

ויגש

## Vayyiggash

(and came)

### B'reshit [Genesis] 44:18-47:27

#### Whose Definition of Abomination?

*B'reshit (Genesis) 46:33-34*

*33 "And it shall come to pass, when Pharaoh shall call you, and shall say, 'What is your occupation?'*

*34 that you shall say, 'Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth even until now, both we, and our fathers'; that you may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians."*

Historically speaking, the Egyptians of that era were not worshippers of YHWH Tzava'ot. They had a whole pantheon of gods that they worshipped and to whom they paid homage. Now according to their reckoning, those people who were keepers of livestock, namely shepherds, were an abomination. Let us examine this word and its meaning a little closer.

The Hebrew word that we find here in this text is תוֹעֵבָה – to'avat, which comes from the word תָּעַב – which means "to reject, to loathe, to abominate, or to cause revulsion." The stem of the word we find in the above verse is the feminine singular construct. The construct state of this word means that shepherds are the abomination "of" the Egyptians.

Even though the Egyptians had some very strong feelings about shepherds, we know that YHWH does not view shepherds in this same manner. Please consider the following passage of Scripture.

*Tehillim (Psalm) 23:1*

*A Psalm of David.*

*YHWH is my Shepherd;*

*I shall not want.*

There are a number of passages of Scripture throughout the prophets as well which indicate that YHWH acts like a shepherd to His people Israel. YHWH does not consider being a shepherd as something abominable. Rather, YHWH considers being a shepherd as something honorable, providing one shepherds with integrity.

We also know that Yeshua clearly states that He is the good Shepherd.

**Yochanan (John) 10:11**

***“I am the good Shepherd; the good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”***

In a bit of irony, YHWH later speaks through His prophet Yirmeyah about the gods of the Egyptians being destroyed by one who will act as a shepherd; and by one who will be abominable in their eyes, he will defile all that they hold sacred.

**Yirmeyah (Jeremiah) 43:12**

***“And I will set fire to the temples of the gods of Egypt; and he shall burn them, and carry them away captive; and he shall array himself with the land of Egypt, as a shepherd puts on his garment; and he shall go forth from thence in peace.”***

This is speaking of the ruler of Babylon coming to destroy all the temples of their false gods. He will subdue the land of Egypt so completely and so easily that it will be like a shepherd who wraps himself in the skins of his flock.

Now that we have established that YHWH does not consider shepherds as loathsome or abominable, let us examine what He does consider an abomination. This word תּוֹעֵבָה is found in twenty-five verses in the Torah and a total of 112 twelve times throughout the Tanak, with it appearing in several verses twice. Let us examine a few of these verses to see what it is that YHWH says is an תּוֹעֵבָה (abomination) in His eyes.

**Vayyiqra (Leviticus) 20:13**

***“If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed an abominable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their guilt is upon them.”***

YHWH clearly states that a person who commits an act of homosexuality has committed an abominable act and they are to be put to death. We may not like this Torah commandment, but it is His commandment and we are to obey it with the same love and dedication that we do all the rest of His commandments.

**Devarim (Deuteronomy) 7:25-26**

**25 “The graven images of their gods you are to burn with fire; you shall not covet the silver or the gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, or you will be snared by it, for it is an abomination to YHWH your Elohim.**

**26 “You must not bring any abominable thing into your house; or you, like it, will come under the curse of destruction. You must regard them as unclean and loathsome, for they are under the curse of destruction.”**

The word loathsome in the above passage is from the root word of תִּנְעִבַת. Please note that while there is coming a time when we shall once again plunder mystical Egypt, one of the things that is under the ban and is not to be plundered, is the gold and silver that is used to make an idol. These things we are not to take, but we are to destroy them completely!

Furthermore, anything that YHWH considers to be an abomination, we are not to bring into our homes, for doing so puts one under the curse of destruction. Now that seems like a pretty serious matter to me; how about you? Don't you think that it would be wise on our part to find out everything that YHWH considers to be an abomination, and make sure that these things are removed from our homes? To be sure, we should do this sooner rather than later!

***Devarim (Deuteronomy) 12:31***

***“You shall not behave thus toward YHWH your Elohim, for every abominable act which YHWH hates they have done for their gods; for they even burn their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.”***

Sacrificing our children to the gods of the nations is clearly an abomination in YHWH's eyes. Yet, many who claim to follow YHWH today do this exact thing. Look at the gods of the sports idols. Look at the gods of Hollywood. Look at the gods of the music industry. Our nation is filled up to overflowing with the gods of the nations, and it is not pleasing to YHWH our Elohim. Let us make sure that what we are teaching our children is His Torah, and teaching them to follow it all the days of their lives. What we do not want to teach our children is to follow after others who do not know or care about YHWH our Elohim!

***Devarim (Deuteronomy) 17:1***

***“You shall not sacrifice to YHWH your Elohim an ox or a sheep which has a blemish or any defect, for that is an abomination to YHWH your Elohim.”***

Brothers and sisters in Mashiach, make no mistake about it, YHWH commands us to give Him our best. When we give Him our leftovers it is an abomination in His eyes. Please allow me to relate to you an incident that happened before my very eyes many years ago. This happened when I was still a part of first-day worship.

One Sunday morning before Sunday School began, I was standing in the doorway between the kitchen and the fellowship hall and visiting with others. The class that I was a part of at that time met in the fellowship hall. When our Sunday School teacher arrived, she came into the kitchen. As she walked into the kitchen, she announced to whoever was listening, that she had bought new kitchen towels for herself, and she had brought her old used and nearly worn out kitchen towels to donate to the church. Well, I was appalled at such a notion. I was about to speak my piece when YHWH clearly checked me and told me to keep my mouth shut. Perhaps it was because of the very strong feelings that I had at that very moment that He would not allow me to speak.

How often have His people done this very thing? We bring to Him our cast-offs and leftovers and think what a wonderful gift we have given and how thoughtful and generous we have been. Wrong! When we give something to YHWH, it is supposed to be in the very best of shape. It is supposed to be the very best that we have to give. If a person gives YHWH his used things that he doesn't want anymore and keeps the brand new things for himself, then who is he serving? Who is it that really has top billing in his life? Is it not self? To be sure it is!

***Devarim (Deuteronomy) 18:9***

***“When you have entered the country given you by YHWH your Elohim, you must not learn to imitate the abominable practices of the nations there already.”***

There are many things that are done in the land today that are not according to Torah and they are not pleasing to YHWH! We are not to learn the ways of the nations! We are to learn the way of YHWH our Elohim and then teach these to our children.

***Yeshayah (Isaiah) 5:20***

***Woe to them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!***

It should not surprise us to find that those who dwell apart from YHWH our Elohim have their own ideas of what is abominable. Of course, YHWH does not agree with these manmade ideas. We are to put aside our own thoughts and we are to take His thoughts as our own. What YHWH calls an abomination, we are to call an abomination. What YHWH calls clean, we are to call clean. There are many voices in our world today who are claiming that evil is good and good is evil. Some of these voices even claim to speak for YHWH in making these claims. YHWH says that it is woe to them that do such things.

ABBA YHWH, teach us to walk in all of Your ways that we may be clean and acceptable in Your sight; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

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