

כִּי תִשָּׂא

Ki Tissa

(when you lift up)

Shemot [Exodus] 30:11-34:35

הַפְּטָרָה כִּי תִשָּׂא

Haftarah Ki Tissa

Wavering Between Two Opinions

Malakim Aleph (1st Kings) 18:21

And Eliyah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you waver between the two opinions? If YHWH is Elohim, follow Him; but if Ba'al, follow him." But the people did not answer him a word.

This verse so much gives us an accurate picture of human nature. It is the natural tendency of man to follow the winner. But what happens when a clear winner is not plainly evident? Then human nature does its best not to make any commitment either way. Such was the case here. Up to this point the people were not convinced who was the one true Elohim. Actually, they were doing more to serve Ba'al than they were to serve YHWH. But they had not completely forsaken YHWH either.

Lest we be too harsh upon these people, let us consider some additional information from this week's Torah portion.

Shemot (Exodus) 32:3-6

*3 And all the people broke off the golden rings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aharon.
4 And he received it from their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, and made a molten calf; and they said, "This is your god, Israel, which brought you up out of the land of Egypt."
5 And when Aharon saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aharon made proclamation, and said, "Tomorrow shall be a feast to YHWH."*

6 And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt-offerings, and brought peace-offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

There are several things here that we need to point out. One is that this golden calf was declared to be YHWH who had brought them out of Egypt. Now this was simply not true, but that was irrelevant to these people, because they thought they needed something tangible to see and follow.

Another point is that upon completion of the calf the high priest of Israel declared that the next day was to be a feast day to YHWH. This was simply not true either. It was not a feast day to YHWH. This was the beginning of adding to and changing His feast days.

Now in these people's minds they were serving YHWH. At least that was what they were telling themselves. It is a terrible thing to deceive oneself!

This golden calf then progressed over time from having the name of YHWH to having the name of Ba'al. It was a very small step in this progression, so that where Israel found themselves in the time of Eliyah was not all that different than in the days of Moshe. May I be so bold as to say that this is not all that different than where we find ourselves today? Why? Let us prayerfully consider some passages of Scripture.

Hoshea 2:16

"And it shall be at that day," says YHWH, "that you shall call Me Ishi (my Husband), and shall not call Me Ba'ali (my Lord)."

YHWH clearly states through His prophet Hoshea that there will come a day in which we will no longer call upon the name "Ba'al" as a reference to Him. Much of the world today still refers to YHWH as "the Lord." We are no better off than the people of Israel were in the days of Moshe or in the days of Eliyah. We will learn someday. Hopefully it will be soon! For I am certain that YHWH is sickened by our use of other names and titles to refer to Him that He has not revealed or used concerning Himself.

Now notice what YHWH says will transpire in us when this happens.

Hoshea 2:17

"For I will take away the names of the Ba'alim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be mentioned by their name."

When this day finally arrives we will call upon the name of YHWH and not upon the name of Ba'al (Lord). This day cannot come too soon!

Why is it so difficult for so many to see this essential truth?

Ya'aqov (James) 1:6-8

6 But let him ask in faith, doubting nothing; for he that doubts is like the surge of the sea driven by the wind and tossed.

7 For let not that man think that he shall receive anything from YHWH;

8 a double minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Just exactly what is a double minded man?

Yeshayah (Isaiah) 29:13

And YHWH said, "Forasmuch as this people draw near to Me, and with their mouth and with their lips to honor Me, but have removed their heart far from Me, and their fear of Me is a commandment of men which has been taught them."

YHWH states through His prophet Yeshayah that a double minded man is one who honors YHWH with his words, but that man's heart is not in it. Such a man's heart is going after other things.

Notice also that YHWH says that the fear of YHWH is something that is a commandment of men that is taught to them. What does this mean? It means that the rulings of men, their traditions, and customs, are taught in such a way, that if one does not follow their traditions and customs, then a person is in sin and is not saved. Salvation comes only to those who follow their manmade traditions and customs. This is the fear of Elohim according to man.

But this is not what is pleasing to YHWH our Elohim. What is pleasing to Him, is that we fear Him, not man or manmade traditions and customs. This is not to say that traditions and customs do not have a place in our lives. Rather the place of traditions and customs are subservient to His commandments, not the other way around.

Hoshea 10:2

"Their heart is divided; now they shall be found guilty; He will smite their altars, He will destroy their pillars."

Notice that Israel has multiplied her altars and places of worship (pillars). There is coming a day in which YHWH will remove all these from His people Israel. It is this divided heart that YHWH hates in us. He wants us to have a singleness of mind and heart in serving Him. We truly are guilty of attempting to serve more than one master. It is time for us to stop wavering between two opinions and serve YHWH our Elohim with all of our heart, all of our mind, and all of our strength.

Matithyah (Matthew) 6:22

"The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is single, your whole body shall be full of light."

The people in the days of Moshe wavered between serving YHWH and serving another. The people in the days of Eliyah wavered between serving YHWH and serving Ba'al (the Lord). Today people have

been tricked into using names and titles that do not belong to YHWH or to His Son, Yeshua, but rather belong to another. We need to call upon His name, the name that He has revealed to us through His Scripture.

Tehillim (Psalm) 79:6

***Pour out Your wrath upon the nations that do not know You,
And upon the kingdoms that do not call upon Your name.***

If we are to serve YHWH, then we must do it in the way that He has laid out before us. We must come to Him on His terms. We cannot manufacture traditions and customs to come to YHWH and expect Him to bless us, particularly if we are not calling upon the name that He has revealed to us.

Ma'aseh (Acts) 2:21

And it shall be, that whosoever shall call on the name of YHWH shall be saved.

We find this same idea in Romans 10:13 -- that those who call upon the name of YHWH shall be saved. Both of these verses in the Brit Chadasha seem to be referencing at least two verses in the Tanak.

Tehillim (Psalm) 86:5

***For You, YHWH, are good, and ready to forgive,
And abundant in lovingkindness to all them that call upon You.***

Yo'el (Joel) 2:32

"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of YHWH shall be delivered; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those that escape, as YHWH has said, and among the remnant those whom YHWH does call."

Both of these verses from the Tanak teach us that we need to call upon the name of YHWH for salvation. Furthermore, from the prophet Yo'el we learn that it is those who are called by YHWH who will call upon Him.

ABBA YHWH, we are done wavering, and call upon Your great name, YHWH; and ask you to deliver us and save us through Mashiach Yeshua, for it is in His name that we ask. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

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