



“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶ and upon finding a single pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Mathew 13:45

Beha’alotcha In Your Going Up

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Numbers 8:1–12:16
Zechariah 2:10–4:7
I Corinthians 10:6–13

Within this week’s parsha we will examine the call to be set apart unto YHVH, as we transcend the limitations of this corrupt body and seek to be transformed into the image of Messiah. Through drawing near to YHVH as we come into His Divine Presence and through meditating upon His word, as we allow the word of YHVH to wash and cleanse us, thus making us spotless and without blemish. We will also look at the prophetic picture in the second Passover and how we need to be ready for the return of our King Messiah Yeshua.

Numbers 8:1-4

The LORD said to Moses, ² “Speak to Aaron and say to him, ‘When you set up the lamps, see that all seven light up the area in front of the lampstand.’”

³ Aaron did so; he set up the lamps so that they faced forward on the lampstand, just as the LORD commanded Moses. ⁴ This is how the lampstand was made: It was made of hammered gold—from its base to its blossoms. The lampstand was made exactly like the pattern the LORD had shown Moses.

The parsha commences with the command given by YHVH regarding how Aaron is to light the Menorah in the Holy Place. What we also see is a symbol of how believers in YHVH are also to be a light which illuminates in the darkness of their environment. For we are not to hide the light which shines from within us. We are to let it shine in the darkness so that it can reveal the state of things around us, as it brings what is hidden in the darkness into the light of Messiah.

This week’s parsha is named “Beha’alotcha” which means “when you rise up” referring to the instruction to make the flame “go up” on its own. We too are to ensure that the light inside us “rises up” as the flame of divine consciousness of the presence of Messiah burns brightly within us, as it illuminates the darkness of this world. The light which shines is not permitted to go out, which to ensure this we must be drawing from the source of the light, which is Messiah Yeshua, daily as we meditate upon scripture and through prayer. It is not enough that we feel close to God or teach others to feel close, but we MUST draw near to YHVH which as we do He will draw near to us. Thus, in this drawing together there will be an exchange, which as we come into the Divine presence of

YHVH, our weaknesses will be dealt with as we are transformed daily by YHVH's presence. It is through this exchange that we can be active witnesses and ambassadors for God.

Numbers 8:5-26

⁵ The LORD said to Moses: ⁶ "Take the Levites from among all the Israelites and make them ceremonially clean. ⁷ To purify them, do this: Sprinkle the water of cleansing on them; then have them shave their whole bodies and wash their clothes. And so they will purify themselves. ⁸ Have them take a young bull with its grain offering of the finest flour mixed with olive oil; then you are to take a second young bull for a sin offering. ⁹ Bring the Levites to the front of the tent of meeting and assemble the whole Israelite community. ¹⁰ You are to bring the Levites before the LORD, and the Israelites are to lay their hands on them. ¹¹ Aaron is to present the Levites before the LORD as a wave offering from the Israelites, so that they may be ready to do the work of the LORD.

We see here how the Levites are set apart unto YHVH as His, so that they can assist Aaron and his sons in the duties of the Tabernacle. Notice how they are set apart, as they are purified through the sprinkling of cleansing water after which they had to shave their whole bodies.

Paul states regarding on how believers are made ready, spotless without blemish in his letter to the Ephesians.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. (Ephesians 5:25-27)

On a side note, the word "church" was not used in the original copies of this text, even in the first complete English Bible which was the Tyndale Bible in about 1524, the word "church" was not found anywhere in its pages. Instead, it used the word "congregation." Sometime after this bible, they started replacing the word "congregation" with the word "church."

This is important because Messiah NEVER died for the "church" He died for the House of Israel, Ephraim His first born. For the purpose of the Passover lamb sacrifice was the redemption of the first-born sons from Egypt. Yet, through Messiah's obedience to fulfil the word of YHVH, and God's faithfulness to Israel it made way for "whoever" to come into faith. Thus, through the grafting in of the House of Israel, the wild olive branch, to the natural Olive Tree, God made way for all peoples to be grafted in and become part of the Commonwealth of Israel.

Thus, Messiah died for Israel which will give birth to the one new man.

