



B'shalach

(sent out)

Shemot [Exodus] 13:17-17:16

The Land Is Near!

Shemot [Exodus] 13:17

17 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that Elohim led them not by the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for Elohim said, "Lest the people change their minds when they see war, and they return to Egypt."

From the land of Goshen, where the Israeli people lived, to the southern edge of the land of the Philistines, it is approximately one hundred forty (140) miles. The most direct route (which is the route which Scripture indicates that they did not use) between the land of Goshen and Mount Sinai is two hundred forty (240) miles; and then it is about another one hundred forty (140) miles to Kadesh Barnea. This brings the total to about three hundred eighty (380) miles going the way that YHWH led them, as opposed to the shortest route which would only have been about one hundred forty (140) miles.

YHWH led them to Mount Sinai in about 45 days (give or take a day or two). If they would make five and one-half miles a day, it would take them about forty-four days to get to Mount Sinai. Using that same average of 5.5 miles per day, it would only have taken them about one month to get to the Promised Land.

So, the Promised Land was not only near by miles, but it was also near by time.

But, not only did YHWH lead them by a further route in distance, but also in time. YHWH led them directly to Mount Sinai (about 45 days journey), and they stayed there for two years and two months. Then they set out for the southern edge of the Land at Kadesh Barnea. But, because of the incident with the twelve spies (the people believed the evil report of the majority [10] of spies rather than those who were speaking YHWH's words [the two spies]), the result was that they were not able to enter the Land for another thirty-eight (38) years.

The result was that the Land was not near to them when they left the land of Goshen, when we factor in time.

So, why did YHWH do this? The verse above tells us, that He did this for their own good. He did not want His people to make the poor choice of voluntarily going back into slavery (Egypt). This is a picture of going back into sin. YHWH knew that they were going to have to take the Land by force. They were going to have to fight for it. He was not going to hand it to them on a gold platter!

Do you ever wonder why the true spiritual life is fraught with difficulties?

The above verse is the beginning of understanding the answer to this question. Please consider the following passage as well.

2nd Corinthians 10:3-4

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh

4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before Elohim to the casting down of strongholds.

Please note one very important similarity between Shemot 13:17 and 2nd Corinthians 10:3-4. Both of them indicate that war is a given.

The passage in Shemot states *when* they see war, not *if* they see war. Likewise, the passage in 2nd Corinthians states, that we do not war according to the flesh; rather the war that we are involved in, is spiritual in nature, showing that we are, in fact, at war, albeit, a spiritual one.

When we begin to understand this, then we can see that YHWH orders our lives in such a way as to take us into the wilderness to train us, so that when we also see war, it does not scare us away from His Kingdom. What YHWH desires for us, is that we be spiritual warriors for Him, doing battle in the spiritual realm.

The warfare that YHWH desires for us to be involved in, is much more intense than any physical military battle ever was. Therefore, YHWH typically does not take us by the shortest route. Rather, He takes us on a route that is a training route, a route that proves us! It proves us to Him and to ourselves.

When we keep and obey all of His commandments (Torah), then we are engaged in the battle to build His Kingdom.

YHWH willing, one day soon YHWH will give us the opportunity to reenter His Land. The Land is filled with war now, and when we (Ephrayim) return, it will more than likely still be filled with war. It will be up to Ephrayim and Yehudah (Judah) together to retake the Land and cleanse it and make His Kingdom a reality here on earth.

Let us consider this passage.

Yehoshua [Joshua] 6:20

So the people shouted, and the priests blew the trumpets; and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, that the people shouted with a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

Here is the question to ponder, was this a physical war or a spiritual war waged in the physical realm? The answer is the latter, but then you probably already knew that. But what does this verse have to do with spiritual warfare? The answer can be seen in the wall. Why did the wall fall down? Was there any physical reason for the wall to fall? No. Regardless of what all the naysayers and skeptics have to say and no matter how hard they search and try to come up with a physically logical reason as to why the wall fell down, the simple truth is that YHWH caused the wall to fall down through the Israelites' obedience to Him. Even though this war had tangible physical aspects, it was a spiritual war that was being waged at Jericho. And because this is true, the only way to win this war was by their obedience to His commandments.

