

וַאֲרָא

Vaeira

(vah-ay-rah)
(and I appeared)

Shemot [Exodus] 6:2-9:35

Seeking a Sign

Shemot (Exodus) 7:9

When Pharaoh shall speak to you, saying, “Show a miracle for you”; then you shall say to Aharon, “Take your staff, and cast it down before Pharaoh, that it become a serpent.”

YHWH knew that Pharaoh would want to see something as evidence that Moshe had been sent from YHWH. So, YHWH told Moshe to have his brother Aharon throw down his staff before Pharaoh and it would become a serpent. The word here is תַּנִּין “tannin”, which can mean either a “serpent” or a “dragon”, and in this case, the understanding of “dragon” is preferred. So this is what we shall use throughout the rest of this study.

YHWH knew that human nature being what it is, Pharaoh would demand to see a miracle. It is still the same today. I have actually heard people complain that there just are not any miracles today; not like in the days of Mashiach. Those making such statements really are not looking to see them, for there are miracles all the time and even if they did see a miracle it would not cause them to begin believing.

Matithyah (Matthew) 12:39

But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and there shall no sign be given it but the sign of Yonah the prophet;”

A sign or a miracle does not convince anyone of anything except to confirm what one already believes. It was true in Moshe’s day. It was true in Yeshua’s day. And it is still true today. Yeshua taught us that it is not wise to seek after a sign or miracle. The reason for this is that when one seeks to confirm something that is in his mind or heart through the seeking after a sign or miracle, then almost anything will suffice to be used as evidence to be used to confirm the direction one already has chosen to walk. The sign or miracle is simply a means which one uses to shift the responsibility from his own choice to that of “YHWH told me to do this” via the sign or miracle.

Satan himself and those who are his slaves have the ability to work signs and wonders: miracles. However, if we do not properly discern these signs and wonders, then we could be deceived and end up following Satan rather than following YHWH.

2nd Thessalonians 2:9

even he, whose coming is according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.

Now we must make a distinction here between a legitimate sign or miracle and the seeking of a sign or miracle. As Yeshua points out it is not the sign or miracle that is evil (if it is indeed a legitimate miracle), but rather it is the seeking after the sign or miracle that is evil. It is at this very point that Satan is able to enter in and manifest a lying sign or miracle to deceive those who are looking for something that they should not be looking for in the first place. The sign of Yonah would be given to that generation to show to them the legitimacy of Yeshua being the Mashiach. So the sign itself was not evil, but that generation was evil for seeking after signs and then following those signs as something other than what they actually were.

The seeking after a sign or miracle is the equivalent of eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Why is this so? Let us consider what it is that is actually being sought in the sign or miracle. When a person seeks a sign or a miracle, then what he is seeking is to determine what he should do or not do. He is attempting to determine for himself what is good and what is evil. He is doing this through the use of signs and miracles.

There is a whole movement in our society today which focuses upon miracles. This movement does not care what the source of those miracles is, only that the miracle has an “otherworldly” element to it that cannot be explained by natural means, but only can be understood through some kind of supernatural intervention whether that be from YHWH or from Satan; they care not which.

This is one of the differences between those who have a Babylonian mindset and those who are coming out of that type of mindset and are working with YHWH to establish a mindset which is focused upon His kingdom, a mindset of faith in Mashiach Yeshua.

Matithyah (Matthew) 24:23-25

23 “Then if any man shall say to you, ‘Behold, here is the Mashiach’, or, ‘There’; believe it not.

24 For there shall arise Mashiachs of untruth, and prophets of lies, and shall show great signs and wonders; so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

25 Behold, I have told you in advance.”

Yeshua warned those who have ears to hear that there would arise amongst His people those who claimed to be someone and they would show signs and miracles and then lead even His chosen ones astray. This is one of the reasons that we need Torah. Torah will keep us on the path of the straight and narrow. Without Torah it is nigh unto impossible to discern the true path. However, with Torah we can

easily see the one true path to walk upon. When we consider the above warning in light of Torah, the following passage comes to mind.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 13:1-5

1 “If there arise in your midst a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, then he speaks to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods, which you have not known, and let us serve them’;

3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet, or to that dreamer of dreams; for YHWH your Elohim is testing you, to know whether you love YHWH your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul.

4 You shall walk after YHWH your Elohim, and fear Him, and keep His commandments, and obey His Voice, and you shall serve Him, and cleave to Him.

5 And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death, because he has spoken rebellion against YHWH your Elohim, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to draw you aside out of the way which YHWH your Elohim commanded you to walk in. So shall you put away the evil from your midst.”

Please note that what this type of prophet or dreamer says actually comes to pass. Furthermore, this type of prophet or dreamer of dreams is also sent from YHWH. There are many such in our world today. However, YHWH then tells us that we are to listen carefully to their words. Are these prophets and dreamers of dreams leading us towards YHWH or are they leading us away from YHWH? If these prophets and dreamers of dreams are leading us away from YHWH, then we are to put them to death. We put them to death by not giving them any money and by not getting their materials and by not listening to any of their words.

Please note that it is not appropriate to call these prophets and dreamers of dreams “false prophets” because what they have said has come to pass and YHWH sent them to us. However, YHWH simply is testing us to see if we are following Him. Or, are we following signs and wonders? Are we following a man (or woman) rather than following YHWH and the path of Torah?

Everything that Yeshua did testified of His true identity. Everything that He said to His followers was to get people to come back to YHWH and to keep His Torah. He never once taught us to go and follow other gods. Never once did He teach us that the Law or Torah of YHWH was done away with. What He taught us was to keep and do all the commandments of our heavenly Father.

Matithyah (Matthew) 5:17-19

17 “Do not think that I came to destroy the Torah or the prophets; I came not to destroy, but to verify.

18 Amein, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not one jot or one tittle shall pass away from the Torah, till all things be accomplished.

19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whosoever shall do and teach them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

Please notice that we have rendered verse seventeen with the word “verify” rather than the word “fulfill” as this word better captures the idea present in this context of what Yeshua was saying. The idea can be expressed in the following. Please consider the speed limit on the highway which you drive. When you drive within that speed limit, then you verify it, even fulfill it. But in the keeping of that speed limit law, does your verifying it or fulfilling it do away with it in any way? No, of course it does not. The speed limit law is still there and the sign is still posted for those who come after you. Likewise, it is so with the Torah of YHWH. Yeshua verified and fulfilled the Torah, but it is still posted for us who come after Him to keep and observe and obey. Are you obeying the posted speed limit of YHWH called His Torah?

Yochanan (John) 10:37-39

37 “If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me.

38 But if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works; that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.”

39 They sought again to take Him; and He went forth out of their hand.

Even though many of these religious leaders of that day sought a sign from Yeshua, and even though He did many miracles in their midst and even before their very eyes, and even though He taught those who listened to Him to keep and obey Torah, still they chose not to believe in Yeshua as Mashiach. What Yeshua did in His ministry was perfectly in line with Torah. Yet these religious leaders of that day still chose to disregard all that they had witnessed and all that Torah taught them and chose to follow the vain imaginations of their own evil and darkened heart.

We have a lot of choices to make in our lives. We can choose to follow truth. Or, we can choose to follow after signs and wonders. In choosing to follow truth one chooses to follow Mashiach Yeshua. However, if one chooses to follow after miracles, then he has chosen to follow after a god of his own making. This is idolatry and will not lead us to eternal life. Let us carefully and fearfully guard our hearts and lives to keep idolatry far from us!

ABBA YHWH, we ask not for a sign or miracle, but we do ask for You to reveal Your truth to us that we might walk in the fullness thereof; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

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