

וישלח

Vayyishlach

(and sent)

B'reshit [Genesis] 32:4-36:43 **In English Bibles 32:3-36:43**

Who Dwells in Your Midst?

B'reshit (Genesis) 33:15

And Esau said, "Let me now leave with you some of the people that are with me." And he said, "What need is there? Let me find favor in the sight of adoni."

After Ya'aqov left Lavan and headed back home to the land, Esau came out to meet him. Esau lived between where Ya'aqov had been living and the place where he was supposed to be living. When Esau heard that Ya'aqov was on the way home, Esau went out to meet him. Esau stood in his way.

Ya'aqov became frightened at the prospect that his brother was still angry with him and still desired to kill him. Then, when Ya'aqov learned that Esau was coming out to meet him with four hundred armed men, this really scared him. So Ya'aqov divided his family into two camps so that if his brother attacked one camp, perhaps the other camp would escape. Then, in front of all his family he drove ahead of them an extravagant gift for his brother, Esau. This was an attempt to turn his brother's heart away from doing him any harm.

But before any of his family came near to his brother Esau, Ya'aqov went before them to meet Esau. When he approached his brother and they embraced and worked out the differences between them, when all was said and done, Esau wanted to leave some of his men with Ya'aqov. This is quite an intriguing request from Esau to do this. In one translation of the Tanak it translates this request as:

Then Esau said, "Let me assign to you some of the people who are with me."

However, Ya'aqov realized the danger and the foolishness of this request if he were to grant this request. It would place his family in immediate danger of harm. The potential of harm to his family would be greatly increased. So, wisely, Ya'aqov pressed upon his brother not to do this. Esau accepted his brother's request.

It is too bad that the southern house of Judah has not realized this wisdom of Ya'aqov from this passage. Today, Judah unwisely allows the descendants of Esau to stay with them. In fact, all the descendants of Ya'aqov which surround Judah today have assigned these to Judah to watch, harass, maim and kill Judah, which they do frequently and effectively. If only Judah would learn the lesson from our father Ya'aqov from this week's Torah reading.

Herein lies the lesson for Ephrayim. Let Ephrayim not make the same mistake that Judah has made in allowing the descendants of Esau to remain among us when we return to the land that YHWH has promised to Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya'aqov. Let us be more diligent and much wiser and learn this vital lesson now before we return home.

But how will we be able to tell who is a descendant of Esau and who is not?

Luqa (Luka) 6:43-44

43 "For there is no good tree that brings forth corrupt fruit; nor again a corrupt tree that brings forth good fruit.

44 For each tree is known by its own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush do they gather grapes."

Scripture teaches us that a person is known by the fruit he produces. If a person does not serve Yeshua as his Master, then it is not possible for his fruit to be good. So, the bottom line is this: when YHWH gathers Ephrayim out of the four corners of the earth, then we cannot allow any who will not acknowledge Yeshua as Mashiach to stay among us.

Qorintyah Bet (2nd Corinthians) 6:14

Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers; for what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity? Or, what communion has light with darkness?

YHWH has clearly commanded us that we are not allowed to make any covenants with any people who do not keep His Torah.

Shemot (Exodus) 34:12-16

12 "Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you go, lest it be for a snare in the midst of you;

13 but you shall break down their altars, and dash in pieces their pillars, and you shall cut down their Asherim;

14 for you shall worship no other god; for YHWH Qanna is His name, He is a jealous El;

15 lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and play the harlot after their gods, and sacrifice to their gods, and one invite you and you eat of his sacrifice;

16 and you take of their daughters to your sons, and their daughters play the harlot after their gods, and make your sons play the harlot after their gods."

YHWH clearly states that if we act foolishly and allow the inhabitants of the land to stay and to mix in with us, then it will be our downfall. Esau intermarried with the inhabitants of the land that YHWH has declared to be wicked nations worthy of death.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 7:2-3

***2 “and when YHWH your Elohim shall deliver them up before you, and you shall smite them; then you shall utterly destroy them; you shall make no covenant with them, nor show mercy to them;
3 neither shall you make marriages with them; your daughter you shall not give to his son, nor his daughter shall you take to your son.”***

Just to make it perfectly clear, YHWH gives further instructions that we are not to allow our sons or our daughters to intermarry with these other nations.

