

וְאֶתְחַנֵּן

## Va'etchannan

(and I pleaded)

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 3:23-7:11

הַבְּרִית הַחֲדָשָׁה

## HaB'rit HaChadashah

(the new covenant)

*Ya'aqov [James] 3:13-18*

**13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by his good life his works in meekness of wisdom.**

**14 But if you have bitter jealousy and faction in your heart, glory not and lie not against the truth.**

**15 This wisdom is not a wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.**

**16 For where jealousy and faction exist, there is confusion and every vile deed.**

**17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without variance, without hypocrisy.**

**18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.**

We have chosen this passage from the Brit because it reminds us of the wisdom that Moshe gave to us on the day as recorded in the book of Devarim.

## The Moving of the Spirit in Our Days

*Yechezkel [Ezekiel] 37:7*

**So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone.**

We are seeing a wonderful moving of His Spirit. This new moving began somewhere around the mid 1990s, which was when the Hebrew Roots Movement really took off. It seems that suddenly there were many people who had an interest in the Hebrew roots of traditional Christianity. There were many ministries that sprang up, virtually overnight.

As this movement continues to grow, some very significant things will take place, according to Scripture. In the last year or so, one of the things that seems to be on so very many people's minds, is the coming together as a body, in a word – unity. There is much discussion about forming communities and living together in groups, so that we can be prepared for what is coming, and to be better able to obey His Torah commandments.

Many people are calling for, and attempting to build and foster, the concept of unity through peace (shalom). We are going to look into Scripture today and examine what our Heavenly Father says about this, and see if we can further our understanding of all of us coming together properly and in an orderly fashion.

First, let us examine the concept of unity from the perspective of pursuing that unity as the primary means of peace with our neighbor or brother and why that will not work according to Scripture.

## **Saying “Peace” Does Not Bring Peace**

***Yermiyahu [Jeremiah] 8:8-12***

***8 “How do you say, ‘We are wise, and the Torah of YHWH is with us?’ But, behold, the false pen of the scribes has wrought falsely.***

***9 The wise men are put to shame, they are dismayed and taken: Behold, they have rejected the word of YHWH; and what manner of wisdom is in them?***

***10 Therefore will I give their wives to others, and their fields to them that shall possess them: for everyone from the least even to the greatest is given to covetousness; from the prophet even to the priest every one deals falsely.***

***11 And they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, ‘Peace, peace’; when there is no peace.***

***12 Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall; in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down,” says YHWH.***

Here is a passage of Scripture that seems to be speaking directly to our day. Please note that it is speaking of those who seem to be shepherds and teachers of His Torah, except that they are full of covetousness and lies. This could even include those who YHWH places over His people as political leaders, those who promise peace, but do not deliver. But what does that mean?

One thing that it certainly can mean, is that these men are marketing His Torah and making a profit from that which should be free to all. They are those who claim to have visions and revelations and then charge a price to His people for them to receive this supposed direct information from our heavenly Father. And they are doing so with their lying pens by tickling of the ears to gain a profit. According to

the above passage, these are claiming to be wise in what they are teaching concerning the Torah. Or, they are claiming special knowledge, via vision or revelation. However, when we look at the actual content, what one finds are lies; i.e., things that are not according to His written Word.

It is okay to make a living from preaching. There are many passages that teach us that a pastor, prophet or apostle is worthy of our support. But what they have received from YHWH free, they are to pass on to His people free.

What these supposed teachers of Torah are doing, is the same thing that Bala'am did. They are mixing in their own ideas along with His Torah. They are going after wealth, via the Torah. YHWH seems to be speaking about this in using the phrase "the lying pen of the scribes".

They also go about proclaiming peace; that is, they want unity for the sake of unity.

## **Is Peace-only of Any Value?**

***Ya'aqov [James] 2:15-16***

***15 If a brother or sister be naked and in lack of daily food,***

***16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled"; and yet you give them nothing for the body; what good does it do?***

Ya'aqov gives us an example about faith. In this example, he tells us that there are those who say, "Go in peace." But this person is sending another person away and not helping him. So he asks the question: what good does that do? Well, it doesn't do any good at all.

