

בְּרֵאשִׁית

B 'reshit

(in a beginning)

B'reshit [Genesis] 1:1-6:8

הַבְּרִית הַחֲדָשָׁה

HaB'rit HaChadashah

(the new covenant)

Gilyana [Revelation] 18:4-5

For our Brit portion this week we have selected this portion because it reminds us that in order to replenish the earth according to His kind, then we need to come out of Babylon.

Come Out of Her My People!

Gilyana (Revelation) 18:4-5

4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of her, My people, that you have no fellowship with her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues;

5 for her sins have reached even to heaven, and Elohim has remembered her iniquities."

There are several places in Scripture that YHWH calls to those who will listen and heed, to come out of the Babylonian system. It is not an easy task, but it is well worth the effort to do so. Primarily we need to come out of the Babylonian system in order to be His people and also to avoid the plagues, diseases, sicknesses, and rebellious sins that Babylon participates in. Failure to come out of Babylon places one in opposition to YHWH our Elohim. Being in opposition to YHWH our Elohim brings forth discipline which will include all the plagues of Egypt if one does not show forth the fruit of repentance in a timely manner.

This passage has parallel passages which can be found in the prophet Yirmeyah. Let us examine several passages to help us clearly hear the call of YHWH to us today!

Yirmeyah (Jeremiah) 50:6-7

6 "My people have been lost sheep; their shepherds have caused them to go astray; they have turned them away on the mountains; they have gone from mountain to hill; they have forgotten their resting-place.

7 All that found them have devoured them; and their adversaries said, 'We are not guilty, because they have sinned against YHWH, the habitation of righteousness, even YHWH, the hope of their fathers.'"

Yeshua gave many parables about sheep and equating us with that very precious and wonderful animal. The passage above states that the shepherds that have come to watch over the sheep have not been shepherds who have had the interests of the sheep or the interests of YHWH our great Shepherd at heart. These shepherds who have come much of the time have been shepherds who have taken from the sheep to feed their own lusts. In order to do this, these shepherds have led the sheep away from YHWH and from His protection.

Notice that those who devoured them, their adversaries, claim to not be guilty because of the sin of the sheep. Their sin? They left the habitation of righteousness, which is dwelling in the house of YHWH, or guarding and keeping and obeying and living His Torah in their everyday lives. When a person moves away from dwelling in His righteous house, Torah, then that person also loses his hope.

One of the astonishing things that I witnessed while in Israel recently was the lack of life and lack of hope in the faces and eyes of the people. Nearly everywhere I looked I saw no life and no hope. Why? It would seem to me because of two reasons. One, the vast majority of the people who live in Israel today do not keep Torah, nor even try to keep it. Two, the leaders of the people are seeking peace outside of His Torah with the terroristic nations and peoples around them. After all, what is the point of working to build a home and a life if the government is simply going to come in one day with bulldozers and knock down everything that you built? This is what happened in the Gaza Strip. It was an event that has adversely affected all of Israel in the national mindset.

The thing that we of the northern house of Israel need to understand is that if we are going to be of any help to our brothers of the southern house, then we need to be rock solid on two things; 1) that Yeshua is our Mashiach, and 2) we keep and obey His Torah. Only in this way will YHWH be able to spur Yehudah back to the fullness of keeping Torah and to Yeshua as Mashiach.

There is one other thing that I witnessed firsthand while in Israel, particularly among those who were following rabbinic halakah for Torah observance. What I saw was bondage and absolutely no freedom. This is one thing that Ephraimites need to diligently guard against losing: his liberty in the Spirit of the Almighty One. Now I have a lot of love and respect for the orthodox observant Jews. But they are completely bound up in their halakah. In Mashiach Yeshua, we have freedom and liberty to keep and obey Torah the way that YHWH meant for us to keep it. Without Mashiach Yeshua there is no freedom and no liberty. It was one of the saddest revelations that YHWH has ever given to me.

Yes, Yehudah has a lot of knowledge about Torah. Yes, Yehudah has been guarding the Torah for all these many years. Yes, Yehudah has many traditions that are very wonderful and instructive, teaching us the true meaning of Mashiach, many of which they themselves do not truly understand. However, over the years they have also adopted practices that are not according to Torah. They have the letter of the Torah, but they do not have the Spirit of the Torah, which is only available to those who accept Yeshua as Mashiach.

Yirmeyah (Jeremiah) 50:5

“They shall inquire concerning Tzion with their faces in its direction, saying, ‘Come, and join yourselves to YHWH in an everlasting covenant that shall not be forgotten.’”

We are in the midst of seeing this passage come to pass. Many from the nations are turning away from vain teachings about nothing and turning to the completeness of His Torah and asking for YHWH to open the door for them to return home. He will, in fact, open this door very soon. The question for each of us will be, have we come out of Babylon sufficiently enough to walk through that door?

It is time to enter into a covenant with YHWH Tzava’ot, a covenant of life and liberty!

Yirmeyah (Jeremiah) 51:45-46

45 “My people, go out of the midst of her, and save yourselves every man from the fierce anger of YHWH.

46 And let not your heart faint, neither fear for the tidings that shall be heard in the land; for tidings shall come one year, and after that in another year shall come tidings, and violence in the land, ruler against ruler.”

