



Vayyelech

(and went)

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 31:1-30

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 31:1-6

1 And Moshe went and spoke these words to all Yisrael.

2 And he said to them, "I am a hundred and twenty years old this day; I can no more go out and come in; and YHWH has said to me, 'You shall not go over this Yarden (Jordan).'

3 YHWH your Elohim, He will go over before you; He will destroy these nations from before you, and you shall drive them out; Yehoshua, he shall go over before you, as YHWH has spoken.

4 And YHWH will do to them as He did to Sihon and to Og, the kings of the Amorites, and to their land; whom He destroyed.

5 And YHWH will deliver them up before you, and you shall do to them according to all the commandment which I have commanded you.

6 Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid at them; for YHWH your Elohim, He is the One who goes with you; He will not fail you, nor forsake you."

Please note that in the first part of verse three, it states that it would be YHWH who would go over before them. Then in the latter portion of that same verse, it states that it would be Yehoshua (Joshua) who would go over before them.

What we need to learn from this, is that when YHWH states that He is going to do something, many times (actually probably most times) He chooses to do that through His people. And in this case He would go over before them in Yehoshua.

Also, verse three seems to be a prophetic utterance pointing to Yeshua our Mashiach, who had the same name as this man who was to lead them into the promised land. Then, on an even deeper level of understanding, we can see, that because it was YHWH who would lead them into the promised land, and it also would be Yehoshua who would lead them into the promised land, then by inference we can see that Yehoshua (better known as Yeshua), is YHWH in the flesh.

Also, in verse six it states that YHWH is the One who would go *with* them.

Once again, we should not necessarily expect to see YHWH as a physical person going with them. He would be with them in Spirit.

Be Strong and Courageous

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 31:7-8

7 And Moshe called to Yehoshua, and said to him in the sight of all Yisrael, "Be strong and of good courage; for you shall go with this people into the land which YHWH has sworn to their fathers to give them; and you shall cause them to occupy it.

8 And YHWH, He is the One that goes before you; He will be with you, He will not fail you, neither forsake you; fear not, neither be dismayed."

Yehoshua was about to take on the responsibility of leading the entire Nation. YHWH had been grooming him during his entire life for this task. The only way that Yehoshua would be able to lead this Nation properly was with the indwelling presence of YHWH's Spirit. This task could not be done in a righteous manner by his own strength.

Please note that Yehoshua is also told that it was YHWH who would go before him as well as going before the entire Nation. And not only this, but also that YHWH would be with him in this endeavor.

The Torah is Written

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 31:9

9 And Moshe wrote this Torah, and delivered it to the kohenim (priests) the sons of Levi, that carried the Ark of the Covenant of YHWH, and to all the elders of Yisrael.

Scripture then tells us quite plainly that Moshe wrote down the Torah and placed it into the care of the kohenim and the elders of Yisrael. They in turn, were responsible for teaching His people what it said and what was required of them to be His people.

One thing of importance that we need to understand here is that the entire Torah was written down. Sure, there were aspects of their everyday lives on how they actually lived the Torah that were not written down, because they lived them every day. It was understood that they would pass on those traditions from one generation to the next by simply living them. The problem crept in when they stopped living the Torah culture and began doing other things in their everyday living. After many generations the Torah culture began to be diluted, and, in one sense, lost. It was because of this, that is what is now referred to as the "oral Torah" came into being.

The Torah is Read

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 31:10-13

10 And Moshe commanded them, saying, "At the end of every seven years, in the set time of the year of release, in the Feast of Sukkot,

11 when all Yisrael is come to appear before YHWH your Elohim in the place which He shall choose, you shall read this Torah before all Yisrael in their hearing.

12 Assemble the people, the men and the women and the little ones, and your sojourner that is within your gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear YHWH your Elohim, and observe to do all the words of this Torah;

13 and that their children, who have not known, may hear, and learn to fear YHWH your Elohim, as long as you live in the land where you go over the Yarden (Jordan) to occupy it."

At the very minimum all the males of Yisrael were to hear the book of Devarim read to them during the year of release at the time of Sukkot.

All the males are commanded to gather each and every year at the three pilgrimage feasts: Unleavened Bread, Shavuot, and Sukkot. Then at the end of the seventh year, the year of release, the book of Devarim is to be read in its entirety to the Nation by the Levites and the Elders.

