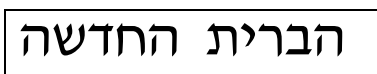




Korach

(Korah)

B'midbar [Numbers] 16:1-18:32



HaB'rit HaChadashah

(the new covenant)

Ya'aqov [James] 3:1-18

We have selected this portion from the Brit, because it reminds us of the importance of those who are called to teach Israel (priesthood), taken from today's Torah portion.

Teachers Have a Greater Judgment to Face

Ya'aqov [James] 3:1

Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall receive heavier judgment.

In our Torah portion for this week, Korach desired to be a teacher/leader. What he did not realize, was that along with this privilege and responsibility, comes a much higher standard that one must adhere to. Since he was not holding to this higher standard, it not only cost him his life, but he also forfeited the life of his family as well.

Tragically, when a teacher does not live the life of a higher standard, but lives a life that even by worldly standards is not all that great, the hypocrisy that is present in his life causes the members of his own family to stumble. So, not only does he often lose his own eternal life, but such a one often causes the members of his own family to be lost to eternity as well. It is a very sad situation.

This verse in Scripture teaches us, that the multitude should not be a teacher. Basically, it is like this; if one can do anything else and still have eternal life, then do not be a teacher. However, if YHWH has laid

His hand upon one, and this is what He has called one to do, then do it with excellence! But not only excellence, but with great fear and trembling as well!

I have been teaching and preaching in His kingdom for over three decades. Let me assure you that the longer that I do it, the more I become aware of this particular verse. When I am contacted and asked a question, it is with great trepidation that I answer such a question; for I am fully aware, that as a teacher, I will have to give an account on how I lead His people to follow Him. Quite frankly, it scares me!

We live in uncertain times. We live in a time when the world seems to be going mad even as we look on. With talk of food shortages, gas and oil shortages, with the skyrocketing prices of just about everything that we need to live, there is a lot of uncertainty and fear in our world right now. But with all that is happening, all of that dims when I stand before His people as a teacher. I cannot afford to lead His people astray!

The Perfect Man

Ya'aqov [James] 3:2

For in many things we all stumble. If any stumbles not in word, the same is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body also.

Sadly, it is with increasing regularity that men and women in the ministry are falling victim to all kinds of sin as they seek to please themselves, rather than the One with whom all will one day give an answer. In these days of internet communication, it is easy to send off a reply in haste, in which the words are typed in anger and high emotions. Such words rarely are edifying to either the person receiving them, or to the person who sent them.

This verse above admonishes us to be a perfect man. A perfect man is a man who is in control of his words. If a man can control his words, then he can live a perfect life as well. However, if a man cannot control his words, then his life will be full of inconsistencies.

Mishle [Proverbs] 13:3

***He that guards his mouth keeps his life;
But he that opens wide his lips shall have destruction.***

Let us carefully examine the fruit of the Spirit in regards to what a perfect man consists of.

Galatians 5:22-23

***22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 meekness, self-control; there is no Torah against these.***

The way some people act, and worse still, the way that some teachers and leaders act, one could get the false notion that such things as listed above were against Torah. It is a sad day when any leader who claims to be a talmid of Yeshua our Mashiach, goes off and violates these things in a public setting.

When a leader is more concerned about what is coming into his pocket, than what is going out to the people, he has turned to tickling the ears. To those of you who are fellow teachers and leaders, please, let us determine to walk before His people in a manner that is pleasing to Him at all times!

Horses and Ships

Ya'aqov [James] 3:3-4

3 Now if we put the horses' bridles into their mouths that they may obey us, we turn about their whole body also.

4 Behold, the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by rough winds, are yet turned about by a very small rudder, wherever the impulse of the pilot wills.

It is relatively simple to make a horse go where you want it to go. Simply put a bit into his mouth, and it is not long before he is well trained to do exactly what the rider desires.

Likewise, a great ship of the sea is steered exactly where the helmsman desires it to go by a relatively small piece of metal known as a rudder. The rudder can turn the ship in any direction and go as the master of the ship desires for it to go.

The Fire of the Tongue

Ya'aqov [James] 3:5-6

5 So the tongue also is a little member, and boasts great things. Behold, how much wood is kindled by such a small fire!

6 And the tongue is a fire; the world of iniquity among our members is the tongue, which defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.

However, one of the smallest members of the human body is the tongue. The tongue loves to boast. It loves to exalt self, and it will, given any chance to do so. This passage likens the tongue to a small fire that can set a whole forest on fire, if uncontained.

The tongue is what causes man to sin more than anything else.

