



Balaq

(Balak)

Bemidbar [Numbers] 22:2-25:9

הברית החדשה

HaB'rit HaChadashah

(the new covenant)

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 2:1-22

We have chosen this portion from the Brit because it speaks of the *way of Bala'am*, which reminds us of this week's Torah portion concerning this prophet for profit.

False Teachers Among Us

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 2:1

But there arose false prophets among the people, just as there shall be false teachers among you, who shall secretly bring in destructive heresies, denying even the Master that bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

In the past there have been many false prophets; prophets who spoke not the word of Elohim, but a word fueled by their own lusts. Likewise, today we also have false teachers among us who claim to be prophets and apostles. These move to deceive and to elevate themselves above the judgment of good discernment from His people and truly anointed ones. In order to protect ourselves from these self-anointed ones, let us act in a like manner as the Bereans of old did.

Ma'aseh [Acts] 17:11

Now these were more noble minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of the mind, examining the Scriptures daily, whether these things were so.

When we are told something is coming from YHWH, then we need to carefully, prayerfully, and scripturally, measure this with Scripture. We need to do this repeatedly, to make sure that we do not fall into the deception of those who would deceive us simply to get into our pockets. The truth is, that we cannot know who is teaching according to Scripture and who is not, unless we carefully check each teaching out thoroughly. We simply cannot afford to blindly follow what a man says, even if he is “anointed.” We need to check each teaching and each teacher out according to Scripture; this includes this present teacher as well!

Recently, there has been a destructive heresy brought into the camp of those who follow the faith of the apostles of the first century; namely, the teaching of polygamy. This is not a good practice or a practice that is YHWH’s best for us. While it is not completely condemned in Scripture, it falls in the same category as divorce; because of one’s hardness of heart that it is allowed. It is not YHWH’s best for His people. Those who practice polygamy will reap the tragic results of a split home full of strife and contention. On this, the Scripture is quite faithful to bring forward. Why anyone would willingly chase shalom out the door and replace it with contention is beyond understanding. Such a one has been filled and deceived by the lusts of the flesh! Furthermore, one practicing such things is not eligible to be a leader in Israel according to 1st Timothy 1:2.

Let us not be led astray by those who teach from their lusts to lead others astray, whereby they may seemingly justify these sins in their own minds, by piling up other sinners under themselves.

Romans 1:32

who, knowing the ordinance of Elohim, that they that practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but also consent with them that practice them.

Maligned!

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 2:2

And many shall follow their sensuality; by reason of whom the way of the truth shall be evil spoken of.

This is perhaps the saddest thing about this whole business of this new teaching of polygamy today. It has gotten into the news, and there are those teachers in this movement that have been charged and arrested for this crime; thereby, His actual truth is maligned, all because these men followed after the lusts of their flesh, and no one ever stopped to check these men out.

Perhaps they even started off running a good race, but somewhere they went astray and left the one true way. Let us be diligent to always test those teachers and leaders that we love and cherish to make sure that they are staying on the path of the straight and narrow. For me, I dearly love and respect those who lovingly point out errors to me concerning my teachings. While I write them prayerfully and fearfully, knowing that I shall give an account of each and every word, there are times that I

unknowingly make an error. It is not intentional, but when someone comes to me privately and asks about it, then it allows me the opportunity to grow and to correct my mistake. For that I am very grateful.

Let us watch over one another with the greatest of care, so that we as His people can walk in a manner worthy of the calling of Mashiach Yeshua, in order that His truth will not be spoken of in an evil manner.

Exploited

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 2:3

And in greed shall they exploit you with false words; whose judgment from of old is not idle, and their destruction not asleep.

This is a true statement and worthy of acceptance:

Galatians 6:7-8

6 Be not deceived; Elohim is not mocked; for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap.

8 For he that sows to his own flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that sows to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap eternal life.

Those that teach according to the lusts of their flesh, shall likewise reap that which they have sown. It will come in due season, when the fullness of their sin has been manifested.

