

כִּי תֵצֵא

Ki Teitzei

(When you go out)

D'varim [Deuteronomy] 21:10-25:19

הברית החדשה

HaB'rit HaChadashah

(the new covenant)

Yochanan [John] 8:25-59

Freedom Established on Truth

Yochanan (John) 8:32

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

This passage above raises some questions that we need to answer. Free to do what? Free from what? What truth will make us free? If the truth makes us free, then what was I in bondage to in the first place? Understanding the answer to each one of these questions will help to facilitate true freedom in our lives.

Yochanan (John) 8:33

They answered Him, “We are Avraham's seed, and have never yet been in bondage to any man; why do You say, ‘You shall be made free?’ ”

These men who were supposed to be the religious leaders of Israel just didn't get it. Yeshua was talking about the bondage that each and every person is born into, not the bondage of one man being in bondage to another man. But even in this, these men were not being honest with the reality of the political situation in Israel at that time. Israel was in bondage to Rome. This basically means that all of Israel was under obligation to do what Rome said to do and they really couldn't do just whatever they

wanted to do. When they said they were not in bondage to any man, this was not a true statement. Now notice what Yeshua teaches them.

Yochanan (John) 8:34

Yeshua answered them,

“Amein, amein, I say to you, every one that commits sin is the bondservant of sin.”

However, to truly understand what Yeshua is saying here we must understand what sin is according to Scripture. Man has his own definition of sin, but this will not give us truth. We need His truth in this matter if we are going to be set free. One common definition of sin by religious men is that any deviation from perfection is sin. Therefore, those who hold to this definition teach that every man sins in thought, word and deed every day. But does this definition line up with what Scripture teaches us? As we are about to see, it does not.

Yochanan Aleph (1st John) 3:4

Every one that practices sin practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.

Now we all know that the word “law” in Scripture comes from the Hebrew word “Torah.” So, when this verse tells us that sin is “lawlessness” we know that this verse is teaching us that sin is being without the Torah, or Torahlessness.

Ya’aqov (James) 4:17

To him therefore that knows to do good, and does not do it, to him it is sin.

How do we know what is good? By knowing what YHWH has said is good. Man does not have the right to determine what is good or evil. When man, any man, determines what is good or what is evil, then he is eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Please notice that eating of this tree consists of two kinds of knowledge, knowing what is good and knowing what is evil. Another way to understand this is that when one determines within himself what is good or he determines within himself what is evil, then this tree has been eaten from.

Romans 14:23

But he that doubts is condemned if he eats, because he eats not of faith; and whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

True faith leads us to trust in what YHWH has said in regards to what is good and what is evil. True faith knows that it cannot determine these things on its own, but rather must rely upon the Word of Elohim to know these things.

When we begin to understand that His written word must be the foundation of all that we do and think, then we will begin looking to Him rather than looking to other men to determine how we should live our everyday lives.

Romans 7:12-14

12 So that the Torah is holy, and the commandment holy, and righteous, and good.

13 Did then that which is good become death to me? Elohim forbid. But sin, that it might be shown to be sin, by working death to me through that which is good; that through the commandment sin might become exceeding sinful.

14 For we know that the Torah is spiritual; but I am carnal, sold under sin.

Please note that the Torah is good and righteous and holy. This is the clear testimony of Scripture. What is so very sad in our day is that there are many who have risen up and actually call the Torah of YHWH Satanic and evil. Considering that Scripture teaches us that the Torah of YHWH is good and righteous, then we know the source of such a statement, and it is not our heavenly Father.

Also, please note that it was not the Torah that caused death in us, but rather it was the sin that we each were in bondage to that caused this death. The Torah simply revealed the true nature of the sin. Such was the life of Mashiach, the Torah made flesh.

Yochanan Aleph (1st John) 5:17

All unrighteousness is sin

And what is righteousness?

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 6:24-25

24 "And YHWH commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear YHWH our Elohim, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as at this day.

25 And it shall be righteousness to us, if we observe to do all this commandment before YHWH our Elohim, as He has commanded us."

Here is the simple truth of the whole matter before us today. Righteousness comes from keeping the Torah. Therefore, breaking the Torah brings just the opposite of righteousness – that is unrighteousness. But herein lies one of the base difficulties within us, our own personal sin hinders us from keeping His commandments.

Romans 6:6

Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away, that we should no longer be in bondage to sin;

Please note that what is being done away with is the body of sin. It is not the Torah that is being done away with! The whole purpose of the body of sin being done away with is so that we will no longer be in bondage to sin. It is sin that we were in bondage to. We were never in bondage to the Torah. As we saw above, the Torah only revealed the true nature of our bondage.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the free gift of Elohim is eternal life in Adonenu Yeshua Mashiach.

