



Vayishlach

(and sent)

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

Dwell in the House of Elohim

B'reshit [Genesis] 35:1

1 And Elohim said to Ya'aqov, "Arise, go up to Beth-el, and dwell there; and make there an altar to Elohim, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother."

Elohim appears to Ya'aqov and directs him to move his family to the place where He first appeared to him, in Beth-El. "Beth-El" means "House of Elohim". Elohim further directs Ya'aqov to live there in the house of Elohim.

Let us consider a few other verses that are dealing with the House of Elohim.

Tehillim [Psalm] 42:4

1 For the Chief Musician.

Maschil of the sons of Korah.

As the deer pants after the water brooks,

So pants my soul after thee, Elohim.

2 My soul thirsts for Elohim, for El Chay;

When shall I come and appear before Elohim?

3 My tears have been my food day and night,

While they continually say unto me, "Where is your Elohim?"

4 These things I remember, and pour out my soul within me,

How I went with the throng, and led them to the house of Elohim,

With the voice of joy and praise, a multitude keeping festival.

Notice what the Psalmist says he remembers when he enters into the House of Elohim. When he comes into His house, he is very thirsty for Elohim and His Presence. Furthermore, this is in the context of entering into His house on a festival day.

These days are His appointed times; and it is during these times that YHWH states, that if we will keep these appointed times, then He will come and meet with us.

Timothy Aleph [1st Timothy] 3:15

but if I tarry long, that you may know how men ought to behave themselves in the house of Elohim, which is the assembly of the El Chay (Living El), the pillar and foundation of the truth.

If we would but take some time and truly contemplate what these verses are teaching us about how we are to conduct ourselves when we enter into His house, then it seems that there would be much more peace and harmony amongst the brethren.

Kepha Aleph [1st Peter] 2:5

you also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, to be a set-apart priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to Elohim through Yeshua Mashiach.

Please notice that this spiritual house of Elohim consists of a set-apart priesthood. If you are a believer and true follower of Yeshua, then you are, in fact, part of this priesthood.

When we begin to realize that the true House of Elohim is not a building constructed out of stones and mortar, but rather it is constructed out of those who answer His call to come out of the world and live for Him, then what should follow is a deep, genuine, abiding love for one another that takes precedence over our own desires and wants.

It is really too bad that so much of the time what we see instead of this, is individuals who only want to elevate themselves above others and will stop at nothing to get what it is that they want.

Yochanan Aleph [1st John] 2:9-11

9 He that says he is in the light and hates his brother, is in the darkness even until now.

10 He that loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no occasion of stumbling in him.

11 But he that hates his brother is in the darkness, and walks in the darkness, and knows not where he goes, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

If a person is willing to be honest with what they are observing in another person's life, then they will know what kind of fruit that person is bearing. The kind of fruit that one bears is often most easily seen in how that person treats other people. If a person just simply uses people and easily tosses them aside when it is expedient for them to do so, or that person treats them harshly or judges them harshly, then that is not exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit.

This passage gives us a good indication that if a person hates his brother, then he is not walking in the light as He is in the light. In fact, this passage tells us that such a person is actually in the darkness. How sad!

Kepha Aleph [1st Peter] 4:17

For the time is come for judgment to begin at the house of Elohim; and if it begin first at us, what shall be the end of them that obey not the good news of Elohim?

Please notice that YHWH's judgment begins in His own house first. And since we are members of His household, then we can expect to be judged by Him first. Please notice this next passage.

Ivrim [Hebrews] 12:11

All chastening seems for the present to be not joyous but grievous; yet afterward it yields peaceable fruit unto them that have been exercised thereby, even the fruit of righteousness.

In the study on the *Testing of the Set-Apart Ones*, we go into detail about the testing process that Elohim is continually taking us through. Part of the purpose of this testing is to purify us so that we are molded into His image. This purifying process is actually part of His judgment on us, in that this is what He has judged in us that He has found to be lacking, and so He takes us through this testing process to remove that which cannot be a part of us if we are to have eternal life.