It was the lack of obedience of one man that caused 10,000 Israelite men to lose their lives the next time they went out to war. Today, in the land of Israel it is still no different. There is a spiritual war that is being waged. If the leaders and would-be leaders of Israel fail to recognize this reality, then many Israeli men will die who do not need to die. Disobedience to His commandments carries a costly price. The sooner that we learn this eternal truth, the better off we all will be as a nation.

Elohim Led

Shemot [Exodus] 13:18

18 but Elohim led the people about, by the way of the wilderness by the Red Sea: and the children of Israel went up armed out of the land of Egypt.

This verse tells us two things of vital importance. First, that it was Elohim who was leading the nation of Israel. This is important, considering that He did not lead them by the shortest route possible from where they were, to where YHWH desired to take them. He was leading them according to His will.

Even after the sin of the nation in following the evil report of the ten spies, Scripture is clear that YHWH was still leading His people. We must be careful to see that even those who have been disobedient to His commandment in the past, can still be led by His Spirit if those who have been disobedient in the past return to Him through repentance and a changing of their evil ways.

YHWH has already led many of us into the wilderness for an individual wilderness experience. YHWH does this in order to provide us with ample opportunities to remove the dross from our lives. It is in these situations of discomfort that YHWH is able to hold up a mirror in front of us to show us those things in our lives with which He is not pleased; then He asks us to change them or remove them so that we can be more like Mashiach Yeshua.

The second item to note in the above passage, is that they went up armed. Now, to me this is a very curious statement considering that they had been slaves for hundreds of years and most likely were not allowed to be armed by the Egyptians. So the question that comes to mind is: where did they get the weapons?

In Shemot 12:35, we learned that the Israelis asked the Egyptians for anything of value. It is likely that among the things that they received were all sorts of weapons included in the plunder.

In addition to this, this also shows us that YHWH had put weapons into their hands because He expected them to fight and do battle. Having been slaves, they were used to the hard physical labor. They had already been used to working together as a team. They would just need some training in how to be soldiers. YHWH would provide the training needed.

The Bones of Yosef

Shemot [Exodus] 13:19

19 And Moshe took the bones of Yoseph with him: for he had solemnly made the children of Israel swear, saying, "Elohim will surely visit you; and you shall carry up my bones away with you."

This is a picture of the first resurrection. Yosef represents the ten tribes of the north that went away into captivity and then were scattered into all the nations of the world. To date, the descendants of these tribes are still scattered.

Yechezkel [Ezekiel] 37:11-14

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 is lost; we are clean cut off.'

12 Therefore prophesy, and say to them, 'Thus says Adonai YHWH; "Behold, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel.

13 And ye shall know that I am YHWH, when I have opened your graves, and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people.

14 And I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land; and you shall know that I, YHWH, have spoken it and performed it," says YHWH."

In this prophecy to the House of Israel (ten tribes), YHWH tells us that there would be a day in which we would be in our graves, but He would cause us to come up out of those (spiritual) graves. Notice that the people that are being prophesied about, do not see that they are an actual part of Israel; they are cut off. Truly, no one in Christianity, until very recently, thought of themselves as part of Israel, but as a part of the "Body of Christ" as a totally separate and, in some cases, a replacement of Israel.

However, in these latter days as His Spirit goes out and renews our spirits so that we know who we are and what we should be doing (keeping His commandments), He promises that He will return us to our land! I am looking forward to that time! May it be soon and in our day!

The Pillar

Shemot [Exodus] 13:20-22

20 And they took their journey from Sukkot, and encamped in Etam, in the edge of the wilderness.

21 And YHWH went before them by day in a pillar of cloud, to lead them the way, and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light, that they might go by day and by night:

22 the pillar of cloud by day, and the pillar of fire by night, departed not from before the people.

