israel, are you going to blindly follow such a theory? If someone with a title tells you that Yeshua was just a good man with a misguided belief system, are you going to take that on board as truth?

We began this chapter with a quote from Franklin D. Roosevelt, in an attempt to awaken us to the realities of how much work we have to do and how little time we may have to do it. HaShem has a program set out for His Children to follow. A program that will train us to complete the task He has ordained for the Children of Israel. Our Father is the Master Coach, and He has provided the perfect example and Captain for us to embrace and follow, yet we continue to rebel against this program and reject this Captain.

We finish with a statement spoken by Yeshua and ask the question, "Are these words valid for us today?"

> Yerushalayim! Yerushalayim! **You** kill the prophets! **You** stone those who are sent to **you**! How often I wanted to **gather you**r children, just as a hen **gather**s her chickens **under** her **wings**, but **you** refused!   Matthew 23:37 [CJB]

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