We see recorded in the Besorah that Yeshua made His way to Jerusalem during these times as commanded in Torah. His earthly parents raised Him to do this very thing, as this is what they did as well.

Luqa [Luke] 2:41

And His parents went every year to Jerusalem at the feast of the Passover.

This is certainly one of the many reasons why YHWH must have chosen this couple to bring Mashiach through into this world, for they were righteous and carefully followed the Torah commandments. What a privilege and honor it is to bring our children up to know Torah and to follow its commandments. When we do this in the right spirit, His Spirit, then our children can be strong, healthy, and safe from all sorts of evil that is so rampant in our world today.

Time to Pass the Mantle

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 31:14

And YHWH said to Moshe, "Behold, your days approach that you must die; call Yehoshua, and present yourselves in the tent of meeting, that I may give him a charge." And Moshe and Yehoshua went, and presented themselves in the tent of meeting.

There comes a time in the life of all leaders that YHWH has appointed for them to pass the mantle on to YHWH's next chosen leader. The main thing is the continuation of His Kingdom, a continuation of order and proper authority in His Kingdom.

Two incidents of passing the mantle come to mind from Scripture. One, is when the mantle was passed from Eli to Sh'muel. This was a sad story, because Eli did not train his own children to walk in Torah. The result of this, was their untimely deaths.

The second incident, is when the mantle was passed quite literally from Eliyah to Elisha. This passing of the mantle of authority was quite an amazing story. One aspect that we would like to mention here for you to investigate on your own, is that Elisha asked for a double portion of his master's spirit. He was granted this very noble request. Now here is the significance of this. Eliyah did seven notable miracles during his ministry. Elisha did fourteen significant miracles during his ministry, a double portion. Let us seek a double portion from our heavenly Father for His people and for His glory and for His honor!

YHWH Prophecies Over Yisrael

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 31:15-18

15 And YHWH appeared in the Tent in a pillar of cloud; and the pillar of cloud stood over the door of the Tent.

16 And YHWH said to Moshe, "Behold, you shall sleep with your fathers; and this people will rise up, and play the harlot after the strange gods of the land, where they go to be among them, and will forsake Me, and break My covenant which I have made with them.

17 Then My anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide My face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall come upon them; so that they will say in that day, 'Are not these evils come upon us because our Elohim is not among us?'

18 And I will surely hide My face in that day for all the evil which they shall have wrought, in that they are turned to other elohim."

This is not a pretty picture!

YHWH is simply stating that when you as a people forsake Me and My ways, then I will also forsake you as My people. He will then wait for a generation that will not forsake Him. That generation He will bring back into His land and they shall be His people.

It must have grieved YHWH greatly to give these prophetic words through Moshe. But His people needed to know what was going to happen before it happened, in order that they could see these things clearly at some point in order to be able to return to YHWH.

Idolatry in His people causes them to suffer evil. If we truly desire the blessings of YHWH then we need to remove all idolatry from our lives. This means removing all articles and items that

have any religious meaning that are not specifically commanded in His Torah. This means that we need to clean up our language and use only names and titles for our Creator that He has commanded us to use. This means that we should work towards learning and using the Hebrew language so that we do not haphazardly use the names of pagan deities in our everyday speaking.

Those three points that we need to work on are a monumental task. It is not going to happen overnight. But it will not happen at all if we do not work on it!

And what better time to start learning Hebrew and working on these things than right now?

Write This Song

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 31:19

19 "Now therefore write for yourself this song, and teach it to the children of Yisrael; put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for Me against the children of Yisrael."

The Song of Moshe perhaps should actually be called the Song of YHWH, as He is the One who gave it and it is His witness against us.

All of us should know it and be familiar with what it says. It is a very prophetic song and speaks to us in our time today. We will say more about this song shortly.

More Prophetic Words from YHWH

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 31:20-22

20 "For when I shall have brought them into the land which I swore to their fathers, flowing with milk and honey, and they shall have eaten and filled themselves, and waxed fat; then will they turn to other gods, and serve them, and despise Me, and break My covenant.

21 And it shall come to pass, when many evils and troubles are come upon them, that this song shall testify before them as a witness; for it shall not be forgotten out of the mouths of their seed; for I know their imagination which they follow this day, before I have brought them into the land which I swore."