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 3:9

YHWH is not slow concerning His promise, as some count slowness; but is longsuffering toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Surely YHWH is merciful to us all, even to those who are misleading His people, and He loves them also, not wishing any to perish. But know this: that in due season, if these who follow after the lusts of their flesh do not repent and turn fully to YHWH, then such a one will reap the fullness of his own destruction without mercy.

Tachtì

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 2:4

For if the Elohim spared not messengers when they sinned, but cast them down to Tachtì, and committed them to pits of darkness, to be reserved to judgment;

The Greek word is “Tartaros” or “Tartaroo”. “Tachti” is what we find in the Peshitta. This is the lowest region of Sheol. Sheol has several levels, but this lowest level is reserved for the fallen angels, who willfully went in to human women and brought forth the offspring of the Nephilim. Kepha makes reference to this and to Sodom and Gomorrah, in which this same sin happened and caused their destruction as well.

The Ancient World

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 2:5

and spared not the ancient world, but preserved Noah and the seven, a preacher of the righteousness, when He brought a flood upon the world of the wicked;

There seems to be a double reference here in this verse. The words *the ancient world* are translated from the Hebrew words העולם הקודם – ha’olam haqodem. The beginning of understanding comes with the following passage.

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 33:27

“The eternal Elohim is your dwelling-place, and underneath are the everlasting arms. And He thrust out the enemy from before you, and said, ‘Destroy.’”

The portion in the above verse that we are interested in presently, is that portion which is underlined. The Hebrew text is אֱלֹהֵי קֶדֶם – Elohei Qedem. This phrase is a construct chain, which means that they are linked together and should be translated as the *Elohim of Qedem* or the *Qedem Elohim*. Either way is correct, but in this case, the former is perhaps easier to understand, so we will use that form throughout.

The question this poses is: what is Qedem? As we see in the above verse, it is translated as “eternal.” But is this the most correct understanding? It is certainly part of the proper understanding, but is not a complete understanding. Because these two words form what is known as a construct chain in this passage, it is perhaps best to understand the word Qedem as a place name, rather than attempting to translate it.

Let us examine one other passage in relation to Qedem.

B’reshit [Genesis] 2:8

And YHWH Elohim planted a garden eastward, in Eden; and there He put the man whom He had formed.

וַיִּטַע יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים גֶּן בְּעֵדֶן מִקְדָּם
וַיִּשֶׂם שֵׁם אֶת הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר יָצָר

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Literally this verse into English reads:

And planted YHWH Elohim a garden in Eden from Qedem and there placed the man whom He had formed.

It seems that the stock to plant this garden, YHWH took from a place called Qedem. Why is this important? In the verse from Kepha Bet above the phrase העולם הקודם – “ha’olam haqodem” actually has a dual reference. While the English translations hide this dual reference, when one looks at it from the original Hebrew, it becomes quite apparent. Let us consider some other passages to help us see this dual reference.

Yirmeyah [Jeremiah] 4:23-28

23 I looked on the earth, and, behold, it was formless and void; and the heavens, and they had no light.

24 I looked on the mountains, and, behold, they trembled, and all the hills moved to and fro.

25 I looked, and, behold, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens had fled.

26 I looked, and, behold, the fruitful field was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of YHWH, and before His fierce anger.

27 For thus says YHWH, “The whole land shall be a desolation; yet will I not make a full end.

28 For this the earth shall mourn, and the heavens above are dark; because I have spoken it, I have purposed it, and I have not repented, neither will I turn back from it.”

The phrase which is underlined, תהו ובהו – tohu vabohu, occurs only in one other passage in Scripture. This indicates to us that it is a reference to the same thing. Here is the other passage.

B’reshit [Genesis] 1:2

And the earth was formless and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of Elohim moved upon the face of the waters.

