

EXODUS

A Foreshadowing

By Bonnie Wills

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Moses and Aaron	7
Pharaoh	14
Our Way Versus His Way	19
The Wilderness	24
Judgment	29
The Blood of the Lamb	37
Korah and the Seven Seals	43
The Trumpets, Bowls and the Plagues of Egypt	49
The Marriage Contract	54
From Raamses to Mt. Sinai	61
The Movement of God's People	71
Adonai Gave Us Manna in the Wilderness	75
The Rest of the Tests in the Wilderness	85
Forty Years in the Wilderness	92
Apostasy	97
I Want to do it My Way	100
Let's Do it Adonai's Way	110
The Greater Exodus	118
One Last Word	130

Exodus ~ A Foreshadowing

Throughout the Scriptures we find references to the Exodus of God's people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt. Most of us simply view the Exodus as merely a story to be told to our children in Sunday school. A closer look reveals so much more. The Apostle Paul understood this, and tried to explain it to the good people of Corinth.

For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and all ate the same spiritual food; and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Messiah. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.

Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY." Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak as to wise men; you judge what I say. (1 Corinthians 10:1-15)

That was a lot of information to take in, so let's take it bit by bit so that we can understand what Paul was teaching. First, though, I'd like to remind us all of who Paul was and what he believed, so that we can then better understand what he is trying to teach us here.

Paul was a Torah scholar, top student of the famous Gamaliel, the most sought-after Torah teacher of the day. In order to be even considered to be a disciple of this man, a boy must have completely memorized the Torah, the first five books of the Bible, by the time of their Bar Mitzvah. Paul knew the Law of God better than any other Apostle, and never taught against God's Law, contrary to popular Christian belief. One could easily refer to him as a scribe, as he spent his entire life studying the Word of God.

Yeshua (Jesus) taught His disciples the meanings behind the parables, but He also told them that if they could find a scribe who was a New Covenant believer, that they would be blessed indeed!

And Yeshua said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings out of his treasure things new and old."
(Matthew 13:52)

Paul did just that; he brought out treasures from the Word of God that most of us have missed, simply because the church universal has not taught these things. So, knowing this, let us now go back and look at what Paul was teaching the Corinthians, and us as well.

Paul, in referring to the Exodus out of Egypt, twice tells us that these things were written as examples to us. Because he wrote it twice, we must sit up and take notice, because this is important. He wants us to take a closer look at the Exodus for a very special reason... one that will mean something special to those who are alive at "the end of the ages." He is referring to us.

So what do we need to learn from the Exodus that would apply to us today, living in the "end times"? Isaiah also referred to the Exodus in his warnings to the Israelites during the time of the judgment of the Northern Kingdom.

Therefore thus says the Lord GOD of hosts, "O My people who dwell in Zion, do not fear the Assyrian who strikes you with the rod and lifts up his staff against you, **the way Egypt did**. For in a very little while My indignation *against you* will be spent and My anger *will be directed* to their destruction." The LORD of hosts will arouse a scourge against him like the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb; and His staff will be over the sea and He will lift it up **the way He did in Egypt**. So it will be in that day, that his burden will be removed from your shoulders

and his yoke from your neck, and the yoke will be broken because of fatness. (Isaiah 10:24-27)

Isaiah also goes on to say:

And there will be a highway from Assyria for the remnant of His people who will be left, **just as there was for Israel in the day that they came up out of the land of Egypt.** (Isaiah 11:16)

Isaiah speaks often of the ingathering of God's people in the latter days, which all understand to mean the time of Jacob's Trouble, also known as the Great Tribulation. There are many people who teach that this ingathering, or rapture, of God's people will happen before the Tribulation begins. Is this really what the Bible teaches?

Paul was trying to show the Corinthians, and us, that the Exodus was a foreshadowing of what is to come in the latter days. This was one of those treasures that he brought out of the Scriptures to share with us so that we would have hope. To understand what we will be going through, we must first learn what they, the children of Israel, went through. As the old sayings go, "What happened to the fathers will happen to the sons," and "Those who refuse to learn from history are bound to repeat it."

The story of the Exodus actually begins in *Genesis*, when Jacob (Israel) and his children move down into Egypt, to the land of Goshen, due to the severe drought in the entire region. Adonai (the Lord) had provided for their needs beforehand by sending Joseph down into Egypt to prepare for the coming famine. But even before that, Adonai El Shaddai (the Lord God Almighty) had told Abraham that his descendants would sojourn in Egypt, just as Abraham himself had done, and then He would lead them out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. This is exactly what happened.

God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions." (*Genesis* 15:13-14)

The complete story of the Exodus, and the lives of the Israelites in the wilderness, is too big to detail here, so I will stick to the similarities found between it and the prophecies regarding the coming Tribulation. I encourage all to read the entire Torah for themselves so that the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) can speak directly to our hearts regarding this teaching.

Most people have a "Hollywood understanding" of these events. We've all seen The Ten Commandments starring Charlton Heston. What most of us don't realize is there was more to the story than what Hollywood shows, and that the Bible was not their script. Regardless, it is a good place to start.

There are many similarities between the Exodus and the coming Tribulation taught throughout the scriptures by the prophets of God, not just Paul. Isaiah and Jeremiah also speak of the similarities as does Peter. This is one of the biggest teachings in the Bible, yet most are oblivious because their Bible teachers ignore this fact. The Exodus is treated more like a fairy tale than the recounting of actual events.

The events defined as the Exodus actually span many, many years. The judgments against Egypt, in the form of plagues, actually occurred over the course of about a month. The wilderness experience was only to last a little over a year, but ended up lasting over forty years. There were many tests that the Israelites failed, but Adonai passed every test put to Him.

Heavenly Father, You have given us so many wonderful gifts. You have chosen us, You have comforted us, You have forgiven us and healed us of our afflictions. You are righteous and true, abounding in mercy and lovingkindness, but You will by no means leave the guilty unpunished. Teach us, O Adonai, the teachings of Your precepts as we meditate upon Your wondrous works. May we see Your mighty hand and Your outstretched arm deliver us, fighting for us while we stand our ground and see the Salvation before us. Show us how to live our lives so they will be a soothing aroma in Your sight. Give us understanding so that we will keep Your Law with all our hearts, souls and might, strengthening each other with Your words, even more as The Day draws near. Keep us from apostasy, opening our eyes to the deceit around us so that we will not fall victim to the lies of the enemy.

As we study Your word and the parable of the Exodus, may we clearly see the message found therein for our benefit. Adonai, You have said that what is written in Your word is for our benefit, all of it. Show us these things, Adonai our Elohim, so that we will receive the message set before us by Your lovingkindness. Show us how to extract the precious from the worthless so that we can show others as well, bringing glory to Your most Holy Name and the name of our Messiah, Yeshua. Amein.

Moses and Aaron

The story begins (basically) with two men, Moses and his older brother Aaron, approaching Pharaoh with a message from Adonai, the God of the Hebrews, "Let my people go!" Throughout the Bible we see both "messiah-types" and "anti-messiah types" and Pharaoh is no exception. He is a perfect example of one man ruling the entire world, which is what the prophets say will occur in the last days. We also see in Moses and Aaron a foreshadowing of the two witnesses of Revelation.

"And I will grant *authority* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. And if anyone wants to harm them, fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies; so if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way. These have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire. (Revelation 11:3-6)

Moses and Aaron had the power to speak a judgment of God into existence. Of course, they could only speak what Adonai told them to speak, but this is similar to the power given to the two witnesses. When they spoke, things happened.

There is no dispute regarding the Ten Plagues of Egypt, as even non-believers refer to them. What most people don't realize is that these plagues were actually judgments against the gods of Egypt. The Egyptians worshipped the river Nile as a source of life, had gods that were cows, bugs, and many other types of animals, and even believed their Pharaoh to be a god. So too the people of today worship many gods; the Almighty Dollar is worshipped worldwide as well as "mother earth" and trees and animals. "Sacred cow" is not just a saying; it is a fact to the Hindu. The coming worldwide judgment will also be on the gods of this world, including the Anti-Messiah himself.

When Moses and Aaron stood up to Pharaoh and announced these judgments, neither Pharaoh nor his people believed what they said. We also

see the two witnesses of Revelation will not be believed, even though they have power from on High.

When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them. And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. Those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations *will* look at their dead bodies for three and a half days, and will not permit their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb. And those who dwell on the earth *will* rejoice over them and celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." Then they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them. And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is past; behold, the third woe is coming quickly. (Revelation 11:4-14)

The two witnesses might have great power, but the beast is able to overcome them. Although the beast might think he's won a victory, just three and a half days later they are resurrected and taken up into heaven. Although Moses and Aaron have been used by God to do many wondrous things, they still didn't get to walk into the Promised Land. Once again, the enemy feels that he's won some sort of victory, but the joke is on him... Moses and Aaron too will be resurrected (if they have not already done so when Yeshua was resurrected) and will inherit the land promised to our fathers so long ago.

Adonai told Moses that he was to go and speak to Pharaoh on behalf of the people, but Moses was worried that the Israelites would not believe that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had sent him to them. Moses was given two signs, miracles, to perform before the people so that they will know that Adonai indeed has sent Moses.

Then Moses said to the LORD, "Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." The LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes *him* mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now then go, and I, even **I**, **will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say.**"

But he said, "Please, Lord, now send *the message* by whomever You will." Then the anger of the LORD burned against Moses, and He said, "Is there not your brother Aaron the Levite? I know that he speaks fluently. And moreover, behold, he is coming out to meet you; when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart.

"You are to speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I, even I, will be with your mouth and his mouth, and **I will teach you what you are to do.** Moreover, he shall speak for you to the people; and he will be as a mouth for you and **you will be as God to him.** You shall take in your hand this staff, with which you shall perform the signs." (Exodus 4:10-17)

Like many of us, Moses was concerned about what the people might think of him. How could Adonai send a messenger who is unable to speak properly? This is the same concern many of us have when He gives us a message for others. According to Revelation, the day will come when we all will have to decide whether to follow God or whether to follow Satan. Things are going to get really bad, really fast, and before we know it, we will be put in the very same position as Moses.

"When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but *it is* the Holy Spirit." (Mark 13:11)

I find it very interesting what Adonai tells Moses concerning his relationship with his brother Aaron. "You will be as God to him." We have had many prophets come but not one has been like God to us... until Yeshua.

"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him. This is according to all that you asked of the LORD your God in Horeb on the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, let me not see this great

fire anymore, or I will die.' The LORD said to me, 'They have spoken well. I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. It shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require *it* of him.'" (Deuteronomy 18:15-19)

Let us keep this in mind as we read what Yeshua said to the Jews who were persecuting Him:

"But the testimony which I have is greater than *the testimony of John*; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish--the very works that I do--testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me. And the Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form. You do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent.

"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; **it is these that testify about Me**; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. I do not receive glory from men; but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves. I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; **if another comes in his own name, you will receive him**. How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the *one and only God*?

"Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope. **For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?**" (John 5:36-47)

The question we need to ask ourselves is this, "Do **we** believe Moses?" We must believe all that he has told us, otherwise we do not have a complete picture of our faith and what is required of us. The Jews claim to follow the teachings of Moses, yet ignore the very One he spoke of; the Christians claim to follow Yeshua (whom they call Jesus), yet ignore the one who told us about Him. Both groups are wrong. We can't ignore either Moses or the Messiah he taught us about, but do we know what he taught about the Messiah?

The author of the book of Hebrews draws many similarities between Moses and Messiah:

Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Yeshua, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession; He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house. For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by just so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God. Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later; but Messiah *was faithful* as a Son over His house--whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end. (Hebrews 3:1-6)

Messiah will return and when He does, He will gather His people from the ends of the earth, bringing us into the Promised Land. This was Moses' role as well. Looking at the life of Moses, and his relationship with the Almighty God, gives us a better understanding of our Savior, Yeshua.

Both Yeshua and Moses have incredible events surrounding their births. Moses' mother was actually quite old when she gave birth to Moses. When we look into some of the other writings, like the book of Jasher, we learn more about his family than what Genesis gives us. His mother was an actual daughter of Levi, although her husband was a grandson of Levi, and was past the age that we would consider within the childbearing years.

Although the Egyptians were killing the male babies by drowning them, being taken down to the Nile saved Moses. Yeshua was taken down into Egypt to escape the killing of the innocent children of Bethlehem. Men who were not their real fathers raised both boys; both men were destined for greatness. We could go on and on.

The book of Hebrews also equates Messiah with the role of High Priest. To understand what that means, we must look to the role of the High Priest as given to Moses in the wilderness, and as lived through the life of Aaron.

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and **able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart**. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. Therefore,

since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Yeshua the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may **receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.** (Hebrews 4:12-16)

The Word of God can pierce men's souls and read every intention of our heart. The One who wields this sword is our High Priest, the very man we are to go to in times of trouble, according to Moses. No matter what happens in our lives, whether birth, or marriage, or sickness or health, we are to go to the High Priest to offer sacrifices to our Elohim. It is the High Priest who intercedes on our behalf with the Most High God. It is also the High Priest whom we invite into our hearts to take up residence and lead and guide us. Don't you think we should know what the High Priest does every day? Wouldn't we better understand what Yeshua is doing in our hearts?

During their time in the wilderness, the children of Israel built a Tabernacle for Adonai. It was modeled after the Tabernacle in heaven. It is said that Moses actually went up into heaven during his forty days on the mountain, and he not only saw the Heavenly Tabernacle, but also witnessed the worship service there so that he would know how to teach Aaron. This idea of a Heavenly Tabernacle is also found in the book of Hebrews.

Now the main point in what has been said *is this*: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister in the sanctuary and **in the true tabernacle**, which the Lord pitched, not man. For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this *high priest* also have something to offer.

Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; who serve **a copy and shadow of the heavenly things**, just as Moses was warned *by God* when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "SEE," He says, "THAT YOU MAKE all things ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN WHICH WAS SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN." (Hebrews 8:1-5)

There is a Tabernacle in heaven, built by Almighty God Himself, and the one Moses built in the wilderness, as well as the Temple in Jerusalem, were mere copies of that original. There are sacrifices in the heavenlies just as there were sacrifices here on earth. These sacrifices are outlined for us in Torah. These instructions were given to Moses on the mountain of God and taught to Aaron and his sons throughout their generations. This was all done for a reason. Until we take the time to study these things, we will never come to a complete understanding of whom our Savior, and indeed our God Himself, is and what He does for us.

