

בְּהָר

B'har
(in mount)

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 25:1-26:2

הַבְּרִית הַחֲדָשָׁה

HaB'rit HaChadashah
(the new covenant)

Luqa [Luke] 4:16-30

We have chosen this passage from the Brit, because of the phrase in it concerning proclaiming “release,” which is what happens in the year of Jubilee, which is what our Torah portion is about this week.

Yeshua's Custom

Luqa [Luke] 4:16

And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and He entered, as His custom was, into the synagogue on the Shabbat day, and stood up to read.

I think that there would be very few of us who would honestly think or believe that Yeshua would have done anything to violate Torah in any way. In fact, He could not have done so and have been our Mashiach. Yeshua came to verify and restore the true keeping of Torah. What had happened over the years, was that the religious leaders had placed fences around the Torah commandments to such a degree, that it was no longer possible to keep and obey the commandments with YHWH's true intent, rather than man's selfish interpretations of those same commandments. This verse gives us such an example of how this is still happening in our day as well.

Please note, that this verse states that it was the custom of Yeshua to enter into the synagogue on Shabbat. Yeshua considered this to be a vital part of keeping the Torah commandments concerning

Shabbat. Wherever He was in His traveling around Israel, when it came to be Shabbat, He went to Synagogue. Scripture tells us that we should do the same.

Yochanan [John] 13:15

“For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.”

Mashiach Yeshua Himself taught us that we should live as He lived.

Yochanan Aleph [1st John] 2:6

he that says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk even as He walked.

Yochanan taught us that we should walk as he walked.

Kepha Aleph [1st Peter] 2:21

For this purpose were you called; because Mashiach also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow His steps;

Kepha also taught this same thing: that the way in which Mashiach Yeshua lived, was the example and the standard by which we should also live and conduct ourselves. It is one of the central themes of the Brit Chadasha. This truth runs through every aspect of our lives, including how we should keep Shabbat.

It saddens me that there are those who teach that we should not go to synagogue or shul or some meeting of the brethren, but rather that we should stay at home for Shabbat. They cite this passage as just cause for their teaching.

Shemot [Exodus] 16:29

“See, for that YHWH has given you the Shabbat, therefore He gives you on the sixth day the bread of two days; every man abide in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.”

Those that teach such nonsense use the last portion of the verse, totally disregarding the rest of the verse, or the context of the passage in which this verse is found. When one considers the context of this passage, or, in fact, the rest of the verse itself, what one finds, is that what YHWH was commanding the Yisraelites, was to not go out into the field to gather manna on the seventh day Shabbat. The command to stay in one’s own place is about not working to gather food, and has nothing to do with going to a Shabbat meeting.

Furthermore, there is this passage to consider.

Ivrim [Hebrews] 10:24-25

24 and let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good works;

25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as you see the day drawing near.

It was Yeshua's custom to go to synagogue. Let us make this our custom as well!

Now I am fully aware, that for many, this is simply not an option because one does not exist nearby. YHWH knows your situation! Let us pray that He will raise up synagogues that are founded upon the beliefs and practices of Yeshua our Mashiach all across the world so that His people can gather together!

The Haftorah Reading

Luqa [Luke] 4:17

And there was delivered to Him the book of the prophet Yeshayah. And He opened the book, and found the place where it was written,

As a traveling rabbi, when He would visit a synagogue, it would have been customary for the synagogue leadership to approach a visiting rabbi and ask him to read from the Torah or the Haftorah and teach on the appropriate passage. This is what happened on this Shabbat. He was called forward, a practice known as "aliyah," to read the haftorah portion; which on this particular Shabbat happened to be from the prophet Yeshayah.

Prophecy Quoted

Luqa [Luke] 4:18-19

***18 "The Spirit of YHWH is upon Me,
Because He anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor;
He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives,
And recovering of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty them that are down trodden,
19 To proclaim the acceptable year of YHWH."***

Yeshua was given the scroll of Yeshayah and He found the appropriate place in chapter sixty-one, and then He proceeded to read the first one and one-half verses. In fact, Yeshua stopped in the middle of a sentence. This illustrates for us a very important Scriptural principle that is revealed in this next passage.

2nd Timothy 2:15

Give diligence to present yourself approved to the Elohim, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

To understand the full significance of rightly dividing Scripture, let us place before us verses one and two of Yeshayah in their entirety.