What this seems to be indicating to us, is that the flood of Noach’s day was not the first flood. The first flood occurred in verse 2 of B’reshit chapter one. Notice His Spirit on the face of the deep (flood waters- no land showing; land did not appear until v. 9). The land and time before this first flood seems to have been referred to as Qedem. It was from this time and this land, that YHWH took the seed stock to plant the garden in Eden. It was seed stock before the revolt of Satan in the heavens, which seems to be the cause of the first flood covering the earth.

We hope to cover the concept of Qedem more fully in a separate study soon.

An Example

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 2:6

and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, having made them an example to those that should live wickedly;

Many people believe that Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because of the sin of homosexuality. It is true that this sin is an abomination to YHWH, but that is not what Scripture actually says is the reason for the destruction of the cities of the plain.

Yehudah [Jude] 1:6-7

6 messengers also, those who did not keep their own domain, but did leave their proper dwelling, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.

7 Just as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after other flesh, have been set before us as an example, in undergoing punishment of eternal fire.

What gross immorality and strange flesh did these cities go after? Notice it was in like manner as the fallen messengers (angels) before that time.

B'reshit [Genesis] 6:2

that the sons of Elohim saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all that they chose.

The offspring of these illegal unions were called Nephilim – one of the races of giants.

B'reshit [Genesis] 6:4

The Nephilim were in the earth in those days, and also after that, when the sons of Elohim came to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them; the same were the mighty men that were of old, the men of renown.

Why is it important to understand these things in our day?

Matithyah [Matthew] 24:37

“And as were the days of Noach, so shall be the coming of the Son of man.”

Understanding that the major cause of the flood was because of the mixing of the human DNA with fallen angels, YHWH had to destroy this mixed blood. Likewise, it would seem that we are about to see a resurgence of the Nephilim in the earth. Understanding this gives new insight into the following verse.

Qorintyah [1st Corinthians] 11:10

for this cause ought the woman to have a sign of authority on her head, because of the angels.

When a woman wears a covering (made of material that is not mixed types of material) on her head to show that she is in subjection to her earthly husband, in some way this protects her from the attack and advances of fallen angels and prevents them from harming or raping her. It is something to prayerfully consider if you are not already wearing a covering on your head!

Deliverance and Distress

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 2:7

and delivered righteous Lot, sore distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked

When YHWH sent messengers to Sodom, Lot took them into his home. Lot was delivered because he took into his home these angelic beings in an attempt to hide and protect them. He knew all too well how the citizens of this city were towards fallen angels. He apparently recognized them for who they were. And when word got out that Lot had a pair of angels in his home, the people of that city became enraged that Lot was not sharing these two new angels with the rest of them.

But, because of his attempt to protect them (they didn't really need his protection at all!), he and his household were delivered.

Vexed

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 2:8

for that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous being from day to day with their lawless deeds;

The lawlessness of the cities of the plains had grown so prevalent, that news of it had even reached heaven. This gives us an indication of just how bad the sin of these cities had become. Surely, Lot was sorely vexed in his spirit. Perhaps he wondered day by day, why he had chosen the plain instead of the mountains, when he and Avraham had separated.

Commandment Keepers

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 2:9

YHWH knows how to deliver the commandment-keepers out of temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment to the Day of Judgment;

If one is to have a genuine expectation of YHWH coming to his aid and helping him overcome temptation, then he absolutely needs to be a person who has the attitude of obeying His commandments from a heart of love.

Yochanan [John] 14:15

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”

When a person steps out in faith to obey His commandments, then He reciprocates by giving us of His strength and wisdom.

Qorintyah [1st Corinthians] 10:13

There has no temptation overtaken you but such as is common to man; but Elohim is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted above what you are able to bear; but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

He has also provided the way of escape through Yeshua our Mashiach before we even get to the temptation. For this we can be quite thankful, and also be strengthened in the knowledge that He has a plan for our lives if we will but obediently walk in it.

