



Message 8-18-18
Shoftim-Judges
Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9
Isaiah 51:12-52:12
Romans 11:1-8

Introduction

The Israelites are permitted to establish a monarchy as they desire, but Moses places limits on the king's authority and power. The only responsibility that Deuteronomy explicitly assigns the king is to write and study a copy of the Torah. Clearly, the monarchy was to be under the authority of the Torah, and answerable to it. The king was limited so that *"he will not act haughtily toward his fellows or deviate from the Torah."*

Deuteronomy 19:15-21

15 "A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established. ¹⁶ If a malicious witness arises to accuse a person of wrongdoing, ¹⁷ then both parties to the dispute shall appear before the LORD, before the priests and the judges who are in office in those days. ¹⁸ The judges shall inquire diligently, and if the witness is a false witness and has accused his brother falsely, ¹⁹ then you shall do to him as he had meant to do to his brother. So, you shall purge the evil from your midst. ²⁰ And the rest shall hear and fear and shall never again commit any such evil among you. ²¹ Your eye shall not pity. It shall be life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot. (ESV)

I have touched on this subject in past teachings, and I feel it bears repeating as to how a judge is to perform their duties. One person may not bring charges against another. There will be a minimum of two witnesses with three being preferred. If a witness comes forward to bring an accusation against someone, it is the responsibility of the judge to inquire as to the validity of the accusations. If the witness is found to be false, they don't get off with a slap on the hand, as our system does, with the charge of lying under oath. The punishment that would have been placed upon the accused will now fall upon the false witness. This is done to purge the evil from the midst of the people. In doing this, the intention, on the part of the Almighty, is to cause fear among the people so this evil will not be done again. Notice the closing of this passage. It is a well-known section that we are all familiar with, but it bears repeating, the same as we repeat the Torah over and over. ***Your eye shall not pity. It shall be life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.***

Our legal system is weighted against the poor. If you have the financial means, you can get the best legal advice available. I don't believe this is what the Lord wanted for Israel. The basis for the laws Israel was to follow was the covenant of Torah. Torah would reign in the life of the people making Israel something the world had never seen before. It would be a taste of what was to come in the *Olam Haba-the World to Come*. The requirement of at least two witnesses is something we do not see much of today. Oppression of those who are the weakest in our society is our standard instead of Torah. When the time comes that the people of Israel would want a king instead of the Lord to rule over them, this is what the Lord would require.

Deuteronomy 17:14 "When you come to the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it and then say, 'I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me,' ¹⁵ you may indeed set a king over you whom the LORD your God will choose. One from among your brothers you shall set as king over you. You may not put a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. ¹⁶ Only he must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the LORD has said to you, 'You shall never return that way again.' ¹⁷ And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold. ¹⁸ "And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this Torah, approved by the Levitical priests. ¹⁹ And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this Torah and these statutes, and doing them, ²⁰ that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel. (ESV)

I know when I read this passage, I always think of Solomon and how, in the wisdom the Holy One had gifted him with, he did the opposite of what the Torah says a king is to do. If the king cannot lead his people according to what the Torah instructs, then the head, the king, will poison the body, the people, because they will see the king does not follow the commandments of God, so why should they? This is no different than what many countries are doing today. The leaders do as they will instead of God's will, so what we have is no nation today following the covenant of Torah putting the Father and His Son first and everything else afterwards.

