

שְׁלַח

Sh'lach

(send)

B'midbar [Numbers] 13:1-15:41

הפטרה שלח

Haftarah Sh'lach

Yehoshua [Joshua] 2:1-24

Enemies of Israel

Yehoshua (Joshua) 2:9

And she said to the men, "I know that YHWH has given you the land, and that the fear of you is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you."

What Rachav (Rahab) told to the two spies who Yehoshua had sent out to spy out the land, and in particular to spy out Yericho, was right in line with what YHWH had promised Israel before they went into the land.

Shemot (Exodus) 23:27

"I will send my terror before you, and will discomfit all the people to whom you shall come, and I will make all your enemies turn their backs to you."

YHWH made this promise to Israel. However, this promise is conditional upon one thing that YHWH expects from Israel. If Israel does not meet this condition then she should not, yea, cannot expect to see YHWH fulfill this promise.

Shemot (Exodus) 23:20-22

20 "Behold, I send Malak before you, to keep you in the way, and to bring you into the place which I have prepared.

21 You take heed before Him, and hearken to His Voice; provoke Him not; for He will not pardon your transgression; for My name is in Him.

22 But if you shall indeed hearken to His Voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy to your enemies, and an adversary to your adversaries."

YHWH clearly states to Israel that in order for us to receive the promise that He will make our enemies His enemies and that He would cause them to flee before us, then we must hear and obey His Voice. If we fail to do this, then we cannot expect our enemies to flee before us. In fact, YHWH tells us that if we do not hear and obey His Voice, then we will flee before our enemies.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 28:15

"But it shall come to pass, if you will not hearken to the Voice of YHWH your Elohim, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes which I command you this day, that all these curses shall come upon you, and overtake you."

YHWH promises Israel that if they will not hear and obey His Voice to do all that He has commanded them to do, then one of the things that will happen is that they will not be victorious over their enemies.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 28:25

"YHWH will cause you to be smitten before you enemies; you shall go out one way against them, and shall flee seven ways before them; and you shall be tossed to and from among all the kingdoms of the earth."

We see this played out in this Torah portion this week with the incident of the spies when the people believed the evil report of the ten spies rather than the righteous report of the two spies. The people refused to go in and possess the land that YHWH had promised to them as the descendants of Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya'aqov. Then after YHWH had pronounced judgment upon the nation and killed the ten spies who had given the evil report and caused the people to sin by not believing YHWH, then the people decided to go in and possess the land. This again was disobeying the Voice of YHWH. Please note what happened to them when they went against their enemies to fight against them.

B'midbar (Numbers) 14:40-45

40 And they rose up early in the morning, and went up to the top of the mountain, saying, "Behold, we are here, and will go up to the place which YHWH has promised; for we have sinned."

41 And Moshe said, "Therefore now do you transgress the commandment of YHWH, seeing it shall not succeed?

42 Do not go up, for YHWH is not among you; that you be not struck down before your enemies.

43 For there the Amaleki and the Cana'ani are before you, and you shall fall by the sword; because you have turned back from following YHWH, therefore YHWH will not be with you."

44 But they presumed to go up to the top of the mountain; nevertheless the ark of the covenant of YHWH, and Moshe, departed not out of the camp.

45 Then the Amaleki came down, and the Cana'ani who dwelt in that mountain, and smote them and beat them down, even to Chormah.

Notice in the space of these few verses that YHWH had given them a new commandment. Then the people had decided to ignore this new commandment and go up to take possession of the land against this new commandment. Moshe warned the people that disobeying the Voice of YHWH in this matter was a sure way to meet disaster.

They chose to ignore the warning which Moshe gave to them and went up to take the land which YHWH had promised them. They did not succeed in this. In fact we are told that the enemy smote them and beat them down. The phrase "even to Chormah" tells us that the enemy chased them and they fled before their enemy. This is exactly what YHWH said would happen when we disobey His Voice and do not obey Him.

Yochanan (John) 10:27

"My sheep hear My Voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."

The importance of hearing and obeying His Voice cannot be overemphasized! Is it possible to obey YHWH without hearing His Voice? No, it is not possible! We must strive to hear His Voice in order that we may then obey what He has told us to do. The concept of hearing and obeying His Voice takes on new significance when we read this next passage.

Gilyana (Revelation) 3:20

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear My Voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me."

Please note that in the Torah when we find that we are to "hearken", "listen to", or some such similar language concerning His Voice, the Hebrew word is the word שמעו – "sh'ma" or "shema" which means "to hear and obey." In the Aramaic Peshitta in the verse above we find a form of this word, שמע. What this teaches us is that if we truly want Mashiach Yeshua to come in and dine with us, in effect if we want Yeshua to be our Mashiach, our Savior and Kinsman Redeemer, then we must hear and obey His Voice. We must shema His Voice. If one does not hear and obey His Voice, then the indication in this passage is that Yeshua will not come in and dine with him. And if Yeshua does not come in and dine with a person then Salvation has not entered in!

The truth of the matter is this: if one does not hear and obey His Voice, then one cannot be saved!

In much of Christianity today there is this prevalent idea that if one simply believes that Yeshua is the Messiah, then he is saved. It is commonly believed that once a person believes this, then he is free to go and do whatever he wants to do without regard for any commandment in Scripture. This is simply not

true. In fact, this belief or doctrine will lead one right into the gates of hell as a captive of the enemy of his soul, Satan.

In order for us to live our lives with spiritual victory, then we must live in obedience to His Voice. It is only in this way that we can overcome this world and all the many attacks from the enemy. If one is not willing to do his very best to live in obedience to His Voice in all matters, then how can there be victory in his life, spiritually or otherwise? There simply cannot be victory as YHWH has promised us that in order for our enemies to flee before us, then we must hear and obey His Voice. Certainly our enemies include Satan and all his demonic emissaries. If we are going to walk in such a way for them to flee from before us, then we must hear and obey His Voice. We must!

ABBA YHWH, let us hear Your Voice that we may obey You so that You can give us the victory in Mashiach Yeshua in whose name we pray. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

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