



Message 1-19-19
BeShallach-When He Let Go
Exodus 13:17-17:16
Judges 4:4-5:31
Luke 1:13-17

Introduction

Liberated from bondage, the Israelites begin their march toward their own land. God leads the people to the Sea of Reeds. Marching with the bones of Joseph, the Israelites follow a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

Exodus 13:17-22

17 When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, "Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt." ¹⁸ But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Reed Sea. And the people of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle. ¹⁹ Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for Joseph had made the sons of Israel solemnly swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones with you from here." ²⁰ And they moved on from Succoth and encamped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. ²¹ And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. ²² The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people. (ESV)

When we talk about the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire, we are talking about the continuous presence of the Holy One of Israel. He is there for the Israelites, and yet, they take Him for granted and do not hesitate to defy the Almighty by turning against His chosen leader Moses. Even when they left Egypt, the Holy One did not take them directly to the Promised Land because He knew how they would react when they discovered they would have to work, by fighting, to take possession of the Promised Land. So, instead of taking the short route, the Almighty turned Israel away and took them through the Reed Sea and into the Wilderness of Sinai. It would be there, in the Sinai Wilderness, where the Almighty, through Moses, would build a nation who would be His people and follow His covenant.

19 You, in Your abundant compassion, did not abandon them in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud did not depart from them to lead them on the way by day, nor the pillar of fire by night to give them light in the way they were to go. (TNK)

While the Israelites struggled with the Holy One during their wanderings in the Wilderness of Sinai, He did not abandon them. He did punish them for their disobedience by bringing plagues upon them or simply killing them outright, and still Israel struggled against what the Almighty wanted from them. He wanted a people who would love Him as He loved them. He wanted a people who would exhibit the faith it would take to be His unique treasure out of all the nations that were on the face of the earth. He wanted them to have faith in Him, and in turn, this faith would be through their Messiah Yeshua. Through this faith, they would receive the gift of eternal life if they held fast to their faith and walked in the way of Torah. Torah is a covenant that is meant for anyone who desires to be part of God's people.

The Holy One fed Israel for the forty years of wandering. They received enough manna to feed them every day. It was to teach them so they could learn to depend upon the Almighty for their daily bread and in turn to learn to depend on Him for everything. We can only do what the Almighty allows us to do, and it is usually different for each one of us. There are two things we are expected to do in all cases: place our faith in the Messiah Yeshua in order to be redeemed from our sins because all men are sinful except for Messiah. Along with that, we are expected to do our best to live out the covenant of Torah in our lives. We all have a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire in our lives reminding us constantly that He is with us through thick and thin.

Judges 3:20-24

20 And he said to her, "Stand at the opening of the tent, and if any man comes and asks you, 'Is anyone here?' say, 'No.'" ²¹ But Jael the wife of Heber took a tent peg and took a hammer in her hand. Then she went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple until it went down into the ground while he was lying fast asleep from weariness. So, he died. ²² And behold, as Barak was pursuing Sisera, Jael went out to meet him and said to him, "Come, and I will show you the man whom you are seeking." So, he went in to her tent, and there lay Sisera dead, with the tent peg in his temple. ²³ So on that day God subdued Jabin the king of Canaan before the people of Israel. ²⁴ And the hand of the people of Israel pressed harder and harder against Jabin the king of Canaan, until they destroyed Jabin king of Canaan. (ESV)

The Israelites have always struggled to take and hold onto the Promised Land-Canaan. Canaan was and still is the Promised Land that Israel, in all its forms, has struggled to take control. Even today, Israel only occupies a small part of its inheritance because the sons of Esau and the sons of Ishmael have whittled away at what Israel could have. If they had their way, Israel would have nothing, and they would drive them into the sea like they promised in 1948. We all know how that scenario turned out. Israel has a prominent place in the Almighty's plan. We must keep our eyes on Him, the Messiah Yeshua, to see what the Father has in store for all mankind. At the same time, I need to remind people that part of the problem in Israel is the interference of other countries in its internal affairs instead of allowing the Almighty to have His way. This only delays the inevitable result that the Holy One of Israel is in control and His will, will be done. The modern country of Israel exists because the Holy One of Israel has made it so. While other countries have

disappeared into the history books, Israel rose from the ashes to stand on the world stage because it has a very important place in His plan.

Nehemiah 9:24 So the descendants went in and possessed the land, and you subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, and gave them into their hand, with their kings and the peoples of the land, that they might do with them as they would. (ESV)

So, apparently even though there were various nations living in the land of Canaan in Biblical times, they were still considered to be Canaanites, and into the hands of the Israelites, they were given with their kings and the peoples of the land. The Almighty knows from where all people come. If we are to believe what the Bible tells us, we all find our country of origin to be in the Middle East. No matter what someone might tell you, Yeshua was not an Anglo or Caucasian. He was of Middle eastern origin. No matter where mankind emigrated after the flood, and after the Tower of Babel, this set man moving into the lands where they ultimately settled. After all the years of acclimating to the places they had chosen to live in, man changed. No matter what we look like on the outside, on the inside we are all the same, and we all bleed the same color red. If we believe in the veracity of the Bible, then we have no choice but to accept the Biblical account of man's creation by the Father through His Son Yeshua. We are created in the image of an invisible Creator, but the One through whom He created us is not invisible, He is the physical image of the invisible God, Yehovah.

All of mankind is related because we all have the same parents, Adam and Chavah. They gave birth to the human race, and no matter whether you accept that reality or not, you cannot argue or dispute the Biblical record.

Luke 1:13-17

17 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name Yochanan. ¹⁴ "You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. ¹⁵ "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the *Ruach HaKodesh* while yet in his mother's womb. ¹⁶ "And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ "It is he who will go as a *forerunner* before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN [Mal. 4:6], and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." (NAU)

Malachi 4:4 Remember the **teaching [Torah]** of my servant Moses, the statutes and ordinances that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. ⁵ Lo, I will send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. ⁶ He will turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents, so that I will not come and strike the land with a curse. (NRS)

Matthew 1:1 The book of the genealogy of Yeshua the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. (ESV)

In Luke, we read about the coming birth of Yochanan or John the Immerser who will precede the coming of the Messiah Yeshua. These two men were related. They were cousins. While in the womb, when Miriam came to visit her cousin, Yochanan recognized Yeshua was there. Yochanan came in the power of Elijah as promised by the Prophets of old. Notice how smoothly the quote from Malachi flows right into the beginning of the genealogy of Yeshua. Yeshua is present throughout the Tanach, and as the book of Malachi brings one part of Scripture to an end, a new part continues to show us how interconnected Messiah is in the Word, and therefore, to us. While Yochanan, the Immerser, was a forerunner of a type of Elijah, the real Elijah will come to bring the message or redemption before it is too late for mankind to repent. They will have one last opportunity to turn back to Him – to do *teshuvah*. When Elijah comes back, I believe, he will bring Enoch with Him. Why do I say that? Because Elijah and Enoch both did not suffer physical death, if we accept the Biblical accounts. Enoch walked with God and was taken to be with Him. Elijah rode a chariot of fire straight to the throne room of his heavenly Father. Both are waiting for that time before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes, and they return to warn mankind of the coming Great Tribulation brought on the earth by disobedience of mankind. Hold fast, my friends, to the promise through Messiah Yeshua. He will see us through whatever comes our way.

Torah Man says: “God is great in the little things as He is the large ones.”

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

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