Those that do this seem to want to be at peace with everyone; they want everyone to be in unity. However, they are not really willing to pay the price to get true peace.

As we are about to find out, it is not really possible to have unity for the sake of unity. Please note one more passage of Scripture concerning peace before we proceed.

## **Peace and Safety**

***1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:3***

***When they are saying, "Peace and safety", then sudden destruction comes upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall in no wise escape.***

Please be extra careful of those who are preaching peace (unity) for the sake of unity (peace). Be sure of this: that destruction will come upon them, and we do not want to be too close when that happens, lest Elohim destroys us along with them.

## **The Righteous and Wisdom**

***Mishle [Proverbs] 10:30-31***

- 30**     ***The righteous shall never be removed;  
But the wicked shall not dwell in the land.***
- 31**     ***The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom;  
But the perverse tongue shall be cut off.***

When we think of being righteous, we think of purity of heart and life. For how would it be possible for a person to be righteous without having a pure heart? It would not be possible to be righteous without being pure in our hearts first of all. Then that purity of heart would be manifest in a pure life.

When we think of wickedness or perversity, we think of impurity and everything that is not pure. If a person has anything that is against YHWH or His commandments in his heart, then his heart is impure; that impurity will then manifest itself in an impure life.

So, the righteous brings forth wisdom because of his purity. However, those that are not pure (the wicked) shall not be allowed to live in YHWH's Land according to the passage of Scripture above, for they shall be cut off (that is, they shall die).

## **Just Ask**

***Ya'aqov [James] 1:5***

***But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of Elohim, who gives to all liberally without reproach; and it shall be given to him.***

The thing about wisdom, is that if we do not have what we need, all we need to do is to approach our heavenly Father in faith and simply ask Him for wisdom, and He will give us what we need. That seems pretty simple to me. Yet, I wonder how many of us actually ask YHWH for wisdom to understand and to do His Torah? How many of us actually ask for wisdom to hear and obey His Voice?

***Qorintyah Aleph [1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians] 12:8***

***For to one is given through the Spirit the word of wisdom; and to another the word of knowledge, according to the same Spirit:***

This wisdom and knowledge comes to us through the ministry of the Ruach.

Surely we can see that this wisdom is not something that the Ruach gives to us if we have a heart that is full of wickedness and unrighteousness. Rather, one's heart is wholly for YHWH; it is our own selfishness working in our lives that messes things up. So when we have a heart that loves YHWH with all our being and strength, the more like Mashiach we will be able to live in our everyday lives.

## **The Mind of Mashiach**

***Qorintyah Aleph [1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians] 2:16***

***For who has known the mind of YHWH, that he should instruct Him? But we have the mind of Mashiach.***

When He fills us with His Ruach, then we do, in fact, have the mind of Mashiach dwelling in us. And if we have the mind of Mashiach dwelling in us, should we not work and strive towards being more like Him? Of course we should!

It should be easy for us to see that He was righteous and wise. Can we not also see that it was because of His righteousness that the religious leaders put Him to death? He does expect us to experience that same sort of persecution because of our pursuing His righteousness, so that His righteousness will manifest itself in our daily lives.

## **Mashiach is Our Wisdom**

***Qorintyah Aleph [1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians] 1:30***

***But of Him are you in Mashiach Yeshua, who was made to us wisdom from Elohim, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption;***

When a person accepts Yeshua as Mashiach, He becomes his wisdom. This is important to understand, because what we do not want to do is to walk in our own futile knowledge and wisdom, for it can only lead to death.

Furthermore, our own wisdom and knowledge is based upon elevating self and feeding the flesh. It is His wisdom that is pure and righteous. So we need to seek His wisdom at all times in order to overcome those things in our lives that are not pleasing to Him; i.e., self.

***Colossians 1:9***

***For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray and make request for you, that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,***

We should absolutely pray this for one another at all times. We all need to ask Him to fill us with His wisdom, His knowledge and His understanding. If we attempt to build His Kingdom and do His Work in our own strength, wisdom, and understanding, it will fail and it will fail miserably. Furthermore, a person building in his own wisdom and understanding is building a kingdom to himself, and is not building the kingdom of our heavenly Father. This human kingdom then stands in opposition to His kingdom and is at war with the kingdom of YHWH. Can we not see that to erect any kingdom but His, is to be in opposition and war with YHWH? How can that be a good thing?

