

מַטּוֹת

## Mattot

(Tribes)

B'midbar [Numbers] 30:1-32:42

הפטרה מטות

### Haftarah Mattot

Yirmeyah [Jeremiah] 1:1-2:3

מַסְעֵי

## Mas'ei

(Journeys)

B'midbar [Numbers] 33:1-36:13

הפטרה מסעי

### Haftarah Mas'ei

Yirmeyah [Jeremiah] 2:4-28; 3:4 (Ashkenazim)

Yirmeyah [Jeremiah] 2:4-28; 4:1-2 (Sephardim)

### YHWH is Watching

*Yirmeyah (Jeremiah) 1:11-12*

**11** The word of YHWH came to me, saying, "Yirmeyahu, what do you see?" And I said, "I see a rod of an almond."

**12** Then said YHWH to me, "You have seen well; for I watching over My word to perform it.

YHWH tells Yirmeyahu that He is watching over His own word to make sure that it gets done. In these two verses YHWH gives us a Hebraic play on words. The play on words is found in those which are underlined in the above passage.

In verse eleven we find this Hebrew word, שָׁקֵד – shaqed which means almond. In verse twelve we find the Hebrew word שָׁקַד – shoqed which means to watch. Both of these words have the same Hebrew root word, שָׁקַד – shaqad which means "direct to". YHWH specifically created the almond tree to direct us to His word. Let us see some instances in Scripture in which YHWH does this.

*Shemot (Exodus) 25:31-34*

**31** "And you shall make a menorah of pure gold; of beaten work shall the menorah be made, even its base, and its shaft; its cups, its knops, and its flowers, shall be of one piece with it.

**32 And there shall be six branches going out of the sides thereof; three branches of the menorah out of the one side thereof, and three branches of the menorah out of the other side thereof;**

**33 three cups made like almonds in one branch, a knob and a flower; and three cups made like almonds in the other branch, a knob and a flower: so for the six branches going out of the menorah;**

**34 and in the menorah four cups made like almonds, the knobs thereof, and the flowers thereof.**

YHWH commanded Moshe to make a menorah. In the design of this menorah is the shape of almonds. So what is the significance of the shape of almonds being incorporated into the design of the menorah?

First, to understand this we need to understand the menorah itself. The first purpose of the menorah was to give light in the mishkan. The menorah then also symbolizes the light of YHWH. Placed in the menorah is pure olive oil, which represents the Spirit of YHWH.

***Yeshayah (Isaiah) 11:2***

***And the <sup>1</sup>Spirit of YHWH shall rest upon Him, the <sup>2</sup>Spirit of wisdom and <sup>3</sup>understanding, the <sup>4</sup>Spirit of counsel and <sup>5</sup>might, the <sup>6</sup>Spirit of knowledge and of the <sup>7</sup>fear of YHWH.***

Notice in the above verse that there are seven manifest Spirits of YHWH. Yochanan tells us this same truth in Revelation 1:4, although he does not name them individually. On a side note this is one of the reasons why the doctrine of the trinity is so woefully inadequate and erroneous. This flawed doctrine does not take into account the plain and simple counsel of Scripture.

This seven manifold Spirit of Elohim is mirrored in the menorah, which also has seven branches. It is only one (אחד – echad), however, it has seven branches. This teaches us then that the menorah is representative of the fullness of the Spirit and the light which comes with the coming of the Spirit. In the menorah YHWH had the shape of almonds placed in it.

It is also important to note that almonds are in the shape of an eye.

***Divre HaYamim Bet (2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles) 16:9a***

***“For the eyes of YHWH run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him.”***

YHWH is looking over the whole earth to see whose heart is towards Him, in fact, whose heart is perfect towards Him. When He finds such a person, then YHWH is able to perform His word in that person's life.

***Mishle (Proverbs) 15:3***

***The eyes of YHWH are in every place,  
Keeping watch upon the evil and the good.***

YHWH sees all that we do. He is able to perform His word in our lives. If He sees good, then He performs His blessings. If He sees evil then He performs His curses. The problem that each one of us

finds ourselves in is that none of us are good. We do not deserve His blessings. We deserve only His curses. However, if we come to Mashiach Yeshua, then we can have the blessings of YHWH if when He looks at us and instead of seeing us, He sees His Son. The clearer the image of His Son, the more blessed we will be.

***Yechezqel (Ezekiel) 12:25***

***“For I am YHWH; I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall be performed; it shall be no more deferred; for in your days, rebellious house, I will speak the word, and I will perform it,” says Adonai YHWH.***

The word of YHWH will be accomplished in the life of every single person. The question is, what portion of His word will be accomplished in your life? It is your choice and your choice alone. No outside influence can force you to choose either good or evil. Those things may attempt to sway our thinking and our decisions. But when we come down to the bottom line, the choice is simply ours.

***Zechariah (Zechariah) 4:10***

***“For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven shall rejoice, and shall see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel; these are the eyes of YHWH, which run to and fro through the whole earth.”***

Last year when YHWH sent us to Israel for two weeks, one of the things that He had to do was to plant an almond tree. I did not fully understand why at the time. I simply obeyed His command to me. Since that time I have come to understand many things concerning the almond tree. Some of which you have just read. Below is a picture of the tree which I planted.

It is not too difficult to see the shape of the menorah in this small tree. The location that this tree was planted was in Ein Kerem, which is just outside of Jerusalem. It is the historical home of many of the priests when they were off-duty. This is where Zechariah and Elizabeth lived, the parents of Yochanan haMatbi’el (John the Baptist).



YHWH is still watching over his word today and He will bring it all to pass. That is one of the messages that the planting of this tree brings to us. It is a message of hope and life for all those who see and understand.

May YHWH grant to each one of us His knowledge and understanding of what He is doing in our day and that He may grant us to stand firm in Mashiach Yeshua and not be tossed to and fro with all the political turmoil in our world today. May we stand fast in Him!

ABBA YHWH open our eyes that we may see as You see and be able to walk the straight and narrow without stumbling, in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach, Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

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