However, those who are not, and who refuse to walk in obedient love to Him and His will, listening for and obeying the sound of His Voice, He reserves for punishment in the Day of Judgment. I pray that we all may live lives such that we will be deemed worthy not to be condemned on that day.

Walking after the Flesh

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 2:10

but chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of defilement, and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they tremble not to rail at the glorious ones;

Brethren, we need to be very honest here. There are those who claim to be His apostles, prophets, pastors, and teachers, who are not, but following after their own lusts, indulging in those things in which it is not even fit to speak of such things. Please, look at the lives of those who claim to be someone. Look closely and never stop looking. Pray that YHWH will open your eyes that you may see what is actually true in the lives of such men. Judge not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit in all matters that we may not be led astray by those who are in all actuality, wolves disguised as shepherds, but who do nothing but kill, steal from, and destroy His people.

Wisdom of Messengers

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 2:11

whereas messengers, though greater in might and power, bring not an insulting judgment against them.

Notice that not even YHWH's messengers from heaven (angels) who have great power and authority, do not attempt to judge such willfully sensual actions of those who are so corrupt. YHWH Himself keeps such wicked and evil men reserved for judgment.

Without Reason

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 2:12

But these, as creatures without reason, born mere animals to be taken and destroyed, insulting in matters whereof they are ignorant, shall in their destroying surely be destroyed,

The wickedness of men who follow after the lusts of their own flesh is no better than unreasoning animals, for they act just like them. Even though they act as if they understand many things, they do not even understand the simple things of His truth because their own sensuality has made them ignorant and blind of His ways.

Not only are they destroying themselves, but they are destroying others as well. But in this shall their own destruction come about swiftly and surely.

With Us?

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 2:13

suffering wrong as the wages of wrong-doing; men that count it pleasure to revel in the daytime, spots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions while they feast with you;

There are some people who are nothing less than blemishes upon this world and society in general. These people love their sensual seeking ways and are not afraid to drag others down into the mire and degradation of their sin. They do this by deception and deceiving, promising things that they cannot deliver. They creep in unnoticed by the brethren and partake of the feasts with us as if they were one of us.

However, when we watch over one another as we should, we can detect them before they do harm. But not only this, but allowing and even encouraging others to carefully and lovingly watch over us to make sure that we do not fall victim to their lying deceptions.

Enticing

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 2:14

having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; enticing unstable beings; having a heart trained in greed; cursed children;

The prime targets of these wicked and pleasure seeking people are those who are young, weak, and immature in their walk with our Mashiach Yeshua. These are greedy for unsavory gain, wanting to have more to spend upon their pleasures, but they are cursed, because of their Torahless lives.

We as a body of talmidim, need to surround the young in faith even as the adult yaks do to protect their own young from wolves who would prey upon them.

The Error of Bala'am

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 2:15

forsaking the right way, they went astray, having followed the way of Bala'am the son of Be'or, who loved the wages of wrong-doing;

There are three places in the Brit Chadasha that speak of Bala'am. In each case it is speaking of his erroneous way. Let us also place the other two before us as well.

Yehudah [Jude] 1:11

Woe to them! For they went in the way of Cain, and ran riotously in the error of Bala'am for hire, and perished in the gainsaying of Korah.

Gilyana [Revelation] 2:14

"But I have a few things against you, because you have there some that hold to the teaching of Bala'am, who taught Balaq to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit fornication."

We have the way of Bala'am, the error of Bala'am and the teaching of Bala'am. They all are essentially the same thing. While YHWH did not allow Bala'am to curse the people of Israel, he was allowed to show Balaq how to defeat Israel by teaching him how to get Israel to worship other gods and to intermarry with his people and to commit open fornication between his people and the people of Israel.

Idolatry is mentioned over thirty times in the Brit Chadasha and adultery or fornication over fifty times. The error of Bala'am was still a serious problem in the days of the apostles. Looking at the world today, it does not seem that much has changed in two thousand years.