Isaiah 52:4-6

4 For thus says the Lord GOD: "My people went down at the first into Egypt to sojourn there, and the Assyrian oppressed them for nothing. ⁵ Now therefore what have I here," declares the LORD, "seeing that my people are taken away for nothing? Their rulers wail," declares the LORD, "and continually all the day my name is despised. ⁶ Therefore my people shall know my name. Therefore, in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here I am." (ESV)

The Almighty used Egypt to protect His people and even His Son, as a baby, but His desire is that we do not go back to Egypt as the day is coming when Egypt will be judged for what they did to His people. If you notice in the Torah portion, one of the instructions

for the king is to not send his people to Egypt to acquire horses because Israel was not to go to Egypt since they would be returning, in a sense, to the place the Almighty brought them out of bondage and to the Promised Land. Even today, Israel works with its enemies, where it can, to come against mutual enemies. The Middle East is in turmoil, as is the rest of the world. Alliances are coming apart at the seams. Countries are beginning to become restless as their people become restless, and the way the people and the nations are acting is not in accordance with Torah. Torah is not a political tool, yet some try to make it so. Israel was to be a nation unlike the other nations because Israel would be ruled by God and His Son, Yeshua. Their laws would be defined by the Torah, but that way of living did not last long, and their defiance of their Creator brought them down. Today they stand as a thorn in the side of most of the nations on the face of the earth. Even when only a small percentage of the people follow Torah, the Holy One is using them to accomplish His plan.

The nations of the world all have their own plans as to what they want to do, not realizing their plans are influenced by the Almighty, using Satan to carry out His plan. Satan may think he has his own plan, but he does not. Everything he does is with the permission of the creator, whether Satan likes it or not.

Romans 11:1-8

1 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. **2** God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? **3** "Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life." **4** But what is God's reply to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." **5** So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. **6** But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace. **7** What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, **8** as it is written, "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day." (ESV)

The Apostle Paul makes it very clear he understands the Lord's plan. He refers to Elijah who thought he was the last one who kept faith with His God. God tells him there are seven thousand men who have not bowed to Baal. They were the remnant in their time, and in Paul's day, there was a remnant chosen by grace not based on the keeping of the law. Understand what Paul is saying here. In its proper context, all of Scripture flows the way it should. He is saying that grace suffices to bring one into the covenant, and God did this to allow the nations to come into His covenant while Israel was blinded to the truth so that the Almighty could open the doors to another group. This did not do away with the Torah but placed the Torah into its proper context.

Deuteronomy 29:4 But to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear. (ESV)

Faith in Messiah first, then Torah. Faith brings you into the covenant grafting one into Israel. But Israel has a covenant that guides it to maintain a lifestyle we have been called to walk. That lifestyle is defined by the covenant given to Israel we know as the Torah. Paul is not saying that grace alone is sufficient. As he says that the doing of works alone cannot bring you into a relationship with the Almighty, neither can grace alone do it. It takes a combination of both to create a people, a remnant loyal to the Father and the Son. A people guided by the *Ruach HaKodesh* to walk a life in faith and Torah.

Isaiah 29:5 But the multitude of your foreign foes shall be like small dust, and the multitude of the ruthless like passing chaff. And in an instant, suddenly, ⁶ you will be visited by the LORD of hosts with thunder and with earthquake and great noise, with whirlwind and tempest, and the flame of a devouring fire. ⁷ And the multitude of all the nations that fight against Ariel, all that fight against her and her stronghold and distress her, shall be like a dream, a vision of the night. ⁸ As when a hungry man dreams, and behold, he is eating, and awakes with his hunger not satisfied, or as when a thirsty man dreams, and behold, he is drinking, and awakes faint, with his thirst not quenched, so shall the multitude of all the nations be that fight against Mount Zion. (ESV)

<0740> אֲרִיאֵל Ariel (72a)

Meaning: 'lioness of El,' a symbolic name for Jerusalem

This passage from Isaiah is speaking about the *Last Days*. I feel they may be coming, or we may already be in them, simply by what is happening around us. However, I know much more has to happen to clear the way for His people to see the truth of what is unfolding around us. It is for the Jew and the *Goyim*, finally coming together as one people to stand up for our God and His Son, Yeshua, the one and only king of Israel. People, you need to wake up from your slumber and pay attention to what is happening around you before it is too late.

I will close with this: ***Torah Man says: "God never closes one door without opening another."***

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

Mordecai Silver

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