Moses and Aaron were simply men, yet they were so much more. They were two witnesses who spoke what Adonai put into their mouths. In the book of Revelation we also see two witnesses who speak what Adonai puts into their mouths. What they have to say will be the kind of truth that cuts right down to the bone. They will wield a two-edged sword and it will cut deep. When their time is up and their bodies are lying in the street, the entire world will celebrate, giving gifts to one another as if it were Christmas. Many of those celebrating will be our own neighbors and family. Will we join with them?

Pharaoh

There is much that can be said regarding the correlation between Pharaoh and the coming Anti-Messiah. Any man who has come in his own power and with the desire to destroy the people of God can be called an anti-messiah type, embodying the spirit of anti-messiah. These men all have the same spirit, the same traits. We can learn from each one and Pharaoh is no different.

The Pharaoh of Egypt was a very powerful man. He ruled a vast kingdom with no enemies due to their strength. With many slaves from many nations, he literally had power over life and death. He could tear down and he could build up; he could give and he could take away. He had magicians and sorcerers at his beck and call, with dark arts so secret that men kill even today for their knowledge.

The Egyptians treated Pharaoh as if he were a true living god. Pharaoh truly believed that he was. No one was more powerful than he, so therefore he must be god... or at least that's what he thought, and the rest of the world agreed with him. He would recognize no other god as being more powerful than he himself.

Of course we all know that there is a God in heaven who is much more powerful than Pharaoh; indeed, He is much more powerful than all of the other gods combined. This was a lesson that Pharaoh needed to learn. This was the lesson Adonai El Shaddai set out to teach.

The last plague, the death of the firstborn, was a judgment on Pharaoh himself. Both he and his son were considered to be gods among the people, so they were judged among the people. Had Pharaoh simply placed the blood of a lamb on his doorposts, he would have been saved from the agonizing loss of his son. That action would have shown the world that he believed that this Elohim of the Hebrews was stronger than he himself. As they say, actions speak louder than words.

There is no one who is greater than Adonai El Shaddai, the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. There is no one who needs to learn that more than Satan himself. Lucifer has this world convinced that he is the light instead of Yeshua. It'll all come down to this, "Who is really telling the truth?" Our very souls depend upon that answer.

When Lucifer's earthly power is nearing its end, and he is literally indwelling a world leader, we will see many signs and wonders. Just as Pharaoh's magicians were able to reproduce some of Moses and Aaron's signs,

so too will we see false signs and wonders in the end times. The Pharaoh we face will have the entire world convinced that he is god in the flesh, the messiah himself. He will declare himself to be god and the people of the world will buy it. But just as in the land of Goshen there were those who survived, so too there will be a remnant of God's people who will be able to overcome all of the judgments and greet the true Messiah when He comes in all His glory.

So God judged the gods of Egypt, including the Pharaoh himself, and in doing so, brought His people out from slavery. Pharaoh's heart was hardened time and time again because his pride would not permit him to humble himself even before the Almighty God, the King of Kings. Pharaoh finally let the people go, then changed his mind and chased after them, meeting up with them at the banks of the Red Sea.

There is evidence of the crossing of the Red Sea in that area that has been hidden from us all of these years. There is also more proof of this event (the drowning of the Egyptian army, including Pharaoh himself) that has been hidden from us as well. Unfortunately, these are not the kinds of stories that make the nightly news.

When Pharaoh chased after the Israelites, Adonai opened up the sea before them, making a way for them through the sea, then closed up the waters, drowning Pharaoh and his army. This is one of the greatest miracles of all time, yet so few believe it to be true. In fact, the publishers of most of the Bibles in the world don't believe this to be true. Don't believe me? Look in the map section of your Bible (if it contains maps) and look at the route given for the Exodus. Do you see the path crossing the Red Sea? No, you do not. The publisher will show them wandering around the Sinai Peninsula for forty years, yet that is **not** what scripture tells us!

Many so-called believers teach that the Israelites never crossed the Red Sea at all, but instead easily walked across the Reed Sea (no longer in existence since the building of the Suez Canal), which only had a depth of about 18 inches of water. If that is the case, then truly a miracle did occur... Pharaoh's army was drowned in a mere 18 inches of water!! Come on folks, that is ridiculous! You see, they don't believe.

The mountain traditionally called Mt. Sinai is not the mountain of God at all. The mother of Emperor Constantine traveled to the Holy Land and started pointing to places saying, "That is that," and "This is this," not only determining the location of the mountain of God, but other locations as well including the tomb of Yeshua. She had no basis in Scripture for these

decisions. In fact, the mountain is not located in the Sinai Peninsula at all, but in present day Saudi Arabia. If we take the time to really read the text, we see that Moses went to Midian, and there he encountered the Almighty God.

Now Moses was pasturing the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. The angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. (Exodus 3:1-2)

And He said, "Certainly I will be with you, and this shall be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God at this mountain." (Exodus 3:12)

If the mountain of God was in the land of Midian, or present day Saudi Arabia, then the Israelites must have crossed the Red Sea in the Gulf of Aqaba. How can I say that? Because the crossing site is known, and has been known for thousands of years. Solomon knew where the crossing site was and, in fact, placed pillars on both banks to commemorate the crossing site. These pillars stand to this day! In this spot, there is a natural land bridge just under the surface of the water and divers have found remains of chariot wheels, including the gold wheels of Pharaoh's chariot, in this section of the Red Sea.

Saudi Arabia knows exactly where the real Mt. Sinai is, and they have it fenced off so no one can access the site. Why? Because there is archeological evidence there that, if known, would build our faith. The altar Moses built is still there as well as other evidences of a very large encampment including a rock that has been worn down by water flowing... from it! The children of Israel crossed the Red Sea just as the Bible states.

We all know the name King Tut and the treasures that were found in his tomb. Those who have studied this tomb have discovered something very interesting regarding this "boy-king". They discovered that the tomb was not really intended for him at all, but was constructed for his father. The hieroglyphs within the tomb tell the story of the death of his father. It seems that he was swallowed up by water, and he never returned. Put this information together with what the Bible tells us and it seems that the firstborn son of the Egyptian king was none other than Tutankhamen

himself! So many people miss this because they falsely believe that the Pharaoh of Egypt during the Exodus was Raamses, but the Bible does not say that. That information came from Hollywood, not the Bible. What it does say is that Pharaoh had the Israelites build the city of Raamses.

So they appointed taskmasters over them to afflict them with hard labor. And they built for Pharaoh storage cities, Pithom and Raamses. (Exodus 1:11)

Once again, our understanding of the Exodus appears to be tainted by the movie *The Ten Commandments*.

Not only does the tomb of King Tut tell the tale of the drowning of his father, but there is evidence at the scene as well. Divers have taken video of wheel-shaped coral all over the sea floor near the crossing site. Coral grows on things that have been at the bottom for a long time, yet one thing they will not grow on is gold. Guess what the wheels of Pharaoh's chariot were made of. That's right, gold. They have found, and I have seen the video, gold chariot wheels on the bottom of the Red Sea, in the Gulf of Aqaba.

When Pharaoh was killed, the Israelites were finally totally free. While their owner still lived, he had rights over them, but once he died, they were truly free. Just like when a husband dies, his wife is free to remarry, so too the Israelites were now free to worship Adonai their Elohim.

We are going to have another Pharaoh come along that will be even worse than the one Moses had to deal with. Just as Pharaoh had Moses and Aaron, so the next one will also have two witnesses. Although this time it will appear as if the enemy has won, and the entire world will believe it, we know the end already and know that He will raise them up, just as He did Yeshua, and just as He will those of us who died in our faith.

There were many things going on in Egypt that caused the Israelites to cry out to God for salvation. When Pharaoh saw that they were growing strong in number and that they had great strength, not only did he see the need to harness their strength, but to limit their numbers as well. The order was given for all male babies to be killed immediately. We see the same order being given at the time of Yeshua's birth by another wicked king.

Now here we are in the 21st century and we have the same thing happening again. Just as Pharaoh told the midwives to kill the infant boys, so our present world rulers are telling doctors and nurses to kill babies even before they are born. Today's world rulers are also walking in the spirit of anti-messiah and we are getting closer and closer to the day when we will realize that we are slaves in our own country. As such, we will need a

deliverer; one who can totally destroy those who would subjugate us. That deliverer is Yeshua our Messiah, who will come again in glory to deliver us from the hand of our oppressors, taking us back to the land promised to us by our Heavenly Father.

Pharaoh felt that he was god and there were none other than himself. So too, the Anti-Messiah will claim divinity, sitting upon the throne of God, declaring himself to be the One True God. Although we know this to be a lie, the rest of the world will agree and believe and persecute all who disagree and will truly believe that in doing so, they will be pleasing God. They will only be pleasing a god, not the Most High God.

Taking a good long look at Pharaoh, and indeed all world rulers remembered in Scripture, would allow us to see more clearly the type of man who will take the world by storm very soon. The rise of Pharaoh brought with him a plague upon the children of God. So too the rise of Anti-Messiah will bring a plague that will cause many to literally lose their heads. If we can see it coming, maybe we can avoid the chopping block. But how can we see it coming if we don't know what to look for?

Our Way Versus His Way

The book of Jasher (mentioned twice in the Bible) is a companion book to the book of Genesis and tells us a little more about what was going on in Egypt between the arrival of Jacob's family and the departure of his descendants. One of the stories, found in chapter 75, is that of the family descended from Ephraim, the second son of Joseph. These men had decided by their own reckoning that the time given to them by God to sojourn in Egypt was up, so they set out for the promise land. They went directly towards the Promised Land, by way of the Philistines, and were slaughtered. Jasher tells us the reason why:

And they smote all the children of Ephraim, all who had gone forth from Egypt, none were remaining but ten men who had run away from the engagement. For this evil was from the Lord against the children of Ephraim, for they transgressed the word of the Lord in going forth from Egypt, before the period had arrived which the Lord in the days of old had appointed to Israel. (Jasher 75:16-17)

There are many people today who want to do things their way, just as the Ephraimites, but just as the Ephraimites did not succeed, neither will we unless we wait upon Adonai for our instructions. When they left Egypt, not one was missing nor were any killed when Pharaoh had a change of heart and chased after them with his army.

Many Christians hold on to the "pre-tribulation rapture" theory. This theory uses New Covenant Scriptures, cut out of context and pasted together, to claim that we (the children of God) will be gathered together (raptured) and taken to heaven before the Tribulation begins. To these people I say, "We are not going the way of the Philistines." What exactly does that mean? It means that we will not be going directly to the Promised Land (heaven) like the Ephraimites tried to do, but we will be going through the wilderness first, like the Israelites did. God has a plan for His people, clearly foreshadowed in the Exodus out of Egypt.

God Almighty sent His people down into Egypt so that He could bring them out in the sight of all the nations so that they would know that He is the One True God. He will again gather together His people, which He

scattered throughout the nations, in the sight of the entire world so that they will see that He is the One True God.

"When I bring them back from the peoples and gather them from the lands of their enemies, then **I shall be sanctified through them in the sight of the many nations**. Then they will know that I am the LORD their God because I made them go into exile among the nations, and then gathered them *again* to their own land; and I will leave none of them there any longer."
(Ezekiel 39:27-28)

When the Israelites found themselves stuck between a rock (Pharaoh) and a hard place (the Red Sea) many wanted to simply turn around and give themselves up to Pharaoh. This, of course, was not God's plan for His people. When He frees us, we are free indeed! He wanted us to see His salvation, played out before our very eyes. He wanted to be sanctified in our sight, just as He had been sanctified in the sight of all of Egypt. It was our turn to truly see Him as Holy.

He opened up the sea and made a straight path for us through the waters. In fact, Scripture reports that the Israelites walked through on dry land. After all of His children were safely across, He then proved Himself in our sight, using the waters to sweep away Pharaoh and his army.

We can find a very similar tale in the prophecies of John, also known as Revelation. Only in this case the serpent sent the water. This shouldn't surprise us too much; the enemy likes to impersonate God.

And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth. (Revelation 12:15-16)

While we are in Revelation, I would like to take a moment to look at the prophecy that precedes these verses.

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; and she was with child; and she **cried out*, being in labor and in pain to give birth. Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads *were* seven diadems. And his tail **swept away* a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was

about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. (Revelation 12:1-4)

Many prophecy teachers look at these verses and miss one very important fact: the woman and the dragon are astrological signs. Yes, the woman represents Israel and the dragon represents Satan, but there is more to these signs than just that. There is a certain time of the year that Virgo (the woman) is positioned in such a way as to have Draco (the dragon) beneath her as if to consume whatever might come out from between her legs. That only occurs in the late winter and early spring. This is a sign for us! In fact, Yeshua also spoke regarding this timing in His teaching regarding the end times.

"But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath. (Matthew 24:20)

He was giving us a warning that these things will occur during the end of winter, which is why we should pray that we wouldn't have to flee while it is still cold out. Think about it... when did the plagues hit Egypt? Before Passover, right? When is Passover? Just after the spring equinox! These are all clues left for us so that we would not be caught off guard.

"Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, *right* at the door." (Mark 13:28-29)

Many teach that we can't know when the end will come. In fact, they say, the end could come at any time. These are usually the same folks who teach that we will be raptured out before the Tribulation begins, but that is not what Yeshua Himself taught. He gave us signs to watch for so that we would be ready for Him when He returns for His bride. In fact, many people, especially those who teach the imminent return of Messiah, have misunderstood one of the clues that He left for us.

"But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father *alone*. Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the *appointed* time will come. (Mark 13:32-33)

On the surface, Yeshua seems to be telling us that He has no idea when the end will come, but we forget who His audience was. He was not speaking to a bunch of Christians (as they didn't exist as such until much

later), but to a bunch of Jews. The Jews understood what He was saying in a way that we do not. Allow me to explain.