These two sins have always been closely linked and related. Sexual sins are often associated with temple prostitutes, orgies and worship of false gods. Idolatry is considered to be spiritual adultery. In fact, the Greek word that is translated as fornication (πορνεία – porneia) has within it the base meaning of a sexual act of worship.

Also, inherent within the error of Bala'am, is why he did this in the first place: his love of money. In dealing with this subject, we do not want to overlook this base motivation. Today, there are many teachers who are motivated by the love of money. Recently, a prominent teacher in this movement claimed to have received a divine revelation from YHWH. He was selling this supposed revelation in the form of a book. Brethren, this is shameful! It is one thing to write a book and reap a modest benefit from the sales of those books. However, it is another thing altogether to claim to have received a revelation from YHWH and then turn around and sell that revelation at a profit. This is sin! When a person comes across such activity, one should not indulge in such nonsense by purchasing such a book.

Restrained by an Ass

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 2:16

but he was rebuked for his own transgression; a dumb ass spoke with a man's voice and restrained the madness of the prophet.

The restraining of the prophet, sadly, was only temporary. For, after the encounter that Bala'am had with YHWH, he still went on his way in pursuit of wealth. Eventually, this pursuit would cost him his life.

B'midbar [Numbers] 31:1-2; 7-8

1 And YHWH spoke to Moshe, saying,

2 "Avenge the children of Israel of the Midianites; afterward you shall be gathered to your people."

7 And they made war against Midyan, as YHWH commanded Moshe; and they slew every male.

8 And they slew the kings of Midyan with the rest of their slain; Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, the five kings of Midyan; Bala'am also the son of Be'or they slew with the sword.

Please understand that YHWH will not force you to be with Him in eternity. He will not force you to obey His commandments. Whatever it is that a person desires to justify in his life, he will. YHWH will simply stand aside. If a person wants something badly enough, YHWH will allow him to have it.

When the rich man had died and was in torment, he begged father Avraham to send the poor beggar, El'azar (Lazarus), back to his brothers to warn them of the punishment that awaited them as well for the lives that they were living. Let us look at how Avraham responded to this desperate plea.

Luqa [Luke] 16:29

"But Avraham says, 'They have Moshe and the prophets; let them hear them.'"

There are so many people today that will not do what Scripture says unless they get a direct revelation from YHWH. So, they continue to walk in darkness. Brethren, we need to turn to Moshe and the prophets of old and learn from them and emulate their righteous ways. If we do this, then He will come and commune with us and reveal to us the secrets that Scripture contains. However, if a person does not put forth effort to learn and to know, and especially to do and obey His commandments, then they are walking in the dark.

No Substance

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 2:17

These are springs without water, and mists driven by a storm; for whom the black darkness has been reserved.

This whole chapter of Kepha is dealing with teachers who do not teach His truth, but teach things to edify their own fleshly lusts in order to justify their own unrighteous lives. They have doctrines that are filled with words that sound right, but are, in fact, empty, because they themselves are empty, driven by the raging sensuality within their bodies.

Ya'aqov [James] 1:6-8

6 But let him ask in faith, nothing doubting; for he that doubts is like the waves of the sea driven by the wind and tossed.

7 For let not that man think that he shall receive anything from YHWH;

8 being a double minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Double mindedness is a sure way to miss out on eternal life. Being double minded is knowing the right and true way to walk, but choosing to walk after the lusts of the flesh instead. It is pursuing the temporal, rather than having enough discipline to deny the flesh and its lusts and live for YHWH rather than for self; all the while knowing full well that what one is doing is wrong. Double mindedness is attempting to have all the pleasures of this world and eternal life as well. In short, double mindedness is sin.

Speaking Arrogance

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 2:18

For, speaking out arrogance of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from them that live in error;

We are physical beings. YHWH created us to have certain inherent desires. He did this for the preservation of mankind. However, we are to make choices that keep these inherent desires within certain perimeters and boundaries. YHWH has placed these boundaries there for our own protection. When we go outside of those boundaries we endanger ourselves and others.