Yeshayah 61:1-2

1 The Spirit of Adonai YHWH is upon me; because YHWH has anointed me to preach good tidings to the meek; He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

2 to proclaim the year of YHWH's favor, and the day of vengeance of our Elohim; to comfort all that mourn.

We have underlined the portion that Yeshua read. As you can see the rest of verse two is quite significant in what it is saying. However, this is the thing that we do not want to miss concerning what happened that day. Yeshua stopped reading at the word “and” for a very simple, yet, profound reason. What He read was coming to pass before their very eyes; but from the word “and” forward, that portion of the prophecy would not come to pass for another two thousand years. That “and” represents two thousand years’ worth of time passing. Yeshua, as the Author, knew that and stopped reading at the appropriate place. Had He read the entire passage, and then made the statement that it had come to pass in their hearing, would, in essence, have made Him a false prophet.

What this teaches us, is that we cannot understand the depth and breadth of Scripture, especially prophetic Scripture, without the help and presence of the Ruach Qodesh in our lives!

Yochanan [John] 14:26

“But the Comforter, even the Ruach Qodesh, 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.”

It is the presence of self and selfish agendas that twist and distort YHWH’s words of life to us. If we are going to have proper understanding, then we are going to have to put to death self and the works of the flesh in order for us to begin hearing His Voice. We need to walk in the Spirit as He is in the Spirit.

S.O.P.

Luqa [Luke] 4:20

And He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fastened on Him.

It was standard practice during this time period for a person to stand while reading from the scroll and then to sit down while teaching. Of course Yeshua had already gained quite a reputation as a traveling rabbi and this was His home town. Everyone was eager to hear what He had to say regarding this passage of Scripture. Yeshua had their complete attention. It may have been one of those times where

you could have heard a pin drop. (In case you are wondering S.O.P. stands for Standard Operating Procedure.)

Prophecy Fulfilled

Luqa [Luke] 4:21

And He began to say to them, "Today has this scripture been fulfilled in your ears."

Yeshua speaks one short sentence. But in that short sentence He said volumes! Let us prayerfully consider what He declared to be true that day. Let us list them.

1. The Spirit of YHWH is upon Him
2. YHWH has anointed Him
3. His anointing was to preach good news to the poor
4. He was to proclaim release to the captives
5. He was to heal the blind so that they could see
6. He was to set free the downtrodden
7. He was to proclaim the year of favor from YHWH (jubilee)

Now this is a pretty wonderful message when you consider what He was saying, particularly if one happened to be on the receiving end of some of these blessings! This crowd was right with Yeshua!

Testimony

Luqa [Luke] 4:22

And all were speaking well of Him, and wondered at the words of grace which proceeded out of His mouth; and they said, "Is this not Yoseph's son?"

As soon as these words of Yeshua were understood, the whispering began, with nods of approval and general acceptance of the message that Yeshua was giving to them. Truly, it was indeed good news, and they were all for that.

There was a little bit of skepticism from some, though. They knew His earthly parents and they could not comprehend that this son of the carpenter was anointed by YHWH to do all those things! Along with the approval and acceptance of the blessings that He was promising, was the beginning of rejection of the bringer of those blessings. They wanted the blessings, but many didn't care for Him. What they did not understand was that the blessings cannot truly be separated from the Blessor! If we want His blessings, then we must accept the Blessor!

A Prophet's Acceptance

Luqa [Luke] 4:23-24

23 And He said to them, "Doubtless you will say to me this proverb, 'Physician, heal thyself; whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in your home town as well.'"

24 And He said, "Amein, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country."

Yeshua knew what was in their hearts.

Yochanan [John] 2:24

24 But Yeshua did not trust Himself to them, for that He knew all men,

25 and because He needed not that anyone should bear witness concerning man; for He Himself knew what was in man.

Yeshua knowing what was in their hearts, began to address the darkness that was present in them. Yeshua knew that they were simply seeking after a sign. What they wanted was to see something, anything, sensational. They wanted to see a show!

Matithyah [Matthew] 12:39

But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it but the sign of Yonah the prophet."

It is both evil and adulterous (idolatry) to seek after signs. These people wanted to see Yeshua do something in their midst. They didn't think that He could. After all, they knew who He was; or so they thought. But they were mistaken. They were only looking with their eyes of flesh and not the eyes of faith, that is, their spiritual eyes.

