

דְּבָרִים

D'varim

(Words)

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

Don't Fight His Battles!

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 3:22

"You shall not fear them; for YHWH your Elohim, is the one fighting for you."

The truth contained in the above passage is a truth that Israel had a great deal of difficulty learning. In fact, Israel is still learning this truth and has not yet come to the full realization of this truth. YHWH began to teach this truth to Israel from the very beginning when He brought them out of Egypt.

Shemot (Exodus) 14:13-14

13 And Moshe said to the people, "do not fear, stand still and see the salvation of YHWH, which He will work for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you shall see them again no more forever.

14 YHWH will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."

YHWH had delivered all of Israel out of the bondage of Egypt with a great and mighty hand and led them with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to the shore of the Red Sea. Then YHWH hardened Pharaoh's heart still once more and he pursued Israel to take them back into bondage. However, YHWH in the pillar of fire stood between Israel and Pharaoh with all his army. Then YHWH divided the waters of the Red Sea so that Israel could cross over on dry ground. After Israel had crossed over, then YHWH lifted up the pillar of fire so that Pharaoh and his army could pursue Israel into the Red Sea. However, when Pharaoh and all his army was in the midst of the Red Sea on dry ground, YHWH closed the waters over him and his army, and each and every one of them perished and Israel witnessed this.

Shemot (Exodus) 14:30

Thus YHWH saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea-shore.

All of Israel was a witness to the fact that YHWH had destroyed Pharaoh and all his army and they never had to be concerned ever again of Pharaoh pursuing them or taking them into bondage again.

Moshe also reminds Israel of other battles that YHWH has fought for them over the years that they had spent in the wilderness.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 1:4

After he had smitten Sichon the king of the Amori, who dwelt in Cheshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, who dwelt in Ashtarot, at Edre'i.

It was after Israel defeated these two kings and took all that belonged to them, their cities and cattle and all their possessions, that the tribes of Reuven, Gad and half the tribe of Manasheh came to Moshe and asked that their land be given to them as a possession. It is interesting and important to note exactly where the physical location of this land was.

In the map below please note the following:

I have roughly penciled in the black line, the approximate northern border of Israel today. Notice that this border takes in part, but not all of the Bashan. Today this area is known as the Golan Heights. It is a very beautiful and fertile area of Israel. YHWH gave the Bashan to the tribe of Manasheh.

To the south of the land given to the tribe of Manasheh YHWH gave the land to the tribes of Gad and Reuven. The lands given to these tribes are underlined in red. This land is not currently under the control or in the borders of Israel today.

It is interesting to note that most map makers today do not put the wanderings of Israel in the wilderness this far north. However, it is plain from the Scriptural record that they not only traveled this far north, but conquered this territory as well.

The areas circled in yellow are those areas that Israel conquered under the leadership of Moshe. The cities in which those respective kings lived are underlined in yellow. These kings came out against Israel without cause and as a result YHWH gave them into the hand of Israel and Israel completely destroyed these kings and their nations and YHWH gave them possession of their land as an inheritance.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 2:30

“But Sichon king of Cheshbon would not let us pass by him; for YHWH your Elohim hardened his spirit, and made his heart obstinate, that he might deliver him into your hand, as at this day.”

YHWH caused these kings not to agree for Israel to pass through their territories. As a result these kings came out against Israel to defeat them. However, Israel does not fight her own battles; YHWH fights for her and because this is true, Israel does not lose.

This is true as long as Israel is living in obedience to YHWH. If Israel is living in disobedience to YHWH, then YHWH will punish her with defeat. Whenever Israel has defeat, then she had better start looking for exactly how and where she has been disobedient to YHWH and get it corrected before the next battle in order to assure victory.

B'midbar (Numbers) 14:41

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

When Israel believed the evil report of the ten spies instead of the good report of the two spies and refused to go into the land YHWH had promised to Avraham and Yitzchak and Ya'aqov, He declared to them their punishment. But rather than accept this or even to entreat YHWH, they foolishly decided to go into the land and fight under their own strength and power.

B'midbar (Numbers) 14:42

"Do not go up, for YHWH is not among you; that you are not smitten down before your enemies."

Now wisdom tells us that if it is YHWH that gives us our victories and He is not going to fight for us, then that is a battle that is best not engaged in. Would you not agree? Yet, Yisrael went up anyway against the commandment of YHWH. As a result many died.

B'midbar (Numbers) 14:45

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

It seems that this is a lesson that Israel has a tough time just really getting! Even today, Israel, the two tribes of the southern kingdom, do not seem to fully understand the significance nor the importance of living Torah so that victory can be won. Furthermore, it is not the strength of Israel that gives her victory. We see this lesson clearly demonstrated through Gideon.

Shophtim (Judges) 7:2

And YHWH said to Gideon, "The people that are with you are too many for Me to give the Midyani into their hand, lest Israel become boastful against Me, saying, 'My own hand has delivered me.'"

It has been estimated that the size of the army of Midyan in this valley as witnessed by Gideon was over a million battle hardened warriors. Even with 32,000 men, YHWH considers this with the odds stacked in favor of Israel. YHWH has Gideon reduce his army to only 300 men. It is at this point that YHWH gives Israel a complete and overwhelming victory.

If one is not careful he may miss the basic and essential message that YHWH is teaching Israel through all this.

Qorintyah Bet (2nd Corinthians) 5:7
For we walk by faith, not by sight.

The life that we live in and through Mashiach Yeshua is supposed to be a life of faith. However, it is way too easy to get caught up in the day to day activities in which only what we see with our eyes and what we hear with our ears are the determining factors of what we are doing. Way too often the decisions we are making are based upon these sensory perceptions. Brothers and sisters in Mashiach, this is not good and it is not healthy for us spiritually!

Romans 14:23b
And whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

When a person gets so caught up in their daily living that he is no longer walking by faith, but he is walking by sight, then such a person is walking in sin. It is a difficult truth for us, but it is truth nonetheless.

Ivrim (Hebrews) 10:38
But My righteous one shall live by faith; and if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him.

This is perhaps the very point at which more believers falter than at any other. They start out walking their faith in Mashiach Yeshua, but the cares of this world cause them to stop walking by faith and walk by sight.

Matithyah (Matthew) 13:20-22
20 "And he that was sown upon the rocky places, this is he that hears the word, and straightway with joy receives it;
21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while; and when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.
22 And he that was sown among the thorns, this is he that hears the word; and the care of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful."

There is only one way to prevent these things from happening in our lives. We must walk by faith. Let us not forget the lesson of Achan, who, seeing the glitter of gold and the feel of fine raiment, went astray from following YHWH because he stopped walking by faith. It is not we ourselves who provide for our needs. Our needs are provided for us by YHWH. It is not through one's own strength that these blessings come, it is through YHWH. When we fail to know and understand these things in our daily lives we are on the threshold of sin.

Romans 8:25
But if we hope for that which we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

What it is that we do not yet see? Is it not the fullness of salvation promised to those who believe? Yet, we have the promise of that salvation when He gives us His Spirit, but the fullness of it we have not yet seen. We are to wait patiently for this, knowing that it is surely coming to all those who are faithful to the end.

Do not stop short, brothers and sisters in Mashiach, but strive continually to walk in faith, not by what you see and hear. There are many voices in our world today who desire to make you afraid. There is nothing to fear in this world! We are to fear Him to whom we will one day give an account. Regardless of what is happening in our world, it is only temporary. YHWH is still sovereign of this world and nothing happens without His knowledge!

Is YHWH still Sovereign of your life?

ABBA YHWH, open our eyes of faith that we may walk by faith, not by sight; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amen.

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

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