

נִצְבִּים

Nitzavim

(Standing)

D'varim [Deuteronomy] 29:10-30:20

הפטרה נצבים

Haftarah Nitzavim

Yeshayah [Isaiah] 61:10-63:9

YHWH's Lovingkindness Towards Israel

Yeshayah (Isaiah) 63:7

"I will make mention of the lovingkindness of YHWH, and the praises of YHWH, according to all that YHWH has bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which He has bestowed on them according to His mercies, and according to the multitude of His lovingkindness."

The lovingkindness that YHWH has shown towards His people is continual and manifold. It is because of His great lovingkindness towards Israel that Israel even exists in the first place. From the very beginning when YHWH brought us up out from the bondage of Egypt, Israel has been rebellious towards YHWH. Israel has said one thing; i.e., that she would hear and obey His Voice, but then did not hear and obey His Voice. In fact, when YHWH spoke to Israel, Israel cried out with one voice for YHWH to stop speaking to them for they could not endure the sound of His Voice to them.

The lovingkindness of YHWH is the reason why He brought Israel out of Egypt in the first place. YHWH did not bring Israel out of Egypt because Israel was righteous, but rather because of His promise to Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya'aqov. He then dispossessed the nations in His land to plant Israel there not because Israel was righteous, but because those other nations were evil.

We can never lose sight of these truths, for doing so will only allow pride to creep in and take root where there is no real justification for any pride at all!

וַיֵּלֶךְ

Vayyeilek

(And went)

D'varim 31:1-30

הפטרה וילך

Haftarah Vayyeilek

D'varim (Deuteronomy) 9:5

“Not for your righteousness, or for the uprightness of your heart, do you go in to possess their land; but for the wickedness of these nations YHWH your Elohim drives them out from before you, and that He may establish the word which YHWH swore to your fathers, to Avraham, to Yitzchak and to Ya’aqov.”

The great lovingkindness of YHWH towards Israel is seen to be all that much greater when we realize that He has not dealt with us (Israel) according to our own wickedness.

Yechezqel (Ezekiel) 20:44

“And you shall know that I am YHWH, when I have dealt with you for My name's sake, not according to your evil ways, nor according to your corrupt doings, house of Israel,” says Adonai YHWH.

Please notice that there is a common idea between this verse and the verse in Yeshayah 63:7, and that is that in both cases YHWH is addressing the house of Israel. This house is distinct from the house of Judah in that the house of Israel consists of the ten northern tribes whereas the house of Judah consists of the two southern tribes. So when we come across places in which YHWH specifically mentions one or the other of these two houses, then we need to pay particular attention to what YHWH is saying and to whom He is speaking. In this case, YHWH is speaking to the northern kingdom of Israel or the ten northern tribes. This is particularly important because while both houses were carried away into captivity because of rebellion and disobedience to His Voice, the southern house returned from their captivity. Whereas, the northern kingdom has not yet returned from her captivity, but indications are that she will do so in the very near future.

The first two words of Yeshayah 63:7 are חַסְדֵי יְהוָה – “chasdei YHWH” which is a construct phrase meaning “mercy of YHWH.” The root word of חַסְדֵי is חָסַד – “chasad” which means to *devote oneself entirely* or to *give oneself to needs*. (One often finds the form of the word חֶסֶד – “chesed” used to denote “mercy.”) When we understand this chesed of YHWH in the proper context that He is always giving to Israel just exactly what Israel needs at any given moment, which surely includes correction, then we can see that the lovingkindness of YHWH towards Israel is indeed very great.

Shemot (Exodus) 15:13

“In Your lovingkindness You have led the people whom You have redeemed; In Your strength You have guided them to Your holy habitation.”

We note that when YHWH brought Israel out of the bondage of Egypt He did so in His lovingkindness or mercy, in His chesed.

Shemot (Exodus) 20:6

“But showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”

It is important to note that His chesed, His mercy or lovingkindness is conditional. He extends it to those who keep His commandments or at the very least are making an honest effort to keep and do His commandments.

D'varim (Deuteronomy) 7:9

“Know therefore that YHWH your Elohim, He is Elohim, the faithful El, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;”

We can be very thankful that YHWH keeps His covenant with Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya'aqov. But He does not keep this covenant because their children deserve it, because quite the opposite is true; but rather He keeps His covenant because of His own chesed (mercy or lovingkindness). There is no other reason, because Israel is a stubborn and obstinate people who are always turning away from YHWH their Elohim and going and serving other gods.

Tehillim (Psalm) 147:11

***YHWH favors those who fear Him,
Those who wait for His lovingkindness.***

This word appears 128 times in Tehillim. In this one we see that there are times in which we must wait before we see His lovingkindness manifested to us. There may be many reasons for this, but one such reason is found in the story of Daniel in which he prayed and did not receive an answer for three weeks. However, the answer had been dispatched immediately but it took that long for the answer to arrive to Daniel because of the intensity of the warfare raging in the spiritual realm. It is for this reason that Shaul gives us this admonishment.

Galatians 6:9

And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Let us understand this truth fully and completely, for in the days ahead it shall give us strength in our hour of need, and there shall be many of those. Let us understand the times in which we live and the darkness which is descending upon us. We shall pass through this darkness and be purified and then stand in His presence.

Daniel 12:10

Many shall purify themselves, and make themselves white, and be refined; but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand; but they that are wise shall understand.

Brothers and sisters in Mashiach, know that the mercy and lovingkindness of YHWH our Elohim is sure and steadfast; He will never fail us. Whatever the need is that we will have, He has already provided the way for us to go in Mashiach Yeshua.

Qorintyah Aleph (1st Corinthians) 10:13

There is no temptation come upon you but such as is common to man; but Elohim is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted above what you are able to bear; but will with the temptation will make also the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Please note that the way of escape is Mashiach Yeshua. He is the way, the truth and the life. There is no other way in which we are to walk. And as the darkness descends, let us be found walking in His light and continue to walk in that light regardless of what YHWH calls us to endure!

Matithyah (Matthew) 10:22

“And you shall be hated by all men for My name's sake; but he that endures to the end, the same shall be saved.”

Stand fast; do not be moved from your sure foundation in Mashiach Yeshua during your hour of trial. He is faithful to us and He knows where we are and what we need. Keep your eyes upon Him and He will not fail you!

ABBA YHWH, give us wisdom to walk in the strength of Your Spirit in these times; in the name of Mashiach Yeshua we pray. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

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