

דְּבָרִים

D'varim

(Words)

D'varim [Deuteronomy] 1:1-3:22

הפטרה דברים

Haftarah D'varim

Yeshayah [Isaiah] 1:1-27

Shema Israel!

Listen up Israel! That means all who have been grafted in, for only those who have been grafted in are true Israel. Yes, being born is good and important, but if one is not also grafted into Mashiach, then what good is being born to an Israeli? None! Listen to and heed these words from our Maker YHWH Tzava'ot, for they speak to us today!

1 The vision of Yeshayahu the son of Amotz, which he saw concerning Yehudah and Jerusalem, in the days of Uzziyahu, Yotam, Achaz, and Y'chiziyahu, kings of Yahudah.

This is the vision which YHWH gave to Yeshayahu, one of the more radical prophets of Israel. Radical you say? Check out chapter twenty in which YHWH commanded Yeshayah to go butt naked for three years which Yeshayahu obeyed.

**2 Shema, heavens, and give ear,
earth; for YHWH has spoken;
"I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me."**

YHWH calls upon the heavens and the earth once again to witness against Israel. See Devarim 4:26. Israel is guilty, once again as they were many times in the past, of rebelling against YHWH.

3 ***“The ox knows his owner,
and the ass his master's crib;
but Israel does not know,
My people do not consider.”***

It is sad to say, but with respect to ownership, cows and donkeys are smarter than Israel. YHWH's people do not rightly consider these things.

4 ***“Alas sinful nation,
a people laden with iniquity,
a seed of evil-doers,
children that deal corruptly!
They have forsaken YHWH,
they have despised the Holy One of Israel,
they are estranged and gone backward.”***

YHWH's people, the children of those that YHWH had delivered out of the bondage of Egypt, have gone backward and not forward; meaning that these children have returned to the bondage of Egypt. Instead of growing in the knowledge and understanding of YHWH, they returned to the sin and degradation of dealing with one another in corruption. In doing so Israel has forsaken YHWH. See Matthew 23:30-32.

5 ***“Why will you be still stricken,
that you revolt more and more?
The whole head is sick,
and the whole heart faint.”***

Why is Israel stricken? She is stricken because of her sin and rebellion against YHWH. But not only this, Israel rebels more and more. She is not satisfied with her current rebellion, she invents more and new ways in which to rebel. See Romans 1:30 – “inventers of evil”. The head is sick, that is, those who lead Israel, her spiritual leaders. Therefore, the whole spirit of Israel, her people, are faint from doing good.

6 ***“From the sole of the foot even to the head
there is no soundness in it;
but wounds, and bruises, and fresh stripes;
they have not been closed, neither bandaged,
neither mollified with oil.”***

There is no part that is not affected by this sin and iniquity in Israel. See 1st Corinthians 12:26 – if one suffers we all suffer! Why fresh wounds and such? Because the sin is ongoing and is not repented of! Israel is full of open wounds (sins). This is still true today!

7 ***“Your country is desolate;
your cities are burned with fire; (bombs, rockets and suicide bombers)
your land, strangers devour it in your presence,
and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers.”***

Why is this happening? It is happening because of sin. What sin? Continue reading and YHWH will tell you straight out if you have ears to hear.

8 ***“And the daughter of Zion is left as a sukkah in a vineyard,
as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city.”***

Israel is left with few physical possessions. Again, this is happening because of her incessant sin and rebellion against YHWH.

9 ***“Except YHWH Tzava’ot
had left to us a very small remnant,
we should have been as Sodom,
we should have been like Gomorrah.”***

It is only because of a very small remnant that YHWH has compassion upon Israel. It is through this remnant that His compassion and mercy come to Israel. I wonder, are you a part of that “very small remnant”? Do not answer this question yourself, seek YHWH for the answer and let Him answer this question. If you are not, then take appropriate action to make it so!

10 ***“Shema the word of YHWH,
you rulers of Sodom;
give ear to the Torah of our Elohim,
you people of Gomorrah.”***

We are to hear and obey the word of YHWH. The word of YHWH includes both the written word and the word made flesh, Yeshua our Mashiach. YHWH refers to the leaders of Israel as leaders of Sodom. These leaders are full of wickedness and evil of every sort, leading His people away from Him instead of towards Him. Thus, YHWH calls the people, “people of Gormorrah”. This is so because the people are choosing to follow rebellion instead of following Torah. The people are following the traditions of man, instead of the commandment of YHWH. Shema Israel – repent of this evil, now before it is too late!