While Moses was up on the mountain with Adonai, he was given instructions regarding how and when to worship Adonai our Elohim (God). He was given a list of seven festivals that we are to celebrate with Adonai, of which Passover was the first. Three of these feasts occur in the springtime, one in the early summer, and the last three take place in the fall. The first of the fall feasts is called Yom Teruah, or the feast of blowing trumpets. Today we refer to this holy day as Rosh HaShannah, but its original name referred to the blowing of trumpets that is commanded on that day.

Most of these Holy Days occur on or near the full moon. According to the Hebraic calendar, the months all begin with the sighting of the new moon (the first sliver). In ancient times, when the new moon was expected, many people would find a place where the setting sun could be easily seen. The first sliver of the moon can only be seen for a short time, just after sunset. Once they did see it, they would go to the Temple and inform the priests. As soon as two or three witnesses had seen the moon, the new month would be declared. Because of weather conditions and the rotation of the earth, one could never be sure if the new moon would be spotted on the 29th day or on the 30th day. Therefore, the day or hour that the new month would begin could not be known ahead of time.

Yom Teruah is the only festival that occurs on the first day of the month. Therefore, this festival is known as the day and hour that no man knows. Do you now see that this was a clue for us? Yeshua was not telling us that He didn't know what time of the year these events would occur. In fact, He was telling us exactly what time of the year!

Think about it... if the Great Tribulation is to last for three and a half years, and Yeshua tells us that it will end with the fall festivals, then it must begin around the time of Passover... the same time of year as the Exodus! These clues were given to those who understood God's timing and we missed them because we don't understand God's plan. Why? Because we don't study those first five books of the Bible, referred to as "The Torah".

The first century Jew understood these things. He (or she) understood that the Exodus was a foreshadowing of what is to come because they had studied not only the Torah, but also the writings of the prophets who, like Isaiah, explained these things. Paul didn't have to teach the Hebrews these things. He did need to teach the gentiles who were grafted into the household of God because they didn't have this knowledge. It was

his intention, I believe, to tell them about the foreshadowing so that they would go and study for themselves about the Exodus and the time spent in the wilderness so that they too could be ready.

So, we can do things our own way, like the Ephraimites who left Egypt according to their own reckoning, or we can wait for Him to deliver us by His own hand. We can continue celebrating the Christian feasts and festivals, like Christmas and Easter, but then we will miss out on the lessons that He imbedded in the feasts and festivals that He established.

I like to think of it as a giant banqueting table. We have been invited to an incredible feast, both Jew and non-Jew, and we have both arrived. The Jewish people go right for the meat, studying Torah and the prophets, and leave no room for dessert. The Christians, on the other hand, head right for the dessert table, filling up on the love of Messiah, ignoring the main course that makes dessert so sweet. Both groups walk away unfulfilled, because neither group experienced the fullness of God's blessings. This was not His plan.

His plan included all of God's children, whether native born, lost and found, or grafted-in. It is His desire that not one of us should perish. It is His plan to bless us and prosper us and bring us into the land that He promised so long ago. We need to choose this day who we are going to follow... ourselves or Adonai.

The Wilderness

I include the time in the wilderness because Paul did as well. He spoke of the manna, the rock that followed them, and the fact that many died in the wilderness due to idolatry and unbelief as well as their grumbling and complaining. Each of us needs to know what happened so that we can learn from their mistakes. Most importantly, we need to see that as He provided a way for them, so too will He provide a way for us.

During their journey from Egypt to the Promised Land, the Israelites camped in 42 different places, as related to us in the 33rd chapter of Numbers. This is very interesting as the Great Tribulation is to last 42 months. If we look into the number 42, we see that this number is related to the Anti-Messiah. In fact, the number 40 signifies a time of trial or chastisement, and the number two speaks of division or opposition. The 40 years in the wilderness was definitely a time of chastisement for tests they failed. It was also a time of division, as HaShem was dividing those who trusted in Him and those who did not.

Did we even know that there were tests in the wilderness? There were actually ten tests in the wilderness, given by God, which the Israelites failed. If we want to pass these tests, we need to study them so that we are prepared. Half of these tests involved our belief and trust in Adonai, and the rest involve obedience and the blessings that come with it. So, what are these tests?

First, will God save us from Pharaoh? This was the test at the Red Sea. Yes, God will not only save us, but He will remove our threat! Second, will God provide water? Yes, He provided water for them from the Rock, which Paul said was Messiah Himself! Third, will God provide food? Yes, He provided manna in abundance! Fourth, will God be with us to defend us? Yes, He was their rear guard and when they followed Him into battle, they always won! (Did we even realize that there were battles during those years?) Lastly, and most important of all of these questions, is Adonai the One and only True God? They failed this test when they created the golden calf.

In the second set of tests, we begin with the question, "Will we reject God's provision?" What about His presence? His salvation? His anointed? The last test asked, "Will we reject God's kingdom?" Amazingly enough, that is exactly what they did. When God told them that it was time to go into the Promised Land, they refused! There were giants in the land and they were

too afraid of them to trust in God to fight for them. The forty years of wandering in the wilderness was not because they failed this last test; it was because they had failed all ten. God could have easily driven out all of the nations before them. He could have driven them all out in one day if that had been His plan, but He understood what we did not. He understood that there were wild beasts in the land that would become too numerous if the people were not there to subdue them. These animals could have quickly attacked the Israelites and decimated their population more horrifically than the nations they were to fight. Adonai could see all of this, but they could not. They needed to learn to trust Him to protect them and to know what was best for them, and this could only be learned by having no choice but to trust in Him.

So too we will be tested in the coming days. In fact, the testing has already begun. Are we ready? Do we truly believe Him and His Word? Are we willing to be obedient to His Word? Before we answer that, let's think about what that truly means. His Word is not just the New Covenant Scriptures. His Word consists of everything from Genesis 1:1 through Revelation 22:21. Again I ask, "Are we willing to be obedient to His Word?"

Adonai spent quite a bit of time in the wilderness detailing the Law for Moses. For forty days Moses did not eat or sleep, but sat directly at the feet of Adonai, learning the Torah so he could teach it to us. The time they spent in the wilderness learning how to worship HaShem should have prepared them for their lives in the Promised Land. The time we spend in the wilderness of the peoples should be spent preparing for living in the Promised Land as well. What is the wilderness of the peoples?

"As I live," declares the Lord GOD, "surely with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out, I shall be king over you. I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out; and **I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples**, and there I will enter into judgment with you face to face.

"As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you," declares the Lord GOD. "I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; and I will purge from you the rebels and those who transgress

against Me; I will bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they will not enter the land of Israel. Thus you will know that I am the LORD. (Ezekiel 20:33-38)

These verses by themselves give us cause to tie together the two events. Adonai Himself states that He will gather us together with an outstretched arm and there He will enter into judgment with us, just as He did with our fathers coming out of Egypt. But here we find a phrase not found in any other place in Scripture. "I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples," does seem to be tied to a message that Hosea gave to Israel. He said that Adonai is judging them for their unfaithfulness, but that He would later forgive them.

"I will punish her for the days of the Baals when she used to offer sacrifices to them and adorn herself with her earrings and jewelry, and follow her lovers, so that she forgot Me," declares the LORD. "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, **bring her into the wilderness** and speak kindly to her. Then I will give her her vineyards from there, and the valley of Achor as a door of hope. And she will sing there as in the days of her youth, **as in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.** (Hosea 2:13-15)

God is alluring us now, bringing us into the wilderness, spiritually. He is calling us away from the teachings of man, drawing us into a love affair with the teachings of our Elohim. He is longing to spend time with us, having our undivided attention, so that we can get to know Him better. With all of the distractions in the world around us, His voice can tend to get lost in the mix and we end up with someone else's understanding of our faith and not our own. We need to sit down with Moses so that he can teach us the foundation of our faith. Think of it as our shoes. We need to shod our feet with the gospel of peace, the good news that His peace, His Shalom, can dwell within each and every one of us. If our shoes are not well shod, our feet will soon be shot. Then we'll limp through life and what kind of witness is that?

During their forty years of wandering, the Israelites lacked nothing they truly needed. The shoes on their feet did not wear out, and neither did the clothes on their backs.

"You shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. He humbled

you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD. Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. (Deuteronomy 8:2-4)

You, in Your great compassion, did not forsake them in the wilderness; the pillar of cloud did not leave them by day, to guide them on their way, nor the pillar of fire by night, to light for them the way in which they were to go. You gave Your good Spirit to instruct them, Your manna You did not withhold from their mouth, and You gave them water for their thirst. Indeed, forty years You provided for them in the wilderness *and* they were not in want; their clothes did not wear out, nor did their feet swell. (Nehemiah 9:19-21)

There are some who will have absolutely no time to grab any provisions before they have to flee. There are others who will be able to load up lots of supplies and make it to a safe place. Regardless of how long you have to pack, and how prepared you think you are, no one can be fully prepared for what is to come. Adonai has promised us that there will be a remnant left who will not die but will be caught up. Of those people, not one will be able to say, "I made it through the Great Tribulation by my own hand." I guarantee that each one will testify, "If it were not for the grace of God, I would not have made it through!"

We find God and His grace in the wilderness. It is there that we finally realize just what a mighty God we serve, because we've come to rely solely on His provision, not our own. We come to understand just what is meant by, "Man does not live on bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of Adonai."

It was their time in the wilderness that showed where the hearts of the Israelites truly lay. They did a lot of complaining while in the wilderness. To hear them speak, Adonai took them from a wonderful place where they were treated kindly and had plenty of food to eat and brought them to a dry and thirsty land just so that He could kill them. Their hearts lay in their stomachs. They were more interested in what God could give them than spending time with Him.

Delight yourself in the LORD; and He will give you the desires of your heart. (Psalms 37:4)

If we are truly delighting in the Lord, then He is the desire of our heart. The desire of our heart should be to spend time with Him. The children of Israel had the perfect opportunity to spend quality time with the Most High God, dwelling within their midst, yet they spent most of that time complaining about everything under the sun.

During their time in the wilderness, Moses and Aaron taught the Israelites how to worship, when to worship, and how to be found acceptable in God' sight. We too must journey into the wilderness and be taught, by the Spirit of God, how to worship, when to worship and how to be found acceptable. Those who sought to make their lives pleasing to Elohim ignored the lies and grumbling around them, distancing themselves from those who want to do things their own way, continuing to follow the teachings of Moses and Aaron.

During our time in the wilderness, whatever forms that may take, we must be careful not to complain the way our ancestors did. We need to focus our attention solely on Him and not on ourselves. We need to learn His ways and apply them to our lives so that we will better understand what is expected of us, so our lives can be pleasing in the sight of a Most Holy God.

Judgment

There are many examples of God's judgment on His people in the Bible. Each time it was due to the Israelites turning away from the Word of God, embracing instead the ways of the nations around them. Let's be honest with ourselves... we too have turned away from His commands, choosing instead to follow the ways of man. This is one of the very things that Moses warned us not to do.

"When the LORD your God cuts off before you the nations which you are going in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land, beware that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, '**How do these nations serve their gods, that I also may do likewise?**' You shall not behave thus toward the LORD your God, for every abominable act which the LORD hates they have done for their gods; for they even burn their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take away from it. (Deuteronomy 12:29-32)

What I'm about to say will not be very popular among many of my readers, yet I must say it anyway... the Christian church does not follow God's commands. Instead, the church has done exactly what Moses warned us not to do; we have worshipped God in the same manner as the heathen nations. We have added to and taken away from God's word and we expect Him to bless us anyway. We have taken away God's feasts and festivals, replacing them with the holidays of the heathens, namely Christmas and Easter. We say, "God doesn't care how or when we worship Him, as long as we worship Him." This is a lie straight from Satan himself! According to Moses, it does matter to God Almighty.

Earlier we quoted a verse out of Isaiah that I would like to quote again:

"For in a very little while My indignation *against you* will be spent and My anger *will be directed* to their destruction."
(Isaiah 10:25)

We tend to think of the coming Tribulation to be judgment upon the world for turning their backs to God Almighty. What it really appears to be is a judgment on us that spills over to the world around us. We are to be held to

a higher standard than the world around us. He must already be disgusted by what He is seeing in the lives of those who claim to be His people.

This is why judgment will begin in the house of God, just as Peter warned us:

For *it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God*; and if *it begins* with us first, what *will be* the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? (1 Peter 4:17)

Peter didn't just come up with this concept all by himself; Ezekiel prophesied:

Then the glory of the God of Israel went up from the cherub on which it had been, to the threshold of the temple. And He called to the man clothed in linen at whose loins was the writing case. The LORD said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, *even* through the midst of Jerusalem, and **put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations which are being committed in its midst.**" But to the others He said in my hearing, "Go through the city after him and strike; do not let your eye have pity and do not spare. Utterly slay old men, young men, maidens, little children, and women, but **do not touch any man on whom is the mark; and you shall start from My sanctuary.**" So they started with the elders who *were* before the temple. And He said to them, "Defile the temple and fill the courts with the slain. Go out!" Thus they went out and struck down *the people* in the city. (Ezekiel 9:3-7)

Notice that not only does judgment start at the sanctuary of God, but also notice who is marked by the man with the writing case: those who sigh and groan over all the abominations. What abominations? According to Moses, the way that the heathen nations worshipped was an abomination. We (the church universal) have embraced these abominable worship practices. We must understand this if we are to understand Revelation.

And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees **until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.**" (Revelation 7:2-3)

This is the very same event! The sealing of God's people begins at the very same place the judgment begins: the sanctuary of God. It's like watching a scene unfold from two different angles, or we're watching what is going on in two different places at once.

Yeshua also warned us about this event and warned those who witness this firsthand to run, for the judgment has begun!

"Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak." (Matthew 24:15-18)

Many teachers have taken this to mean that when the tribulation begins we will not have time to even grab our coats, let alone food and tents. Yet, if we look back at the Exodus, we see that the Israelites had time to plunder the riches of Egypt before they left. After the death of the firstborns...