Mishle [Proverbs] 15:4

***A gentle tongue is a tree of life;
But perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.***

The tongue: with it man praises YHWH; then he can also curse his fellow man. With it, he can bless His Creator; or he can bring strife and division between brothers. With it, he can bring healing to those who need it; or he can cause pain as one who rubs salt in an open wound.

Does your tongue set your life on fire by uttering things that should never be uttered?

Taming the Tongue

Ya'aqov [James] 3:7-8

7 For every kind of beasts and birds, of creeping things and things in the sea, is tamed, and has been tamed by mankind.

8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is a restless evil, it is full of deadly poison.

Man has tamed every kind of creature that YHWH has made. Yet, who has tamed his own tongue?

Blessings and Curses

Ya'aqov [James] 3:9-10

9 With it we bless YHWH and the Father; and therewith curse we men, who are made after the likeness of Elohim;

10 out of the same mouth comes forth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

How is it that one can utter both blessings and curses? Perhaps the blessings that one hears out of the same mouth, are not truly blessings at all. It is by our fruit that we are known.

Matithyah [Matthew] 7:17-20

17 "Even so every good tree brings forth good fruit; but the corrupt tree brings forth evil fruit.

18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

19 Every tree that brings not forth good fruit is cut down, and cast into the fire.

20 Therefore by their fruits you shall know them."

Sometimes the fruit is not seen right away. As we saw earlier, part of the fruit of the Spirit is patience. We need to have patience and just allow enough time for a teacher or leader to show what is really in his heart. It will happen, and when it does, we need to be looking for it. Hopefully, it will be good fruit. However, if it is not good fruit, then what will be witnessed will not be pretty to behold!

It is many a leader who has fallen, that has taken so very many babies and young talmidim with them, causing many others to fall because of the evil fruit that they bear. Let us carefully, prayerfully, and diligently watch over one another, lest we, too, fall short and not inherit eternal life.

The Law of Like Kind

Ya'aqov [James] 3:11-12

11 Does a fountain send forth from the same opening sweet water and bitter?

12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, yield olives, or a vine figs? Neither can salt water yield sweet.

One of YHWH's irrefutable laws is the law of like kind. Whatever something is, it produces in like kind. When a fig tree produces fruit, one does not expect to find olives, but rather one expects to find figs. If a person is kind and sweet in his heart, then those are the kinds of actions that will be manifested in his life on a daily basis. However, if a person is bitter in his heart, then the actions that he will manifest will be harsh and demanding. It is simply the law of like kind.

The Proof is in the Pudding

Ya'aqov [James] 3:13

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by his good life his works in humbleness of wisdom.

All throughout Scripture we are admonished to live a life full of wisdom. We are to seek wisdom and not folly. So how can one discern if a person has wisdom or not? Look at his life.

There are teachers who go around clanging their own bells. They want everyone to know that YHWH has called them to a *special* calling and because of this *special* calling, everyone else needs to fall in line behind him and listen to him. But honestly now, what in that type of scenario is humble? Nothing! When a person has a humble spirit, that person is constantly pointing to Yeshua our Mashiach and our Father in heaven, rather than pointing at himself. This is a pretty good indicator of what kind of wisdom this person has.

A person of humility will not constantly be drawing attention to himself, or trying to get people to follow him personally. A person of humble character will be directing those he ministers to, towards the One who knows the answers, Yeshua our Mashiach. Such a person recognizes that he is nothing without his Master and that all that he has received comes from Him.

Ya'aqov [James] 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation, neither shadow that is cast by turning.

Every good thing that one has in his life is from our heavenly Father! As such, we should always and ever make sure that we are giving Him glory and honor in all things. Doing this takes practice and effort. We are all raised in this world to seek after and take recognition from wherever one can. However, when a person becomes a talmid of Yeshua, then he is no longer shaped by the world, nor the things in this world.

Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of Elohim is, that which is good and well-pleasing and perfect.

When we consciously make an effort to walk the higher road and take control of what comes out of our mouths so that everything is glorifying and uplifting of our heavenly Father, then those around us will be edified and encouraged as well.

Ya'aqov [James] 1:26

If any man thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue, he deceives his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

My brethren, we need to take control of our tongues! We need to take responsibility for what comes out of our mouths. We need to work hard at making sure what we are saying is right and good and uplifting. We need to do this before we speak. This must begin in our homes and with our own families. The tendency is to guard our words in public, but then when we are home, we do not guard them well, or in many cases, we do not guard them at all. This is shameful! If anything, those that we love need to see the strong evidence of our faith and relationship with our heavenly Father on a daily basis! Let us prove what His will is by our actions and our words being in line with one another.

The Place of Truth

Ya'aqov [James] 3:14

But if you have bitter jealousy and faction in your heart, glory not and lie not against the truth.