11 ***“What is it to Me the multitude of your sacrifices?” says YHWH;
“I have had enough of the burnt offerings of rams,
and the fat of fed cattle;
and I delight not in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of he-goats.”***

YHWH does not desire the blood of bulls, sheep or goats to be shed. What He desires is for His people to hear and obey His Voice. See Yirmeyah 7:21-26. When these sacrifices are offered up to YHWH and it is not in faith, then it is meaningless and actually does more harm to an individual and the nation than good.

12 ***“When you come to appear before Me,
who has required this at your hand, to trample My courts?”***

It is not the gentiles who are guilty of trampling the courts of YHWH. It is Israel and the leaders of Israel. It was true in the day of Yeshayah. It was true in the day of Mashiach Yeshua. It is still true today. This indictment from YHWH against Israel puts a whole new meaning on Revelation 11:2 in which we are taught that Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot for forty-two months. It is generally taught that this trampling is done by the nations. But the verse in Revelation does not say that, it says that the outer courtyard is given to the nations by YHWH. So who does the trampling? Could it be that it is Israel because of her rebellion against YHWH? It seems like this is a likely possibility.

13 ***“Bring no more worthless offerings;
incense is an abomination to Me;
new moon and Shabbat, the calling of assemblies,
I cannot endure iniquity and the solemn assembly.”***

The assemblies of Israel are to be feasts, festivals and celebrations to YHWH. Those who lead in Israel today, both in Yehudah and in Ephrayim are manifestly guilty of these things. The leaders of Israel need to do some very serious repenting before YHWH!

14 ***“Your new moons and your appointed feasts
My soul hates;
they are a trouble to Me;
I am weary of bearing them.”***

YHWH is not against the feasts and new moons that He ordained and set aside for Israel. What He hates are those feasts and new moon assemblies which man has placed above His. YHWH has commanded us how He wants us to worship Him. When man makes up his own way in which to come to YHWH, it is vanity and folly. To follow the ways of man is idolatrous and sin. Israel has a lot of repenting to do in this area and come back fully to YHWH and worship Him according to His commandment!

15 ***“And when you spread forth your hands, (in prayer)
I will hide mine eyes from you; (YHWH will not see)
yea, when you make many prayers,
I will not shema;
your hands are full of blood.”***

YHWH does not see nor hear those whose hands are full of blood, perhaps more rightly understood as being full of innocent blood.

16 ***“Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean;
put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes;
cease to do evil;”***

It is pure insanity for a person to think or believe that he can be involved in any evil-doing and that YHWH will regard his prayers. Make no mistake about it, this is a matter of the heart. Why are you doing what you are doing? The answer to this question makes all the difference in the world to YHWH. And even if a person is not willing to be honest with himself regarding this matter, YHWH still knows the truth of why we do what we do! If we want YHWH to hear our prayers, then we need to stop all evil-doing.

17 ***“learn to do well; (to all regardless of who they are)
seek justice, (for everyone regardless of their station in life)
relieve the oppressed, (no exceptions)
defend the orphan, (because he cannot defend himself)
plead for the widow.” (because, likewise, she cannot plead for herself)***

Doing these things will show to YHWH that one is serious about loving Him and following and obeying His Voice in all matters, great and small.

18 ***“Come now, and let us reason together,” says YHWH;
“though your sins be as scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they be red like crimson,
they shall be as wool.”***

YHWH desires for you to come aside with Him and reason together. His ways are fully reasonable, just as He is. He is ready and willing to wash away your sins regardless of how horrible they are. He will do this through the Blood of Mashiah, for the blood of bulls and goats cannot do this. See Hebrew 10:4.

19 ***“If you are willing and obedient,
you shall eat the good of the land;”***

YHWH now gives a choice to us individually and as a nation. If we are willing and obedient to His Voice, then He will bless us with all the good of the land.

20 ***“but if you refuse and rebel,
you shall be devoured with the sword;
for the mouth of YHWH has spoken it.”***

However, if the individual or the nation of Israel will not obey the Voice of YHWH, then he will be destroyed by the sword. Make no mistake about it, YHWH has brought the two tribes of the southern kingdom back into the land today. But they are not hearing and obeying His Voice as a people. Therefore, YHWH allows them to be consumed by the sword, i.e., bombs, rockets, missiles and suicide bombers of all sorts. This occurs nearly on a daily basis because His people of the southern kingdom of Yehudah refuse to put away all their pagan practices and the traditions of man and follow the commandment of YHWH.