YHWH led this new nation through the wilderness by a pillar of cloud by day and by a pillar of fire by night. Please note that the verses above state that YHWH went before them *in a pillar*. He was not the pillar of fire, nor was He the pillar of cloud; rather YHWH was in the pillar of cloud and in the pillar of fire which was leading them.

YHWH also was not the burning bush before Moshe, but rather He spoke to Moshe through the burning bush. Likewise, this distinction is important in understanding who and what Yeshua was in the flesh. His fleshly body was as real as yours and mine, yet the fleshly body was not Elohim. But rather YHWH's Spirit was in this fleshly body speaking through it.

One Last Hardening

Shemot [Exodus] 14:1-4

1 And YHWH spoke to Moshe, saying,

2 "Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn back and encamp before Pi Hachiroth, between Migdol and the sea, before Ba'al Tz'fon: over against it shall you camp by the sea.

3 And Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, 'They are entangled in the land, the wilderness has shut them in.'

4 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he shall follow after them; and I will get My honor upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host: and the Egyptians shall know that I am YHWH." And they did so.

YHWH knew that Pharaoh would come to his senses (so to speak – but it would just be his very hard heart reacting) and regret sending the people of Israel away. YHWH was ready for that to happen, and when Pharaoh began entertaining thoughts of pursuit, YHWH hardened his heart so that he would pursue them himself. This would be the final breaking point of Pharaoh.

Pharaoh did not heed YHWH when He took his firstborn son, so now He would take Pharaoh himself along with all the might of Egypt.

The Army of Egypt

Shemot [Exodus] 14:5-9

5 And it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled: and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was changed towards the people, and they said, "What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?"

6 And he made ready his chariot, and took his people with him:

7 and he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over all of them.

8 And YHWH hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: for the children of Israel went out with a high hand.

9 And the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses (and) chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his power, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pi Hachiot, before Ba'al-Tz'fon.

Considering the now likely known location of Mount Sinai (in Saudi Arabia), it would have been thirty-plus days for Israel to be by the sea. Pharaoh must have driven his chariot horses very hard in order to overtake them before they got away.

The place that Israel was camped by the sea was between the *mouth of the crevice* (prison) (Pi Hachiot) and Ba'al Tz'fon (master of darkness). Considering that Pharaoh was a worshipper of so many different false pagan deities, when he realized where it was that the "wilderness had shut them in," he may very well have figured that this was his chance to gain them back easily. Surely he was a worshipper of both the darkness (the Dark One) and this dark one's dwelling place in the crevice. He may have deceived himself into believing that his gods were working on his behalf.

Of course, he did not truly realize that it was YHWH who was actually trapping him, rather than Pharaoh trapping the Israelis. Pharaoh was about to pay for the hardness of heart not only with his own life, but with the lives of every soldier with him. That seems like a pretty high price for the hardheartedness of one person, to cost the lives of thousands of men. I pray that none of us will be like that; but rather, that each and every one of us will submit to Him and His will for our lives. But then that would presuppose that we each have a healthy fear of Elohim, unlike Pharaoh.

Reaction of Fear

Shemot [Exodus] 14:10

10 And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians were marching after them; and they were sore afraid; and the children of Israel cried out to YHWH.

Truly, this is a reaction of the flesh!

The Israelites had personally witnessed the ten plagues that YHWH had just used to deliver them from Egypt. Yet, they still did not quite believe.

Yochanan Alef [1st John] 4:18

18 There is no fear in love: but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has punishment; and he that fears is not made perfect in love.

This new Nation was full of fear. They were not full of His love (yet).

Here is the thing that we need to understand about His love and fearing Him: if we fear anything or anyone else but YHWH, then there is idolatry in our lives. We should immediately repent and seek His forgiveness and ask for His help in overcoming that fear.

This is also true of phobias. There will be a lot of people that will react quite strongly to that statement. But please consider that it is not you who are reacting, but the spirit behind the phobia who does not desire for you to discover his presence in your life, and then lose his home (you).