This year, 2008, is an election year for both Israel and the United States of America. This does not happen very often; only every twenty years does this happen that both Israel and the USA have elections. The problem is that most people, particularly those who vote, are looking towards those who are running as a solution to the problems in their respective nations. Brothers and sisters, salvation does not lie in the election of the proper candidate. Salvation does not lie in the passage of the right law. Salvation does not lie in the political process, particularly a process that is based upon the Babylonian/Roman system of doing things, rather than upon Torah.

YHWH has commanded us to get out of Babylon! How can we come completely out of Babylon if we are still participating in her? If a person votes, is this not participating in Babylon? To be sure it is! Let Babylon do as Babylon will do and come out of her completely! We need to take careful note of this next passage.

Yirmeyah (Jeremiah) 51:9

“We would have healed Babylon, but she is not healed; forsake her, and let us go every one into his own country; for her judgment reaches to heaven, and is lifted up even to the skies.”

You see, the truth is that every attempt to heal Babylon has been made and continues to be made. But Babylon cannot be healed! It is impossible. In fact, YHWH commands us as His people to forsake Babylon. We are to go to our own country! So, what country do you belong to? Do you belong to Babylon? Or, do you belong to YHWH and to Israel? How you conduct yourself in an election time reveals to YHWH and to all what country you claim as your own.

Will you continue to participate in Babylon? Or, will you forsake her and get out of that wretched place? The choice is yours.

Yirmeyah (Jeremiah) 50:8

“Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and go forth out of the land of the Chaldeans, and be as the rams before the flocks.”

The rams go before the flock. The flock follows the rams; where the rams go, so the flock goes. YHWH is telling us that we need to be like the rams and not like the flock. We need to get out of Babylon. We are not to wait upon the rest of His people. We are to lead the way out. Don't wait. Get out now!

Yirmeyah (Jeremiah) 51:6

“Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and save every man his life; be not cut off in her iniquity; for it is the time of YHWH's vengeance; He will render to her a recompense.”

Here is something that each person needs to come to understand. YHWH commands us, each one to save his own life. What does this mean? In context it means that He expects us to get ourselves out of Babylon. He is not going to do it! He has given us the call to get out of Babylon. Now He expects us to obey that call.

Like our father Avraham who received the call of YHWH to get out of Babylon, who then obeyed that call and left Babylon, we too, must first hear this same call to get out of Babylon. Then it is up to us to get out of Babylon. First we must come out of Babylon spiritually. Then we need to follow up that spiritual coming out of Babylon with getting out of Babylon physically.

When Avraham obeyed YHWH, YHWH then protected him in all that he went through. When another king attempted to take Sarah, his wife, YHWH protected them both and turned this into a blessing for Avraham. When his nephew was taken captive, Avraham went to rescue his nephew and YHWH protected him. No matter what was happening and no matter where Avraham went, YHWH protected him as He was his Shield and his Rock and his High Tower.

Likewise, YHWH will do for us as we obey Him. When we step out in faith showing that we are willing to risk everything in order to follow Him and obey the sound of His Voice, He will come and protect us and nothing can touch us, except that for which He gives permission. Walking in the fullness of this knowledge and understanding is a blessing and a privilege.

Many today have this notion that Yeshua is going to come back and take them out of Babylon. Brethren, this is not in accordance with Scripture, nor with the pattern set forth in Scripture. YHWH gives us the call, then we must obey that call. We must save ourselves. This takes faith and trust on our part to step out and actually do something so radical as this. But if we are going to come out of Babylon and not receive of her plagues and punishment, then we had better figure out really quickly how we are going to obey His call in this matter. He is not going to do it for us! He did not do it for Avraham. He gave Avraham the call, then it was up to Avraham to do it. As Avraham obeyed, YHWH did protect him. Likewise it is for the children of Avraham; as we obey His call to come out, He will protect us as well.

Yirmeyah (Jeremiah) 51:50

“You that have escaped the sword, you go, stand not still; remember YHWH from afar, and let Jerusalem come into your mind.”

Letting Jerusalem come to your mind is not about a physical place so much as it is a state of mind and spirit. It is about dwelling in peace, wholeness and completeness, which can only be done in the Spirit of Mashiach. This is only possible when He has filled us with His Spirit. We absolutely need to be filled with His Spirit if we are going to follow the call to come out of Babylon and actually complete this task that He has called us to do.

Yirmeyah (Jeremiah) 50:19-20

19 “And I will bring Israel again to his pasture, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan, and his soul shall be satisfied upon the hills of Ephraim and in Gilead.

20 In those days, and in that time,” says YHWH, “the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Yehudah, and they shall not be found; for I will pardon them whom I leave as a remnant.”

Only a remnant shall be saved out of Israel and out of Yehudah. YHWH will once again set this remnant upon the land that He promised to Avraham, to Yitzchak and to Ya’aqov.

Here is what this is going to take on our part. It is going to take faith and trust. Faith and trust only in Him and in His Mashiach. We need to stop looking in other places for salvation. So what if the economy is faltering? So what difference does it make who is elected as president? Does this change the truth that He is still sitting on the throne?

We need to come to that place where we can trust YHWH so completely that whatever He does is okay with us; that we know that He is working, and working to bring His word to pass. We need to stop fretting over elections, politicians, finances and whatever one might fret over. He is Sovereign. Let us live like it. Let us get in His presence and be still and know that He is Elohim.

Tehillim (Psalm) 46:10

“Be still, and know that I am Elohim”

Then we can hear His Voice and once we hear His Voice, then we can obey His word to us. In this way then can we come out of Babylon.

ABBA YHWH, please speak to us that we may hear and obey Your Voice; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

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