We see this even today with those who cannot see Yeshua our Mashiach as anyone other than simply a man. They cannot see that He is the manifestation of Elohim. They cannot see that He is YHWH in the flesh as Yochanan teaches.

These people in Yeshua's home town were not very willing to accept Yeshua as anyone other than the son of the carpenter, Yeshua ben Yoseph.

Two Examples

Luqa [Luke] 4:25-27

25 *“But this truth I say to you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Eliyah the prophet, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when there came a great famine over all the land;*

26 *and to none of them was Eliyah sent, but only to Tzarphat, in the land of Tzidon, to a woman that was a widow.*

27 *And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Na’aman the Aramean.”*

Yeshua’s home town people were seeking to see a sign from Him. Yeshua responds by giving them examples from two of Israel’s greatest prophets, Eliyah and Elisha. Both examples imply that there was no faith to be found in Israel when these miracles took place. In order to find faith, these two prophets had to go to someone outside of Israel to find enough faith to manifest these miracles. Apparently, His listeners clearly understood what Yeshua was driving at and the implication that He was making towards them.

Let us remember the context of Yeshua’s remarks that a prophet is not welcome in his own country. Much of His earthly ministry was centered in Capernaum; and these people had heard of many of the great miracles which Yeshua had done there. Capernaum was somewhat of a melting pot of people in which there was a large contingency of Roman soldiers stationed. It was a tax collecting center, and a high Roman official resided there. Luke 7:5 tells us that it was a Roman centurion who paid for and built the great synagogue in this city.

The implication that Yeshua was making was clear to these people. He was able to do all these great miracles in Capernaum because of all the non-Israelites!

New Testimony

Luqa [Luke] 4:28

And they were all filled with wrath in the synagogue, as they heard these things;

Upon hearing and understanding the implication of what Yeshua was saying, which was aimed directly at them, they were incensed. They had heard enough!

This is a far cry from what we read in verse 22 above. Or is it? Perhaps this is what was always in their hearts all along, and Yeshua just brought it to the surface for all to see.

Matithyah [Matthew] 12:34

“You offspring of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”

Brethren, we need to do a reality check from time to time. Here is a good place to do that right now. What do you hear coming out of your own mouth? What is it that you write in your emails, and on the internet? YHWH knows! Do you? Is what you are writing and speaking, edifying and uplifting to those who hear?

Whatever it is that comes out of one's mouth or over the internet, is coming out of his mouth or over the internet, because that is what is in his heart. Make no mistake about it, Yeshua our Mashiach has a way to move the events in our lives, in such a way as to bring exactly the right kind of pressure upon us to bring to the surface for all to see, including ourselves, exactly what is in our hearts! What do you see coming out of your mouth from your heart?

Murderous Intent

Luqa [Luke] 4:29

and they rose up, and cast Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might throw him down the cliff.

Yeshua's home town people had heard enough. They led Him out of the city for the express purpose of killing Him! Murder was in their hearts.

YHWH's Time

Luqa [Luke] 4:30

But He passing through the midst of them went His way.

But it was not Yeshua's time yet. He simply walked out of their midst.

Tehillim [Psalm] 139:16-19

16 Your eyes have seen my unformed substance;

And in Your book they were all written,

The days that were ordained for me,

When as yet there were not one of them.

17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me Elohim!

How vast is the sum of them!

18 If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand.

When I awake, I am still with You.

19 That You would slay the wicked, Elohim;

Depart from me, therefore, men of bloodshed.

There are two things in these verses from this Psalm that are pertinent for our current study. The first is, that YHWH ordains the number of our days before we begin even one of them. The implication of this, is that the number of these days cannot be shortened by man. It really gives us pause to consider the sovereignty of YHWH over His creation. It seems to this person, that having this knowledge and understanding would help a person to live in faith and trust without fear of the unknown in one's life.

The other thing that is in this verse, is the last portion of verse nineteen, in which the Psalmist is petitioning YHWH, that those who would do him harm would depart from him. We see this very thing coming to pass in Yeshua's life in His home town when they took Him outside the city to kill Him. While they had evil designs to do Him harm, YHWH would not allow it because it was not His time.

Likewise, we can walk uprightly, without fear of man or what they can do to us, knowing that whatever happens to us only does so with YHWH's permission. Therefore, this knowledge is freeing us to walk in fear of YHWH, but not in fear of man.

ABBA YHWH, thank you for being Sovereign. We choose to make you sovereign over every aspect of our lives; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

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