

בְּרֵאשִׁית

B 'reshit

(in a beginning)

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

הַפְּטָרָה

Haftarah B'reshit

Yeshayah [Isaiah] 42:5-43:10

Called in Righteousness

Yeshayah (Isaiah) 42:5-6

5 Thus says Elohim YHWH, "He that created the heavens, and stretched them forth; He that spread abroad the earth and that which comes out of it; He that gives breath to the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein;

6 "I, YHWH, have called you in righteousness, and will hold your hand, and will keep you, and give you for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;"

YHWH has called each one of us to walk in righteousness. He has not called us to walk in the way of unrighteousness. But what is righteousness according to Scripture? Let us see if we can discover what Scripture teaches us concerning righteousness, that we will be better able to walk in it before YHWH our Elohim.

B'reshit (Genesis) 15:6

And he believed in YHWH; and He reckoned it to him for righteousness.

The first thing that we find is that one must actually believe YHWH for there to be righteousness. Of course when one believes YHWH, then what must follow is right action, or actions based solely upon that belief. One could also understand the word "believed" in the above verse as "trusted". So Avraham believed and trusted in YHWH. What did he believe and trust? He believed and trusted that what YHWH had told him was true and that he could depend upon it, which Avraham did.

B'reshit (Genesis) 18:19

“For I have known him, to the end that he may command his children and his household after him, that they may keep the way of YHWH, to do righteousness and justice; to the end that YHWH may bring upon Avraham that which He has spoken of him.”

The next thing that we find is that righteousness is not only doing what is right according to YHWH, but righteousness is also teaching one's children and household to also follow the righteous path of YHWH.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 6:25

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

The only righteousness that we can attain is when we do His will, His commandments. A person cannot follow after his own heart and attain righteousness.

Mishle (Proverbs) 14:12

***There is a way which seems right to a man;
But the end thereof are the ways of death.***

Only the way of YHWH leads to righteousness and to life. Any other way is the way of death, and there are numerous paths that lead to death, while there is only one path that leads to life.

What Righteousness Does

Yeshayah (Isaiah) 42:7

“to open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison-house.”

When we walk in righteousness, then we will do as Yeshua our Mashiach has done; we will bring light to those who sit in darkness. We will not bring our own light, but we will bring His light, for His light delivers one out of the darkness.

This darkness that His light delivers us out of is a prison of darkness. He sets us free from this prison so that we now have the freedom to know, understand, guard, keep and obey His commandments. While we are a prisoner of this darkness, we do not have the ability nor the freedom to obey His commandments. However, once Yeshua our Mashiach sets us free, then we are free indeed!

Who Sits on the Throne?

Yeshayah (Isaiah) 42:8

"I am YHWH, that is My name; and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images."

YHWH clearly states that He will not share His glory with any other person or thing. Now this is an interesting passage, particularly in our day as there are those who point to this and then proceed to twist its meaning into something other than what it actually states.

There is a teaching that is going around that states that when Mashiach returns to claim His kingdom, then He will reign and no one will reign with Him on His throne. Furthermore, this teaching goes on to state that Israel will have another king before Yeshua returns and he will sit on the throne of David.

But here is exactly where this teaching is flawed. Yeshua is now sitting on the throne and reigning as the King. It is not so much that He will be King, as He is the King now. When we see this simple truth, then we will see how preposterous this teaching is, that Israel will have a future king other than Yeshua. To teach this is to teach sedition and treason against our currently reigning King Yeshua. May He quash all such teachings!

So the question here that each one of us must answer is this: Who sits on the throne in your life?

Past and Future

Yeshayah (Isaiah) 42:9

"Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them."

Each and every one of us have a past. There are things in that past that only the Blood of Mashiach can effectively deal with. It is the only true remedy. Once that something has been placed under the Blood of Mashiach, there is no need to be pulling it out and reexamining it. But this is what many people would like to do.

I was told a story just this week by a man who had gone to an assembly, and before this person would be allowed into the life of the assembly, he had to tell them everything from his past. This assembly is walking in the flesh and not in the Spirit.

Yeshayah (Isaiah) 64:6

"For we are all become as one that is unclean, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away."

None of us are worthy of His grace, mercy or being a part of His kingdom. However, He has offered to extend to each one of us grace and mercy, if we will but accept it and then walk in it. It is not the past that should concern us, it is the present and the future. The real question is this: Is a person walking in the Spirit and exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit? This is the real test. But this takes time and effort to discern. It also takes one to be walking in the Spirit himself. Otherwise, one cannot properly discern if one is truly walking in His Spirit or in the spirit of another!

YHWH has declared to us the future. He knows the end from the beginning. If we will take the time to read, study and pray about His prophetic word, then He will show to us what He is doing in this world. But here is the thing about this: we must put aside all our prejudices, notions and preconceived ideas in order to be able to clearly hear His Spirit. For all these things, and things like them, hinder one's hearing.

This haftarah portion is worthy of reading and study. In it YHWH contrasts those who cannot hear or see with those who can hear and see. In our Parasha this week we discussed how one reproduces after his own kind. If a person is spiritually blind and deaf, then he will quite naturally produce spiritually blind and deaf offspring.

If we are going to produce offspring worthy of His kingdom, then we need to be able to see and hear ourselves. The only way that we can do this is if we walk in righteousness. This quite simply means that we hear and obey His Voice and walk in the Spirit.

Brothers and sisters in Mashiach, we have entered into a time in history in which only those who are willing to invest the time getting their own hearts right with YHWH our Elohim, and who spend time not just praying, but listening to Him, who will walk through the valley of death without fear or harm coming to them. He is our Rock and He is our Redeemer! He is worthy of our trust and obedience.

YHWH has given us a call to come out of unrighteousness and into His righteousness. Are you willing to answer that call and give up all your own plans in favor of doing His will, His plans instead?

ABBA YHWH, please fill us with Your righteousness that we may walk in the fullness of all of Your commandments; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

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