Fear objects are objects of worship!

Matthew 10:28

And be not afraid of them that kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

It is who and what we fear that we are serving. And serving is equivalent to worship. Please consider the following. Let us take the fear of heights as an example. When one is afraid of heights, then typically that person will do whatever is necessary to stay away from heights. They are serving their fear of heights in doing this.

However, when it is YHWH alone whom we fear, then we will eventually overcome all other fear objects with His help.

Be Careful What You Say!

Shemot [Exodus] 14:11-12

11 And they said to Moshe, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us like this, to bring us forth out of Egypt?"

12 Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it were better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.'"

YHWH is Elohim! YHWH has the power to do as He wills! YHWH has told us to be careful what comes out of our mouths! Do we listen to this? Probably not as well as we should!

When we say something that challenges His Sovereignty, then He moves the events in our lives in such a fashion so that He can challenge those words and thoughts, so we will be able to see with our own eyes that He is, in fact, Sovereign!

There is a cost for doing this. It is called, "time." It takes time to do this that could have been used to further ourselves and others in maturity, rather than having to back up and redo something that we should have already learned from Him. But He loves each one of us; and if we need a lesson, then He sends the lesson to us. The problem is that many people get stuck on a particular lesson and do not proceed on to the next lesson. They just simply repeat the same lesson over and over again, in which the circumstances are similar, but with different particulars.

Do you ever wonder why your life seems as if it is stuck in a rut (spiritually, emotionally, etc.)? It may very well be that YHWH has been trying to teach you a lesson, but you are just not getting it. So, He has to repeat the lesson for you over and over again. He will do this over and over until we get it, because He loves us.

In the verse above, the Israeli people had made the statement that they would just rather serve the Egyptians in slavery, than to serve YHWH as Elohim (which takes personal effort). YHWH brought them to a place to challenge this statement, because this was what was in their hearts. And this mindset in their hearts was not compatible to their being able to serve YHWH with their whole being. So, He moved them along a path in which they could be confronted with this, so He could remove it at their bidding. YHWH will not remove those things that are not pleasing to Him from our lives without our permission. He just moves us into life situations in which we will be more likely to give Him permission to remove them.

He does the same for each one of us!

Stand Still

Shemot [Exodus] 14:13-14

13 And Moshe said to the people, "Fear not, stand still, and see the salvation of YHWH, which He will work for you today: for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you shall see them again no more for ever.

14 YHWH will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."

The command from YHWH to *stand still*, is a command to find that place of inner shalom (peace). Basically, it is a command to "shut up!" and listen to His Voice. What is in your life that you are all tied up in knots about? What is happening in your life that has you whining and complaining?

Tehillim [Psalm] 46:10a

Be still and know that I am Elohim.

There comes a time in our lives that we need to learn the activity of waiting. Yes, you read that right, the activity of waiting.

It is rather foreign to western thought, but it has two requisites. We see one above, that is, being still or being in shalom before YHWH. The second is in the next verse of this week's Parasha.

Go Forward!

Shemot [Exodus] 14:16

15 And YHWH said to Moshe, "Why do you cry to me? Speak to the children of Israel, that they go forward."

This is one of those verses in which it almost seems as if YHWH is scratching His head in puzzlement as He speaks, and asks why it is that His people are crying to Him. After all, are they not His people? And has He not taken care of them in the past? And will He not take care of them now?

Basically, YHWH tells them to get moving!

Get off your duffs, stop whining, and get moving!

This is the other aspect of the activity of waiting – moving forward.

The activity of waiting is about doing what we know to do, while waiting upon Him to tell us what to do next. In western thinking, waiting is being idle. In Scripture, waiting on Him is moving forward, doing those things that we already know to do, while we wait upon Him to reveal further what He desires of us. Then we just add that to what we are already doing as we continue to move forward.

Elohim Honored

Shemot [Exodus] 14:16-18

16 “And lift you up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go into the midst of the sea on dry ground.