Then he called for Moses and Aaron at night and said, "Rise up, get out from among my people, both you and the sons of Israel; and go, worship the LORD, as you have said. Take both your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and go, and bless me also." The Egyptians urged the people, to send them out of the land in haste, for they said, "We will all be dead." So the people took their dough before it was leavened, *with* their kneading bowls bound up in the clothes on their shoulders. Now the sons of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, for **they had requested from the Egyptians articles of silver and articles of gold, and clothing;** and the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have their request. **Thus they plundered the Egyptians.** (Exodus 12:31-36)

If the Exodus is truly a foreshadowing of the Tribulation, and I believe it is, then we too will be able to gather provisions before we leave. So, how do I find agreement between the two theories? Easily... those who are in Judea will not have time to do anything other than run, but those of us who are still in exile, referred to as the Diaspora, will have a little more time before the judgment gets to us.

The judgments that came upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians did not come just because of what they did, but who and how they worshipped. The Egyptian religions began to seep into the faith of God's people and it displayed itself very quickly in the wilderness. When they made for themselves a golden calf, they were simply falling back on what they knew best: the pagan worship of Egypt. If it hadn't been for the intercession of Moses, HaShem would have wiped us out that very day!

Because we know that there is no condemnation for those who are in Messiah (Romans 8:1), we think that we will not be judged. Oh, but we will! This is the sheep and goat judgment.

"I will feed My flock and I will lead them to rest," declares the Lord GOD. "I will seek the lost, bring back the scattered, bind up the broken and strengthen the sick; but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with judgment.

"As for you, My flock, thus says the Lord GOD, 'Behold, I will judge between one sheep and another, between the rams and the male goats. Is it too slight a thing for you that you should feed in the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pastures? Or that you should drink of the clear waters, that you must foul the rest with your feet? As for My flock, they must eat what you tread down with your feet and drink what you foul with your feet!'"

Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them, "Behold, I, even I, will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you push with side and with shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns until you have scattered them abroad, therefore, I will deliver My flock, and they will no longer be a prey; and I will judge between one sheep and another." (Ezekiel 34:15-22)

Yeshua was referring to this passage in the following teaching. Most Christians do not understand what He was referring to because they only study the new covenant scriptures, not the Torah and the prophets. If we had studied Ezekiel, we would have understood what Yeshua was telling us regarding the judgment within the household of God.

"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from

the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

"Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me *something* to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me *something* to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.'

"Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You *something* to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

"The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, *even the least of them*, you did it to Me.'

"Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me *nothing* to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.'

"Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." (Matthew 25:31-46)

There are many who attend church, or synagogue, regularly. They tithe, attend all of the meetings and are very proud of their congregation. Many of them will not make it into the kingdom, instead coming under judgment. How could that be? Their heart is not compassionate towards those less fortunate than themselves. They don't care about the homeless, the hungry or the hurting. They are more interested in themselves than those around them. This behavior is not godly behavior. On the outside they

may look the part, dressing modestly and helping out where needed, but inside their hearts are not in the right place. Their motivation is wrong. Their motivation is selfish; they want others to notice their good works so that they will look good in everyone's sight. They don't really care if God is glorified as long as they are.

In Israel, the sheep and the goats all flock together in the herd. They look so much alike that it is often hard to tell them apart. Both have long hair and both are about the same size. They both chew their cud and know the voice of their master, yet they are not the same. The shepherd can tell them apart easily. He knows the goats are the ones going around bumping heads with everyone else.

The sheep and goats are just like the wheat and the tares.

Yeshua presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also.

"The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' And he said to them, 'An enemy has done this!' The slaves *said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?' But he *said, 'No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn."' (Matthew 13:24-30)

Besides teaching that we will not come under judgment, there are many who teach that we will be gathered together before judgment falls on the world around us. According to Yeshua, the reapers (angels) will be told to gather up the tares first, and then they can gather the wheat. If this is the case, we also see another teaching in a whole new light:

"I tell you, on that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other will be left. There will be two women grinding at the same place; one will be taken and the other will be left. ["Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other will be left."] And answering they *said to Him, "Where,

Lord?" And He said to them, "Where the body *is*, there also the vultures will be gathered." (Luke 17:34-37)

When we see the tares in terms of the wicked, and know that they will be taken away first (according to Yeshua), we can plainly see that the ones left behind will not be the wicked as the church universal teaches, but that it will be God's chosen who are left behind. When we take all of these teachings together, we can see how our shepherds have not been feeding the flock adequately. This would also explain the last verse in the section above; the one about the vultures. Where do vultures gather? In the skies above the slain.

The prophet Amos gave the message quite clearly:

"For behold, I am commanding, and I will shake the house of Israel among all nations as *grain* is shaken in a sieve, but not a kernel will fall to the ground. **All the sinners of My people will die by the sword, those who say, 'The calamity will not overtake or confront us.'**" (Amos 9:9-10)

How many of today's believers are saying just that? "We will not see tribulation," they teach, yet Adonai is clearly warning us that the sinners within the congregation will die by the sword. Isaiah also has quite a bit to say regarding judgment that ties right in with what we've seen so far.

How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace and brings good news of happiness, who announces salvation, *and* says to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Listen! Your watchmen lift up *their* voices, they shout joyfully together; for they will see with their own eyes when the LORD restores Zion. Break forth, shout joyfully together, You waste places of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem.

The LORD has bared His holy arm in the sight of all the nations, that all the ends of the earth may see the salvation of our God. **Depart, depart, go out from there, touch nothing unclean; go out of the midst of her, purify yourselves,** you who carry the vessels of the LORD. But you will not go out in haste, nor will you go as fugitives; for the LORD will go before you, and the God of Israel *will be* your rear guard. (Isaiah 52:7-12)

Many of us recognized the first part of the verses above, but not many knew of the second part, I'm sure. These verses speak to the end of

days, and the coming of our Savior, Yeshua HaMachiach. These words are very similar to those found in Revelation, when the angel warns God's people to "come out of her!" but the prophet tells us not to touch anything that is unclean and to purify ourselves. How can we do that if we don't know the difference between clean and unclean? How can we purify ourselves? Who is the "she" to whom the angels are referring? The answers to these questions are found in Torah, the very thing that our fathers of the faith have told us we don't need anymore.

We need to get ourselves right with the Shepherd now. There are many among us who are goats, who are always going up against some member of the brethren, who are going to be very surprised in that day. It is not our job to point them out; they do well enough on their own. Our job is to make sure that we ourselves are not goats.

How many of God's chosen people died in the wilderness simply because they refused to follow Adonai's commands? How many will die in the Tribulation for that very same reason? When will we ever learn that it is simply better for us to follow and obey His commands? Moses told us that they are not too difficult for us; why don't we believe him? I've heard preachers call him a liar saying, "No one could keep all the Law; it was too hard." That's not true; we can keep them, just not perfectly. Only Yeshua, God's Salvation, could do that. We are to keep them as best we can, and the grace of God will cover the rest.

The plagues of Egypt were a judgment upon the gods of Egypt. The plagues of the wilderness were judgments upon God's people. Just as a good parent would, Adonai has set boundaries for us and established punishment for those who cross that line. Yet every time He follows through, we cry, "Foul!" I believe we are the foul ones because not only do we stink, we pretend that we don't. When we each stand and face the Almighty God, there will be no more pretending. Our heart will be evident to Him and He will judge accordingly.

The Blood of the Lamb

Another parallel between the Exodus story and the prophecies found in Revelation is the Lamb and His blood.

I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?" And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it.

Then I *began* to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; and one of the elders *said* to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals." And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, **as if slain**, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the **seven Spirits of God**, sent out into all the earth. And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they *sang* a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and **purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation**. You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth." (Revelation 5:1-10)

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Messiah have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. And they overcame him because of the **blood of the Lamb** and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death." (Revelation 12:10-11)

Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and take for yourselves lambs according to your families, and slay the Passover *lamb*. You shall take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood which is in the basin, and apply some of the **blood** that is in the basin to the lintel and the two doorposts; and none of you shall go outside the door of his house until morning. For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when He sees the **blood** on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to come in to your houses to smite *you*". (Exodus 12:21-23)

In both of these events, we find a common thread: the blood of the lamb causes the judgment to pass over us. This lesson is so valuable, so important to our walk of faith, that Adonai commanded us to continue to celebrate the Passover so that we could teach our children.

"And you shall observe this event as an ordinance for you and your children forever. When you enter the land which the LORD will give you, as He has promised, you shall observe this rite. And when your children say to you, 'What does this rite mean to you?' you shall say, 'It is a Passover sacrifice to the LORD who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes.'" And the people bowed low and worshiped. (Exodus 12:24-27)

We are to continue to celebrate the feast of Passover so that we can instruct our children not only in the ways of Adonai, but so that we can all understand what His plan is. Unfortunately, the church universal teaches that this celebration doesn't apply to them (us). Yet this is contrary to what Paul taught.

Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are *in fact* unleavened. For Messiah our Passover also has been sacrificed. Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (1 Corinthians 5:7-8)

Not only that, but the author of Hebrews complained about those who have stopped gathering together to celebrate the feasts and festivals of Adonai, yet the church twists this teaching as well.

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:23-25)

The church universal uses these verses, cut and pasted, to attack any person who has left the church. This is so wrong! This is spiritual abuse. How do I know for sure that the author was discussing the feasts and festivals and not the weekly assembly in the local church? Because I have read the verses in their context. Allow me to demonstrate:

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Yeshua, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since *we have* a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES. **Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on *the testimony of two or three witnesses*.** How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has **trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant** by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? (Hebrews 10:19-29)

What is the definition of sin? Is it not the breaking of the Law of God? Show me where in the Bible God tells us to meet together each week? It does not. We are commanded to appear before Adonai our Elohim three times a year, for Passover, Shavuot (Pentecost), and Sukkot (the Feast of

Booths). If we are truly the children of God, why don't we celebrate these feasts? I'll tell you why, because our "church fathers" added to and took away from the Word of God, changing the times and the seasons of our joy... precisely what He told us not to do! According to these verses, and according to Moses' teachings, anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Think about that very carefully.

If we take away the Law of God, we then remove the very altar on which the blood of the lamb was splattered. Without the altar, the blood simply drops to the ground, where it is trampled underfoot (meaning that it is treated as worthless by those who need it the most). According to the book of Hebrews, this action **insults the Spirit of grace**. Those who teach, "We are not under the Law; we are under grace," need to rethink their position in light of these facts.

There many who teach that the sacrifices have been "done away with" and that Yeshua was the **final** sacrifice. Unfortunately, that is not what Scripture actually says. This teaching comes from a misunderstanding of the book of Hebrews. Misunderstandings like this have occurred because of our lack of foundation in Torah. Only when we love the Torah (Law of God, given to Moses, and written in the first five books of the Bible) can we understand the commentaries written on Torah. Quite a lot of the New Covenant Scriptures (including the teachings of Yeshua Himself) are really just commentary on Torah. When you look at them as such, things begin to become much clearer.

For the Law, since it has *only* a shadow of the good things to come *and* not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? But in those *sacrifices* there is a reminder of sins year by year. (Hebrews 10:1-3)

There is an old teaching that goes something like this: Because we have sinned, we must be punished, bearing the consequences of our actions. Because He loves us, He forgives us our sins, but we must remember why we were punished in the first place so we will understand our punishment. If He were to truly wash away our sins, our memory of that sin would be gone and

we would not understand our exile, our separation from the intimate relationship we were created to have with Him.

We needed to seek forgiveness year after year so that we would see that our old self is an habitual sinner and that we need that self to die so that we might be reborn again in the likeness of God, not Adam. Remember Seth, our father, was born in his father Adam's image. (Gen. 5:3) The Law shows us how to do this, but is not the deliverer Himself. It never was intended to be the deliverer; it only gave us the knowledge to identify Him when He comes.

Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME; IN WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND *sacrifices* FOR SIN YOU HAVE TAKEN NO PLEASURE. "THEN I SAID, '**BEHOLD, I HAVE COME (IN THE SCROLL OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME) TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD.**'"

After saying above, "SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS AND WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND *sacrifices* FOR SIN YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, NOR HAVE YOU TAKEN PLEASURE *in them*" (**which are offered according to the Law**), then He said, "BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL." He takes away the first in order to establish the second. (Hebrews 10:5-9)

Where is your heart? What is your focus? Have you come to worship Elohim because that is what you are supposed to do, or have you come to worship the Most High God because He is your Adonai and Savior? Has worship become habit or does the Spirit of God actually inhabit your praises? Is it not the Spirit of the Law, the Spirit of Torah and the love displayed therein, that matters most in the long run? One heart longs to sacrifice and can't; another sacrifices without even thinking of what he is doing. Which man has God's heart? Which is found righteous in God's eyes?

"I have come to do Your will." Nothing matters more.

By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Yeshua the Messiah **once for all**. Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having **offered one sacrifice for sins for all time**, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, waiting from that time onward

UNTIL HIS ENEMIES BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET. **For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.** (Hebrews 10:10-14)

One can easily see how these verses, taken alone, would seem to say that His sacrifice was the final one, but if you read closely, and understand the background, we see that this is not what is being said. By understanding the background, I mean Torah.

Moses taught the Israelites about the power of the blood of the lamb, and how that power can be brought into their lives on a daily basis. Unfortunately, they didn't get it and we still don't get it either. The sacrificial system was designed to teach us certain principles, too many in number to enumerate here. One principle was the relationship between blood and forgiveness.

And according to the Law, *one may almost say*, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. (Hebrews 9:22)

As we study the Temple system and its sacrifices, we begin to see a pattern emerge. Time after time Adonai gives a qualifier; this sacrifice covers unintentional sin only. There is no sacrifice that will cover intentional sin. Malice aforethought is punishable by death. Then Yeshua came and offered Himself, truly spotless, in all of our places, simultaneously. There is no sin that is too big for His sacrifice to cover.

But I'm warning you right now, don't go back to doing the same old things you were redeemed from; there will be no second crucifixion for that sin, and it will now have a tighter hold on you than ever before. Yeshua only did that once for each of us. If you don't appreciate the gift, you lose it. If you do appreciate it, your lifestyle changes bear the proof.

The blood of the lamb on the doorposts in Egypt brought salvation to the Israelites. The blood of the lamb on the doorposts of our hearts will bring our salvation tomorrow. How do we get that blood on the doorposts, and just where are they? Because if we want to overcome, we'd better be pretty darn sure that we've got His blood on them.