This is primarily due to our wisdom coming from a heart that has not been cleansed! What we need is purity of heart and life to build His Kingdom.

### ***Colossians 2:1-3***

***1 For I would have you know how greatly I strive for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;***

***2 that their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love, and to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, that they may know the mystery of Elohim, even Messiah,***

***3 in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden.***

Again, Elohim hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge in Yeshua our Mashiach. Where are we looking for these nuggets of treasure? We will not find them anywhere in the world, but we will find them only in Mashiach. Anything that appeals to the flesh is a counterfeit treasure and will only lead to death.

But why is this? What is it that will help us to know the difference between wisdom from above and wisdom that is from this world?

## **A Wise and Understanding People**

### ***Devarim [Deuteronomy] 4:6***

***“Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, that shall hear all these statutes, and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.”***

Wisdom and understanding is based upon knowing and doing (that is obeying) all of His Torah; i.e., commandments, ordinances, statutes, judgments. And, of course, we cannot forget to include hearing and obeying His Voice.

So here is the question: if His commandments become polluted with one’s own impurity of heart by either adding to or taking away from His Torah, how can we be a wise and understanding people?

Well, the truth is, we cannot be a wise and understanding people if we are attempting to obey a Torah in which we have taken away from or added to it by one's own self-based wisdom, because in truth it is no longer His Torah. To be His Torah it must be complete and unchanged!

## **Gaining Wisdom**

***Mishle [Proverbs] 9:10***

***The fear of YHWH is the beginning of wisdom;  
And the knowledge of the Set-apart One is understanding.***

This is a much quoted verse, as well it should be. If we are going to have wisdom, then that wisdom must be in accordance with a healthy fear and respect of YHWH. If we do not fear YHWH, then we will not strive to keep His Torah whole and complete, without change the way that we need to.

For, if we do not fear Him, then we will not be afraid to add to His Torah our own thoughts and ideas, nor will we be afraid to take away those portions of His Torah that we do not like or do not want to obey. Thus, the end result will be that one has written his own torah which rises up in opposition to His Torah.

It is only a proper fear that will cause us to keep His Torah whole, complete and without change. This same fear of YHWH will also cause us to strive towards heart purity ourselves, something that we all need to be doing on a daily basis.

***Mishle [Proverbs] 3:13***

***Happy is the man that finds wisdom,  
And the man that gets understanding.***

If we want to be happy in this life and especially in the life to come, then we need to get understanding and find wisdom. But how can we do that if we settle for something less than a full and complete Torah? The truth is that we cannot! The only way to be truly happy in this life and in the next is to have purity of heart and life, which will include obeying His complete Torah.

## **Two Types of Wisdom**

***Ya'aqov [James] 3:13-17***

***13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by his good life his works in meekness of wisdom.***

***14 But if you have bitter jealousy and faction in your heart, glory not and lie not against the truth.***

***15 This wisdom is not a wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.***

***16 For where jealousy and faction are, there is confusion and every vile deed.***

***17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.***

***18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.***

One type of wisdom, the type that is from this world is full of jealousy and division. There is confusion in this type of wisdom. Also, it has a very sensual side to it and is actually demonic in nature. It actually sounds good to the ear and appeals very much to the fleshly, sinful nature of man.

This is why it is so easy to fill up a first-day keeping church building: because of the appeal to the flesh. But not only a first-day keeping church, but a Shabbat keeping synagogue as well, in which the primary focus is upon feeding the fleshly nature of man. We see this from time to time and it results in a split at some point between those who want to walk in righteousness and purity of heart and life, and those who desire to get as much out of this life that they can, all the while feigning to be a part of His kingdom.

However, the wisdom that is from above is first pure!

We should read that again; the wisdom from above is first pure. Then what follows that is peace. If we as men attempt to have peace without first having purity, then it will fail. But pure what? Primarily it means to have a pure heart towards Him, to love YHWH with all of one's being; i.e., heart, mind, and strength.