Within both the passage in numbers and that in Ephesians we see that both the Levites and the "One New Man" are made clean through the washing, with cleansing waters. What we see in the passage in numbers is the physical act of washing with cleansing living waters, which these waters are a symbol of the word of YHVH which as we read and apply it, makes us spotless and without blemish. We further need to understand that it was the duty of the Levites/Priests to instruct the children of Israel in the ways of YHVH so that the community of Israel could mature in its faith so that Israel could fulfil its purpose and calling of being a holy people and Royal nation set apart unto YHVH.

This is the same today for us as believers; we are to seek God, we are to rise up and transcend this mortal body with all its desires and lusts as we put them aside and bring them into submission to the word of God. Thus, as we do this we are walking along the path of righteousness, the path Messiah has shown us and gone before us on.

¹² “Then the Levites are to lay their hands on the heads of the bulls, using one for a sin offering to the Lord and the other for a burnt offering, to make atonement for the Levites. ¹³ Have the Levites stand in front of Aaron and his sons and then present them as a wave offering to the Lord. ¹⁴ In this way you are to set the Levites apart from the other Israelites, and the Levites will be mine.

We see at the end of this part of the chapter that Aaron is to present the Levites as a wave offering before YHVH. The wave offering represents the first fruits offering before YHVH as we read in Leviticus 23:9 ***Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹⁰ “Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘When you enter the land which I am going to give to you and reap its harvest, then you shall bring in the sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest. ¹¹ He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord for you to be accepted; on the day after the sabbath, the priest shall wave it.***

The Levites symbolise the first fruit offering before YHVH, that as they the Levites ministered and carried out their duties, they would bring Israel to maturity and thus ALL of Israel would be Priests.

This is also true of believers, that when Messiah returns, the “Wise Virgins” those who have made themselves ready with the washing of the word, who have been walking in obedience to the word of God, observing all Messiah has instructed, as they follow His example, will be the firsts fruits of the Bride of Messiah in the Millennium reign, or another way of putting it would be Priests. The role of the Bride/Priests in the Millennium is to instruct Israel in the ways of YHVH so that all can mature and be the Bride of Messiah. For God will complete the good work in us which he has started (Phil. 1:6). Therefore, in the Millennium the people of YHVH will be instructed by Messiah and the “Wise Virgins” as together as a community the good work which God started WILL be finished. Thus, all of Israel will dwell with YHVH in the New Jerusalem for eternity.

¹⁵ “After you have purified the Levites and presented them as a wave offering, they are to come to do their work at the tent of meeting. ¹⁶ They are the Israelites who are to be given wholly to me. I have taken them as my own in place of the firstborn, the first male offspring from every Israelite woman. ¹⁷ Every firstborn male in Israel, whether human or animal, is mine. When I struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, I set them apart for myself. ¹⁸ And I have taken the Levites in place of all the firstborn sons in Israel. ¹⁹ From among all the Israelites, I have given the Levites as gifts to Aaron and his sons to do the work at the tent of meeting on behalf of the Israelites and to make atonement for them so that no plague will strike the Israelites when they go near the sanctuary.”

²⁰ Moses, Aaron and the whole Israelite community did with the Levites just as the LORD commanded Moses. ²¹ The Levites purified themselves and washed their clothes. Then Aaron presented them as a wave offering before the LORD and made atonement for them to purify them. ²² After that, the Levites came to do their work at the tent of meeting under the supervision of Aaron and his sons. They did with the Levites just as the LORD commanded Moses.

²³ The LORD said to Moses, ²⁴ “This applies to the Levites: Men twenty-five years old or more shall come to take part in the work at the tent of meeting, ²⁵ but at the age of fifty, they must retire

from their regular service and work no longer. ²⁶ They may assist their brothers in performing their duties at the tent of meeting, but they themselves must not do the work. This, then, is how you are to assign the responsibilities of the Levites.”

Two Passovers

Numbers 9:1-14

The LORD spoke to Moses in the Desert of Sinai in the first month of the second year after they came out of Egypt. He said, ² “Have the Israelites celebrate the Passover at the appointed time. ³ Celebrate it at the appointed time, at twilight on the fourteenth day of this month, in accordance with all its rules and regulations.”

⁴ So Moses told the Israelites to celebrate the Passover, ⁵ and they did so in the Desert of Sinai at twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month. The Israelites did everything just as the LORD commanded Moses.

⁶ But some of them could not celebrate the Passover on that day because they were ceremonially unclean on account of a dead body. So they came to Moses and Aaron that same day ⁷ and said to Moses, “We have become unclean because of a dead body, but why should we be kept from presenting the LORD’S offering with the other Israelites at the appointed time?”