The biggest hang-up in this process is that all too often a person gets stuck in one part of the process. When this happens, that portion of the testing process is repeated again and again. Sometimes the person who gets stuck in this cycle of repeating the tests, chooses to go in the wrong direction. There are two possible outcomes in this repeating cycle. The testing cycle will gradually increase in severity. Sometimes, when a person refuses to submit to what it is that YHWH is attempting to do in his life, a process of hardening of the heart sets in. If this hardening process is not broken by true repentance, then the result will be apostasy.

It is always best to yield to YHWH and the testing process that He is taking us through, so that we can be molded into His image. For if one chooses not to yield to Him, then the cycle of hardening begins. The end of that hardening cycle can only be death. How tragic that is, when it is so much better to simply yield to His will!

Put Away the Foreign Elohim!

B'reshit [Genesis] 35:2-4

2 Then Ya'aqov said to his household, and to all that were with him, "Put away the foreign elohim that are among you, and purify yourselves, and change your garments:

3 and let us arise, and go up to Beth-el; and I will make there an altar to Elohim, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went."

4 And they gave to Ya'aqov all the foreign elohim which were in their hand, and the rings which were in their ears; and Ya'aqov hid them under the oak which was by Shechem.

I find these verses to be very curious! Apparently all the while that Ya'aqov was following YHWH and serving Him, his wives and family were not so strict, in that it seems that they were still worshipping the elohim of the land in which Lavan dwelt. It seems that they were most likely involved in mixed worship. Now here they are coming back into the land that YHWH had promised to Avraham and Yitzchak, and they were bringing their false elohim with them. This is quite instructive for us today. Let us consider this carefully remembering that the book of beginnings, B'reshit, is also a book of patterns and foreshadowings.

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 28:64

"And YHWH will scatter you among all peoples, from the one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth; and there you shall serve other elohim, which you have not known, you nor your fathers, even wood and stone.

Notice that YHWH promises Yisrael that He will scatter them if they fail to obey His commandments. They will then go and serve other elohim, elohim that are not really elohim at all. Rather these elohim are manmade. Hence, they are the traditions of men rather than the commandments of YHWH.

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 30:1

"And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you shall call them to mind among all the nations, where YHWH your Elohim has driven you,

Once again YHWH tells us that He will drive us away from Him and His land into all the nations of the world. When we realize that He has done this in the latter days and then we begin to come back to Him, then He will bring us back into the land of our fathers, Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya'aqov.

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 30:5-6

5 "and YHWH your Elohim will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will do you good, and multiply you above your fathers.

6 And YHWH your Elohim will circumcise your heart, and the heart of your seed, to love YHWH your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your soul, that you may live.

Please notice that YHWH promises to bring us back into the land that He has promised to our fathers; and then after we are back in the land He will circumcise our hearts so that we can love Him with a whole heart. We will discuss this more in a moment.

Yechezkel [Ezekiel] 37:23

neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will save them out of all their dwelling-

places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them; so shall they be My people, and I will be their Elohim.

Again, please notice in this passage the order in which YHWH puts these events. YHWH states that He will save us out of our dwellings (perhaps churches) where we have sinned and then He will cleanse us. It just could be that YHWH will take us home to our land before we actually put away the things that are detestable to Him, after He has circumcised our hearts.

Set-apartness

Let us be honest with one another about where we are today. We are still scattered in all the nations of the world! We do not live in communities and for the most part we really do not even get along with one another very well. Why is that? In large part, it is due to the fact that we are still mostly motivated by self, and the traditions of men still influence us greatly in our daily living. This will likely continue until YHWH takes us back to His land.

What we need to see at this point in the process of His drawing us out of Babylon, is that where we are in that process to a large degree is a reflection of our own personal choices. Yes, there is a moment when that process begins, but then there is a process that we go through, a process that refines us.

We make attempts to come together into small communities, but then something happens in which one or more stop seeking only His will and follow their own will. When this happens there is further fragmentation of His people. There are many reasons why this occurs. But the bottom line is self. Self rises up and gets in the way of doing only His will. Brethren, these things ought not to be this way. When will we learn the basic premise of Scripture?