17 And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall go in after them: and I will be honored through Pharaoh, and through all his host, through his chariots, and through his horsemen.

18 And the Egyptians shall know that I am YHWH, when I have gotten honor through Pharaoh, through his chariots, and through his horsemen.

So, here is a question to ponder. Will we honor YHWH by how we are living? Or will we only be able to honor YHWH through our death (because we refused to obey His Voice, like Pharaoh)?

It is the choice that each and every one of us makes every single day. Actually, we make this choice many times every day, which adds up to one big choice.

When YHWH looks at our lives, what kinds of choices does He see us making?

Are we making choices to honor Him with our living?

Or, are we making choices by which He can only gain honor by our death?

Providence

Shemot [Exodus] 14:19-20

19 And the messenger of Elohim, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them, and stood behind them;

20 and it came between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel; and there was the cloud and the darkness, yet gave it light by night: and the one came not near the other all the night.

This is really pretty amazing when you stop to ponder this. Here is this cloud standing between Israel and Pharaoh and his army. Now, it states that this lasted all night long.

I can hardly fathom the degree and the depth of hardness in Pharaoh's heart.

Basically, YHWH was giving Pharaoh a night watch to repent in. But, sadly, he did not repent.

Not only was this cloud standing in protection of Israel, but this cloud was also staying the judgment upon Pharaoh during the night watch (but only staying the judgment until the morning came).

The Waters Divided

Shemot [Exodus] 14:21-22

21 And Moshe stretched out his hand over the sea; and YHWH caused the sea to go (back) by a strong east wind all the night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand, and on their left.

Now, here is something we do not want to miss. We see in verse 16 above, that YHWH commands Moshe to divide the sea. Here we see that it was YHWH who used a strong east wind to divide the sea and dry up the sea bed.

It is a recurring theme in Scripture that YHWH works through His people as they obey His Voice. YHWH commanded Moshe to raise his staff and Moshe obeyed and YHWH caused the sea to divide.

The way that YHWH works in the lives of His people, nonbelievers often attempt to explain as natural phenomena. He seems to do this to hide His work from the unbelieving. The ten plagues are very much like this. Those who do not truly believe YHWH, attempt to explain the plagues as being natural phenomena. Likewise, those who do not truly believe YHWH attempt to explain the dividing of the sea in this fashion.

How we see YHWH's work in our lives, and subsequently explain and tell others what has happened to us, will largely be determined by how much hardness is in our hearts. Do we give Him the glory and honor? Or, do we give it to another?

In Tehillim [Psalm] 136:13, we find an interesting passage concerning the dividing of the sea.

To Him who divided the red sea asunder, for His lovingkindness is everlasting.	לְגִזֵּר יָם סוּף לְגִזְרִים כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדּוֹ :
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In this passage of Scripture, the word that captures our attention is the word **לְגַזְרִים** (lig-za-rim), the root being **גָּזַר** (gazar), which means “parts.”

We find this word used in Melekim Aleph [1st Kings] 3:25-26, when king Solomon ordered the baby to be divided (**גָּזַר**) in half, and one half given to each of the women. The word is in the singular form in this passage.

However, in Tehillim [Psalm] 136:13, we find the word in the plural form. Why? The sages teach that YHWH divided the sea in such a way, that each tribe went across on dry ground through its own path. They teach that YHWH divided the sea into twelve (or thirteen) paths.

Now, we cannot say with any degree of certainty, that this is what YHWH did; however, it is interesting to take note of this unusual usage of the word **לְגַזְרִים** (lig-za-rim) and its being in the plural form. If the singular form means to divide, which will give us two pieces, then, the plural form would seem to give us more than two pieces. It is something to ponder.

Pharaoh Pursues

Shemot [Exodus] 14:23

23 And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

Even after what may have seemed like a very long night for Pharaoh, who was probably still praying to his false elohim that the cloud would go away and he could capture the Israeli people, the cloud began moving in the morning.

