

Your Year of Jubilee

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It is your time my friend, to be set free from a burden that you can no longer bear: not knowing the God who created you. I'm talking about an intimate, personal knowing. The Year of Jubilee was a time in ancient Israel where liberation or freedom was proclaimed to all us Jews, even though none were slaves. And also every 50th year, the Land would revert back to the original family designated by Joshua (Lev. 25:10, 13; Joshua 14:2; 15:1; etc.). They would all be given their ancient heritage.

The Lord was using the 50th year as a picture, for everyone to remember that their freedom or deliverance came through the Passover lamb's blood, covering their first born sons. They didn't obtain it because God owed it to them but because of His Love for Israel and the Promise that He made to our Fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Deut. 7:8).

Every 50 years they were to especially remember where they came from and how they got to where they were. The past exploded into the present and it would also point to the glorious future. The Spirit of the Lord used this picture of the Jubilee (Salvation, freedom and inheritance), when He spoke through the Prophet Isaiah declaring the reality to come through the Messiah of Israel:

'The Spirit of the Lord Yahveh is upon Me, because Yahveh has anointed Me to bring Good News to the afflicted. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted; to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners; to proclaim the Favorable Year of Yahveh, and the Day of Vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn.' (Isaiah 61:1-2)

The *Me* in this passage refers to the Messiah of Israel, the One whom Yahveh would send to not only bring the Good News but also be the Good News. The liberty which He would proclaim ties this passage back to the Year or Season of Jubilee in Lev. 25:8-10f. Just as Yahveh used Moses to free the Sons of Israel from Egyptian bondage, so Yahveh would use His Anointed One, Yeshua the Messiah, to proclaim freedom from a bondage much more devastating than Egyptian slavery, but paralleling it: our slavery to sin and our inability to stand before the holy God on Judgment Day, whose Presence is described as Fire.¹ The Good News is that Yahveh has sent His Messiah to set us free from the bondage and guilt to sin and to give us His Spirit that we might come to know the Holy One of Israel, intimately. This is our inheritance as a child of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The God of Israel speaks to the Prophet Jeremiah and asks him what he sees. Jeremiah replies, 'a branch of an almond tree.' And the Lord says, 'You have seen right, for I am *watching over My Word to do it*' (in its appointed time; Jer. 1:11-12). This makes no sense in English, Jeremiah seeing the branch of an almond tree and the Lord saying, 'You're right Jeremiah, and I am 'watching over My Word to perform it.' In Hebrew the almond tree is called *shah-kade* שָׁחַדָּה 'the watcher.' For it's the first to bloom after winter and so is seen 'to watch' all during the winter and when it blooms, Israel knows that spring (life) is just around the corner. The Lord plays on this word when He presents a branch of an almond tree in a vision to Jeremiah and then says that He, the Lord, is watching over שָׁחַדָּה (*sho-kade*) His Word to do it (in its divine time).

Incredibly enough, the branch of an almond tree was used by God to bear witness against us in the

¹ Dt. 4:24: 'For Yahveh your God is a consuming Fire, a passionate God!'

Wilderness, that God set up Aaron as our High Priest. The leaders of the rebellion had asserted that Aaron was made High Priest because Moses was his brother (Num. 16:1-17:26 Heb; to 17:13 Eng.). God made Aaron's rod (staff or branch), to come alive, thus proving that Aaron was God's anointed man. The 'branch of Aaron of the House of Levi had sprouted; it had brought forth sprouts, produced blossoms and *almonds*' (Num. 17:23 Heb; 17:8 Eng.). That's how we know it was a branch of an almond tree.²

From this powerful witness of a dead branch coming to life, when we rebelled against Yahveh and *His anointed ones*, Moses and Aaron, the Lord establishes not only Aaron as His anointed High Priest, but also the term *branch* as an important symbol of the Anointed One, the Messiah of Israel. In Scripture we read of this Branch being the Lord's Anointed One and that He will build the Temple or dwelling place of Yahveh:

Isaiah 11:1: 'Then a Shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a *Branch* from his roots will bear fruit.'