⁸ Moses answered them, “Wait until I find out what the Lord commands concerning you.”

⁹ Then the LORD said to Moses, ¹⁰ “Tell the Israelites: ‘When any of you or your descendants are unclean because of a dead body or are away on a journey, they are still to celebrate the LORD’S Passover, ¹¹ but they are to do it on the fourteenth day of the second month at twilight. They are to eat the lamb, together with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ¹² They must not leave any of it till morning or break any of its bones. When they celebrate the Passover, they must follow all the regulations. ¹³ But if anyone who is ceremonially clean and not on a journey fails to celebrate the Passover, they must be cut off from their people for not presenting the LORD’S offering at the appointed time. They will bear the consequences of their sin.

¹⁴ “A foreigner residing among you is also to celebrate the LORD’S Passover in accordance with its rules and regulations. You must have the same regulations for both the foreigner and the native-born.”

Within the above text we see that those who were ceremonially unclean or away and could not observing the Passover could celebrate it the following Month. We see here that there are two reasons why a person cannot observe Passover at the pointed time, a) because of being in a state of uncleanness. b) because they are on a journey. Within the giving of a second Passover we see a prophetic picture. First that there will be two exoduses out of bondage. The first being out of physical Egypt, which is what is traditionally remembered during the Passover event. The second that of the “Greater Exodus” or the “Second Passover” which we will see take place during the time of Jacob’s Trouble, when YHVH gathers the exiles from the four corners of the Earth, during this Greater/Second Exodus. Just like the second Passover is remembered because the people are unclean or on a journey thus unable to observe the first Passover. The second Exodus is because of the sin of the House of Israel, which resulted in them being in exile, on a journey. However, when YHVH gathers them from where He has exiled them, He will also gather the nations who have put their trust in YHVH and accepted Messiah as their Lord and Saviour. Thus, this second exodus will be a greater event than the first, just as scripture states.

This is what the prophet Jeremiah repeatedly stated.

Jeremiah 23:7-8 ⁷“So then, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when people will no longer say, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,’ ⁸but they will say, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the descendants of Israel up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.’ Then they will live in their own land.”

Jeremiah 30:1-3 *This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ²“This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Write in a book all the words I have spoken to you. ³The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will bring my people Israel and Judah back from captivity and restore them to the land I gave their ancestors to possess,’ says the LORD.”*

Jeremiah 16:14-16 ¹⁴“However, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when it will no longer be said, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,’ ¹⁵but it will be said, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.’ For I will restore them to the land, I gave their ancestors.¹⁶“But now I will send for many fishermen,” declares the LORD, “and they will catch them. After that, I will send for many hunters, and they will hunt them down on every mountain and hill and from the crevices of the rocks.

It was for this reason why Messiah stated that He would make Peter a “fisher of men” it was in fulfillment of what the prophet Jeremiah had said regarding the reNewed Covenant. For first the fishermen would be sent to gather the lost sheep and bring the exiles and all those grafted in back to the land. Then the hunters would be sent, as the people would not listen to the message of the fishermen. This was witnessed in the last century with the House of Judah when the Zionists went out and spoke to them as they urged them to return to the land. However, many did not listen, as they had become settled in the land they had been scattered. Thus, when the time of the hunters came, Nazis, we witnessed a slaughtering of the House of Judah known now as the Holocaust as Jews were hunted down. After the war, we witnessed the birth of the homeland for the Jewish people in the modern state of Israel.

What many do not understand is that this a pattern, that today the message is going out for the exiles to prepare to return to the land, for the time of Jacob’s Trouble is almost upon us. However, because many do not identify themselves as Israel, but as the “church” which for most they believe that they will not go through the Tribulation, they will not prepare or move. Thus, what we will see is another period when the people of God are once again hunted by the antichrist system, which will be a time of great trouble when many believers will lose their lives. What we will see at the end of this period is the Kingdom of God being established on the earth, as Messiah returns and gathers the exiles, and unites the House of Israel and the House of Judah as one people in His hand.

Therefore, the question is, are you making ready for this event? Many around the world are preparing themselves for this. Others are making ready to assist people to go on the journey as they are directed by God to prepare for this event to help, however what about you?