Sin holds one in the bondage of death as long as he is away from our heavenly Father. Mashiach Yeshua came to restore us back to our heavenly Father's house. When we live in His house, He expects us to live by His rules. We know His rules as the Torah.

Romans 7:14

For we know that the Torah is spiritual; but I am carnal, sold into bondage to sin.

How does this happen?

B'midbar (Numbers) 15:31

"Because he has despised the word of YHWH, and has broken His commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him."

This is where we all either are, or have been.

Yochanan (John) 8:36

"If therefore the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed."

Please note that this verse is tied directly to the verse above it (8:32). The truth shall make us free equals Mashiach Yeshua making us free. Why? Please note these words of Yeshua.

Yochanan (John) 14:6

Yeshua says to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by Me."

Yeshua is the truth. By virtue of His very nature He is able to set us free. So here is a question to ponder. Since Yeshua is the word made flesh, the truth, how is it possible for one who rejects the truth to be set free? Of course it is not possible for such a one to be set free. However, this is exactly what so many who come to Messiah do; they reject the truth (Torah = the word) and therefore end up going back into bondage to sin. Remember, it is the truth (Yeshua = living Torah) that sets us free.

Romans 8:15

For you received not the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Brothers and sisters in Mashiach Yeshua, it is so very important that we do not go back into bondage once we have been set free. What were we in bondage to? Sin! How does one go back into bondage? Through sin. What is sin? Sin is breaking the Law (Torah)! If you truly do not want to go back into

bondage to sin again, then you had better stop breaking the Law! By the way, this is exactly why we were in bondage in the first place: by breaking the Law (Torah)!

Any attempt to do away with the Law in any fashion is an attempt to do away with Mashiach! For, Mashiach is the Law (Torah) made flesh and the truth is that He, that is Mashiach, cannot be rightly separated from the written word.

Galatians 2:4

And that because of the false brethren who had sneaked in, who came in secretly to spy out our freedom which we have in Mashiach Yeshua, that they might bring us into bondage again.

What did these who had sneaked in want to bring us into bondage to? It was to their own traditions and commandments which bring the commandment of YHWH to nothingness. As we discussed above, when a person determines for himself what is right or wrong, then he is eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. It is from this tree that these same men desiring to justify their own evil and sinful lives desire to enslave all men.

Galatians 4:3-9

3 So we also, when we were children, were held in bondage under the rudiments of the world;

4 but when the fullness of the time came, Elohim sent forth His Son, born of a woman, being broken according to the Torah,

5 that He might redeem them that were under the Torah, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

6 And because you are sons, Elohim sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

7 So that you are no longer a bondservant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through Mashiach.

8 Howbeit at that time, not knowing Elohim, you were in bondage to them that by nature are not gods;

9 but now that you have come to know Elohim, or rather to be known by Elohim, why do you turn back again to the weak and worthless elements, to which you desire to be in bondage over again?

What Shaul is asking them (and us today) is if we have in fact been freed from the bondage of sin, why do you go back into that same bondage from which you had been freed? Pretty good question, wouldn't you agree?

Galatians 5:1

For freedom did Mashiach set us free; stand fast therefore, and be not entangled again in a yoke of bondage.

And what is the yoke of bondage? Sin! And what is sin? Sin is breaking the Law – it is breaking Torah!

Please take prayerful note of this next passage in which a very sharp contrast is being taught to us.

Kepha Bet (2nd Peter) 2:18-19

18 For, uttering great swelling words of vanity, they entice in the lusts of the flesh, by lasciviousness, those who are just escaping from them that live in error;

19 promising them liberty, while they themselves are bondservants of corruption; for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he also brought into bondage.

May the Spirit of Mashiach quicken the hearts and minds of all that we may see and understand the depth and breadth of these words! Brothers and sisters in Mashiach Yeshua, there are many in this world who are enslaved to their own lustful passions. These same men (and women) cannot stand to see you walk in freedom, living and obeying the Voice of YHWH our Elohim. They would rather that you be enslaved to anything at all, but especially to the traditions of man. Be careful to whom you swear allegiance, for such shall be your master! And we cannot serve two masters!

Galatians 2:17

But if, while we sought to be justified in Mashiach, we ourselves also were found sinners, is Mashiach a minister of sin? Elohim forbid!

Are we to continue in sin once we have been set free? Shaul says that Elohim forbids such nonsense! We need to consider prayerfully what some men are teaching as doctrines, for such things are against the very nature of Mashiach and why He died in the first place.

Let us be free in Mashiach, but let us not allow that freedom in Mashiach to be an occasion for living in sin!

ABBA YHWH, teach us to walk in the Spirit of Mashiach at all times; for it is in the name of Mashiach Yeshua we pray. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

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