Jeremiah 23:5: 'Behold, the days are coming,' declares Yahveh, 'When I will raise up for David a righteous *Branch*. And He will reign as King and act wisely and do justice and righteousness in the Land.'

Zech. 6:12: 'Then say to him, 'Thus says Yahveh Lord of Hosts, 'Behold! A Man *whose Name is Branch*, for He will branch out from where He is and He will build the Temple of Yahveh.'

In Jeremiah's time, Jerusalem was destroyed and Judah with it. The northern kingdom of Israel had been taken captive by the Assyrians 135 years earlier and now the southern kingdom of Judah would fall. Yahveh had been warning us for hundreds of years, that if we didn't stop worshiping idols and turn to His Torah, that He would bring an enemy to destroy us. Yahveh is faithful to His Word, just as He says to Jeremiah. In the very next verses (Jer. 1:13f) God speaks of sending judgment upon us. Judah would fall to the King of Babylon.

It was during the period of Babylonian captivity that Yahveh speaks through the Prophet-Priest Ezekiel and tells him something that must have seemed very startling to Ezekiel. Yahveh would bring all the dispersed of Israel back to the Land (of Israel), sprinkle clean water upon us and cleanse us of our filthiness that defiled us. He would take out our stony heart and replace it with a heart of flesh, and give us His Holy Spirit (Ezk. 36:22-32). Again, not because we deserved it but because of His love for us and the promise that He made to our Fathers (Gen. 17:7-8).

This word was shocking to Ezekiel because Israel and Judah were no more. They had been destroyed. Ezekiel was in Babylon when he received this word from Yahveh. But Yahveh was faithful to His Word. When the 70 years of exile were up (Jer. 29:10), a remnant began to return to the Land and the Temple would be built. But this is not the Temple that Zechariah (6:12) prophesies above about! The Temple that Messiah Yeshua is building is made up of human beings, both Jew and Gentile, where the God of Israel can dwell (1st Peter 2:4-5; Rev. 21:1-11, 22-23). The Tabernacle of Moses was a picture or first step in the plan of God to dwell among His people (Ex. 25:8-9). Yahveh desires to dwell within us and this is what the New Heavens and the New Earth are all about. The God of Israel dwelling within His redeemed people. This is the Work of Yeshua our Messiah and it's your time to get a first hand taste of this future reality.

More than 50 years ago Israel was declared a nation and now we are seeing the greater fulfillment of the words of Ezekiel. In Ezra and Nehemiah's day, only a tiny remnant of Jews came back from Babylon but in our day we have seen Jews from over 100 nations return to the Land. This has never been seen in history; that a people, dispersed to the four winds, would return to their ancient land, the inheritance that

² The almond tree is also used as the design for the branches of the Menorah (Lampstand: Ex. 25:31-35).

Yahveh gave us as God speaks of, but again, this is what Jubilee is about. The Lord is faithful to His Word. And now we are seeing many Jews coming to Yeshua our Messiah; about two million all over the world. Yahveh is opening our eyes. The Lord speaks of this when He declares through the Prophet Zechariah:

‘I will pour out on the House of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me *whom they have pierced* and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.’

‘In that day a Fountain will be opened for the House of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for impurity.’ (Zech 12:10; 13:1)

The *Me* speaks of the Messiah of Israel who was sent to give us our inheritance in the Lord. The House of Judah is all of us Jews. Isaiah the Prophet said that Messiah would be pierced through for our open rebellion against Yahveh. That He would die for our sins:

‘And He was *pierced through* for our open rebellion, crushed for our perverse heart; on Him lies the punishment that brings us Shalom (True Peace with Papa God), and by His stripes we are healed.’ (Is. 53:5)

You might ask, ‘Can this Jesus of the Gentiles really be our long awaited Messiah?!’ The Lord, speaking through Isaiah says:

‘Behold My Servant, whom I uphold; My Chosen One in whom My Soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him. He will bring forth justice to the nations.’