Have you ever known, or perhaps you know someone now, that cannot stand for someone to succeed ahead of himself? Such a person is a person that we should stay away from.

This verse is manifested today in a multitude of people who desire to be someone. They gather a following and jealously guard them as if these people belonged to themselves. When a person thinks that he is someone, and that people need to heed his words as though he is a prophet, then beware and

examine such words with great care. For a person who is always claiming to be someone, is creating a faction within the body of Mashiach. Such a person is no less than stealing His people away from His kingdom. Why?

Qorintyah Aleph [1st Corinthians] 3:3-4

3 For you are yet carnal; for whereas there is among you jealousy and strife, are you not carnal, and do you not walk after the manner of men?

4 For when one says, "I am of Paul"; and another, "I am of Apollos"; are you not worldly?

We are not to follow after men. Following a man is idolatry. We are to follow Mashiach Yeshua. Furthermore, a true and proper teacher is to direct our paths to be following after Mashiach Yeshua, and not after himself!

Who are you following today?

Demonic Wisdom

Ya'aqov [James] 3:15

This wisdom is not a wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.

One would like to think that demonic wisdom would be easy to discern and detect. However, such is not always the case. Let us illustrate.

While many people know that a Satanic bible exists, most have not read it, thankfully! And I do not recommend reading it, for it will really mess one up! But, do you know what the major theme of this book happens to be? One might suppose that it might have something to do with death or dying or killing or human sacrifices or some such thing. But such is not the case! The overriding theme in the Satanic bible is love. What?! Yep, you read that right, it is love. Now here is the real kicker. The love that permeates this book is also the type of love that one finds in churches today. You've got to be kidding! Let's look at the love that is in most churches today.

The love and attitude in most churches today is one of tolerance. No matter what one does or does not do, they are to be loved and accepted regardless! There is to be NO judgment or condemnation of anything that one does. After all, "God is a God of love and acceptance, therefore, that is what we are supposed to do as well." The type of love found in churches today and in society at large, is a love that requires no accountability. That is Satanic love! That is demonic wisdom.

Scripture clearly teaches us that we *are* our brother's keeper. This means that if my brother sins, then I have a Scriptural duty to go to him and confront him with his sin, in an attempt to turn him from his sin and put him back on the narrow way.

So, the next time you hear someone spouting off that we are not to judge, test the spirits to see if this is demonic wisdom or wisdom from YHWH.

Evil Things

Ya'aqov [James] 3:16

For where jealousy and faction are, there is confusion and every evil thing.

When a teacher and talmid of Mashiach Yeshua gains and grows in notoriety, and then veers off the narrow way to follow after his own selfish gain, it quite literally causes confusion in many people. This is particularly true when something that was a sin the year before, is now supposedly okay, and no longer considered a sin, according to that particular teacher. This causes confusion and factions to tear at the very fabric of His body of talmidim.

Qorintyah [1st Corinthians] 14:33a

for the Elohim is not an Elohei of confusion, but Elohei of the peace.

One of the main tools of the enemy is to introduce chaos and confusion wherever possible. The Elohim of Creation is one of order and discipline. When one looks and sees confusion, look for the hoof prints of the enemy; they are around somewhere.

If what one proposes to do, or worse still, actually does it, and the product is strife, contention, chaos, and confusion, then how can this be of our heavenly Father? As we saw above, an evil tree can only produce evil fruit and never good fruit. Likewise, a good tree produces good fruit and does not produce evil fruit. Therefore, we can know with certainty that when we see evil fruit, then the tree that is producing it is evil as well. One cannot plant the seeds of evil and expect to reap a harvest of goodness. This is against the law of like kind.

If a person lives his life focused upon the fleshly things of this world such as sensuality, lusts, and all the base desires of his nature, then how can such a person truly expect to reap the things of His Spirit? To expect such nonsense is the root of Gnosticism.

Gnosticism was not just a first century problem. It is still alive and still producing its evil fruit. Basically, this teaching is such, that all things in the flesh are evil and all things in the spirit are good. This teaching is such, that there is a complete dichotomy between the flesh and the spirit, and one born of the Spirit can do whatever one wants in the flesh, and it will not adversely affect him in his spirit. This teaching is essentially a license to sin without supposed consequence. It is utterly demonic!

Wisdom from Above

Ya'aqov [James] 3:17

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

The truth contained in this passage is very important when it comes to discerning demonic wisdom from heavenly wisdom. Let us put this in list form for ease of understanding.