21 ***“How is the faithful city become a harlot!
She that was full of justice!
Righteousness lodged in her,
but now murderers.”***

Jerusalem was a faithful city. However, she has become a city full of murderers. What is a murderer? A murderer is someone who speaks against his brother! See 1 John 3:15 and James 4:2.

22 ***“Your silver is become dross,
your wine mixed with water.”***

Those who live in this fashion believe they have silver, but it is not silver, it is only the dross of the silver. They believe that they are drinking the pure wine of His word, but they are only drinking wine mixed with water. Their own actions and words have diluted His truth.

23 ***“Your princes are rebellious,
and companions of thieves;
everyone loves bribes,
and follows after rewards;
they do not defend the orphans,
neither do the cause of the widow come to them.”***

Those who lead in Israel are guilty of seeking after wealth. This is so true today that it is disgusting. It is a wonder that YHWH has not struck them all down in their tracks for leading His people astray. No wonder there is only a remnant that is truly His when those who have raised themselves up as leaders do so only to increase their own wealth and luxurious living, stealing from those who can barely afford to live, making them to feel guilty if they do not send them their money. The same men could well afford to give to those who cannot afford, yet they do not, taking from them and selling the word of YHWH to make a profit from His word. It is shameful! But YHWH knows!

24 ***“Therefore” says HaAdon YHWH Tzava’ot,
the Mighty One of Israel,
“Alas, I will be relieved of My adversaries,
and avenge Myself on My enemies;”***

Honestly now, who do you think YHWH includes as His enemies? He has just told us in the verses above. It is those leaders (princes) in Israel who steal from His people, seek after wealth, do not defend the orphans and do not take up the cause of the widows. Those who have placed themselves in a position of leadership and have all this money coming into their hands and all they do with it is to enjoy the good life and do not help those who truly need help. These are the enemies of YHWH. And, if they are an enemy of YHWH, then they are an enemy of Israel! Take note, you princes and leaders that YHWH is watching your every action!

25 ***“and I will turn My hand upon you,
and thoroughly purge away your dross,
and will take away all your tin;”***

YHWH’s first choice is to remove from the individual all that which is not pleasing to Him. However, if He cannot do this because the individual is not willing to go through the fires of refinement, then this leaves no choice but one for YHWH, to remove him from Israel. Are you allowing YHWH to take you through the trials of adversity in order to purify you? Or, are you kicking and screaming all the way and doing everything in your power to return to your life of luxury and ease?

26 ***“and I will restore your judges as at the first,
and your counselors as at the beginning;
afterward you shall be called The City of Righteousness,
a faithful city.”***

In the beginning of Israel’s history as a nation her counselors and judges had the interests of the nation at heart. Over time this ceased to be true as the judges and counselors began to be self-serving and began taking bribes and turning their ears and eyes toward the rich. But once again, YHWH will restore good and righteous judges in the midst of Israel and Jerusalem will once again come to be known as a city of righteousness. Today, Jerusalem is far from being known as a city of righteousness; particularly when she is known for throwing her own people out of their homes and then destroying those homes so that they cannot return. Then to add insult to injury, she turns over this land to the enemies of Israel, to those who work tirelessly for the demise of Israel as a nation and as a people.

27 ***“Tzion shall be redeemed with justice,
and her converts with righteousness.”***

The good news is that YHWH will bring this to pass according to His time and according to His word. His word is sure and His word will not falter. Tzion will be redeemed and she will be redeemed in justice. Furthermore, all those who are true converts, that is, those who are grafted in through Mashiach Yeshua will be redeemed with righteousness.

**28 *“But the destruction of transgressors and sinners shall be together,
and they that forsake YHWH shall be consumed.”***

YHWH will destroy all those who rebel and transgress His Torah without repentance. Those that forsake YHWH and all His ways and forsake the sound of His Voice shall be consumed. Only the righteous of YHWH shall stand. But the problem is that none of us is righteous. This teaches us that we must stand in the righteousness of Yeshua our Mashiach. When we stand in His righteousness, then when YHWH looks at us, He does not see us, but He sees Mashiach Yeshua.

When YHWH looks at you who does He see?

ABBA YHWH, let us prayerfully and soberly heed all of Your words that we may be pleasing in Your sight; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

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