We need to understand that in YHWH's Kingdom, purity of heart and life is of paramount importance. Please note the following words from the passage immediately above: 1) purity; 2) unwavering; and 3) without hypocrisy. In verse 17, in that list of attributes concerning wisdom, there are eight attributes listed, three of which are dealing directly with purity: the first one and the last two.

This should tell us something of vital importance concerning the call to unity. First and foremost, it needs to be a call to purity of heart and life, and then a call to peace. For if we are all striving in His Spirit for a pure heart and a life of righteousness, then how can we not help but have peace with our brothers? Then, as we see in verse 18, once purity of heart and life is established, then we can and will establish true peace in our lives, but not until purity of heart and life has first place in our lives.

## **A Pure Torah**

***Tehillim [Psalms] 119:140***

***Your word is very pure;***

***Therefore Your servant loves it.***

YHWH's Torah is absolutely pure. Torah is pure because He is pure. And as He is pure, and as Torah is pure, so should we be pure also. And it is because His Word is pure that we love it so very much.

***Tehillim [Psalms] 19:8***

***The precepts of YHWH are right, rejoicing the heart:***

***The commandment of YHWH is pure, enlightening the eyes.***

It is the purity of His commandment that enlightens us to be able to see Him. If there is not purity in one's own heart and life, then one cannot hope to be enlightened.

***Yochanan Aleph [1<sup>st</sup> John] 3:3***

***And every one that has this hope set on Him purifies himself, even as He is pure.***

YHWH is pure!

When we begin to see this reality, we will have a growing desire to purify ourselves so that we can be like Him. This purity must begin in one's heart. Then, that heart purity will begin to manifest itself in one's own life. The longer one strives toward this purity in heart and life, the more it will be manifested in his daily walk with YHWH.

As we all do this individually, this is what brings us together in the bonds of peace. Without the purity and the striving for that purity, we cannot hope to have a common bond of peace. Then, as we do this individually, we can begin to do this collectively. This is where the iron sharpening iron comes into play as we rub against each other on a daily basis, further sharpening us as individuals being more fit to live and walk together in His kingdom.

## **A Pure Example**

***1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:12***

***Let no man despise your youth; but be an example to them that believe, in word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity.***

Not only should we be seeking to be pure, but we should also be seeking to set a good example for others to follow. The example that we set with our speech, the way that we live, the love we have for YHWH and for one another, should be according to the faith and must be in purity of heart and life.

If it is not in righteousness and a set-apart life, how can it be from Him?

Please note that there is nothing in this passage about setting a good example concerning unity or peace. Unity and peace are simply a by-product of daily walking in purity of heart and life.

## **A Pure Heart**

### ***2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:20-26***

***20 Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some for honor, and some for common use.***

***21 If a man purifies himself from these, he shall be a vessel for honor, sanctified, fit for the Master's use, prepared for every good work.***

***22 But flee youthful lusts, and follow after righteousness, faith, love, peace, with them that call on YHWH out of a pure heart.***

***23 But foolish and ignorant questionings refuse, knowing that they gender strife.***

***24 And YHWH's servant must not be contentious, but be gentle towards all, able to teach, forbearing,***

***25 in meekness correcting them that oppose themselves; if perhaps Elohim may give them repentance to the knowledge of the truth,***

***26 and they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to his will.***

All those things that are impure in us, the Set-apart Spirit admonishes us in this passage to put away from ourselves. He needs to purge us of all those things that would keep us from being set-apart.

Here is the thing: it is worthy to desire to be at peace with our fellow man, especially those of the household of faith, but at what price? How far is a person to go to be at peace with his fellow man?

You be the judge whether it is right to obey man or Elohim. Of course, we all know the answer to that question. We are to obey those in authority over us, but when those in authority over us tell us to go against the Torah of YHWH, then we are to obey YHWH rather than man.

Purity of heart and life is primarily dealing with our relationship with YHWH through Yeshua our Mashiach. Unity or peace is dealing primarily with our relationship with our fellow man. When we begin to understand this, we begin to see just exactly why it is that we need to pursue purity first, then unity (peace). If we pursue peace (unity) before our purity of heart and life, then this becomes a source of idolatry, for we are putting man before Elohim. He cannot and will not bless this, ever!