1. pure
2. peaceable
3. gentle
4. easily entreated
5. merciful
6. good fruits
7. unwavering
8. no hypocrisy

The order these are written in is also important, because it says that the wisdom from above is first pure. If wisdom is not pure, then it is a sure thing that it cannot be from above. First and foremost, His wisdom is always pure. Look for this, because it is a sure indication of what kind of wisdom one is hearing.

The next thing is that His wisdom is peaceable. It is extremely important that we understand the order that these two traits are given in, and how they manifest themselves in this world. Purity of wisdom is never sacrificed. However, there will be times when it is necessary to give up peace in order to stay pure. But the reverse is never true. To sacrifice or compromise on purity for the sake of peace, is not wisdom from above.

1st Thessalonians 5:3

When they are saying, "Peace and safety", then sudden destruction comes upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

Beware of purveyors of peace. Those who preach peace at any price are using demonic wisdom! This is the root problem in Israel today. Those who are attempting to give away His land for the sake of peace are not using His wisdom at all!

Likewise, each of us will at times in our lives find ourselves face to face in similar situations in which we can have peace, but only if we sacrifice or compromise our purity of service to Him. Quite literally, the use of this demonic wisdom is making a pact with the devil.

Notice then, that the next two characteristics of heavenly wisdom, is that it is gentle and easily entreated. A wise man will carefully and prayerfully listen to what anyone has to say, to weigh the merits of the words carefully. Who knows through whom YHWH will choose to speak? Did He not break through the madness of the prophet by speaking to him through a donkey?

But not only will a wise man gently listen, but when he sees wisdom in the words, he will go with the truth regardless of whose mouth it is coming out of. This is not true of demonic wisdom. Demonic wisdom only listens to and can only be entreated (actually commanded) by one who is higher in authority. Look for a person of lower status going to one who is of a higher position of authority; if he can be entreated gently, then there is most likely heavenly wisdom present. However, if such a one cannot be entreated with the truth, then the wisdom present is demonic in nature. Beware of such a one!

The next two characteristics of heavenly wisdom, are that it is merciful and full of good works. When a person is wronged, how do they react? Is it with vengeance and retribution? Is it with the need to get even? Use caution here.

Romans 12:19

Avenge not yourselves, beloved, but give place to the wrath of Elohim; for it is written,

“Vengeance belongs to Me;

I will recompense,” says YHWH.

When I was much younger I worked with a young man who was full of vengeance. His philosophy of life was, that if you wronged him in any way, he would give back to the person who wronged him seven times in revenge. I spoke with him about this many times, but to no avail. Truly this was demonic wisdom. It was sad to see one waste his life pursuing vengeance in this manner.

Heavenly wisdom is full of mercy; it forgives easily. What do you see in those whom you call leaders? Is it vengeance – demonic wisdom? Or, do you see mercy – heavenly wisdom?

These next two characteristics of heavenly wisdom are quite interesting to us today. Often these are misconstrued and misapplied to mean something that was never intended. Please note once again, that the order that all eight of these are in is quite important. Notice that before *unwavering*, this wisdom is also easily entreated, is merciful, and has good fruits. What better fruit is there than to always stand solidly on the truth, His truth?

However, as mere humans, do we know all the truth that there is to know? Is our understanding of the little bit that has already been granted to us, perfect? Not even close! However, there are many today, who, once they publish their teachings, never deviate from that teaching ever again. They never consider new light that He may be trying to give to them. This is NOT what it means in this passage to be unwavering. So what does it mean to be unwavering? It means to walk the straight and narrow way,

always listening to and obeying His Voice in all matters. In that, we are to be totally and completely unwavering!

Then lastly, we come full cycle to the lack of hypocrisy. Hypocrisy is the full opposite of purity. Please note, that this wisdom is to be without any hypocrisy. What one says, is what we are to be and do. We are to be pure in all manner of being.

The Fruit of Righteousness

Ya'aqov [James] 3:18

And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for them that make peace.

The fruit of righteousness is something that comes to those who wait for it.

Galatians 6:9

And let us not be weary in well-doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Since His people are so scattered at present, in many cases there are no other families nearby with which to fellowship, and it is quite common to get and feel discouraged in our walk with our Master. But we just need to stay the course, for when the season is full, we shall reap that which we have sown.

Matithyah [Matthew] 5:9

"Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called sons of Elohim."

Let us remember, that while we are to make peace with and between our brethren, we are never to compromise or sacrifice truth to make that peace. His truth is the foundation upon which we stand. And if that truth is compromised, then our foundation is shaky and weak.

Let us be strong in Him and in His truth, seeking always to live a clean and pure life before Him and all men, that our witness will be a good one to all who see and know us.

ABBA YHWH, thank You for making us Your sons. We ask that You give us of Your wisdom that we might always live a life that is well-pleasing in Your sight; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

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