

וַיְחִי

## Vayechi

(and lived)

**B'reshit [Genesis] 47:28-50:26**

הַפְּטָרָה וַיְחִי

## Haftarah Vayechi

**Malakim Aleph [1<sup>st</sup> Kings] 2:1-12**

### Show Yourself to be a Man

*Malakim Aleph (1<sup>st</sup> Kings) 2:2*

*"I am going the way of all the earth; therefore, you be strong, and show yourself to be a man."*

In our world today Hollywood has had a major impact on the definition of what people see as a man. Generally speaking, according to our society today, a man is one who has a great physique and who does well in battle. One who is not afraid of anything at all and rushes headlong into certain death without so much as a thought. And finally, it is one who becomes a whimpering noodle when his woman enters the picture and whatever she says, that's what goes.

But is this what truly constitutes a man according to Scripture and according to YHWH our Elohim? Let's find out.

*Devarim (Deuteronomy) 6:2*

*"That you might fear YHWH your Elohim, to keep all His statutes and His commandments, which I command you; you, and your son, and your son's son, all the days of your life; and that your days may be prolonged."*

The very first requirement of being a man in any age and at any time is to fear YHWH. If one does not fear YHWH first and foremost then it is impossible for him to be a man in His eyes. It is this fear that enables one to keep and obey all of His commandments. Without this fear one will only give lip service to His commandments. His commandments will be done out of duty and obligation, by rote, but they will not be done out of great love for Him, which requires fear.

***Mishle (Proverbs) 1:7***

***The fear of YHWH is the beginning of knowledge;  
But the foolish despise wisdom and instruction.***

One of the first things that we need to be instructed in, in our return to YHWH is to fear YHWH our Elohim. This is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge. It is our foundation to a righteous life and a heart that is perfect and complete towards YHWH.

***Devarim (Deuteronomy) 31:6***

***“Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them; for YHWH your Elohim, He it is that goes with you; He will not fail you, nor forsake you.”***

What a wonderful promise this is. A man of Elohim knows this to be true and can live his life based upon this knowledge. This is how Iyov (Job) lived his life. He knew that regardless of what was happening in his life, regardless of how bad things seemed to be outwardly, he could still choose to be His servant and he could still choose to worship Him, even up to the point of his death.

***Philippians 1:20-21***

***20 According to my earnest expectation and hope, that in nothing shall I be put to shame, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also the Mashiach shall be magnified in my body, whether by life, or by death.***

***21 For to me to live is the Mashiach, and to die is gain.***

Shaul understood this essential truth that we are to live for Mashiach in all things and whether one lives or dies, it is for Mashiach, not for oneself.

Please note in the following passage that is dealing with the Torah of a king, that there are principles that apply to all of us as well.

***Devarim (Deuteronomy) 17:18-20***

***18 “And it shall be, when he sits upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this Torah in a book, out of that which is before the priests the Levites;***

***19 and it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life; that he may learn to fear YHWH his Elohim, to keep all the words of this Torah and these statutes, to do them;***

***20 that his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left; to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children, in the midst of Israel.”***

One of the greatest problems in Ephrayim today is that our leaders do not fear YHWH our Elohim. Why? They do not fear YHWH our Elohim because their hearts are lifted up and elevated above their brothers. Brothers and sisters, the truth is that regardless of our position in His kingdom, we are all brothers and sisters in Mashiach. Every person has the same right and obligation to watch over one another that we might walk the straight and narrow in a righteous manner. However, when a leader's heart is filled with pride, and he begins to think and act like he is better than his brothers, then he has stopped fearing YHWH our Elohim. What is the cure for that? The cure is repentance and writing the commandments of YHWH down so that we do not forget them in our everyday living.

The truth is that this passage above applies to every single man in Israel in some way as every man is at the very least the ruler of his own household. As such he is under obligation that he guards his heart well that it not be lifted up above those of his own household. Just because a man is a leader does not make him above another, for we are all brothers in Mashiach. We must stand in Him and Him alone if we are going to lead in a righteous manner that is pleasing to Him.

***Ephesians 6:10***

***Finally brethren, be strong in Adonenu, and in the strength of His might.***

Yeshua is the only man who has completely overcome this world. If we are going to be overcomers as well, then we are going to have to overcome by His strength. We cannot do it in our own strength. Even to attempt to do so is to fail and fail miserably. A man in YHWH's eyes is one who walks in His strength because he knows that he cannot do it in his own strength.

