

בְּהָר

B'har

(in mount)

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 25:1-26:2

הפטרה בהר

Haftarah B'har

Yirmeyah [Jeremiah] 32:6-27

Disobedience = Hard Times

Yirmeyah (Jeremiah) 32:23

“And they came in, and possessed [the land], but they obeyed not your Voice, neither walked in Your Torah; they have done nothing of all that You commanded them to do; therefore You have caused all this evil to come upon them.”

The simple truth of the matter concerning our lives is that when we do not live according to all the commandments of YHWH, then problems will come into our lives in an attempt to bring us to repentance and a return to Torah.

Shemot (Exodus) 15:26

and He said, “If you will diligently hearken to the Voice of YHWH your Elohim, and will do that which is right in His eyes, and will give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases upon you, which I have put upon the Egyptians; for I am YHWH that heals you.”

When the people of Israel murmured at the waters of Marah because the waters were bitter and not good to drink; YHWH had Moshe put a branch in the waters to purify them. Then YHWH rebuked the people and told them that they needed to be careful to do all that He said and all that He commanded them to do.

בְּחֻקֹּתַי

B'chuqotai

Vayyiqra 26:3-27:34

הפטרה בחקתי

Haftarah B'chuqotai

Yirmeyah [Jeremiah] 16:19-17:14

The people even agreed to hear and obey the Voice of YHWH our Elohim.

Shemot (Exodus) 19:8

And all the people answered together, and said, "All that YHWH has spoken we will do." And Moshe reported the words of the people to YHWH.

The people told Moshe who then told YHWH that they would obey all that YHWH said to them. This was a good start. However, because of the fleshly nature with which each one of us is born, they had no power to back up what they said. We will examine why this is true shortly. Again notice what YHWH says through Moshe His prophet.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 28:58-61

58 "If you will not observe to do all the words of this Torah that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and fearful name, YHWH your Elohim;

59 then YHWH will make your plagues wonderful, and the plagues of your seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance.

60 And He will bring upon you again all the diseases of Egypt, which you were afraid of; and they shall cleave to you.

61 Also every sickness, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this Torah, them will YHWH bring upon you, until you be destroyed."

If a person says that they are a part of Israel, then they had better be serious about it because YHWH is. For if a person gives only lip service to YHWH and to hearing and obeying His Voice and keeping and guarding His commandments, then YHWH will pour out upon such a person plagues and disasters until that person either repents or is destroyed.

However, if a person does hear and obey His Voice and His commandments, then YHWH will not put these plagues upon him, but upon those who are his enemies.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 7:12-15

12 "And it shall come to pass, because you hearken to these ordinances, and keep and do them, that YHWH your Elohim will keep with you the covenant and the lovingkindness which He swore to your fathers:

13 and He will love you, and bless you, and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your body and the fruit of your ground, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your cattle and the young of your flock, in the land which He swore to your fathers to give you.

14 You shalt be blessed above all peoples; there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle.

15 And YHWH will take away from you all sickness; and none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which you know, will He put upon you, but will lay them upon all them that hate you."

These are some very wonderful promises that we would not experience any sickness or disease and that our females of both man and beast would not be barren. YHWH even states that He would put these things upon those who hate us. But the prerequisite of this happening is that we must hear and obey His Voice and His commandments. If we do not, then we will experience the sicknesses and the plagues ourselves. Herein lies the problem. While we know the right things to do, the history of Israel is that she has not done the right which she knows to do. This is true both of Israel as a nation and the individuals within the nation.

Romans 7:14-19

14 For we know that the Torah is of the Spirit; but as for me, I am bound to the old nature, sold to sin as a slave.

15 I don't understand my own behavior - I don't do what I want to do; instead, I do the very thing I hate!

16 Now if I am doing what I don't want to do, I am agreeing that the Torah is good.

17 But now it is no longer "the real me" doing it, but the sin housed inside me.

18 For I know that there is nothing good housed inside me - that is, inside my old nature. I can want what is good, but I can't do it!

19 For I don't do the good I want; instead, the evil that I don't want is what I do!

We know pretty well what is good and right. However, we don't listen to this nearly as often as we should. Thus one can quench His Spirit speaking to us without even realizing it. But we actually cannot help but quench His Spirit if we walk without Mashiach in our lives. In order to be able to have the power of the Spirit available to us to live a victorious life we need to confess our sins and accept Yeshua as our own personal Mashiach. When we do this, then we have available to us His power and His strength.

Zecharyah (Zechariah) 4:6

Then He answered and spoke to me, saying, "This is the word of YHWH to Zerubbabel, saying, 'Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says YHWH Tzava'ot."

The truth is that we cannot keep and obey His commandments in our own strength or power. Notice what it says above in Romans 7:14. We are taught that the Torah is of the Spirit.

Qorintyah Aleph (1st Corinthians) 2:14

Now the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of Elohim; for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot know them, because they are spiritually judged.

It is at this very point that we discover the reason for the many past failings of Israel. Israel did not have the Spirit of YHWH to help them keep and do Torah, let alone to be able to hear and obey His Voice. This is one of the reasons why Mashiach came to make available to us His Spirit and His power that we might actually be able to keep and to do His commandments, and to be able to hear and obey His Voice.

However, if we do not understand these things, then how will one be able to walk in them? He cannot! And if one does not know the importance of walking in His Spirit, then how can he live a victorious life? He cannot!

It is true that down through the ages there have been those individuals who have truly walked in His Spirit, but for the most part, most have not walked in His Spirit. This is also sadly true in Christianity.

There are many who are coming out of Christianity and finding Torah. However, in the finding of that Torah, they begin to have a shift in their mindset and rightly so. The problem is that in many cases one goes too far in that shift. While it is important that we keep and obey His commandments, we must never get to the point that we begin thinking that it is the obeying of His Torah that gives us salvation, for this is simply not true.

Galatians 3:1-3

1 Foolish Galatians, who did bewitch you, before whose eyes YHWH Mashiach was openly set forth crucified?

2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you. Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Torah, or by the hearing of faith?

3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now perfected in the flesh?

While there was in fact a region known as Galatia during the time of Mashiach Yeshua and Shaul, when Shaul wrote this letter he may have been addressing more than just those in Galatia. This word is found in the Aramaic as גַּלְטִים – “galatim,” whose root גלה – “galah” means “to be exiled.” It is probable that Shaul was writing to both those in the region of Galatia as well as all those who had been exiled from Israel due to a lack of Torah keeping. So he is equally addressing the “foolish exiles.” Keep that in mind as you read this book and particularly this portion of Scripture.

Why were these to whom Shaul was writing to being foolish? It is simply because they were attempting to perfect their walk in the flesh and not walking according to the Spirit of YHWH. One cannot overemphasize the importance of hearing and obeying His Voice; or, to put it another way, to walk in His Spirit. Mashiach Yeshua has shed His Blood for us that we might not only be saved from our sins, but also that we might be filled with His Spirit that we might walk according to His will in all things. It is only by walking in obedience to His Spirit that we will not have the plagues of Egypt put upon us.

Today, are you walking according to His Spirit?

ABBA YHWH, please fill us with Your Spirit; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach we pray. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

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