

פְּקוּדֵי

P'qudei

(accounts of)

Shemot [Exodus] 38:21-40:38

הפטרה פקודי

Haftarah P'qudei

Malakim Aleph [1st Kings] 7:51-8:21 (Ashkenazic)
7:40-50 (Sephardic)

The Glory of YHWH

Malakim Aleph (1st Kings) 8:10-11

10 And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of YHWH,

11 so that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud; for the glory of YHWH filled the house of YHWH.

After Sh'lomo (Solomon) completed building the temple in Jerusalem and during the dedication of that temple, YHWH came and filled the sanctuary with His cloud. He filled it with His glory. This is very similar to what happened when Israel and Moshe finished building the mishkan in the wilderness at Mount Sinai. In fact, this is why this portion from the Tanak is chosen as the Haftarah portion; it is because of this similarity.

In both cases, the priests could not enter to perform their duties and services which YHWH had commanded. When His glory is present, then man needs to do nothing. In fact, there is nothing that man can do, except to worship YHWH.

King Sh'lomo then makes a statement that is a curious statement in that it turns out to be an untrue statement.

Malakim Aleph (1st Kings) 8:13

"I have surely built You a house of habitation, a place for You to dwell in forever."

Why did this turn out not to be a true declaration? It turned out not to be a true statement for at least two reasons. One was because of the sins of Israel. Because they went and worshipped and served other gods YHWH removed them from His land and the temple was destroyed. So it turned out that the building that Sh'lomo had built was not His habitation forever, but rather for only a short time.

The other reason is found in the following passages.

Malakim Aleph (1st Kings) 8:27

"But will Elohim in very deed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You; how much less this house that I have built!"

Even king Sh'lomo confessed that the temple that he had built could not contain YHWH.

Yeshayah (Isaiah) 66:1

Thus says YHWH, "Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool; what manner of house will you build for me? And what place shall be My rest?"

The truth is that man cannot build a structure sufficient for YHWH. Only YHWH can do that.

Now consider what His glory is supposed to dwell in.

Qorintyah Aleph (1st Corinthians) 3:16

Do you not know that you are a temple of Elohim, and that the Spirit of Elohim dwells in you?

The temple that Sh'lomo built was of mortar and stone. It was a physical edifice that was built by man. However, a person is created by YHWH. A person is not built by man. YHWH has created man in His image that He might dwell in Him via His Spirit. Let us keep this in mind as we continue on.

Qorintyah Aleph (1st Corinthians) 3:17

If any man destroys the temple of Elohim, him shall Elohim destroy; for the temple of Elohim is holy, and such are you.

We are then admonished that we are not to destroy this body that YHWH has placed us in as it is His temple and it is to be treated as set-apart. If a person does not treat this body as set-apart, then YHWH our Elohim will destroy such a person as destroys his own body.

This does not mean that we are to worship our own body as many do today who make physical training and eating healthily into an act of worship, worship of self. We are not to pursue that any more than we are to destroy our body.

Qorintyah Aleph (1st Corinthians) 3:18

Let no man deceive himself. If any man thinks that he is wise among you in this world, let him become a fool, that he may become wise.

What this passage is admonishing us to do is to become foolish concerning the ways of this world. The ways of this world are full of darkness, debauchery and every evil thing. We are to be foolish or naïve concerning these things. It is when we do not know the ways of this world and then pursue the ways of YHWH, then we can become wise. Not as the world counts wisdom, but as YHWH considers wisdom. Let us be wise according to YHWH and forsake the ways of this present darkness.

Qorintyah Aleph (1st Corinthians) 6:19-20

***19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which you have from Elohim? And you are not your own;
20 for you were bought with a price; glorify YHWH therefore in your body.***

When we come to YHWH through Yeshua and confess our sins and ask for forgiveness, and accept Yeshua as our Mashiach, then He forgives us, cleanses us and fills us with His Spirit. When He fills us with His Spirit, then we become a temple of His Spirit.

Also, since He has redeemed us, in effect purchased our salvation with His own Blood, He owns and holds the title deed to our bodies and to all that we are or ever will be. We belong to Him. Such a person does not belong to himself.

As such we are to bring glory and honor to YHWH in all that we say and do.

Considering all this, here is something for us to ponder. Let us bring back to the forefront of our minds that both in this Torah portion and in this Haftarah portion, when the mishkan in the wilderness was completed and when the temple in Jerusalem was completed, in both cases YHWH came and filled the dwelling place with His presence. The cloud of His presence was so overwhelming that in both cases the priests could not enter to do the ministry of service that YHWH had commanded. In both cases it was YHWH who filled these respective places with a cloud. It was the cloud which prevented the work of the priests from being done.

Now let us consider what happens in our own personal bodies since Scripture clearly teaches us that our bodies are His temple and He dwells therein. But what happens when a person smokes? That person is artificially filling his body with a cloud, a cloud of smoke. In the Torah and Haftarah portions the filling of the dwelling places prevented man from working and worshipping YHWH as commanded. So, this brings us to this question, when a person fills himself with a cloud of smoke, does this prevent YHWH

from working in him? Since this cloud is manmade in the Elohim made temple, does it prevent YHWH our Elohim from entering the Elohim made temple (our body) and performing the work necessary for us to have eternal life, in much the same way that when YHWH filled the manmade edifice with His cloud, it prevented man from entering to do the work of service?

We then could expand this question to include drunkenness or any other thing that a man can fill himself with. Whatever a man might fill himself with, does this prevent YHWH from entering in and doing a cleansing work? To be sure, it does!

This is not to say that YHWH cannot work in a person's life to bring that person to Himself, because He can do as He wills as the Creator of heaven and earth.

Romans 1:29

being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

Notice in the above passage some of the things that man can fill himself with that will prevent the work of YHWH from being done in a person's life. This next passage contrasts that a person should not be filled with wine, but he should be filled with His Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is riot, but be filled with the Spirit;

ABBA YHWH, please fill us up to overflowing with Your Spirit; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

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