Many a self-anointed prophet capitalizes upon these base desires within us, to entice us to go against what His Spirit witnesses to us. It is so much easier for us to see, hear, and follow a man, than it is for us to see, hear, and follow YHWH, whom we do not see.

These self-anointed prophets know and understand this. So, it is by small increments that they entice us into the jaws of death. In the beginning, they preach and teach only orthodox doctrines. But as they gain a following, then they begin to go after their own lusts, little by little, until they are traveling straight down the road to Sheol.

Many a person has been shipwrecked by just such men as these who did not escape; others barely escape. Look at all those who followed Jim Jones in suicide, over 900 people. There were others who were not at that location, who would have died had they been there. It was by no effort of their own that they did not follow him in death.

One of the many ways in which these men speak arrogance is through their teaching of not being in subjection to the civil government. They hide behind the mask of a 501-C-3 not-for-profit organization to help entice unsuspecting individuals. Let us study to show ourselves approved, that we too are not lured into these enticing doctrines.

Promising Freedom

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 2:19

promising them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, of the same is he also brought into bondage.

Many promise freedom to those who will blindly follow them. However, this is not freedom! It is bondage, bondage to a man.

Yochanan [John] 8:32

“and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

I do not want you, the reader and student of Scripture, to believe what I write just because I write it! Each one of us has a duty and obligation to make sure that what we are reading and studying and even more importantly, what we are accepting as truth, is, in fact, truth! The human tendency is, that as one becomes acquainted with a particular teacher, and they like his style and what he is teaching, one

becomes less and less likely to check out what that teacher is saying against Scripture. It is sad, but it is true.

Freedom is only found in Yeshua our Mashiach and obeying His commandments. Nowhere else can freedom be found. When a teacher claims that a person must come to him because he has special insights or secret knowledge given only to him, then that should be a great warning sign to us.

I am NOT the teacher here!

Yochanan [John] 14:26

“But the Comforter, even the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, she shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

The truth is, that each person who is filled with His Spirit has equal access to the truth. It is true that we do not all have the same gifts, for each is given according to His will. While I do work and choose to surrender to Him that He may speak through me as His mouthpiece, in all truth, I am not really the teacher, He is! He gets all the credit and all the glory and all the honor. I want none of it and desire none of it.

However, to those who would bring you into bondage and who would have you believe that they are someone special, and that we need to listen to them and obey them without question, well, I say, “poppycock!” This is why YHWH raises up prophets: to question those in authority over His people because they are NOT leading according to His will and desire. After all, we are *all* just flawed humans and we *all* make mistakes. Hopefully, we can all be mature enough to sit down and lovingly point these out so that those mistakes can be corrected in a righteous manner. YHWH has already given to us means and protocols on how this is to be done. But if one raises himself up above such means, then that one has set himself for a sure fall that will be devastating to himself and all those who are following him.

Entangled Again

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 2:20

For if after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Adonai and our Savior Yeshua Mashiach, then they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

Today as YHWH is raising up a generation to return to His house from those whom He has scattered throughout the nations, there is a renewed interest in obeying His Torah. Historically, Christianity has taught its adherents that the Law was done away with and no longer had to be followed. This was not

the truth. It has never been the truth and never will be the truth. Those coming out of this false teaching understand it to be false.

But even though those who are coming out of this false teaching understand this doctrine to be in error, they still greatly debate what parts of Torah are to be obeyed and what parts don't have to be obeyed. They understand that previously they walked in a false teaching, but then after coming out of that false teaching they turn right around and start to walk in it again, only in a different way. They want to obey part of the Torah, but not all of it. This does not make any sense to me at all.

Why, after getting rid of that particular doctrine and false teaching would they want to pick it up again? Perhaps they didn't really get rid of it in the first place? I know this, that being selectively obedient will lead one right back into sin. To know truth and then to turn away from it and go back to error, one cannot expect to continue to walk in the light of Mashiach, at least not for long.