‘I, Yahveh, have called You in righteousness. I will also hold You by the Hand and watch over You, and I will appoint You as a Covenant to the people, as a Light to the nations,’

‘He says, ‘Is it too small a thing that You should be My Servant?, to raise up the Tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel? I will also make You a Light of the nations so that My Salvation may reach to the ends of the Earth.’ (Isaiah 42:1, 6; 49:6)

It was ordained by God that the Gentiles should come to the knowledge of the Messiah of Israel before the nation of Israel did. This was because of our pride and stubbornness. When Yahveh sent Yeshua to us 2,000 years ago, we as a nation rejected Yeshua, just as we rejected Aaron as Yahveh’s anointed one. But when the Good News of Yahveh sending His Son, to be the Sacrifice that cleanses us from our sins was manifest throughout the Gentile world, many Gentiles came to Israel’s Messiah King.

Over the years there has been many atrocities done in the Name of Jesus to our Jewish people but Jesus did not do them. Just as there were many unrighteous kings of both the former kingdoms of Israel and Judah, so too there have been many unrighteous Gentiles who have done wickedness. But the Kingdom of God advances in spite of them. Yeshua not only spoke of the Kingdom of God being at hand, but He Himself is the Kingdom of God. He is the Stone cut out of the Mountain, not cut of human hands, that keeps growing and growing and will overcome every human kingdom (Daniel 2:26-48).

And now, 60 years after Israel has become a nation again there have been more Jewish people who have come to know Yeshua as their personal Messiah, than in all the previous 1,900 years. It’s your time to come to know Yeshua. For He desires to cleanse you of your sin and reveal the Father to you. It’s only with belief in Yeshua that you will ever come to know the True Shalom of Yahveh. This is your day to be set free from all your sin and guilt and to claim your ancient heritage. This is the day of your salvation.

It's only through the forgiveness of sins that salvation comes.

Yeshua healed many blind men and lepers and Jews who were sick, but these were only done to get our attention. His Resurrection from the dead was the sign or miracle that His sacrificial death was acceptable to Yahveh, to atone for, or to forgive our sins and that He was Yahveh's Chosen One. Just as Yahveh gave life to that dead branch of Aaron's, to show us that God chose Aaron, so too He gave Life to the dead branch known as Yeshua. It's commonly known that Yeshua grew up in Nazareth whose name means 'branch.' Jesus the Nazarene is translated as Jesus the Branch. The Resurrection was the sign to the House of Israel that Yeshua really was the Man whose name was Branch (Zech. 6:12-13).

Yeshua came to die for us. To take our place and take upon Himself the just judgment that was due us. For we have broken the Torah. It's by the Blood of the Lamb of Yahveh, Yeshua, that we are set free from our sins and sealed with the Spirit of the Holy One. This is the greater fulfillment of the Year of Jubilee that Isaiah spoke of in the 61st chapter. You might ask, 'How can anyone die for the sins of another?' But Yahveh spoke through Isaiah (53:7-8, 10) of the Messiah as a lamb come to bear or take away the sins of Israel:

'He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth. *Like a lamb* that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth. By oppression and judgment He was taken away, and as for His generation, who considered that *He was cut off out of the Land of the living for the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due?*' 'But Yahveh was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief, *if He would render Himself as a guilt offering*, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days and the good pleasure of Yahveh will prosper in His Hand.'

God especially chose our Fathers. They knew Him by His Spirit (Genesis 12:1-3; 22:11f; 28:13). This is your time to come to know the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob by His Spirit too. It's your ancient heritage. He is your ancient heritage. Your coming to Yeshua your Messiah is inevitable; like the destruction of Jerusalem in Jeremiah's day and the re-establishment of Israel in 1948. Against all odds Israel came to take its place among the nations. And contrary to what you may have thought in the past about 'Jesus', you will come to know and to love Yeshua with all your heart. For He is your Messiah. Yeshua *is* the Jubilee! If you believe what I've shared to be true, ask Yeshua to come into your heart, cleanse you of your sin, give you Shalom with Papa God and fill you with the Holy Spirit. This is your ancient heritage and What the Year of Jubilee pointed to. Contact me and I'll tell you more about Messiah.³

³ Revised on Friday, January 20, 2023.