Korah and the Seven Seals

In the book of Revelation we are told about three different sets of judgment, with the first set leading into the other sets, which seem to occur together. In the first set, the seven seals, we not only see plagues of war, famine and death going forth, but we also see the sealing of God's people, which we have already discussed. Immediately following their sealing, the seventh seal is broken and there is silence in heaven for a half an hour.

And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. **Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth;** and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake. And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them. (Revelation 8:2-6)

This is a very interesting scene. It is too bad that many of us have no idea what is going on here. What's the deal with the censer and why did the angel throw it to the earth? What is going on and why do we need to know about this? These are the questions we could ask... if we haven't been studying the Israelite's time in the wilderness. For those of us who have studied it, this scene is very familiar. For the benefit of those who are clueless (as I was), allow me to set the stage.

The children of Israel have already heard the very voice of Adonai El Shaddai (the Lord God Almighty) and it frightened them so much they told Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we will die." (Exodus 20:19) Somehow, over time, they forgot that Moses was truly the man of God that we all know him to be, and they started grumbling. Actually, it was one man who started grumbling, but others soon joined him. Korah was the firstborn son of the firstborn son of the sons of Levi, the one who had always been leading the tribe of Levi. That is, until Moses and Aaron came along, because they were from the tribe of Levi as well. Since they were from the tribe of Levi, it appeared as if the Levites

were leading the other tribes. Because Korah was the firstborn of Levi, he felt that he should be leading the tribes. The sons of Reuben, the firstborn son of Jacob, agreed and joined Korah in rebellion against Moses and Aaron. To make a long story short, Adonai proved to the people that He had indeed chosen Moses and Aaron. He then pronounced judgment on Korah and all that rebelled with him.

Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, **"Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them instantly."** But they fell on their faces and said, "O God, God of the spirits of all flesh, when one man sins, will You be angry with the entire congregation?" Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the congregation, saying, 'Get back from around the dwellings of Korah, Dathan and Abiram.'"

Then Moses arose and went to Dathan and Abiram, with the elders of Israel following him, and he spoke to the congregation, saying, **"Depart now from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing that belongs to them, or you will be swept away in all their sin."** So they got back from around the dwellings of Korah, Dathan and Abiram; and Dathan and Abiram came out *and* stood at the doorway of their tents, along with their wives and their sons and their little ones.

Moses said, "By this you shall know that the LORD has sent me to do all these deeds; for this is not my doing. If these men die the death of all men or if they suffer the fate of all men, *then* the LORD has not sent me. But if the LORD brings about an entirely new thing and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that is theirs, and they descend alive into Sheol, then you will understand that these men have spurned the LORD."

As he finished speaking all these words, the ground that was under them split open; and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, and their households, and all the men who belonged to Korah with *their* possessions. So they and all that belonged to them went down alive to Sheol; and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly. All Israel who *were* around them fled at their outcry, for they said, "The earth may swallow us up!" (Numbers 16:20-34)

This is another event that reminds us of something John told us about in Revelation... do you see it?

After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory. And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird. For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed *acts of* immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality."

I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "**Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues;** for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back *to her* double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her. To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, '**I SIT as A QUEEN AND I AM NOT A WIDOW, and will never see mourning.**'

"For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong. And the kings of the earth, who committed *acts of* immorality and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'" (Revelation 18:1-10)

Just like Korah, this whore of Babylon has set herself up against the Most High God and now is facing judgment. If we remain within her, we will also be drawn into her judgment the way that the families of Korah, Dathan and Abiram were. Is this what we want? Of course not! So, it behooves us to discover who, or what, this woman represents so that we can be sure to avoid her. True to form, we are not without clues from our Heavenly Father.

"To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, 'I SIT *as A QUEEN AND I AM NOT A WIDOW*, and will never see mourning.'" We must remember that when Adonai speaks of harlotry in this manner, what He is referring to is spiritual adultery. This woman was spiritually fooling around with the world, yet she believes she is without sin. More than that, this verse is referring us back to something that Isaiah said.

"Yet you said, 'I will be a queen forever.' These things you did not consider nor remember the outcome of them. Now, then, hear this, you sensual one, who dwells securely, who says in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one besides me. I will not sit as a widow, nor know loss of children.' But these two things will come on you suddenly in one day: Loss of children and widowhood.

They will come on you in full measure in spite of your many sorceries, in spite of the great power of your spells. You felt secure in your wickedness and said, 'No one sees me,' your wisdom and your knowledge, they have deluded you; for you have said in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one besides me.' But evil will come on you which you will not know how to charm away; and disaster will fall on you for which you cannot atone; and destruction about which you do not know will come on you suddenly. (Isaiah 47:7-11)

It is obvious that this woman, this harlot, has severe judgment coming upon her. I think it would be in our best interest to discover, for ourselves, just who this woman represents so that we can be very sure to keep our distance. Don't you agree?

Going back to Korah now, we have seen how Adonai judged him by opening up the ground beneath him and all he owned, allowing the earth itself to swallow up this evil. Yet the very next day we see this:

But on the next day all the congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron, saying, "You are the ones who have caused the death of the LORD'S people." It came about, however, when the congregation had assembled against Moses and Aaron, that they turned toward the tent of meeting, and behold, the cloud covered it and the glory of the LORD appeared.

Then Moses and Aaron came to the front of the tent of meeting, and the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Get away from among this congregation, that I may consume them instantly." Then they fell on their faces. Moses said to Aaron, "**Take your censer and put in it fire from the altar, and lay incense *on it*; then bring it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them, for wrath has gone forth from the LORD, the plague has begun!**" Then Aaron took *it* as Moses had spoken, and ran into the midst of the assembly, for behold, the plague had begun among the people. So he put *on* the incense and made atonement for the people. He took his stand between the dead and the living, so that the plague was checked. (Numbers 16:41-48)

Remember that scene in heaven? The angel fills the censer and throws it down to earth just before the seven angels begin to blow their trumpets. Could it be that the angel stopping the plagues that have come upon the entire world with the opening of the seven seals? Looking at the episode in the wilderness gives us a new understanding of the events taking place in heaven, don't you think?

There is another interesting correlation here. Korah doesn't just come upon the scene out of nowhere; he is mentioned earlier when they were still in Egypt. He is listed in the sixth chapter of Exodus as the head of the household of Levi. According to tradition, all headship blessings are handed down to the firstborn son. Korah was the firstborn son of Levi; therefore the blood of the lamb had redeemed Korah, yet he fell into judgment in the wilderness and didn't make it to the Promised Land. Think about that; Korah was redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, yet did not make it into the Promised Land.

We have many who will turn to Yeshua saying, "Lord, Lord, didn't I prophesy in Your name?" only to hear, "I do not know you." Yeshua Himself told us this would be so. How could this be when one considers the, "once saved, always saved," theology so many hold dear? Can one lose their salvation? If so, what is the line one must cross and how far can I stay away from it?

Could Korah's life, and death, hold a message for us, here in today's world? If one were to study that section of the Torah, the story of Korah, with an eye towards answering that question, I'm sure that one would find many wonderful things not only for themselves, but for others as well.

The Seven Seals opened by the Lamb who was worthy to be slain unleashed some deadly plagues upon the earth and mankind. The Apocalypse has begun; woe to all who dwell upon the earth, for His wrath has come!

The Trumpets, Bowls and the Plagues of Egypt

When Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh to give him God's message, they didn't give him the whole message at once, nor were they in the same place all the time. The first time they spoke with Pharaoh, they were at the river Nile where Pharaoh had gone to bathe, as was his custom. Moses knew this as he had grown up in Pharaoh's household. The next time they spoke with Pharaoh they were in his palace, and the third time they were simply outside. The next three judgments were pronounced in the same manner; first at the Nile, then the palace, then outdoors. The cycle continued with the next three judgments, giving us three sets of judgments; one set at the Nile, another set at the palace and the third in the great outdoors.

So too we see three sets of judgments in the book of Revelation; the seven seals, the seven angels with seven trumpets, and the seven bowls of wrath. If we look deeper, into the meanings behind the numbers, we will learn even more. The number three signifies God's divine completeness and seven signifies God's perfect plan. So, the coming judgments will complete God's divine and perfect plan for mankind.

Each of these plagues was a judgment upon the gods of Egypt. Starting with the River Nile, considered the source of all life in Egypt, to the firstborn son of Pharaoh, considered a god on earth, each plague showed these gods to be worthless. None had the power to save the Egyptians. We have many gods in our world, and these will be judged and found lacking as well.

It is in the following judgments, the seven trumpets and the seven bowls of wrath, that we find the plagues of Egypt once again. This time, the whole world will be affected, not just Egypt.

"But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where My people are living, so that no swarms of flies will be there, in order that you may know that I, the LORD, am in the midst of the land. I will put a division between My people and your people. Tomorrow this sign will occur." (Exodus 8:22-23)

One thing that stands out in all of these plagues is the fact that those who lived in the land of Goshen were immune to these plagues. How is that? One clue might be found in the name "Goshen" itself. According to Hitchcock's Bible Names, the name Goshen means: "approaching; drawing

near." Putting that into the context of our study, it appears to me that the lesson here is this: If you draw near to Adonai, He will protect you.

The first plague of Egypt, when the water of the Nile turned to blood, is mirrored in the second trumpet and the second and third bowls of wrath:

The second angel sounded, and *something* like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood, (Revelation 8:8)

The second *angel* poured out his bowl into the sea, and it **became blood** like *that* of a dead man; and every living thing in the sea died. Then the third *angel* poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters; and **they became blood**. And I heard the angel of the waters saying, "Righteous are You, who are and who were, O Holy One, because You judged these things; for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it." And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments." (Revelation 16:3-7)

The second plague of Egypt, when frogs overran the land of Egypt, also has a counterpart in Revelation.

The sixth *angel* poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east. And I saw *coming* out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, **three unclean spirits like frogs**; for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. (Revelation 16:12-14)

The third and fourth plagues are those of gnats and flies that tormented the Egyptians. Some translations refer to the gnats as lice. I have not found a correlating event in Revelation, but that does not mean there is not one... I just haven't found it yet. Although there is no judgment in Revelation that speaks directly of the livestock becoming diseased, the first trumpet does kill one third of all of the creatures on earth.

The sixth plague of Egypt brings boils on the Egyptians and this event is most definitely mirrored in Revelation.

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of

the wrath of God." So the first *angel* went and poured out his bowl on the earth; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image. (Revelation 16:1-2)

So too we find the hailstorm, just as we did back in Egypt.

The first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up. (Revelation 8:7)

The eighth plague of Egypt was the plague of locusts. This plague is also found mirrored in Revelation, but this time there is a twist. The locusts of Revelation don't eat up every green thing like they did in Egypt.

'For if you refuse to let My people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your territory. 'They shall cover the surface of the land, so that no one will be able to see the land. They will also eat the rest of what has escaped—what is left to you from the hail—and they will eat every tree which sprouts for you out of the field. 'Then your houses shall be filled and the houses of all your servants and the houses of all the Egyptians, *something* which neither your fathers nor your grandfathers have seen, from the day that they came upon the earth until this day.'" And he turned and went out from Pharaoh. (Exodus 10:4-6)

The locusts in Revelation are unlike any locust seen by our forefathers from the foundation of the world until today!

Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him. He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit. Then out of the smoke came **locusts** upon the earth, and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. They were told **not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.**

And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to **torment for five months**; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man. And in those days men will seek

death and will not find it; they will long to die, and death flees from them.

The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads appeared to be crowns like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. They had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like *the teeth* of lions. They had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle. They have tails like scorpions, and stings; and **in their tails is their power to hurt men for five months.** They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon. (Revelation 9:1-11)

These are not really locusts at all, because locusts only eat vegetation or anything made from vegetation. These creatures are demonic in nature and are under the leadership of Apollyon, defined in English as "the destroyer." It is he who holds the key to the bottomless pit. It is he who was a star but has fallen to earth. He is our enemy and wants each and every one of us dead, but, fortunately for us, he doesn't have that power.

The next plague of Egypt was the plague of darkness. So too we will see this plague in the end days:

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even a darkness which may be felt." So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days. They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, but all the sons of Israel had light in their dwellings. (Exodus 10:21-23)

Then the fifth *angel* poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues because of pain, and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds. (Revelation 16:10-11)

Just as the plague of darkness could be felt by the Egyptians, so too the coming plague of darkness will be felt by all of those who belong to the kingdom of the beast. So, if there was light in Goshen, does that mean that the children of Adonai will also be protected from this all-consuming darkness? It would appear that way to me.

The final plague of Egypt, the most famous of them all, was the death of the firstborn. How many of us had nightmares after watching The Ten Commandments because of this plague? Remember, it was the blood of the lamb on the doorposts that protected the firstborn of Israel. Something that is important to note here is this: only those who obeyed the command to place the blood on the doorposts were saved. The Israelites didn't understand why this needed to be done, yet they did it anyway simply because it was Adonai's command. He did tell them this:

"Moreover, there shall be a great cry in all the land of Egypt, such as there has not been *before* and such as shall never be again. But against any of the sons of Israel a dog will not *even* bark, whether against man or beast, **that you may understand how the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.**" (Exodus 11:6-7)

So too will He protect His people during the Tribulation for this very same reason: so that all of the world will know that Adonai makes a distinction between His people and the people of the world, the ones who follow the Anti-Messiah. This will cause the world to hate us even more than they already do, but our Elohim is mighty to save.

There are many more trumpets and bowls than there were plagues of Egypt. What we have coming will cause all to forget about Egypt, for it will be nothing in comparison to what we are about to go through. The Anti-Messiah we have coming will also cause all to forget Pharaoh; he didn't actively try to kill all of God's chosen ones!

The Marriage Contract

After crossing the sea, the people made their way to the mountain of God to worship Him, just as He had told Moses. They spent quite a bit of time at the mountain, and the evidence remains to this day.

Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. Now then, **if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples**, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."

So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him. All the people answered together and said, "**All that the LORD has spoken we will do!**" And Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD. (Exodus 19:3-8)

Because the Israelites had witnessed all of these things, they knew that the power of their Elohim was greater than any power on earth. When Moses told them that Adonai wanted them to obey Him, they responded, "All that Adonai has spoken, we will do!" Oh, if they had only kept their word!

The LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will come to you in a thick cloud, so that **the people may hear when I speak with you and may also believe in you forever.**" Then Moses told the words of the people to the LORD. The LORD also said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them **wash their garments**; and let them be ready for the third day, for on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, 'Beware that you do not go up on the mountain or touch the border of it; whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. No hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot through; whether beast or man, he shall not live.' When the **ram's horn sounds a long blast**, they shall come up to the mountain." So Moses went down

from the mountain to the people and consecrated the people, and they washed their garments. He said to the people, "Be ready for the third day; do not go near a woman." (Exodus 19:9-15)

According to these verses, one of the main reasons that Adonai spoke to all of the children of Israel at the mountain was so that they, and we, would believe in Moses always. What this means is that He wants us to believe the teachings of Moses throughout all of our generations. Yeshua Himself said:

"For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?" (John 5:46-47)

The people of God do not believe Moses to this day. The Jews seem to, yet they refuse to include others in the family, which is one of the lessons Moses wanted them to learn. They ignore the statement he made regarding the Law of God applying not only to them, but the alien and sojourner among them. This refers to anyone who wants to be a part of the Kingdom of God. Instead, the Jews tell the Gentiles (non-Jews) that they are not to follow Torah, but they are only required to follow the "Noahide Laws", which are not found in the Bible, but are only found in the Talmud (not Scripture, but commentary on Scripture).

The Christians do not believe Moses either, even though Yeshua clearly teaches that we are to believe his teachings. Why is this? It is because the "church fathers" told us that these things no longer apply to us; the Law is for the Jews alone. Funny thing is, they teach that the blessings apply but that we don't have to be obedient to receive them. This is directly contrary to Scripture! They have twisted the teachings of Paul to make them appear to mean the opposite of what they truly mean. If we continue to listen to them, we will share in their judgment.

Notice also that Adonai commands the people to wash their clothing and themselves, and not to engage in intimate relations, to prepare to meet their Elohim. This is also mirrored in Revelation.

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city. (Revelation 22:14)

Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb *was* standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their

foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard *was* like *the sound* of harpists playing on their harps. And they *sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth. These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These *are* the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. And no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless. (Revelation 14:1-5)

In the commands given to the Levites we find a few that pertain to their marital relations, who they can marry, who they can't marry, and so on. There is also the rule that during their time in the Temple (they rotated shifts) they were not to engage in marital relations. It is also said that during the time that Moses met regularly with Almighty God he abstained from marital relations with Zipporah. There are also many other laws that make me think that there is something about our bodily fluids that He can't stand. Maybe there is an uncleanness about them that simply can't be in the presence of a Holy God. Those who want to minister directly to Adonai must understand the distinction between clean and unclean lest they perish in the sight of Adonai El Shaddai.

We also see a reference to the ram's horn (shofar) that will be blown when Adonai descends onto the mountain. According to Jewish tradition, the horn blown here came from the very same ram that Abraham sacrificed in Isaac's stead. The other horn from that same ram is the one which will be blown at the end; at the last trump.

"And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other. (Matthew 24:31)

Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. (1 Corinthians 15:51-52)

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Messiah will rise first. (1 Thessalonians 4:16)

This is part of the reason why the Jews have always believed that Messiah will come on Yom Teruah, the Feast of Trumpets.

So it came about on the third day, when it was morning, that there were thunder and lightning flashes and a thick cloud upon the mountain and a very loud trumpet sound, so that all the people who *were* in the camp trembled. And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai *was* all in smoke because the LORD descended upon it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently. When the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him with thunder. (Exodus 19:16-19)

Now, let's look at these scenes from Revelation:

"And the nations were enraged, and Your wrath came, and the time *came* for the dead to be judged, and *the time* to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth." And the temple of God which is in heaven was opened; and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple, and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake and a great hailstorm. (Revelation 11:18-19)

Then the seventh *angel* poured out his bowl upon the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, "It is done." And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake *was it, and so mighty*. (Revelation 16:17-18)

Christians understand that we are intended to be the bride of Messiah, but do we know when the proposal was made? And do we know when we accept it? The Jews understand that what happened at Mt. Sinai was a **marriage covenant**. If we, the children of God, seek to annul this covenant, then we are no longer suitable to be the bride of Messiah. The Laws given to Moses atop the mountain are the terms of this covenant. Do we really want

to "do away" with them? The Exodus was the marriage covenant and we who have accepted its terms are betrothed to the One True God. We must now prepare our hearts for the coming of our Bridegroom. The Torah tells us how. The prophets, including John, have given us the signs that indicate the approach of our Husband. Are we going to be ready for His return?

When the cloud descended onto Mt. Sinai, Adonai El Shaddai spoke the words we know as the Ten Commandments. The Jewish sages teach that the entire world heard His voice that day and it was so powerful that the pregnant among the herds calved instantly. This event is also paralleled in Revelation, and in other places as well.

"I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed. (Daniel 7:13-14)

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)

BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen. (Revelation 1:7)

The similarities are undeniable. Just as the Israelites saw the cloud of the Almighty God descend upon Mt. Sinai, so too will we all see Yeshua as He descends onto the Mount of Olives. When our Bridegroom returns, will we be ready?

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and *all* tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, **clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands**; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." And all the

angels were standing around the throne and *around* the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, *be* to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are **clothed in the white robes**, who are they, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "**These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.** For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will **spread His tabernacle over them.**"

"They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes." (Revelation 7:9-17)

Ever wonder why a bride wears white? Could it be to remind us of what is to come, when we, the bride of Messiah, will be clothed in white? Ever wonder why these people are waving palm branches? I know; it's because of Palm Sunday... but have you ever wondered why they were waving palm branches? You see the sages who have studied the prophets have discovered something very interesting. It seems that they are saying Messiah will return for His bride just in time for the Feast of Booths, or Sukkot.

The palm branches, and other leafy tree branches, are used to build our Sukkahs during Sukkot. It seems to me that there is a whole big group of people who are ready for a wedding, and to celebrate Sukkot. It would also seem that John agrees with what the other prophets are saying. The phrase "spread His tabernacle over them" is a Jewish idiom referring to the Chuppah, or tent, which is over the bride and groom during the ceremony.

We know that He is expecting a spotless bride, but what does that mean? What does it mean to be without spot or defect? The Torah taught us how to be set apart, clean and sanctified, yet we have turned our backs on those instructions, preferring the teachings of man over the teachings of

God. The Levites were to teach us about what is clean and unclean, holy and profane, yet we know them not.

If we can't tell the difference between world around us and ourselves, how can anyone else? They can't. That's because there really is no difference. We have the same goals and the same focus as everyone else. This is a nation of priests? I don't think so! We are a stubborn and stiff-necked people who are no more ready to meet our Messiah than a newborn is ready for their prom date. Oh dear Lord, help us to be the bride you deserve!

We have been given a wonderful, blessed gift. We have the ability to have a close, intimate relationship with the Creator of the Universe, and He is not an abusive megalomaniac, neither is He narcissistic although it would be within His rights. He is the only one with that right. This wonderful, all-powerful, eternal being is coming soon for His bride and He deserves nothing less than absolute perfection. Would we describe ourselves as absolute perfection? I would not.

Just how badly do we want to be His bride? Just what are we willing to sacrifice, or, should I say, what aren't we willing to sacrifice? Who, or what, is the love of our lives? It should be easy to give ourselves totally to the One we love, so why is it so hard? Why is it that some days the pull of the world seems so much stronger? We know that Adonai is stronger than the world, yet whom do we fear? Whomever it is that we fear the most, that is whom we serve.

I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, my soul will exult in my God; for He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. (Isaiah 61:10)

From Raamses to Mt. Sinai

From the time they left Raamses until they reached the Jordan River the Israelites had camped in 42 different places, as stated earlier. We are given names for each of these sites, not based upon their location (in most instances) but upon the event(s) that took place there. They left Raamses (child of the sun) and their journey ended at the Jordan River (the river of judgment). So too our journeys will begin as we escape from the child of the sun (god) known as the Anti-Messiah, and they will end at Judgment Day. What lessons might we learn from their travels that may help ours?

After leaving Raamses, their first campsite was called "Sukkot". Sukkot was the name of a city in Egypt, namely the city where Joseph had set up the grain silos preparing for the famine that brought his family down from Canaan. This "city" was actually a tent city, as the travelers from all over the world would set their tents up when they came to purchase food from Pharaoh. Sukkot actually means booths or tabernacles, another way of saying tents. This was also the place where Joseph's bones were kept, awaiting the day of their return to the Promised Land. Joseph had made his sons promise to take his bones back to the land when they left Egypt, and they kept their promise.

Sukkot is also the name of one of the festivals of Adonai that Moses instructed us to keep. This was the last of the festivals, occurring in the fall. This celebration lasts for seven days, with an extra day added on for good measure. The Israelites were commanded to keep the feast by camping out in booths (Sukkahs) so that they would always remember what it was like in the wilderness. Could it be that when we begin our Exodus, it will begin in the same place where we keep Sukkot? What if we don't keep Sukkot? What then?

The next place they camped was a place called Etham, which literally means, "bounded by the sea". After that, they arrived at a place called Pi-hahiroth. This place was literally bounded by the sea, as there was nowhere to go from there except into the sea. Since biblical maps are not helpful, I will try to describe this place so that you can find it on a map.

When they left Egypt proper (the populated portion of the country), they traveled southeast into the Sinai Peninsula, entering a wadi (dry water run-off) that took them to the Gulf of Aqaba. This wadi opened up onto a very large beach, but there were mountains that surrounded the beach and

on one of these cliffs the Egyptians had built a fortress. You see, the Egyptians had always owned the Sinai Peninsula, so they would have had to leave that landmass in order to leave Egypt. The Egyptians watched them the whole time and when they ended up on the beach next to Migdol (the fortress), word went back to Pharaoh.

Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Tell the sons of Israel to turn back and camp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea; you shall camp in front of Baal-zephon, opposite it, by the sea. "For Pharaoh will say of the sons of Israel, 'They are wandering aimlessly in the land; **the wilderness has shut them in.**' "Thus I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will chase after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." And they did so. (Exodus 14:1-4)

When Pharaoh heard where they were at, he knew there was no escape for them. The only way out from there was back the way they had come, and Pharaoh saw them as easy pickings for any man who might want to teach them a lesson. I am sure that when we are being brought out into the wilderness, the "powers that be" will feel the same way; only God will be protecting His people just as He did back then. We just have to trust Him to provide a way when there seems there is no way, just as He did that day.

This was their first test and they failed it. Remember, the first test was, "Will God save us from Pharaoh?"

As Pharaoh drew near, the sons of Israel looked, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they became very frightened; so the sons of Israel cried out to the LORD. Then they said to Moses, "Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us in this way, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness."

But Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the **salvation** of the LORD which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. The LORD will fight for you while you keep silent." (Exodus 14:10-14)

We all know what happened next... and are probably envisioning Charlton Heston with his staff in hand. An interesting side note here: the word translated as, "salvation" in this passage is the Hebrew word yeshua, the very name of our Savior. So, in essence, Moses was telling us to stand by while Yeshua saves us. This is definitely a message for us today.

After they crossed the sea, and saw the destruction of the Egyptian army, they rejoiced in God their Savior, singing of His mighty works. This is the first Song of Moses; a wonderful song and a great study in and of itself. At the end of the Torah, in Deuteronomy, Moses teaches them another song that we will look at later in this study. If we look at Revelation, we will see a reference to the Song of Moses. Most scholars believe this refers to the second song. I tend to believe it's in reference to this first song because while both are extolling the mighty works of Adonai, the second one is more of a warning to us regarding what is to come.

And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God. And they *sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED."
(Revelation 15:2-4)

The next stop for the Israelites was a place called Marah, which means, "bitterness", and was located in the wilderness of Shur. This was the site of their second test, "Will God provide water?"

Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. When they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter; therefore it was named Marah. So the people grumbled at Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"

Then he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree; and he threw *it* into the waters, and the waters became sweet. There He made for them a statute and regulation, and **there He tested them**. And He said, "If you will give earnest

heed to the voice of the LORD your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the LORD, am your healer." (Exodus 15:22-26)

Even though they grumbled and failed the test, Adonai gave them a promise that holds true even today. If we follow His commands and keep all His statutes, He will keep us healthy. A perfect example of this is the dietary laws. One of the main parts of these laws includes the command not to eat unclean animals, especially pigs. This animal is so disease ridden that if we didn't butcher it, the pig would die of natural causes like parasites. When we eat the meat from a pig, we are ingesting all of these foul things as well. There is even a tapeworm found in pigs that attacks the human brain and can kill us if left untreated. How many people get hepatitis each year from ingesting bad shellfish? We shouldn't be eating these things according to the Law of God, yet we continue to do so to our destruction.

Then they came to Elim where there *were* twelve springs of water and seventy date palms, and they camped there beside the waters. (Exodus 15:27)

Elim means, "strong trees", probably referring to the date palms found there. The teaching here can be found in the numbers twelve and seventy. The number twelve not only reminds us of the twelve tribes, but also speaks of governmental perfection. Seventy is the number of perfect spiritual order, as it is a multiple of seven, God's perfect plan, and ten, the perfection of divine order. According to scripture, there are 70 nations in the world, besides the nation of Israel. It seems to me that this was a visual sign that His Exodus, both this one and the coming Exodus, was/is not only available to the Israelites, but to all of the nations of the world as well. This is very important for those of us facing the Exodus to come. It also reminds us of the 12 sons of Jacob who had already grown into 70 by the time they moved down to Egypt. By the time these children of Jacob camped at Elim, they had grown into a multitude, just as Adonai had promised their fathers.

After leaving Elim, they camped by the Red Sea before heading into the wilderness of Sin. Although most of us feel we understand the definition of sin, the Hebrew word actually means "clay". It was in this place that the Israelites grumbled against Adonai saying, "Will God provide food for us?"

Then they set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the sons of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between

Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departure from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The sons of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the LORD'S hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." (Exodus 16:1-3)

As a result, Adonai sent not only manna, but quail as well.