Numbers 9:15-23

¹⁵ On the day the tabernacle, the tent of the covenant law, was set up, the cloud covered it. From evening till morning the cloud above the tabernacle looked like fire. ¹⁶ That is how it continued to be; the cloud covered it, and at night it looked like fire. ¹⁷ Whenever the cloud lifted from above the tent, the Israelites set out; wherever the cloud settled, the Israelites encamped. ¹⁸ At the LORD's command the Israelites set out, and at his command they encamped. As long as the cloud stayed over the tabernacle, they remained in camp. ¹⁹ When the cloud remained over the tabernacle a long time, the Israelites obeyed the LORD's order and did not set out. ²⁰ Sometimes the cloud was over the tabernacle only a few days; at the LORD's command they would encamp, and then at his command they would set out. ²¹ Sometimes the cloud stayed only from evening till morning, and when it lifted in the morning, they set out. Whether by day or by night, whenever the cloud lifted, they set out. ²² Whether the cloud stayed over the tabernacle for two days or a month or a year, the Israelites would remain in camp and not set out; but when it lifted, they would set out. ²³ At the LORD's command they encamped, and at the LORD's command they set out. They obeyed the LORD's order, in accordance with his command through Moses.

We see here that the children of Israel remained in a place as long as the cloud of God's presence rested over the Tabernacle. However, when this moved the people move and camped wherever God's presence rested, as they were directed and led by Yah.

During the Second/Greater Exodus God will once again direct His both Jew (House of Judah) and House of Israel (which includes believers in Messiah) who will be guided by God as He leads them out of the nations and back to the land.

Ezekiel 20:33-38

³³ As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I will reign over you with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath. ³⁴ I will bring you from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered—with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath. ³⁵ I will bring you into the wilderness of the nations and there, face to face, I will execute judgment upon you. ³⁶ As I judged your ancestors in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will judge you, declares the Sovereign LORD. ³⁷ I will take note of you as you pass under my rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant. ³⁸ I will purge you of those who revolt and rebel against me. Although I will bring them out of the land where they are living, yet they will not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

Scripture is clear there will be another Exodus, one in which we will see YHVH draw His people in the wilderness of the people, as He guides them to a place of Safety so that He can keep them and make them ready. As God pours out His judgment upon the Earth, a judgment which is due to them not observing His commandments. For what we see coming upon the earth in Revelation and other prophetic books regarding this time is the curses which God stated will be poured out for neglecting His commandments. Deuteronomy 28-31.

Friends, what we see in the passages I have briefly looked at is a pattern. That YHVH calls out from amongst His people those who will set themselves apart, those who will live a holy life so that they can as community assist the others in getting ready to be the Bride. However, we see this take place through a period of judgment, that God judges the nations while leading His people into the wilderness to prepare them and set them apart.

We will see this again, that God will call out His people, during a time of judgment, he will bring them under the rod and the staff, that is Torah. For it is a rod when correcting and a staff when guiding, that Yah will provide, protect and guide His people at this time. All we have to do is surrender our all to Him as we trust in Him and leave everything behind and go on a journey.

I encourage you to study further this parsha and the things I have highlighted, especially if you have not heard of the "Greater/Second Exodus" as there is no rapture at the beginning of the Tribulation. It is called the time of Jacob's Trouble because Jacob goes through it, that includes the church!

One final point, everything we read in the Torah and the New Testament is a call to Holiness as we commit to living a righteousness life. It is this which society today has rejected, yet this rejection first happened within the Body of Messiah as we rejected the Torah, the commandments of God. God is calling us to walk in righteousness. It is this path which Messiah came to show us, and it is this path which He instructed His disciples to proclaim, that of not just the Gospel of the Kingdom and Salvation but the Gospel of Righteousness. The one which King David proclaimed and made known to the Great Assembly, Israel. It is for this reason why Yah bestows grace upon His people, to assist them in walking righteously before Him.

Psalm 40:8-10 (NKJV)

***⁸ I delight to do Your will, O my God,
And Your law is within my heart."***

***⁹ I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness
In the great assembly;***

***Indeed, I do not restrain my lips,
O LORD, You Yourself know.***

***¹⁰ I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart;
I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation;
I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth
From the great assembly.***

Let us commit to seeking YHVH with all we are as we endeavour to be Wise followers of Messiah.

May YHVH bless and keep you.

Shabbat Shalom

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