

שְׁמוֹת

Shemot

(the names)

Shemot [Exodus] 1:1-6:1

הַפְּטָרָה שְׁמוֹת

Haftarah Shemot

Yeshayah [Isaiah] 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23 (Ashkenazic)

Yirmeyah [Jeremiah] 1:1-2:3 (Sephardic)

Atonement for the Iniquity of Ya'aqov

Yeshayah (Isaiah) 27:9

Therefore by this shall the iniquity of Ya'aqov be forgiven, and this is all the fruit of taking away his sin; when he makes all the stones of the altar as chalkstones that are beaten to pieces, so that the Asherim and the sun-images shall rise no more.

In order to understand what the atonement for Ya'aqov consists of, we must first understand who Yeshayah is referring to in this passage, and then we must understand what Ya'aqov's iniquity is. Once we have a firm grasp upon these two things, then we will have a much clearer understanding of what it is that YHWH expects him to do in the purifying process that YHWH desires to take him through.

Ya'aqov had twelve sons. Each one of those sons became a tribe in Israel with Yoseph becoming two tribes in Israel. All of these tribes are guilty of going after other gods, the gods of the nations around them. Israel has erected the Asherim and made images to the sun. It is no different today. But the reality is, that we cannot have the full atonement that YHWH offers us for these sins until and unless we destroy and break into pieces all those idols that we and our fathers before us have worshipped. We are to grind them so finely that they are like the dust of chalk. This idea of grinding the idols that Israel

has made into dust is certainly not a new one, for notice what we find in the Torah concerning this matter.

Shemot (Exodus) 32:20

And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it with fire, and ground it to powder, and strewed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.

YHWH had Moshe grind the golden calf that they had made and bowed in worship to into powder. He then put it in water and made them all drink it. I am sure that this was not a pleasant experience for the people of Israel to do this. But it also drove home the awfulness of this sin in YHWH's eyes. While on one level they certainly understood this truth, they would repeat this same sin over and over again throughout their generations. So on one level they just did not get it.

It is interesting to realize that YHWH wants us to grind those things that we formerly worshipped so finely that all is left of them is powder. The sin with the golden calf was so heinous to YHWH that He also made them ingest the powder of the idol after it was ground into powder.

However, if we choose to grind into powder those things in our lives that YHWH views as idolatrous, then it does not seem that we will have to ingest them. Besides, there are so many Asherah poles all over the land where He has scattered us, that it may not be possible for us to ingest them all. One cannot go through any community without seeing many of these poles even today in our time. Today we refer to them as church steeples, but they are the same thing as an Asherah pole.

There are many things in people's lives today that YHWH considers idolatrous. Let us consider this passage.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 17:2-5

2 "If there be found in your midst, within any of your gates which YHWH your Elohim gives you, man or woman, that does that which is evil in the sight of YHWH your Elohim, in transgressing His covenant,

3 and has gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, or the sun, or the moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded;

4 and it be told to you, and you have heard of it, then shall you inquire diligently; and, behold, if it be true, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought in Israel,

5 then shall you bring forth that man or that woman, who has done this evil thing, to your gates, even the man or the woman; and you shall stone them to death with stones."

So here is the choice that we are faced with: we can either get rid of our idolatrous things; or, when we return to the land, then whoever has not gotten rid of his idols will face the death sentence. In order for each one of us to obey YHWH in this matter, we need to understand what it is that He says is idolatry. One's own ideas are of no consequence. It only matters what YHWH says in this matter.

In order for us to receive the full forgiveness that YHWH is offering to us through Yeshua our Mashiach, then we must put away from us all those things that are not pleasing in His sight. Only then will we experience the fullness of His forgiveness.

Yeshua gave a parable about El'azar (Lazarus) dying and also a rich man dying. In this, the rich man is pleading with father Avraham for his still living brothers. Please take careful note of what Avraham states concerning their lifestyle.

Luqa (Luke) 16:29-31

29 "But Abraham says, 'They have Moshe and the prophets; let them hear them.'

30 And he said, 'Nay, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

31 And he said to him, 'If they do not hear and obey Moshe and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, if one rises from the dead.' "

Yeshua is making it very clear to us today that we will not be given miraculous enlightenment concerning how we live. We have already been given the Torah Moshe. If one is not willing to submit to the Torah Moshe, then he will not submit to anything that is from YHWH. This is where our submission must be based, upon the Torah. So, when we need to understand what it is that YHWH considers to be idolatry, then the first place we should turn to is His Torah that He gave to us through Moshe.