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily."

So Moses and Aaron said to all the sons of Israel, "At evening you will know that the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt; and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, for He hears your grumbings against the LORD; and what are we, that you grumble against us?" Moses said, "*This will happen* when the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening, and bread to the full in the morning; for the LORD hears your grumbings which you grumble against Him. And what are we? Your grumbings are not against us but against the LORD." (Exodus 16:4-8)

Although they were complaining to Moses about their lack of food, it was actually Adonai that they were grumbling against. We too are guilty of grumbling against Adonai when we complain about how rough our lives are. He is the one who has given us everything we need to survive, but we are not grateful, instead wanting more. Remember, these people had flocks and herds with them! They had just left a place where they could have gotten fish for themselves (when they camped by the sea) yet they wanted more.

Adonai stated that the manna was a test for them, to see whether or not they would follow His commands. In the process of providing for their need for food, He was also re-establishing His Sabbath. Some teach that the Sabbath was not given until He spoke the Ten Commandments from atop the mountain, but that is not true. Sabbath (Shabbat in Hebrew) was established in the beginning, back in Genesis.

By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made. (Genesis 2:2-3)

Unfortunately, they didn't pass this test regarding God's commands.

Now on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one. When all the leaders of the congregation came and told Moses, then he said to them, "This is what the LORD meant: Tomorrow is a sabbath observance, a holy sabbath to the LORD. Bake what you will bake and boil what you will boil, and all that is left over put aside to be kept until morning." So they put it aside until morning, as Moses had ordered, and it did not become foul nor was there any worm in it. Moses said, "Eat it today, for today is a sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the field. Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, *the* sabbath, there will be none."

It came about on the seventh day that some of the people went out to gather, but they found none. Then the LORD said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My instructions? See, the LORD has given you the sabbath; therefore He gives you bread for two days on the sixth day. Remain every man in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day." So the people rested on the seventh day. (Exodus 16:22-30)

The Christian church teaches that the Sabbath was changed with the resurrection of Messiah. I have searched the Scriptures and cannot find any evidence that this is true. On the contrary, I have found much evidence, like the verses above, which indicate the Sabbath is on the seventh day of the week and that God takes this command very seriously. There is also much evidence that it was the Catholic church that made the decision, as found in their own texts. If we were to do a study on the judgments of God on Israel down through the ages, we would find that every time His complaint is that they have not kept His Sabbath holy. In fact, Ezekiel traces their stubbornness back to their time in the wilderness.

"So I took them out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness. I gave them My statutes and informed

them of My ordinances, by which, **if a man observes them, he will live.** Also I gave them **My sabbaths to be a sign between Me and them**, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them.

"But the house of Israel rebelled against Me in the wilderness. They did not walk in My statutes and they rejected My ordinances, by which, **if a man observes them, he will live;** and My sabbaths they greatly profaned. Then I resolved to pour out My wrath on them in the wilderness, to annihilate them. But I acted for the sake of My name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, before whose sight I had brought them out.

"Also I swore to them in the wilderness that I would not bring them into the land which I had given them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands, because they rejected My ordinances, and as for My statutes, they did not walk in them; they even profaned My sabbaths, for their heart continually went after their idols. (Ezekiel 20:10-16)

Even in the wilderness, after witnessing all of the mighty works of Adonai their Elohim, the children of Israel continued to "walk in the stubbornness of their hearts"; this is apostasy. This behavior continued through their generations, through the time of Ezekiel, to this very day. We too are guilty of claiming to be His own special people, while completely ignoring His commandments, statutes and ordinances.

After departing from the wilderness of Sin, the Israelites camped at Dophkah (cattle-driving) and Alush (a crowd of men) before settling in Rephidim. Rephidim is defined as, "rests or stays, that is, resting places". Although defined as a resting place, they didn't really rest while there were camped here. Once again, they started grumbling and once again Adonai proved Himself.

Then all the congregation of the sons of Israel journeyed by stages from the wilderness of Sin, according to the command of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, and there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water that we may drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and they grumbled against Moses and said, "Why, now,

have you brought us up from Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"

So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "What shall I do to this people? A little more and they will stone me." Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pass before the people and take with you some of the elders of Israel; and take in your hand your staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. He named the place Massah and Meribah because of the quarrel of the sons of Israel, and because they tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us, or not?" (Exodus 17:1-7)

Massah is defined as, "temptation" and Meribah, "strife or contention, dispute or quarrel". I'm sure after all of their grumbling and complaining, Adonai was tempted to leave them there! This was supposed to be a place of rest, yet they gave no rest to their complaining. It is a good thing that He didn't give into the temptation, because right now they needed Him more than ever, for Amalek attacked them.

For those who are not familiar with Biblical history, Amalek was descended from Esau (Edom) and lived in the lands between the Dead Sea and the Red Sea, covering land now possessed by both Israel and Jordan. Esau was Jacob's brother, and his descendants hated Jacob's descendants just as much as their father's hated each other, if not more. Since it is impossible to hide such a large number of people, and it was no secret that they would be headed back to the land promised by El Shaddai to their fathers, the sons of Amalek naturally feared for their lands and their lives. It seems that they felt a preemptive strike would be wise.

This was another one of those tests of their belief in their Elohim. "Will God be with us to protect us?" Once again, Adonai proved Himself to be a mighty and awesome God, regardless of their faith.

So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose men for us and go out, fight against Amalek. Tomorrow I will station myself on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand." Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought against Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

So it came about when Moses held his hand up, that Israel prevailed, and when he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed. But

Moses' hands were heavy. Then they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other. Thus his hands were steady until the sun set. So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. (Exodus 17:9-13)

This is the first time we hear of Joshua, and he is already proving himself to be a leader among men. This is also a very good demonstration of the power of intercessory prayer. As long as Moses' hands were raised in prayer, the Israelites prevailed. This is also a lesson in the need for prayer partners. This scene, I feel, is important for those of us who will be trying to survive in the wilderness of the coming days. We need to support one another in the same way that Aaron and Hur supported Moses. We also need to stand beside and pray for those who go out to fight for our defense. As a result of this victory, Moses built an altar to Adonai, naming the altar "Adonai is our banner".

We need to remember that they have not yet made their way to the mountain of God and already they have been attacked twice; first by the Egyptians and then by Amalek. No wonder they needed a rest! We too must learn to rely on Adonai to protect us from our enemies.

While camped at Rephidim, Jethro, Moses' father-in-law and the priest of Midian, joined them. Many people believe that Jethro was a priest of pagan gods, but I don't agree. For one, the Midianites were descendants of Abraham and his wife Keturah. Secondly, his daughter Zipporah understood the commandment of circumcision (see Exodus 4:24 - 26) without Moses having to teach her. Lastly, his counsel to Moses was that of a godly man.

Jethro counseled Moses to appoint elders to help him with the day-to-day problems that will inevitably come with such a large number of people. Prior to this, Moses was judging each dispute on his own and would soon become worn out. This is good advice to any and all leaders; learn to delegate responsibility. For we are not able to do everything, but should focus on the task God has given us, allowing others to support us and work with us. When we are in the wilderness, we too will need to delegate responsibility for the day-to-day tasks that will surely come up; tasks like fetching water, washing laundry and keeping the fires going.

The next stop was the mountain of God, Mt. Sinai. Sinai means, "a thorny bush" or "enmity". This is where much of the action takes place and they stay here for quite some time. It is here where Adonai El Shaddai

descends upon the mountains and speaks the commands for all to hear. It is here where the Israelites turn back to worshipping idols and are judged accordingly. It is also here where the tribe of Levi was chosen to be the priestly tribe, because they stood up against this idolatry and killed all those who were engaged in this apostasy.

This place was also called Mt. Horeb. The name Horeb means, "desert, solitude, or destruction", according to Hitchcock's Bible Names. To me, this name is a reminder that we need to seek solitude when studying His word. Moses was alone when he first met God on the mountain, and he would be alone with God when receiving the Law (Torah) during his forty-day stay on the mountaintop.

We have already seen the correlations between what happened here and what will happen in the latter days, according to the book of Revelation. The instructions given to Moses on the mountaintop were not just for the benefit of those who were camped below, but also for those of us who are called by His name down through the ages, including those alive today. Those who refuse to obey these commands are considered to be lawless (Torah-less) and acting in the spirit of anti-messiah, for that is the mystery of lawlessness.

The Israelites remained at Mt. Sinai for the better part of a year, receiving instructions and building the Tabernacle of God. During this time, Adonai gifted certain men with the knowledge needed to build the Tabernacle, which was a very large tent covered in porpoise skins to keep the weather out, and filled with gold-covered furnishings according to the pattern Moses saw while on the mountain. Once the Tabernacle was completed, they consecrated it and Aaron, the High Priest, and began to worship Adonai according to His instructions.

From the time they left Raamses until they crossed the sea, the Israelites were still in Egypt, and still slaves of Pharaoh. Until their master drowned in the sea, Israel still belonged to Pharaoh. When they crossed over from death to life, they had to learn to put their old lives behind them and begin their lives anew. They had to learn to stop thinking like slaves and learn to think like free men. By the time they approached the mountain of God they should have learned to rely and depend on Him for all of their needs. The journey was to prepare them for what was to come; they were to become the faithful bride of the Living God, having His Words, His Laws, written on their hearts. So too we must learn to rely fully on Adonai, learn how to live our new lives in Messiah, and prepare ourselves to be His bride.

The Movement of God's People

The children of Israel did not just pack up and move whenever they felt like it. The cloud that led them out of Egypt and through the sea continued to lead and guide them the entire time they were in the wilderness.

Throughout all their journeys whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the sons of Israel would set out; but if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out until the day when it was taken up. For throughout all their journeys, the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and there was fire in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel. (Exodus 40:36-38)

Now on the day that the tabernacle was erected the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the testimony, and in the evening it was like the appearance of fire over the tabernacle, until morning. So it was continuously; the cloud would cover it *by day*, and the appearance of fire by night.

Whenever the cloud was lifted from over the tent, afterward the sons of Israel would then set out; and in the place where the cloud settled down, there the sons of Israel would camp. At the command of the LORD the sons of Israel would set out, and at the command of the LORD they would camp; as long as the cloud settled over the tabernacle, they remained camped.

Even when the cloud lingered over the tabernacle for many days, the sons of Israel would keep the LORD'S charge and not set out. If sometimes the cloud remained a few days over the tabernacle, according to the command of the LORD they remained camped. Then according to the command of the LORD they set out.

If sometimes the cloud remained from evening until morning, when the cloud was lifted in the morning, they would move out; or *if it remained* in the daytime and at night, whenever the cloud was lifted, they would set out. Whether it was two days or a month or a year that the cloud lingered over the tabernacle, staying above it, the sons of Israel remained

camped and did not set out; but when it was lifted, they did set out. At the command of the LORD they camped, and at the command of the LORD they set out; they kept the LORD'S charge, according to the command of the LORD through Moses. (Numbers 9:15-23)

To be honest with you, I'm not sure how this will translate into the coming Exodus, but I do know this: we will have to follow the leading of Adonai our Elohim. Will He send angels out to lead His people? Will the 144,000 who have been sealed, as Adonai's own, lead small groups worldwide as Moses lead the Egyptian Exodus? Imagine the number of minor miracles (if there is such a thing) occurring worldwide... imagine the indignation that would have to be endured by the Anti-Messiah! Adonai has stated many times throughout the Scriptures that He Himself will gather us and bring us back to the land He promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Therefore, He will lead and guide us through the Tribulation as well, however may be His pleasure.

Adonai even instructed them regarding how to set up and dismantle not only the Tabernacle, but the entire camp as well. When they traveled, it was in such a manner as to keep the Tabernacle and its furnishings in the midst of the camp. Even the tribes had to go out in a certain order. This shows us just how important order is in the eyes of Adonai.

Now in the second year, in the second month, on the twentieth of the month, the cloud was lifted from over the tabernacle of the testimony; and the sons of Israel set out on their journeys from the wilderness of Sinai. Then the cloud settled down in the wilderness of Paran. So they moved out for the first time according to the commandment of the LORD through Moses. (Numbers 10:11-13)

Judah was the first tribe to move out and as they did, certain Levites would begin to dismantle the tabernacle and follow behind them. The furnishings would follow the tribe of Reuben so that by the time they arrived at the next campsite, the Tabernacle would already have been erected and they could immediately fill it with its furnishings. Each tribe had its place and the tribe of Dan took up the rear. Part of their job was to ensure that none were left behind. So too we will need to move in an orderly fashion and ensure that no one is lost.

The cloud of the LORD was over them by day when they set out from the camp. Then it came about when the ark set out

that Moses said, "Rise up, O LORD! And let Your enemies be scattered, and let those who hate You flee before You." When it came to rest, he said, "Return, O LORD, to the myriad thousands of Israel." (Numbers 10:34-36)

The scribes consider these two verses very important. This is because of something found in the text just before and after them in the original Hebrew. The Hebrew letter "nun", which almost looks like this:], is inverted both before and after these verses, but are not part of the verses themselves. It gives the appearance of parentheses. The Stone's Chumash (The Torah with rabbinical commentary) says this:

So whole-hearted was his (Moses') acquiescence to God's will that his own desires were synonymous with God's.... He spoke not of the people's journey, but of the Ark's progress, for the ultimate mission of the Jew (Israelites) is to bring the Torah and its teachings into every iota of temporal life. Recognizing that Israel would always have foes and haters who strive to prevent submission to God from holding sway on earth, Moses began every journey with a plea that God would protect His servants from those who seek to thwart the realization of His will. And when the people, led by the Ark, were coming to rest, he prayed that the vast numbers of the nation and its future descendants would feel the Divine Presence, unopposed, in their midst. Thus understood, these two verses do, indeed, comprise a separate book, for they encompass the striving and final triumph of the Divine ideal.

The lesson here is this: we need to learn to have the same desires as Adonai our Elohim and we need to learn to cover our travels in prayer. There is much more that can be learned from these verses, but I'll save that for another study.