22 So Moshe wrote this song the same day, and taught it the children of Yisrael.

YHWH knew that the stubborn, stiff-necked people would all too soon turn from following Him to follow gods that were not gods. They will follow the vain imaginations of their own hearts. Truly this they surely did. But lest we be too harsh in our thinking towards them, let us realize that not much has really changed in our day either. Shaul pretty much describes this same type of mindset and social conditions that will exist in the future, namely in our day.

2nd Timothy 3:1-5

1 But know this, that in the last days grievous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

3 without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, no lovers of good,

4 traitors, headstrong, puffed up, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of YHWH;

5 holding a form of commandment-keeping, but having denied the power thereof; from these also turn away.

Considering this passage, perhaps we should take some time and learn this song so that we do not act and live in such a manner as Shaul describes here. He gave this song through Moshe as a witness to us to show to us the error of our ways in following other gods.

The Charge to Yehoshua

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 31:23

And he gave Yehoshua the son of Nun a charge, and said, "Be strong and of good courage; for you shall bring the children of Yisrael into the land which I swore to them; and I will be with you."

Once again, Moshe reminds Yehoshua to be strong and courageous. He would need this reminder many times in the years ahead. And Moshe knew this well from past experience in leading these people, for many times had he been angry with the people because of their hardness of heart.

Consider the following passage of Scripture.

Ivrim [Hebrews] 13:17

Obey your leaders, and submit to them for they keep watch over your lives, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

Would you like to increase your rewards in the life to come? Of course you would. This is one way that we can do this, by being Yisraelis whose leaders find it a great joy to lead them.

I am sure that Moshe and Yehoshua had moments of joy in their leading of His people. However, what are recorded more are their heartaches and disappointments with His people. This was not good or beneficial for the people. What we should do is to obey His Torah in such a way so that it brings joy to those whom YHWH places in authority over us.

Torah – A Witness Against Us?

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 31:24-27

24 And it came to pass, when Moshe had made an end of writing the words of this Torah in a book, until they were finished,

25 that Moshe commanded the Levites, that bare the ark of the covenant of YHWH, saying,

26 “Take this book of the Torah, and put it by the side of the Ark of the Covenant of YHWH your Elohim, that it may be there for a witness against you.

27 For I know your rebellion, and your stiff neck; behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, you have been rebellious against YHWH; and how much more after my death?”

How would the Torah become a witness against us?

These people had agreed to this covenant. They had agreed to hear and do all the words of YHWH our Elohim and to hear and obey His Voice. When they would choose later not to obey these words and His Voice, then the Torah would become a witness against them. Please consider this passage.

Qorintyah Aleph [1st Corinthians] 10:1

For I would not, brethren, have you ignorant, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

After this verse, Shaul then lists many of the different plagues that came upon the people of Israel because of their complaining, stubborn and rebellious hearts. Shaul wants us to clearly understand why it was that these things were recorded so that we do not repeat the same things that caused them to all die in the wilderness.

Qorintyah Aleph [1st Corinthians] 10:11

Now these things happened to them by way of example; and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come.

Please note verse 27 in which Moshe is chastising and reminding them just how rebellious they have been with him as their YHWH-appointed leader. Moshe knows that after he dies their rebelliousness will increase. May we read this and be properly admonished by His Spirit to not only hear and obey His Voice, but to properly follow His leaders as the Spirit gives witness!

Provoking YHWH to Anger

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 31:28-29

28 “Assemble to me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, that I may speak these words in their ears, and call heaven and earth to witness against them.

29 For I know that after my death you will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days; because you will do that which is evil in the sight of YHWH, to provoke Him to anger through the work of your hands.”

It cannot be a good thing for us to provoke the Creator of heaven and earth to anger. Since He is All-powerful and All-knowing how can we hide from Him our sin and wrong-doing? We cannot!

Furthermore, He may discipline us in any way He deems to be appropriate. And it may not be pleasant for us to experience. Please consider the following passage of Scripture.

Ivrim [Hebrews] 12:11

All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

The question that we truly need to consider for ourselves is: “Am I being trained by His discipline?” Or, do we balk at the discipline that He brings our way and turn and run away from it, rejecting it?

