

פְּקוּדֵי

P'qudei

(accounts of)

Shemot [Exodus] 38:21-40:38

As He Leads

Shemot (Exodus) 40:36-37

36 And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward, throughout all their journeys;

37 but if the cloud was not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up.

When we consider that this passage occurs after the incident with the golden calf, this verse takes on a whole new significance. Even though these people were stubborn and stiff-necked, they were still His people, and He was still leading them. YHWH had made a promise to Avraham and to Yitzchak and to Ya'aqov and He was going to keep that promise. Ultimately it would take YHWH thousands of years to bring these people around to the point that He would be able to keep that promise, but He would do it.

Everywhere that the children of Israel went from the time that they left Egypt until the time that they entered the land promised to Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya'aqov, it was where YHWH led them in the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. They went nowhere that He did not lead them.

Now we must understand that this leading was only outwardly or physically. While YHWH had given them His Torah commandments to keep and follow, spiritually speaking they did not follow YHWH spiritually as well as they did physically. Recorded for our admonition is incident after incident in which YHWH sent some kind of plague or pestilence into their midst to kill many of them. Why?

Matithyah (Matthew) 15:8

"This people honors Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me."

Now we could have quoted the same idea from any number of prophets, however, we have chosen to take these words from Mashiach for He came as a prophet after the likeness of Moshe to restore the Torah. Furthermore, let us consider this next passage.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 2:15

“Moreover the hand of YHWH was against them, to destroy them from the midst of the camp, until they were consumed.”

At the incident with the twelve spies at Kadesh Barnea, in which ten of the spies gave an evil report and caused the people to turn away from obeying the Voice of YHWH our Elohim, YHWH swore to destroy all that generation for their willful disobedience. But to truly understand this, this was not the first time of their disobedience, but rather this was the tenth time that they had tested YHWH.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 6:16

“You shall not test YHWH your Elohim, as you tested Him in Massah.”

While YHWH tests us frequently, we are not to test Him! He is our Elohim, we are not His elohim. He is to be leading and guiding us, not the other way around. And even in all their testing of YHWH in the wilderness, He still led them the whole time. Even though they were sinning, they were still His people.

It is much like when our own children go against what we have taught them and go their own way. We know that it will be to their own detriment and hurt. However, even while our children are going astray we love them and they are still our children. We do what we can to bring them back. We are limited in what we can do to bring this about. However, YHWH is not limited in what He can do to bring His people back, nor is He limited in time as we are. Even if it takes YHWH many generations to bring His children back to Him, He will do it.

What comes to us now in this generation is that His Spirit has gone out into all the world seeking those who will listen to His Voice and respond to Him and follow His Spirit. This is not a physical pillar of cloud or pillar of fire as in days gone by. Rather it is a following of His Spirit by faith.

Yochanan (John) 3:8

“The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going, so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

When a person is born of His Spirit, then where he is going only YHWH knows. He comes and he goes, but where no man knows, but only the Spirit of Elohim. It is much the same with wind. We can see the effects of wind and we can hear the wind blowing, but we do not know much about it. Now a weatherman may try to tell you all kinds of technical knowledge, but the bottom line is that they do not know either where the wind comes from, or where it is going.

So it is with a spiritual man, he himself does not know where he is going as he follows the lead of His Spirit moment by moment. And if he does not know where he is going, then how can any other man know where he is going? He cannot!

The truth is this, I cannot tell you where to go or how to live or what to do. What I can do is point to Scripture and show you what it says, but I cannot really tell you what to do, nor should I! Each one of us is to walk according to His Spirit. When we do this then we will see amazing things happen.

Ma'aseh (Acts) 1:14

These all with one heart continued steadfastly in prayer, with the women, and Miriam the mother of Yeshua, and with His brothers.

Notice that the talmidim of Yeshua after He ascended back to His Father continued to pray. They did this with one heart (as the Peshitta renders it). Many of the English versions read "in one accord." But what does that mean? Or, what does it mean to do this with one heart, for that matter? Let us look at Scripture to see if we can determine what this might mean.

Amos 3:3

"Shall two walk together, except they have agreed?"

I have seen and heard many things about this passage, perhaps you have as well. Most of what I have seen and heard is a misapplication of what YHWH is asking with this question. The simple pashat meaning of this question is: can two walk together without first agreeing to walk together? For example, if I was walking to town and a stranger came up alongside of me and indicated that he was going to town as well and asked if we might walk together, then if I agreed to walk with him and he with me, then we would walk together to town. It means nothing more than that. It is simply saying that before two can go together they have to be in agreement.

However, I have seen this verse used as an excuse to push people out of fellowship because of some minor point of doctrine. This is taking this verse out of context and misapplying it. It is using a passage of Scripture to justify wrongdoing. This is inexcusable. Yet it happens all too frequently.

This passage is used in an attempt to force each and every person to look, act, talk and be the same in His kingdom. To put it bluntly, that is totally ridiculous and against what Scripture teaches us. Each and every person of us in His kingdom is to walk according to His Spirit as He leads them. We are not to walk according to the dictates of man. Sometimes I wonder if we will ever learn this.

Walking according to the dictates of man brings only discord and disharmony. There is no shalom in doing this. Yet attempt after attempt is made to force others to walk according to our own thoughts and ideas rather than walking according to Torah and hearing and obeying His Voice.

All through the wilderness for 40 years YHWH led His people with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. He is no longer leading us in this fashion. Previously with the pillar, it was obvious to the physical eye when someone was not following the pillar. Now, we have something that is actually better because He now leads us from the inside. However, to those who are not so walking in His Spirit, if another is walking according to His Spirit in a different fashion, it is much more difficult for us to tell if

another is actually walking according to His Spirit. Now it takes some time and effort on our part to determine whether another actually is walking according to His leading in the Spirit.

The truth is that He does not lead us all the same. Since each person does not have the same function in the body of Mashiach, then it follows that each person's walk will not look the same. So why do we expect everyone's walk to look the same? If a person expects everyone's walk to be the same, then is that person walking in the Spirit? Hard to say, but one thing is for sure, his understanding of Scripture needs to be improved! If a person is open and receptive to this truth, then he most likely is walking in the Spirit. However, if a person is not receptive to this truth, then there is a good chance that he is not walking in the Spirit as he should be.

Yochanan (John) 16:13

"Therefore when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He shall guide you into all the truth; for He shall not speak from Himself; but what things He shall hear, these shall He speak; and He shall declare to you the things that are to come."

The Spirit has come and He is available to all who ask and seek to be filled with Him. This is the way that we are to be led through our lives in our everyday living.

May YHWH fill you to overflowing with His Spirit that you may know and do His will at all times!

ABBA YHWH, fill us with Your Spirit that we might walk according to His leading; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

חַזַּק חַזַּק וְנִתְחַזַּק בְּמָשִׁיחַ יֵשׁוּעַ

Chazak! Chazak! Venischazeik B'Mashiach Yeshua!

Be strong, be strong, and may you be strengthened in Mashiach Yeshua!

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

zerubbabel@onetorahforall.com

www.onetorahforall.com