



**Shabbat Message for 3-10-17
VaYakhel-And He Assembled
Exodus 35:1-38:20**

**Pekudei-Accountings of
Exodus 38:21-40:38
Ezekiel 36:16-38
Yochanan (John) 3:1-8**

Introduction

This week we have a double portion. The first portion, VaYakhel, deals with the instructions for the Tabernacle and ends with the instructions, once again, of the holiness of the Shabbat, instructing the people to stop all work and from kindling fire on the Shabbat.

Our second portion, Pekudei, has to do with the work on the Tabernacle and everything associated with it. When the work is complete, the people bring each item to Moses. "And when Moses saw that they had performed all the tasks – as the Lord had commanded, so they had done – Moses blessed them."

Exodus 35:1-3

1 Moses assembled all the congregation of the people of Israel and said to them, "These are the things that the LORD has commanded you to do. ² Six days work shall be done, but on the seventh day you shall have a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death. ³ You shall kindle no fire in all your dwelling places on the Sabbath day." (ESV)

This is not the first time Moses gives instructions to the Children of Israel concerning the seventh-day Shabbat. Obviously, the Almighty places great importance on the Shabbat. He sets the conditions for it, instructing the people that they will work six days and rest on the seventh. This is to be a solemn rest, holy to the Almighty. If any one does any work on the Shabbat, they are to be put to death. Can you imagine that happening today? Of course, we do not live in a world that follows the Torah. They follow many other rules, different religions, and God's ways have fallen by the wayside for many. Only a small group continues to follow the Torah. Even the Messianic Movement, which was established to be an outreach to the Jewish people, does not know whether it reflects a Jewish face or a Christian one. There is a world of difference between them, my friends. One tries to follow Torah and keep faith with the Messiah Yeshua. The other side believes there is nothing wrong with compromising Torah and follows a Messiah they identify as

Jesus, who does not reflect the Jewish life He was born into and the Torah teachings He taught to the people.

Ezekiel 37:11 Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.' (NAU)

Matthew 10:5 These twelve Yeshua sent out with the following instructions: "Don't go into the territory of the *Goyim*, and don't enter any town in Shomron, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Isra'el. (CJB)

Matthew 15:24 But He answered and said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (NAU)

Messiah did not come to save the world but to reach out to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. Those words came from His own mouth. I am not saying He would not share with non-Jews, because He did. There was the Samaritan woman and the Roman Centurion, and He commended them for their faith and held them up as an example for Israel. While Yeshua would limit the area of His outreach, He would leave it up to His talmidim to take His teachings to the nations. What were His teachings? They were the teachings we find in the Torah and in the Tanach, the only Scriptures they had two thousand years ago. Without what we call the New Testament, they spread the Master's teachings, and in turn, they spread the Torah throughout the places where they travelled. What is the heart of Torah? The heart of Torah is found in its binding covenant nature of an agreement between our Creator and mankind. It is His plan for our redemption until the time comes for Messiah's return, the Messianic Age and eternity.

Ezekiel 36:22-28

22 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went. ²³ "I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD," declares the Lord GOD, "when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight. ²⁴ "For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶ "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. ²⁸ "You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so, you will be My people, and I will be your God. (NAU)

Despite the covenant the Creator made with us, we broke it, and He will act to redeem His name because we have profaned it among the nations. We have fallen by the way, and we must, we need to, get back on the road that leads us to Him. His way is a narrow road and not the wide path others take. Following the true Messiah of Israel is to follow Torah in love and faith. The Torah is a story of love. Love between our Creator, His Son,

and they with us. All we are asked to do is walk the way of Torah and hold fast to the redemption Messiah brought to us. It was a gift from the Father and His Son to show mankind He still has faith in us, and one day He will set everything in its rightful place. The Father will bring the bride He has chosen to be with His Son forever. This does not imply in the least to mean that all the church is the bride of Messiah, only those who hear His voice, walk the way of Torah, and have placed their faith in the Groom, Yeshua.

Yochanan (John) 3:1-8

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; ² this man came to Yeshua by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." ³ Yeshua answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" ⁵ Yeshua answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶ "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit." (NAU)

This was the conundrum Nicodemus faced. He believed Yeshua had come from the Almighty because of the things He taught and had done, but when Yeshua told him that he needed to be born again, he did not understand what it was Yeshua was telling him to do. Nicodemus would have to come to understand what it was Messiah was telling him. He needed to be born of water and the Spirit, the Ruach HaKodesh, to enter the kingdom of the Father. We must be immersed in water and in the Ruach HaKodesh. It will be through His Spirit that we will have our faith strengthened and begin to understand the word of Abba.

Romans 2:17 But if you bear the name "Jew " and rely upon the Torah and boast in God, ¹⁸ and know *His* will and approve the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Torah, ¹⁹ and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, ²⁰ a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Torah the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth, ²¹ you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal? ²² You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? ²³ You who boast in the Torah, through your breaking the Torah, do you dishonor God? ²⁴ For "THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU, [Isa. 52:5, Eze 36:20]" just as it is written. ²⁵ For indeed circumcision is of value if you practice the Torah; but if you are a transgressor of the Torah, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. ²⁶ So if the uncircumcised man keeps the requirements of the Torah, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? ²⁷ And he who is physically uncircumcised, if he keeps the Torah, will he not judge you who though having the letter of *the Torah* and circumcision are a transgressor of the Torah? ²⁸ For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision

that which is outward in the flesh. ²⁹ But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God. (NAU)

Is the Shaliach, Shaul, saying that being Jewish and circumcised is for nothing, and Gentiles do not need to be circumcised? Of course not! What he is saying is that if you are a Jew and are circumcised but you disregard the heart of Torah, it is nothing for you. But if you are a Gentile, uncircumcised, follow Torah, and have faith in Yeshua, then it will be as circumcision to them. Does this mean they do not need to be circumcised? Of course not! The Torah teaches us we are to do this on the eighth day to our male children. But in the Spiritual world, circumcision can be given to all, both men and women, because it is a circumcision of the heart cutting away the stone wall we have built around our hearts allowing the covenant of the Holy One to be written on hearts of flesh.

2 Corinthians 3:3 And you show that you are a letter from Messiah delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, **not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.** (ESV)

Torah Man says: "The next time you are in your congregation, or involved in Jewish ritual, don't ask, "What can this do for me? "That's an appropriate question for a lightbulb or a digital camera. Instead ask, "What values, memories, or deed of loving-kindness can this kindle in my heart?" That is the question to ask of that which endures."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

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TORAH: LEARN IT, LOVE IT, LIVE IT AS YESHUA DID! PSALM 119



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