Shemot (Exodus) 20:3-5

3 "You shall not have any other gods in My face.

4 You shall not make for yourself a graven image, nor any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

5 You shall not bow down yourself to them, nor serve them, for I YHWH your Elohim am a jealous El, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, upon the third and upon the fourth generation of them that hate Me."

One of the greatest difficulties that the descendants of Ya'aqov have had from the days of Ya'aqov to present was the insistence upon having and following other gods besides YHWH. And because Israel has insisted upon doing this abominable thing in the face of YHWH, He has repeatedly brought plagues of judgment upon His people in an attempt to get them to repent and serve only Him.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 11:16-17

16 "Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them;

17 and the anger of YHWH is kindled against you, and he shuts up the heavens, so that there shall be no rain, and the land shall not yield its fruit; and you perish quickly from off the good land which YHWH gives you."

YHWH has given us a very strong and serious warning that we are not to serve the gods of the nations around us. If we do, then we will make YHWH angry with us and He will act accordingly. It is better for

us to serve YHWH our Elohim and receive His mercy and compassion and kindnesses which are never ending, but we cannot serve the gods of others and expect to receive His mercy.

Let us carefully consider this passage from Yeshayah once again.

What does YHWH mean when He says, ***“Therefore by this...”***? What is “this” here speaking of, except what He says later in this verse concerning what it will take for ***“the iniquity of Ya’aqov to be forgiven”***? Please note what YHWH says He is looking for. YHWH is looking for ***“all the fruit of taking away his sin.”*** And what is the fruit of taking away the sin of Ya’aqov? First, we must understand what it is that his sin is, then we can understand that the fruit of our taking our sin away is ***“when he makes all the stones of the altar as chalkstones that are beaten to pieces.”*** And what are these altars to false gods erected to except to ***“the Asherim and the sun-images”*** spoken of in this verse; and our fruit is that these altars and false worship ***“shall rise no more”*** in the midst of Israel ever again.

Yeshayah (Isaiah) 46:9

“Remember the former things of old; for I am Elohim, and there is none else; I am Elohim, and there is none like me.”

As the descendants of Ya’aqov return to YHWH Tzava’ot, we must forsake all those things that are outside of Torah. We must worship only YHWH. It is as we return to YHWH and remember His Torah, then He can and will remove all our sin and iniquity from us through Mashiach Yeshua.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 11:13-15

13 “And it shall come to pass, if you shall hearken diligently to My commandments which I command you this day, to love YHWH your Elohim, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul,

14 that I will give the rain of your land in its season, the former rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, and your new wine, and your oil.

15 And I will give grass in your fields for your cattle, and you shall eat and be full.”

If we listen and obey His Voice to do all of His commandments which He has commanded us, then He will establish us in His land that He gave to our fathers, to Avraham, to Yitzchak, and to Ya’aqov. As we have focused upon Yeshayah 27:9 in this study in which YHWH desires to remove all our iniquity, and He is waiting to see our fruit of repentance, please notice what we find in this next passage.

Ya’aqov (James) 5:7

Be patient therefore, brethren, until the coming of YHWH. Behold, the husbandman waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it, until it receives the early and latter rain.

Ya’aqov is teaching us this same principle that YHWH is watching over us, waiting for us to produce good fruit. He is the husbandman who has been pruning His vine so that it will produce this good fruit, the fruit of repentance.

Yochanan (John) 15:1-2

1 "I am the true Vine, and My Father is the Husbandman.

2 Every branch in Me that bears not fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He cleanses it, that it may bear more fruit."

Brothers and sisters, it is clear from what we have looked at in this study that the fruit that YHWH is looking for in our lives individually and collectively is the putting away of our idolatry. The more that we work at putting away those things that are not pleasing to YHWH, the more secure our place in the vine becomes. In contrast to this, the person who does not put away idolatry from before himself, risks being removed from the vine.

With this in mind, let us honestly look at our lives, each one to himself. How are you doing in calling upon His name? Do you use His name, or are you still stuck using a substitute or replacement? You had better get this right and not according to the traditions of man, but according to YHWH! You cannot afford a mistake here!

Or how about the way that you dress, do you wear clothing with mixed threads? Or, how is your obedience concerning the Shabbat, or that of the mo'edim? What about that commandment that you are struggling with, are you ready to just submit to YHWH and obey the commandment even though you do not understand?

YHWH knows! It behooves each one of us to be brutally honest with ourselves.

ABBA YHWH, give us Your wisdom that we might produce the fruit that You are looking for in our lives, that we might be included in Your kingdom; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

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