

יְתֵרוֹ

Yitro

(Jethro)

Shemot [Exodus] 18:1-20:26

Lest We Die

Shemot [Exodus] 20:19

And they said to Moshe, “You speak with us, and we will hear; but do not let Elohim speak with us, lest we die.”

Here is a statement from the people of Israel that is obviously false. This statement seems to be steeped in pagan thought and culture. However, it is the word of YHWH that actually brings to us life, not death.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 32:46-47

46 And he said to them, “Set your heart to all the words which I testify to you this day, which you shall command your children to observe to do, even all the words of this Torah.

47 For it is no vain thing for you; because it is your life, and through this thing you shall prolong your days in the land, where you go over the Yarden to possess it.”

Moshe reminds them that the words and commandments of YHWH are life to us, not death.

Yochanan (John) 6:68

Shim'on Kepha answered Him, “Adoni, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

Kepha echoes this same idea when he asks Yeshua where else they should go, for no other One has the words of eternal life except Yeshua our Mashiach.

Take a look at what YHWH says through His prophet Yirmeyah concerning when He brought Israel out of Egypt and what they did in response to hearing and obeying His Voice.

Yirmeyah (Jeremiah) 7:22-24

22 “For I spoke not to your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt-offerings or sacrifices;

23 but this thing I commanded them, saying, 'Shema to My Voice, and I will be your Elohim, and you shall be My people; and you shall walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.'

24 But they shemaed not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in their own counsels and in the stubbornness of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward."

Do we truly fear YHWH our Elohim? Or do we follow Him with a flippant, lackadaisical attitude and mindset in which we run from one observance to another, without so much as a thought towards the leading of His Spirit.

The moment that YHWH began speaking to Israel as His beloved people, they turned away and said that they no longer desired to hear His Voice. Brothers and sisters, unless we hear His Voice, we will not and cannot, have eternal life, for He speaks the words of life to those who will listen and obey them. But if we fail to listen and obey, then we will not have life.

This whole idea that when the Creator of heaven and earth speaks it brings death, is simply not true concerning those who are His people. The fact that these people turned away was an indication of a deep seated heart problem. When a person's heart is not right within him, he is fearful of hearing any word from YHWH, for those words will be words of conviction and judgment. It is only when a person is willing to submit the entirety of his life to YHWH that His words bring life and not death. YHWH dearly wants us to choose life rather than death. He even tells us to choose life rather than death.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 30:19-20

19 "I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse; therefore choose life, that you may live, you and your seed;

20 to love YHWH your Elohim, to obey His Voice, and to cleave to Him; for He is your life, and the length of your days; that you may dwell in the land which YHWH swore to your fathers, to Avraham, to Yitzchak, and to Ya'aqov, to give them."

Please note that YHWH is our life according to this passage. Now, if He is our life, then it follows that we need to hear from Him. And we need to hear from Him often. However, in our Torah portion this week we see that Israel turns away from YHWH and says that they do not desire to hear from YHWH. Well, we know what happened to that entire generation, don't we? They all fell in the wilderness and only Yehoshua and Calev were allowed to enter into His Land.

Mishle (Proverbs) 8:36

But he that sins against Me wrongs his own soul;

All they that hate Me love death.

Who do we love? We love the one whom we obey. If we obey YHWH, then we love Him. If a person does not obey YHWH, then he hates YHWH and thereby he loves death. There is no middle ground. Either a person has life or he has death. It is one or the other.

Yochanan (John) 16:8

8 "And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin, and concerning righteousness, and concerning judgment;"

Yeshua taught us that this is the job and responsibility of His Spirit in laying upon each person the truth of who Yeshua is and how we should follow Him. Please notice now what it is that Yeshua teaches concerning each of these three areas of which His Spirit will convict the world.

Yochanan (John) 16:9

"of sin, because they believe not on Me;"

This indicates that it is actually a sin not to believe Yeshua is the Mashiach and to come to Him for forgiveness of sin and to seek life from Him.

Yochanan (John) 16:10

"of righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you behold Me no more;"

The basis of all righteousness is the belief that Yeshua came from the Father and He returned to the Father. If a person rejects this truth, then righteousness based upon any other foundation is built upon a faulty foundation and will not stand the judgment.

Yochanan (John) 16:11

"of judgment, because the prince of this world has been judged."

Please note the past tense of this statement. Yeshua states that the prince of this world has already been judged. His punishment has not yet been fully laid upon him, but it will be, very soon.

When we consider all three of these items in connection with the statement of all of Israel when they were at Sinai, then we can begin to see the gravity of such a mindset. Their mindset was on anything but hearing and obeying His Voice. Their mindset was not on life. Their mindset was upon death.

And so it has been for most of humanity throughout the days of this present world. It is a mindset that says we do not need to hear His Voice. It is a mindset that says that they do not want to hear His Voice. It is a mindset that falsely believes that hearing His Voice brings death. It is a mindset that is commonly found in the kingdoms of this world, the kingdoms of Babylon.

However, what we should be saying is: "Let us hear His Voice, lest we die!"

For if we do not hear His Voice how can we have any hope of obeying Him?

Yochanan (John) 10:27

“My sheep hear My Voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;”

Now please note what the result of hearing His Voice is.

Yochanan (John) 10:28

“and I give to them eternal life; and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of My hand.”

If a person is going to be one of YHWH's sheep, then he must hear and obey His Voice. Then, and only then, will Yeshua give him eternal life. Not only this, but as long as we are doing our very best to hear and obey His Voice, then we are secure in His hand; no one can take away from us the eternal life that He has given to us. While someone could take away our physical life, they do not have the power to take away our spiritual life in Mashiach as long as we remain true to Him.

We need to make sure that we are working towards increasing our obedience to Yeshua. Let us work at increasing our knowledge and understanding of Him and His ways that we may walk before Him in His Spirit better than we did the day before.

ABBA YHWH, let us hear Your Voice that we may obey You, lest we die; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

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