***1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:12***

***Let no man despise your youth; but you be an example to them that believe, in word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity.***

How are you doing at being an example to others in walking this walk of faith? How pure is your life? How strong is your faith? How is love demonstrated in your life on a daily basis? How is your life generally an example for others to follow?

These are some pretty tough questions for us to wrestle with. The answer to these questions is that we are not a good example and never can be in our own strength and in our own purity or in our own love or in our own faith. We will fail every time to be the example that we should be. However, YHWH does not expect us to be this good example to others on our own. He actually expects us to surrender to Him so that His Spirit can work in and through us. It takes a real man to be able to surrender control of his life over to YHWH and walk in His Spirit. A worldly man cannot and will not do this.

One of the main ways in which a man of Elohim differs from a man of the world is the way in which he treats his wife. Let us examine this briefly.

***Ephesians 5:25-33***

***25 Husbands, love your wives, even as the Mashiach also loved His assembly, and gave Himself up for it;***

***26 that He might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water with the word,***

***27 that He might present the assembly to Himself a glorious assembly, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be set-apart and without blemish.***

***28 Even so ought husbands also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He that loves his own wife loves himself;***

***29 for no man ever hated his own flesh; but nourishes and cherishes it, even as the Mashiach to the assembly;***

***30 because we are members of His body.***

***31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.***

***32 This mystery is great; but I speak in regard of the Mashiach and of the assembly.***

***33 Nevertheless do you also individually love each one his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see that she fear her husband.***

Brothers, this passage is addressed directly to us. Yeshua our Mashiach set a standard of conduct on how we are to treat our wives that cannot be attained without His Spirit abiding in us and working through us. I doubt that there are few of us today that have attained this standard of conduct that Mashiach has set for us. With all the pressures of this world and all the misinformation that Hollywood spews forth, what a husband is supposed to do and how he is supposed to act towards his own wife is perverse and all mixed up.

We are to walk the same path that Yeshua has walked in being a servant/king. We are not called to elevate ourselves and expect our wife to serve our every whim. We are to be nurturing, wooing, with great mercy, compassion and love towards her at all times. We fall way short of this standard because self gets in the way and wants to have its own way.

You see, we live with a constant tension in our lives, we must live for YHWH our Elohim first and foremost at all times, doing His will. The one person that we must demonstrate the love of YHWH our Elohim more clearly to and most consistently to is our wife. If we cannot demonstrate His love towards our wife consistently, then who can we demonstrate His love towards? It is easy to be nice and kind towards those whom we see for only a few moments in a day. But when it comes to living day by day with our wife, then we often fall way short in this area.

More often than not we treat our wife harshly and expect her to just understand. Yet look at what the Scripture teaches us.

***Kepha Aleph (1<sup>st</sup> Peter) 3:7***

***You husbands, in like manner, dwell with your wives according to knowledge, giving honor to the woman, as to the weaker vessel, as being also joint-heirs of the grace of life; to the end that your prayers be not hindered.***

If we are going to be the man that YHWH needs for us to be, then we need to recognize that we are stronger in many ways than our wife. As such we are to protect her as one would protect a very valuable but fragile treasure.

Remembering that if we are going to be the man YHWH desires for us to be, then we must walk in the fear of YHWH our Elohim. This should be no more evident than in our relationship with our wife. We must be strong, not as the world counts strength, but in the strength of His might are we to walk. The battles that we fight daily are mainly in the spiritual realm. If we are going to walk in victory then we need to be on solid ground in our relationship with our wife. This is true so that, as Kepha states above, that our prayers are not hindered. For if one's prayers are hindered, then how can such a one as that win any spiritual battles? It would be difficult to be sure!

One final note to the wives, please note what Shaul closes these verses with: ***and let the wife see that she fear her husband.*** If the wife attempts to manipulate her husband into getting her own way by saying that the husband is to lay down his life for her as Mashiach did for His assembly, then she is acting in a way that is not in one accord with Scripture. She is to respect her husband and to serve him as his helpmate. As the husband does the will of Mashiach, so too is the wife to do the will of her husband who is doing the will of Mashiach. In essence, the husband and wife who complete each other, are to do the will of Mashiach as one.

Finally brothers and sisters in Mashiach,

***Philippians 2:2-5***

***2 Make my joy complete, that you be of the same mind, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind;***

***3 doing nothing through faction or through pride, but in lowliness of mind each counting others better than himself;***

***4 not looking each of you to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others.***

***5 Have this mind in you, which was also in Yeshua the Mashiach.***

ABBA YHWH, we surrender our will to You that we might live only for You doing only Your will in all things great and small; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat shalom

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