

שְׁלַח

Sh'lach

(send)

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

YHWH Will Not Always Strive With Man

B'midbar (Numbers) 14:22-23

22 "Surely all those men that have seen My glory, and My signs, which I wrought in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet have tested Me these ten times, and have not hearkened to My Voice;

23 surely they shall not see the land which I swore to their fathers, neither shall any of them that despised Me see it."

There is a prevalent doctrine in Christianity and in many of the Messianic and Nazarene circles as well that teaches that the grace of YHWH is never ending and is always available to all regardless of what a person does in this life. This belief simply ignores the reality of what is contained in Scripture. In this Torah portion alone we see that YHWH relegates the nation to wander in the wilderness until all those who have sinned against Him have died and are buried in the wilderness.

YHWH actually commanded Moshe to send in twelve spies, one man from each tribe, to spy out the land and bring back a report. YHWH specifies to Moshe that these men were to be leaders among their brothers. It is no wonder that these men had such a sway when they gave an evil report and swayed the people to go against the word of YHWH. What this illustrates for us is the importance of who our leaders are. Leaders can unwittingly lead us away from YHWH instead of leading us to obey His Voice.

It is not recorded that YHWH specified which twelve men to send in to spy out the land. Most likely YHWH left the picking of these twelve men to Moshe. Perhaps if Moshe would have asked YHWH which twelve men to send, then this story would have had a vastly different outcome.

We need to make sure that who we are looking up to are leading us to obey all the commandments of YHWH and not just those commandments which they deem acceptable in their own eyes. Those who lead us also need to lead a life which is full of the love of Mashiach and His Torah.

Notice this next passage from near the end of this week's Torah portion.

B'midbar (Numbers) 15:30-31

30 "But the soul who does defiantly, whether he be home-born or a sojourner, the same blasphemes YHWH; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

31 Because he has despised the word of YHWH, and has broken His commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him."

It is important to note what happened to those ten leaders who gave an evil report to the people.

B'midbar (Numbers) 14:36-37

36 And the men, whom Moshe sent to spy out the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up an evil report against the land,

37 even those men that did bring up an evil report of the land, died by the plague before YHWH.

Those ten leaders died by the plague before YHWH shortly after making the people of YHWH sin against Him by not listening to His Voice. All those who have any leadership responsibilities however great or small, please take careful note that the number one duty of a leader of YHWH's people is to lead the people under one's charge to obey His Voice! Not doing this, in fact, to lead one to go against obeying the Voice of YHWH is to bring a death sentence upon oneself!

In verse 22 above we find this phrase, which is of great importance to us today.

"... yet have tested Me these ten times ..."

YHWH is speaking about and concerning the entire congregation of Israel in this passage. He is stating that they have tested Him ten times. This particular incident of them listening to the evil report and not listening to and obeying the Voice of YHWH is the tenth time they had tested YHWH. That was all the chances that they were going to receive. They were to get no more chances. They had used up all the grace available to them. YHWH placed them all under the sentence of death and none of those under that sentence of death were going to be allowed to enter into His land.

Here is a list of those ten times when the nation of Israel tested YHWH and sinned against Him.

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| 1. At the Red Sea | Shemot (Exodus) 14:11 |
| 2. No water at Marah | Shemot 15:24 |
| 3. Hunger | Shemot 16:2-3 |
| 4. Leftover manna | Shemot 16:20 |
| 5. Went out to gather manna on Shabbat | Shemot 16:27 |
| 6. No water at Refidim | Shemot 17:2 |
| 7. The golden calf | Shemot 32:8 (32:1-9) |
| 8. People grumbled | B'midbar (Numbers) 11:1 |
| 9. No meat to eat | B'midbar 11:4 |
| 10. Evil report of 10 spies | B'midbar 14:22 |

It is also instructive to us to bring to mind that YHWH gave Pharaoh ten plagues or ten times in which to repent and obey His Voice. Of course we know that Pharaoh refused to listen to His Voice and only let the people of Israel go upon the bidding of the people of Egypt because they were afraid that they were all going to die if Pharaoh did not let them go.

But we also know that YHWH hardened His heart in the end and Pharaoh was sorry that he had let them go and pursued them to bring them back and as a result Pharaoh and all those in his army were killed by drowning in the Red Sea.

It is important for us to see this pattern in Scripture and that YHWH's dealings with an individual or a nation is not forever. Rather, His dealings with a nation are limited and the pattern set forth in Scripture is that one, whether he be an individual or a nation, is given ten chances to accept or reject His grace. Again, let us read this passage as we read above.

B'midbar (Numbers) 15:30

30 "But the soul who does defiantly, whether he be home-born or a sojourner, the same blasphemeth YHWH; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people."

