



**Message 12-23-17**  
**VaYigash-And He Drew Near**  
**Genesis 44:18-47:27**  
**Ezekiel 37:15-28**  
**Yochanan 1:14-18**

**Introduction**

Jacob makes Joseph promise to bury him in the cave of Machpelah, that Abraham had purchased to bury Sarah in, and then himself, and Isaac and Rebecca. Joseph swears to him and after Jacob dies the promise is kept.

**Genesis 47:27**

**27** Now Israel lived in the land of Egypt, in Goshen, and they acquired property in it and were fruitful and became very numerous.

Israel is described here as not Jacob the man but the nation that would eventually come from Jacob and his sons. They prospered in Egypt initially, but we already know that too will pass.

Jacob knew Joseph's position and the power he had as the second most powerful man in Egypt, much in the way that Mordechai came to power in the book of Ruth. He knew he could trust Joseph but to make sure he wanted Joseph to swear to him that he would do what he asked. At first Joseph told Jacob he would do as he asked by that was not good enough for Jacob. He wanted Joseph to swear in the traditional manner by placing his hand under his thigh. Many believe this meant placing his hand on Jacob's personal area signifying that the oath that the person was making was based on the covenant of Torah through the sign of circumcision. This would be very distasteful in our day and time but in Biblical days, even in Jacob's day, the covenant signified by circumcision was none other than Torah where the command is given. You notice that Esau and Ishmael are not mentioned here so we are left to the reality that their choices sealed their fate as it would do for many others throughout the ages.

God was keeping His promise to Jacob, when he hesitated about going down to Egypt, let alone living there or being buried there. He had promised Jacob that many nations would come from him and Israel was blessed, initially, in Egypt until a new Pharaoh came along who did not know who Moses was and what he had done for Egypt. Israel acquired property in Egypt, were fruitful and became very numerous, which is why the Egyptians became concerned, but at the same time instead of throwing them out of Egypt Pharaoh enslaved them. But it in Egypt that Israel would grow into the people the Almighty would

use to build the nation of Israel. As Jacob had returned to the Promised Land, so too, would the Children of Israel.

### **Ezekiel 37:24-28**

**24** "My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances and keep My statutes and observe them. <sup>25</sup> "They will live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons and their sons' sons, forever; and David My servant will be their prince forever. <sup>26</sup> "I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever. <sup>27</sup> "My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. <sup>28</sup> "And the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever.'" (NAU)

Notice at first David is called king over Israel then later he is referred to as a prince. Perhaps, this reference is talking about Yeshua and how He will initially reign over the Messianic Age as King and later when His Father joins Him, He will take up His rightful position at the right hand of His Father as the prince of Israel. We will have one shepherd who will guide us, and we will walk in His ordinances and keep His statutes. He is referring to the Torah because that is where you will find the ordinances and statutes along with the judgments, precepts, and commandments. The fact is the Torah is not made up of only commandments, which is a misnomer on the part of the rabbis because it only leads to more confusion rather than clarify what is meant. The Torah itself is a series of books that bring us the Almighty's teachings and instructions.

**Isaiah 11:1** There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup> And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. (ESV)

Once again, we have a prophecy about the Messiah. A branch will come forth from His roots and bear fruit. We are that fruit, the sons and daughters of Jacob who became Israel. Into Israel walk all Believers who live by faith in Messiah Yeshua yet, at the same time they live their lives according to Torah. Why? Because we are told many times that Torah is eternal, and something eternal is not meant to be replaced. I have heard it, one too many times, someone say that we have a new covenant that has been written on our hearts and is a covenant of love based on what Messiah taught. The truth be known, the new covenant you hear people talk about is actually an old one that has its basis in the Torah.

**Isaiah 55:3** Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. <sup>4</sup> Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup> Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. <sup>6</sup> "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. <sup>10</sup> "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. (ESV)

**Deuteronomy 30:10** when you obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that are written in this Book of the Torah, when you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. (ESV)

**Ezekiel 11:19** And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, <sup>20</sup> that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. (ESV)

**Deuteronomy 10:16** Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. (ESV)

**Deuteronomy 30:6** And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. (ESV)

**Jeremiah 31:30** "Here, the days are coming," says *ADONAI*, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Isra'el and with the house of Y'hudah. (CJB)

These are passages of Scripture that speak about a new covenant. Notice I have not referred to any Messianic Scriptures here, because this covenant being spoken about has its roots and foundation in the Tanach beginning in the Torah. It is not new but something old, there from the beginning. Why? Because the Father already had it in place before He created man and woman because He knew what we would do and put His plan into motion from the very beginning. So, when someone tells me we have to be following the "New" Covenant I find the need to share with them some Biblical truths about the origin of the "new" Covenant.

**Yochanan: 1:14-18**

**14** The Word became a human being and lived with us, and we saw his *Sh'khinah*, the *Sh'khinah* of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> Yochanan witnessed concerning him when he cried out, "This is the man I was talking about when I said, 'The one coming after me has come to rank ahead of me, because he existed before me.'" <sup>16</sup> We have all received from his fullness, yes, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the *Torah* was given through Moshe; grace and truth came through Yeshua the Messiah. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God; but the only and unique Son, who is identical with God and is at the Father's side- he has made him known. (CJB)

Yochanan the Immerser knows Yeshua was born after he was but He knows that He also came before him because he understands Yeshua's place in all of this. In verse seventeen we may see this as saying that Torah came from Moses while grace and truth came through Yeshua, the Redeemer of Israel and all those who choose to give themselves over to Him. Yochanan is not saying that all we need is grace and truth. He is saying that it is through the Torah that we find Messiah and when we do we find grace and truth that leads us to eternal life through Him.

**Psalm 2:7** I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. <sup>8</sup> Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. <sup>9</sup> You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." <sup>10</sup> Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. <sup>11</sup> Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. <sup>12</sup> Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him. (ESV)

The blessing is found through our embracing Yeshua. If we embrace Him, we will find peace and comfort and protection from the winds that will blow across this planet bringing His people back home.

**Isaiah 40:3** A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." (ESV)

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord and make straight the highway of our God. As God's people emerge from the Wilderness the glory of the Almighty shall be revealed, and everyone will see Him returning in all His glory. Amen! We await that day.

***Torah Man says: "True courage is like a kite: a contrary wind raises it higher."***

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

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