Do Not Turn Back!

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 2:21

For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after knowing it, to turn back from the set-apart commandment delivered to them.

When a person is set free by Mashiach Yeshua to live a life for Him, we do not need to go back into that same sin that He brought us out of and set us free from. When a person does this it is like digging one's own grave.

Matithyah [Matthew] 25:29

"For to everyone that has shall more be given, and he shall have abundance; but from him that has not, even that which he has shall be taken away."

A sure way to be worse off than what one was before, is to begin obeying His commandments and then turn back from them. When a person gets to a point in his walk and says, "Well, that is enough for me, I don't need or want any more light. What I have is enough", it is like the servant who buried the talent that he was given and ended up losing it altogether. This is essentially what a person does when he will keep one commandment, but not others. Picking and choosing which commandments one will obey is not a wise thing to do.

When YHWH gives a person light on a commandment, then that person should obey. If not, then that person is walking behind light and places their eternal well-being in jeopardy.

A Proverb

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 2:22

It has happened to them according to the true proverb,

“The dog returning to his own vomit,”

and

“The sow after washing to wallowing in the mire.”

Yeshua taught this same principle.

Luqa [Luke] 9:62

But Yeshua said to him, “No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of Elohim.”

I remember quite well the very first time I plowed a field. While I was only four years old at the time, I can remember the instructions of my grandpa quite clearly that day. He explained to me that if I was going to plow straight furrows, then I needed to look across the field at a fixed point to drive the tractor towards. If I looked behind, then I would plow very crooked furrows in the field and it would make further work in the field very difficult. I soon learned that he was exactly right.

Likewise, we also need to keep our eyes upon Yeshua as we walk this life. When we look back at our past, we plow crooked furrows and those that work the fields of harvest after us have a very difficult time of it.

Philippians 3:13-14

13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before,

14 I press on toward the goal to the prize of the high calling of Elohim in Mashiach Yeshua.

Shaul was a bad person! He was responsible for arresting and having beaten, and in some cases, killed those who followed Yeshua and claimed He was the Mashiach. But then Yeshua got a hold of him and turned his life around. How much good to His kingdom would Shaul have been if he had always focused upon what was in his past?

Do you believe that YHWH forgave Shaul? Of course you do; just look at how YHWH used Shaul to build His kingdom. Have you had anyone arrested because he believed in Yeshua? Are you responsible for the death of someone because that person believed in Yeshua as Mashiach? Most likely you are not guilty of these things. So, if YHWH can forgive Shaul, then surely he can forgive you. If you have sincerely asked Him to forgive you, then He has done it! Do you realize that each time you allow Satan to direct your attention back to the past that it is like a pig returning to wallow in the mire? Or, a dog returning to eat its own vomit? Why would you want to do that? If YHWH has forgiven you, and if you have asked Him, then He *has* forgiven you, then STOP living in the past, and look to Yeshua and keep your eyes on Him and not on your past, which is on yourself.

Brethren, it is time to press on and leave our pasts behind us. The truth is, that nearly all of us have things in our past that are against Torah! As we have come to YHWH through the Blood offering of Yeshua our Mashiach, He has forgiven us. Let us walk in the fullness of that blessing, but not only ourselves, but helping our brethren as well.

It is all too often that the past is brought up to a person as a means to manipulate and control that person. This is sinful and not pleasing to our heavenly Father. As YHWH has forgiven us we are commanded to forgive our fellow servants. Otherwise, the debt that was once removed from us can be reinstated and we will be worse off than we were before. Let us walk uprightly before Him and all men, especially as we see the day approaching.

ABBA YHWH, open our eyes that we may see Yeshua, and as we focus upon Him, that will help us to see those whose teachings are not pleasing to You for what they truly are; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

zerubbabel@townsq.com

www.onetorahforall.org