Please note that in this chapter before this verse we find this passage which is also very instructive to us today.

B'midbar (Numbers) 15:27

"And if one person sin unintentionally, then he shall offer a she-goat a year old for a sin-offering."

There is a vast difference between one who sins unintentionally and one who acts in defiance. Make no mistake about it, YHWH knows what is in the heart of man as to which is which, even though we as men may not know, YHWH knows.

Ivrim (Hebrews) 4:13

And there is no creature that is not manifest in His sight; but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

Please note that these things have been recorded for us to learn from, if we will but listen to them and to His Spirit.

Qorintyah Aleph (1st Corinthians) 10:5-6

5 Howbeit with most of them Elohim was not well pleased; for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

It is YHWH's desire that we learn from the mistakes and sins of others so that we do not have to repeat those same errors that they did.

Ivrim (Hebrews) 3:7-8

7 Therefore, even as the Holy Spirit says,

To-day if you hear His Voice,

***8 Do not harden your hearts, as in the provocation,
as in the day of the testing in the wilderness,***

Each time that Israel grumbled against YHWH and His chosen leader Moshe, the people were falling into the cycle of the hardening of the heart. This cycle is quite defined in Scripture and we need to understand it so that we do not repeat it.

Ivrim (Hebrews) 3:19

And we see that they were not able to enter in because of unbelief.

First we see that Israel, that is those who came out of Egypt, were not able to enter the land promised to Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya'aqov because they simply did not believe YHWH. This lack of belief or lack of faith resulted in disobedience.

Ivrim (Hebrews) 4:6

Seeing therefore it remains that some should enter there, and they to whom the good tidings were before preached failed to enter in because of disobedience,

Here we see that those same ones failed to enter because of disobedience. What we are being taught in these passages is that the cycle of the hardening of the heart towards YHWH consists of unbelief which results in disobedience. This in turn results in more unbelief, which results in more disobedience. And the cycle goes on and on until one has exhausted all the grace available to him and YHWH places him under the sentence of death.

The only way in which this cycle can be broken is for one to repent of his unbelief and disobedience. This repentance must be complete and genuine in order for the cycle to be truly broken. Once this cycle is broken, then one must walk uprightly before YHWH, lest he fall back into that same cycle of sin again.

Qorintyah Aleph (1st Corinthians) 10:12

Therefore let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

The question then comes to our mind as to why these particular incidents have been recorded for our instruction in these last days. Please note the completeness of one's life which these ten tests cover. Everything that a person needs to live is covered in these ten tests in which the people of Israel grumbled against YHWH and sinned against Him, because they did not believe that He would or could provide for their daily needs. Is this why Yeshua taught us concerning these matters?

Matithyah (Matthew) 6:28-33

28 "And why are you anxious concerning raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin;

29 yet I say to you, that even Sh'lomo in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30 But if Elohim does so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, you of little faith?

31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or, 'What shall we drink?' or, 'How shall we be clothed?'

32 For after all these things do the Gentiles seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you have need of all these things.

33 But seek first His kingdom, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you."

It is interesting to note that Yeshua made a reference to King Sh'lomo, who when given a choice between riches, fame and wisdom, choose wisdom and YHWH added to him the others as well. Likewise, Yeshua is giving us a choice as to what to seek after. If we seek after His kingdom and His righteousness, then He will add to us those things that we need in this life: food, clothing, water, shelter, whatever we need to live.

The importance of this will be played out in the days ahead as we may need to flee into the wilderness. More than anything we need to seek to do His will in our lives. We need to do what He commands us in every respect, even if we do not understand the logic of it at the time. Our life does not consist of food and drink, but of every word that comes out of His mouth.

Matithyah (Matthew) 4:4

But He answered and said, "It is written,

'Man shall not live by bread alone,

But by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of Elohim.' "

Yeshua in responding to Satan, responds with Torah!

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 8:3

"And He humbled you, and caused you to hunger, and fed you with manna, which you did not know, neither did your fathers know; that He might make you know that man does not live by bread only, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of YHWH does man live."

In order for us to live according to His will for each one of us individually as well as collectively, then we must be able to hear His Voice so that we might obey His Voice. This is our life. The things of this world will do nothing to give to us the life that we need. In fact, the things of this world, when those things are the end of one's pursuit bring only death and destruction. It is only when we seek after the things of His kingdom that we can truly have life, both in His kingdom and now in this world.

Brothers and sisters in Mashiach, let us take to heart this admonition from His Spirit.

Kepha Aleph (1st Peter) 4:7

But the end of all things is at hand; you therefore be of sound mind, and be sober to prayer.

ABBA YHWH, teach us Your ways that we may walk in the fullness thereof; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach we pray. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

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