Marqa [Mark] 12:29-31

29 Yeshua answered, "The first is, hear, Yisrael; YHWH our Elohim, YHWH is one:

30 and you shall love YHWH your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.

31 The second is this, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is none other commandment greater than these."

It seems that we at least have a head knowledge of what it means to love YHWH with all our being, even though we don't practice it very well in everyday living. And this is probably so because we do not have a very good understanding of what the second commandment is teaching us. So what does it mean to love my neighbor as myself?

Romans 12:3

For I say, through the grace that was given me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think as to think soberly, according as Elohim has dealt to each man a measure of faith.

We are admonished in many places to be sober-minded rather than high-minded. Yeshua came to serve, and we are to follow His example; and like Him, we are to serve those around us. Belonging in the priesthood of believers, is actually a call to service. When we begin to understand this service properly, then we will begin to serve others out of a deep abiding love for one another.

Romans 12:10

In love of the brethren be tenderly affectionate one to another; in honor preferring one another;

This passage tells us that we are to give preference to each other. When was the last time that you did this?

Romans 12:16

Be of the same mind one toward another. Set not your mind on high things, but condescend to things that are lowly. Be not wise in your own estimation.

If YHWH wants a person to be elevated, then He will do so. If He wants a person to be in a position of leadership (servanthood), then He will bring that to pass. What is disturbing, is when a person takes it upon himself to declare that he is the leader, and YHWH is not in it. A self-proclaimed leader is not someone that we should be listening to, for the fruit of his leadership does not build YHWH's Kingdom, but only his own little empire.

Each one of us simply needs to use the gifts, talents, and abilities that He has given to us to build His Kingdom; and as we do that, we need to allow Him to place us in the body of Messiah where He wants us to be. If we seek out a place of honor that He has not given to us, then it will not only be disastrous for oneself, but also for many of His sheep. That would not be a very good place to be on judgment day.

Marqa [Mark] 12:39

39 "and chief seats in the synagogues, and chief places at feasts:

40 they that devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers; these shall receive greater condemnation."

Yeshua chastised those who sought after a place of honor and authority. Let none of us be guilty of doing this!

Marqa [Mark] 10:44

"and whosoever would be first among you, shall be servant of all."

The greater the responsibility that YHWH gives to an individual, the more of a servant that one becomes. He has placed each one of us in His body as He wills. Let us serve one another in love

and devotion to our Creator! In part, this means that our service to Him will be filled with love for one another.

Galatians 6:3

For if a man thinks himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

Once again, we see that we need to have right thinking about who we are. Each one of us is a sinner saved by His grace, and that not of ourselves, lest anyone should boast! There is not room for boasting and there is no room for elevating oneself above His brethren. The worst deception that there is, is self-deception. May YHWH Himself reveal to each one of us any area in our lives in which we have deceived ourselves!

Colossians 2:18

Let no man rob you of your prize by a voluntary humility and worshipping of the angels, dwelling in the things which he has seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

Brethren, please guard your spiritual walk with Mashiach carefully. Let no man take you captive so that you fall into darkness and thus lose your place in the olam haba (the world to come).

Qorintyah Bet [2nd Corinthians] 13:7

Now we pray to Elohim that you do no evil; not that we may appear approved, but that you may do that which is honorable, though we be as reprobate.

What this verse teaches us, essentially, is that each one of us should do right even when others around us are doing wrong (appear as reprobate). This includes our leaders. When a leader of the flock goes wrong, it is especially important just to keep on doing what is right regardless of what that leader is doing. This, in turn, will help us to maintain our spiritual walk before YHWH and it will also strengthen those brethren around us who may not be as strong, and encourage them to keep in the Way.

I pray that you all know these things already and that this comes to you as a safeguard for your spiritual well-being, and that you continue to serve one another in the love of Mashiach.

Let us understand that YHWH will do as He wills, regardless of what any man does or does not do. Let us purpose in our minds and hearts to follow YHWH with all of our strength, strengthening one another in love and lifting one another up, rather than tearing one another down. Let us walk in a manner that is pleasing to YHWH in all things great and small as we daily live for Him.

ABBA YHWH, make me a servant of Your people; in the Name of Yeshua our Mashiach, Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

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