### ***Philippians 4:8***

***Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.***

The things that we are to be meditating upon are those things that are good, righteous and pure. If we are meditating upon things that are not good, righteous and pure, how can we have a purity of heart and life? We cannot!

Please take careful note of the following passage.

***Tehillim 24:3-5***

- 3**     ***Who shall ascend into the hill of YHWH?  
And who shall stand in His set-apart place?***
- 4**     ***He who has clean hands, and a pure heart;  
Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood,  
And has not sworn deceitfully.***
- 5**     ***He shall receive a blessing from YHWH,  
And righteousness from the Elohim of his salvation.***

And who will enter into the presence of YHWH? It is those who have a pure heart and clean hands, not those who are at peace with their neighbors.

Brethren, please do not buy into the bill of (no) goods that is in the marketplace today, in which those selling are trying to get you to buy into the false notion that it should be peace (unity) at any cost.

It should be purity at any cost!

But are we willing to pay the cost of purity of heart and life? Let me tell you what it will cost you. It will cost you laying down your life and picking up His life and living His life rather than living your own life. Are you willing to pay that price? Are you willing to die to self and to the self-life?

***1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 1:5***

***But the end of the charge is love out of a pure heart and a good conscience and faith unfeigned:***

The purpose of our lives should be to please our heavenly Father. How can we please Him if we do not have a pure heart, or are at least doing our dead-level best to strive for purity of heart and life towards Him?

If we can each know that the other is striving to gain purity of heart and life towards YHWH in his life, then we can have love, compassion and understanding towards one another, even when we are at different places in our understanding of Scriptural truth. It is this knowledge that we are all striving for purity of heart and life that enables us to have fellowship with one another.

Peace or unity for the sake of unity can never do that, for inherent in that unity is the belief that all must look alike; i.e., all have the same understanding. Therefore, what happens is that peace for the sake of unity always gets down to the least common denominator. What those seeking this unity typically

sacrifice to get this unity, is His Truth. At the conclusion of that process what is left, is only man's ideas. This is anything but purity of heart and life! This is anything but His Torah.

However, if we all understand that we are all not there yet, but are in fact striving for purity of heart and life towards Him, then, we can all help each other move up towards Him, thereby moving us ever closer to each other.

When we pursue purity of heart and life towards YHWH, we attain unity. When we pursue unity, we lose purity of heart and life towards YHWH. And when that purity is lost, all is lost. The price of losing our purity of heart and life is too high, we cannot afford it.

Rather, let us all purpose in our hearts to seek Him together with all our heart, mind and strength, looking to perfect Mashiach in us.

And as we move closer to Him, purifying ourselves, may He grant that we shall all one day see Him!

***Mattithyah [Matthew] 5:8***

***Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see Elohim.***

## **One final thought – A Warning to the Wise**

There are those who speak about purity. Please know that we need to qualify the type of purity that we need to have. We need to have purity of heart and life towards Mashiach. Why?

Is not Satan pure, that is, pure evil? To be sure!

What this should teach us, is that we need to have good discernment when dealing with this matter. We need to carefully and prayerfully consider the words of those who speak of such matters. One way which will help us to discern this matter, is to look at a person's life. What kind of fruit is present and being manifest on a regular basis?

If one is constantly rubbing others in the wrong way, then great caution should be exercised.

At times, it will take a while for one's true heart and nature to be manifested. But be sure of this, when the pressures of life come crashing down upon a person, that person's true character will surely be manifested for all to see. We must be brutally honest at that point. If what we are seeing is not the fruit of the Spirit, then certain precautions should be taken to protect His body. If the person is in a position of ministry, then he should step down for a season in order to get right with YHWH.

YHWH has given us His written word that we might be able to righteously judge these matters in order that we might not be deceived. But in order to judge these matters with righteous judgment, one must be striving towards purity of heart and life himself. Otherwise, he will not be able to judge according to the Spirit, but will judge according to the flesh and be deceived.

Let us walk in the fullness of His Spirit, together!

ABBA YHWH, please create in us a new and clean heart that we might live a life wholly pleasing to you; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

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