B’reshit (Genesis) 26:34-35

***34 And when Esau was forty years old he took to wife Yudit the daughter of B’eri the Hittite, and Basmat the daughter of Elon the Hittite.
35 And they were a source of spiritual rebellion to Yitzchak and to Rivkah.***

So we can see here that the descendants of Esau are mixed with the daughters of the people with whom YHWH forbids us to intermarry.

Malakim Aleph (1st Kings) 18:21

And Eliyah came near to all the people, and said, “How long will you go limping between the two sides? If YHWH be Elohim, follow him; but if Ba’al, then follow him.” And the people answered him not a word.

In the days of Eliyah the prophet, the people of Israel attempted to serve two masters. However, they had not done so, for in choosing to serve Ba’al, they had actually chosen not to serve YHWH at all. They were still giving lip service to YHWH, but not true service.

YHWH through His prophet gives a clear call to the people to make a decision to serve only one master. However, the people refused to make a choice. They had become so deceived that they no longer knew who the one true Elohim was. They had become completely lost because of this unrighteous union between themselves and Ba’al.

Notice this next passage.

Divre HaYamim Bet (2nd Chronicles) 19:2

And Yehu the son of Chanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Y’hoshaphat, “Should you help the wicked, and love them that hate YHWH? For this thing wrath is upon you from before YHWH.”

Why did this prophet of YHWH, Yehu come out to meet Y'hoshaphat, king of Judah and give him such a message as this from YHWH? Y'hoshaphat was on his way back to Jerusalem from going into battle with the king of Israel, King Ahab. When Y'hoshaphat asked Ahab to seek counsel from one of YHWH's prophets, King Ahab sent for Mikayahu to get a word from YHWH. The word that this prophet spoke to these two kings was that Ahab was going to die in this battle, which he did. Then Y'hoshaphat went back home.

However, because Y'hoshaphat did not listen to the words of the prophet Mikayahu, but allied himself with King Ahab anyway and went into battle, YHWH sent another prophet to the king to inform him that he was going to receive wrath for this unrighteous alliance that he had made.

Let us examine one other passage concerning alliances that should not have been.

Yehoshua (Yehoshua) 9:3-15

***3 But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Yehoshua had done to Yericho and to Ai,
4 they also did work wilily, and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks upon their asses, and wine-skins, old and rent and bound up,
5 and old and patched shoes upon their feet, and old garments upon them; and all the bread of their provision was dry and was become moldy.
6 And they went to Yehoshua to the camp at Gilgal, and said to him, and to the men of Israel, "We are come from a far country; now therefore make a covenant with us."
7 And the men of Israel said to the Chivi, "Perhaps you dwell among us; and how shall we make a covenant with you?"
8 And they said to Yehoshua, "We are your servants." And Yehoshua said to them, "Who are you? And from where do you come from?"
9 And they said to him, "From a very far country your servants are come because of the name of YHWH your Elohim; for we have heard the fame of Him, and all that He did in Egypt,
10 and all that He did to the two kings of the Amorites, that were beyond the Yarden, to Sichon king of Cheshbon, and to Og king of Bashan, who was at Ashtarot.
11 And our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spoke to us, saying, 'Take provision in your hand for the journey, and go to meet them, and say to them, "We are your servants; and now make a covenant with us."
12 This our bread we took hot for our provision out of our houses on the day we came forth to go to you; but now, behold, it is dry, and is become moldy;
13 and these wine-skins, which we filled, were new; and, behold, they are rent; and these our garments and our shoes are become old by reason of the very long journey."
14 And the men took of their provision, and asked not counsel at the mouth of YHWH.
15 And Yehoshua made peace with them, and made a covenant with them, to let them live; and the princes of the congregation swore to them.***

YHWH had already commanded Israel not to make any covenants with anyone, especially the people who were currently living in the land. And because they did not seek the counsel of YHWH in this matter, but decided to make this covenant on their own, it became a snare for them.

However, this was not their only mistake. Their second mistake was that once they learned that they had been tricked into making a covenant with these people, they decided themselves to honor the covenant they had made. Once again they did something without the counsel of YHWH.

Mishle (Proverbs) 12:19

The lip of truth shall be established for ever;

But a lying tongue is but for a moment.

However, in order to keep ourselves out of situations like these, or worse, we must not make covenants with people who are not servants of YHWH our Elohim. To do so is to walk in opposition to the known counsel of YHWH.

ABBA YHWH, give us wisdom in establishing the northern kingdom of Israel once again so that we may serve You in one accord; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

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