As Sovereign of the Universe, YHWH has the ability to bring discipline to us in any fashion. This is particularly true of the words and actions of other people. But do we see YHWH’s hand in this? Many times we do not, which is to our own shame and undoing. Many times someone will speak a word to us and we will feel pricked in our spirit. What do we do with that pricking? Do we investigate it? Do we just let it go (thereby rejecting it)? Or, worse still, do we attack the person who these words came through, rather than yielding to His Spirit in all things?

This passage of Scripture reminds us that His discipline at the moment that He gives it, is not pleasant for us. However, if we will yield to Him and His redemptive work of discipline, then it will yield the peaceful fruit of righteousness in our life. This is something that I believe that we all want and desire. The question is: are we willing to pay the price to get it?

May YHWH cause each and every one of us to want it more than anything, and cause us to be willing to pay the price necessary to be His disciples through His discipline! Amen.

Moshe Teaches Yisrael a Song

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 31:30

30 And Moshe spoke in the ears of all the assembly of Yisrael the words of this song, until they were finished.

Moshe then teaches Yisrael the song that YHWH had him write down.

There are two songs that sometimes are confused with each other. One song is generally referred to as the Song by the Sea, which is found in Shemot (Exodus) 15:1-21. Then there is this song which is often referred to as Moshe's Song, or the Song of Moshe. We find this latter song mentioned in the Brit.

Revelation 15:3

And they sing the song of Moshe the servant of Elohim, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are Your works, YHWH Elohim, the Almighty; righteous and true are Your ways, You King of the ages."

Notice that those redeemed in the last days are singing the Song of Moshe as well as the Song of the Lamb. This should teach us something quite important. Namely, that the Torah that was given through Moshe is still valid and plays a part in the redemption of His people. Likewise, the Blood-bought-and-washed throng of people is there, because of these two things being a part of their everyday lives. They have both Mashiach and Torah!

Let us prayerfully consider three passages of Scripture from the book of Revelation that we too might live victoriously in the days that are about to come upon the whole world.

Revelation 6:9

And when he opened the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of them that had been slain for the word of YHWH, and for the testimony which they held;

The very reason that these were slain is two-fold; because they were 1) Torah keepers (word of YHWH), and 2) because they had a testimony, the testimony of Mashiach. Notice these two same things in the following passage from the prophet Yeshayah (Isaiah).

Yeshayah [Isaiah] 8:16-20

16 "Bind up the testimony, seal the Torah among My disciples.

17 And I will wait for YHWH, that hides His face from the house of Ya'aqov, and I will look for Him.

18 Behold, I and the children whom YHWH has given Me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from YHWH Tzava'ot, who dwells in Mount Tzion.

19 And when they shall say to you, 'Seek them that have familiar spirits and to the wizards, that chirp and that mutter'; should not a people seek their Elohim? On behalf of the living should they seek the dead?

20 To the Torah and to the testimony! If they speak not according to this word, surely there is no morning for them."

Please note that YHWH spoke through the prophet Yeshayah centuries before Mashiach came that there would be two vital areas to walking in the true way with YHWH. We need both the Torah and the Torah made flesh to be a part of our lives.

Revelation 13:7

And it was given to him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them; and there was given to him authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation.

The *him* in the above passage is the beast that comes up out of the sea. This beast who is acting according to the will of Satan will set out to hunt down and put to death all those who have the Torah and the Testimony in their lives. His vengeance in doing this will be so great, it will be as if he has declared war upon them. In much the same fashion as Hitler did during the Nazi regime during World War II, this man will set out to destroy all those who do not bow down and worship a false god.

Revelation 12:11

And they overcame him because of the Blood of the Lamb, and because of the word of their testimony; and they loved not their life even to death.

Whether a person overcomes Satan and his beast in death or in life, the only way to overcome him is by having both the Blood of Mashiach and the Torah as part of their lives and having already died to the will of self, and by living according to YHWH's will for him. By this being a reality in a person's life, then he can live victoriously and overcome whatever it is that comes his way.

The important thing to remember and understand, is that if this is true now, then when it becomes quite literally a life or death matter, then one will have already been in the practice of living for YHWH; therefore, dying for Him will not be a problem whatsoever.

ABBA YHWH, give us strength and wisdom to walk according to Your Torah that our testimony for Yeshua will be alive and vital all the days of our lives; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein!

Shabbat Shalom

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