It seems that they actually followed the cloud into the sea. How hard Pharaoh's heart must have been to follow YHWH to his own destruction.

Egyptians See Sea

Shemot [Exodus] 14:24-25

24 And it came to pass in the morning watch, that YHWH looked forth upon the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of cloud, and confused the host of the Egyptians.

25 And He took off their chariot wheels, and they drove them heavily; so that the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the face of Israel; for YHWH fights for them against the Egyptians."

It was in the midst of the sea that the Egyptians finally got it.

They got it, right when it was exactly too late for them!

This is not the best way to get it!

We should really work hard at getting it now, rather than getting it later like the Egyptians.

Sea Sick

Shemot [Exodus] 14:26-28

26 And YHWH said to Moshe, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen."

27 And Moshe stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled from it; and YHWH overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

28 And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, even all the host of Pharaoh that went in after them into the sea; there remained not so much as one of them.

After Pharaoh and his entire army were in the midst of the sea, YHWH closed the waters over them.

That day the strength of Egypt was broken!

There was not even one of them left! Not even Pharaoh escaped this death, for Scripture plainly states that Pharaoh died that day.

Witnesses

Shemot [Exodus] 14:29-30

29 But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand, and on their left.

30 Thus YHWH saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea-shore.

YHWH caused this to happen in such a way that His people would see that their enemies had completely perished, and that there was not one of them left to cause them trouble or grief in the future.

Israel Fears YHWH

Shemot [Exodus] 14:31

31 And Israel saw the great work which YHWH did upon the Egyptians, and the people feared YHWH: and they believed in YHWH, and in his servant Moshe.

Israel now gets it!

Israel now knows who YHWH is and rightly fears Him.

It is curious that it took this long for them to understand truly that the Sovereign of the universe was the One delivering them, in order to serve Him.

They did not come to understand this through any of the miracles of the ten plagues. They did not come to understand this with the salvation of their firstborn children. They did not come to understand this when they plundered Egypt and left with a high hand.

It was only when they saw with their own eyes, the Egyptian army lying dead upon the beach of the sea that they understood and feared YHWH.

What will it take for us to understand and fear YHWH?

Standing Firm in Him

One of the lessons of this Parasha is that we need to know YHWH, so that we can stand firm in Him. We need to fear Him and keep on working (moving forward) to build His Kingdom.

Idleness is just another form of idol-ness (idolatry).

Please consider the following passage.

Ephesians 6:13-14a

13 Therefore put on the whole armor of Elohim, that you may be able to withstand in the evil, and having done all to stand, stand.

This is one of those places where the verse divisions have partially hidden the message that YHWH desires for us to know. Please allow me to say here, that it seems that YHWH caused the verse divisions to be placed where they were placed, in order to seal up the books until the latter days (our days).

So if we truly want to see what YHWH has caused to be written, sometimes we need to go beyond the verse divisions. That is the case here.

We have included in the above passage from the letter to the Ephesians, verse 13 and the first word of the next verse (14).

What this then tells us, is that, after having done everything possible by putting on the full armor of Elohim in order to stand against all evil, we do not forget to, in fact, stand.

There was a fad in Christendom a couple of decades ago, in which there was a lot of teaching about the armor of Elohim. There are still remnants of that teaching floating around. But seemingly, where many of them fell short, was to admonish those studying this and subsequently doing it, that they then needed to actually do something with the armor.

It does no good to go through all the effort to put on the armor and then to parade around in the halls (churches) and not go out to do battle. The armor is made for battle not parades.

So the bottom line is, that after doing all that we can to make sure that we are equipped to stand firm, we need to, in fact, stand firm!

That comes through in this Parasha when YHWH tells us to *go forward*. It does us no good if we seek His direction and then do nothing to move in that direction.

ABBA YHWH, please give us Your shalom so we can know that You are our Elohim; then move us in the direction that You desire for us to go, so that we can always be building Your Kingdom and not our own kingdom; in the Name of Yeshua our Mashiach, Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

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