The children of Israel knew when it was time to leave because the glory of Adonai lifted up from off the Tabernacle and then led them to where they were to camp next. So too we will be led by the Spirit of God, although we do not know what form that will take. We also don't know if we will be gathered together as one big group, as with the Exodus from Egypt, or if we will be gathered into smaller groups according to whatever nation we happen to be within at the time. What we do know is that He will have to lead and guide us and protect us, providing for our needs and drawing us to Him.

The best advice I can give you is this: get to know Adonai's voice now. Spend time with Him now so in that day you will know for sure when He is speaking to you. Get to know His word, the Bible, inside and out so that you have a measuring stick with which to judge, so that we will be righteous in our judgments.

We don't know just how He is going to gather us together, but we have clues as to when it will be and how the events will play out. These clues are hidden within the feasts and festivals, and indeed the Torah itself. It is up to us to dig them out, study them and apply them to our lives. If we do, we will be more attuned to Adonai's words and His way of thinking. Then we will understand what is happening in our lives. Many folks agree that life is a little easier to deal with when we know what's coming.

These events show us that we have travel in our future. We should prepare to travel now, while we have time. We need to think about what we would take with us if we had to leave our home in a big hurry, for the last time. We need to think about questions like, "What will we cook on?" and "Where will we sleep?" The idea is very similar to the Y2K scare a few years ago, but this time it seems we will have to leave our homes, because if we don't, we will be caught up in their judgment. We don't want that.

Adonai Gave Us Manna in the Wilderness

When the Israelites finally left Mt. Sinai, the plan was for them to head north into the Promised Land, but like everything else in this world, that was not as easy as it sounds. There were still more tests for them to pass before they could journey into the land we now know as Israel.

The next campsite was called Kibroth-hattaavah, which means, "the graves of lust." It was here that they answered the question, "Will we reject God's provision?" This site was also called Taberah, which means, "burning".

Now the people became like those who complain of adversity in the hearing of the LORD; and when the LORD heard *it*, His anger was kindled, and the fire of the LORD burned among them and consumed *some* of the outskirts of the camp. The people therefore cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the LORD and the fire died out. So the name of that place was called Taberah, because the fire of the LORD burned among them. (Numbers 11:1-3)

Once again, they began complaining, and they did it loud enough that Adonai heard them. This made Him so mad that He destroyed those who were on the outskirts of the camp with fire, which makes one think that maybe that was where most of the grumbling and complaining was coming from. And once again, Moses had to come to their aid, crying out to Elohim in prayer. As Moses demonstrates time and time again, the prayers of a righteous man does indeed carry weight with Adonai.

Even with what they had just witnessed, they continued to complain, this time in regards to the manna.

The rabble who were among them had greedy desires; and also the sons of Israel wept again and said, "Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish which we used to eat free in Egypt, the cucumbers and the melons and the leeks and the onions and the garlic, but now our appetite is gone. There is nothing at all to look at except this manna." (Numbers 11:4-6)

There is so much here that one barely knows where to begin! The first lesson we can learn from this event is that we must not be controlled by our greedy desires. This will lead to our rejection of God's provision, just as it did in our forefathers long ago. "Remember the fish which we used to eat free?" Sure, the fish was free, but that was because the Egyptians hated

fish, seeing it as non-food, which is why they gave it freely to their slaves. In the eyes of the Egyptians, the Hebrews were eating their trash.

Manna, which literally means, "What is it?" was something that many, many people have tried to define or explain away as not miraculous.

Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its appearance like that of bdellium. The people would go about and gather *it* and grind *it* between two millstones or beat *it* in the mortar, and boil *it* in the pot and make cakes with it; and its taste was as the taste of cakes baked with oil. When the dew fell on the camp at night, the manna would fall with it. (Numbers 11:7-9)

The manna that Adonai provided for His people appeared daily, with the exception of Shabbat, and continued to fall for the entire time they were in the wilderness. Once they moved into the Promised Land, and at the fruit of the land, the manna stopped. Also, the manna appeared wherever they went and was always just enough to provide sustenance for them and they didn't even have to leave the camp in order to collect it. How could this be anything but a miracle of God?

Not only did they not appreciate this wonderful gift, but they also missed the lesson they needed to learn from the manna. Later Moses had to explain it to them.

"He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD. (Deuteronomy 8:3)

This lesson was so important, that Yeshua Himself taught it, even quoting the above verse back to Satan when he tried to tempt Him.

And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" (Matthew 4:3-4)

When the Pharisees spoke about the manna, Yeshua used the opportunity to teach them about Himself:

"Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT.'" Yeshua then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My

Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world." Then they said to Him, "Lord, always give us this bread." Yeshua said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst." (John 6:31-35)

"I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh." (John 6:48-51)

In rejecting God's provision, while asking Him to provide more, was just a little more than God could take, so He sent another judgment upon them. Those who believe that once they become a part of the family of God they are no longer subject to judgment need to spend some time studying the time in the wilderness; then they will sing a different tune.

"Say to the people, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept in the ears of the LORD, saying, "Oh that someone would give us meat to eat! For we were well-off in Egypt." Therefore the LORD will give you meat and you shall eat. 'You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days, but a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you; because you have rejected the LORD who is among you and have wept before Him, saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?"'" (Numbers 11:18-20)

Now there went forth a wind from the LORD and it brought quail from the sea, and let *them* fall beside the camp, about a day's journey on this side and a day's journey on the other side, all around the camp and about two cubits *deep* on the surface of the ground. The people spent all day and all night and all the next day, and gathered the quail (he who gathered least gathered ten homers) and they spread *them* out for themselves all around the camp. While the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the anger of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD struck the people with a very severe plague. So the name of that place was called

Kibroth-hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had been greedy. (Numbers 11:31-34)

Remember, the manna fell within the camp. In order for the people to get to the quail, they had to trample over the manna. Talk about rejecting God's provision! No wonder Adonai Tza'vaot (the Lord of Host) wiped them out. How could they trample underfoot something so miraculous, something their fathers had never known, for something as common as quail? Especially when they had flocks and herds?

Just how does all of this relate to us?

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give *some* of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it." (Revelation 2:17)

Could it be that some of that manna was hidden away for a very special time and a very special group of people? Maybe this group of people would not trample this special gift under foot? The real question is, "Will we be among that group of people, those who have overcome?"

Just what was manna? This question has haunted man down through the ages. Many have tried to define it as some sort of plant that grew in the wilderness, or some other "logical" explanation, but we have to accept the fact that He provided this manna, whatever it was. Let us remember how many people there were in the wilderness during those 40 years. They had been commanded to take a census at the beginning of their wanderings and again at the end. Both numbers were well over six hundred thousand, and these were just the man of fighting age, over the age of twenty. That number does not include women and children. When you add it them, well, that's a lot of mouths to feed!

What was manna? Will we ever really know? Well, there might be an answer to this question after all. It seems that we have discovered what appears to be a new element, yet it is not new but very old. It was something known to the ancient priests and pharaohs of Egypt, as well as the Mesopotamians, yet was unknown to modern man until very recently.

Back in the 1970's an Arizona farmer named David Hudson was concerned about his soil and decided to have it analyzed. After all other elements were identified; there remained a white powder-like substance. According to all of the scanners available, this substance was nothing; absolutely nothing.

How could this be? Certainly it was something... they could see it, touch and move it, yet they could not analyze it. It was then decided to test it longer, as they do in Russia, and that was when they discovered something very interesting. The powder was nothing more than pure gold.

To make a very long story much shorter, more research was done, including tests on this substance and its effects on things around it, and its effects on people. There was also historical research done that has shown that this "new element" has been around for a long, long time. Ever wonder why gold has always been precious in the sight of man? Regardless of culture and time period, gold has always been a standard of currency because it has inherent value. Why is that? Could it be that there is a secret that has been passed down in the inner circles of the secret societies that the average man knows nothing about?

This new element is known as an ORME, or Orbitally Rearranged Monatomic Element. This has been known down through the ages by many names. The Egyptians called it sham-an-na, the Mesopotamians called it highward fire-stone and alchemists throughout history have called it the Philosopher's Stone. We have always been told that alchemists were trying to turn base elements into gold. That is not what they were doing; they told us that so we wouldn't suspect what they were really doing. They were turning gold into white powder.

What is so special about this powder? Everything! First we will deal with its properties that affect us when we eat it, and then we will discuss some of the other properties found in this element. When eaten, gold powder has tremendous healing properties at the cellular level. Not only will it heal diseased cells, like cancer cells, but it will also rejuvenate the entire body, removing wrinkles and bringing color back to hair. It has even shown to be able to heal a broken tooth! Historically, priests and kings have taken this powder as a sort of "fountain of youth". It is believed that this powder was part of the recipe for the Shewbread, or the Bread of the Presence.

As part of its testing, some of the powder was mixed with water and given to volunteers of all ages and both sexes. These volunteers had electrodes attached to their heads and were monitored the entire time. Prior to the administering of the powder the volunteers showed one hemisphere of the brain registering higher than the other side. Immediately following the ingestion of the powder, researchers notice that both sides of the brain were performing equally, with an increase on both sides after ingesting the powder for long periods of time. For those who want even more

information, I recommend the book, "Lost Secrets of the Sacred Ark", by Laurence Gardner, who knows these things because he is a member of the Illuminati.

The following clip comes from an article found at Genesis of the Grail Kings at: <http://www.karenlyster.com/genesis3.html>

Electrons normally travel around the nucleus in pairs - a forward-spin electron and a reverse-spin electron - but when these come under the influence of a high-spin nucleus all the forward-spin electrons become correlated with the reverse-spin electrons. When perfectly correlated, the electrons turn to **pure white light** and it is quite impossible for the individual atoms in the high-spin substance to link together. Hence, they cannot reform as metal and the whole remains simply an impalpable, monatomic white powder.

A recently conducted experiment in the USA made apparent the effect of the mystical white light in open-air conditions, without the controls of vacuums and inert gasses necessary for contained results. In this test the **blaze was equivalent to many tens of thousands of flash-bulbs. It was, in effect, an explosion, but there was absolutely no blast and an unsupported pencil, which had been stood on end within the explosion, was left standing upright and unharmed afterwards.** This is wholly reminiscent of the story of Moses and the burning bush as related in Exodus: 'And he looked, and, behold, the bush burned without fire, and the bush was not consumed'.

The truly unusual thing about this white powder is that, through various applied procedures, **its weight will rise and fall to hundreds of percent above its optimum weight, down to less than absolutely nothing.** Moreover, its optimum weight is actually 56% of the metal weight from which it was transmuted. So, where does the other 44% go? It **becomes nothing but pure white light and translates to another dimension beyond the physical plane.**

Another feature of the shem-an-na is that even its 56% substance (that is the remaining sample excluding the 44% light content) **can be made to disappear completely from sight,**

moving itself into another dimension of perceived matter - and when this happens, its weight similarly disappears.

By virtue of such testing, it has been discovered that not only is the powder of the highward fire-stone **capable of raising human consciousness, but it is also a monatomic superconductor with no gravitational attraction**. One of the great researchers into gravity from the 1960s has been the Russian physicist Andrei Sakharov, and the mathematics for Sakharov's Theory (based on gravity as a zero-point) were published by Hal Puthoff of the Institute of Advanced Studies in 1989 (Physical Review A - volume 39, no. 5, 1 March). With regard to the monatomic white powder, Puthoff has made the point that **because gravity determines space-time, then the powder is capable of bending space-time. It is 'exotic matter', he explained, with a gravitational attraction of less than zero**.

If you are like me, you had to read that over a couple of times before it really began to sink in. Feel free to go back and read it again... I'll wait.

So what the author is saying here is that this powder, gold in its purest form, cannot be made back into metal form because some of the matter is transformed into a white light. When this bright light bursts forth, it has the light equal to that of many tens of thousands of flash-bulbs, yet does not cause a shock wave as most explosion would. When this happens, it translates to another dimension beyond the physical plane, disappearing completely from sight. What that means is that this substance is pan-dimensional, proving that matter can be two different places at the same time.

The author further explains that gravity determines space-time, so this substance is capable of bending space-time because its own gravitational attraction is less than zero. What does that mean in laymen's terms? We may just have the answer to space travel and inter-dimensional travel. In fact, because of the fact that its gravitational pull is less than zero, it can actually cause levitation. Gold, when in solid form, is one of the heaviest metals known to man. In the powder form, it will actually cause the scale to register a smaller number than when empty.

Although the gold is in powder form, it is often referred to as a stone. I see this in the same way that a kefir grain is not really a grain. Down through the ages there has been reference to one stone or another, as well

as the bread of the gods. Could this be the very same substance that the kings and priest of antiquity offered to their gods and ate themselves? Was the Bread of the Presence really made with this substance, this white powder that has a sweet taste?

The subjects in the study group who ingested gold powder reported they could think more clearly, felt better than they ever have and even showed signs of the reversal of the aging process. Could this be the source of those fairy tales about women seeking eternal youth? According to this study, it rejuvenates and increases brainpower and function greatly. This information gives the following story a new understanding.

While Moses was up on the mountain of God, receiving the tablets of God's commands, the people below were quickly falling into apostasy and had made for themselves a calf from their gold earrings. HaShem wanted to wipe them out right there and start all over from Moses, but Moses interceded on our behalf and stayed God's hand.

It came about, as soon as Moses came near the camp, that he saw the calf and *the* dancing; and Moses' anger burned, and he threw the tablets from his hands and shattered them at the foot of the mountain. He took the calf which they had made and **burned *it* with fire, and ground it to powder, and scattered it over the surface of the water and made the sons of Israel drink *it*.** (Exodus 32:19-20)

This is something that most of us read right over when we do read this story. It doesn't make much sense to us, so we don't think about it, not wanting to admit that we don't understand. But, you see, if we ask Adonai to give us wisdom and knowledge and understanding, these things are revealed to us. All we have to do is ask.

I had always wondered about this verse and its meaning. Could you really turn gold into such a fine powder that people could consume it, and would it be safe? Was this part of the judgment on God's people for their apostasy? If what we have learned here about this powdered gold is true, then what Moses was actually doing was trying to get these people to think straight by supplying them with true brain food.

If it is also true that this pure gold in powder form is the very same substance that HaShem provided for the Israelites, and it is truly manna, then what a true gift it really was! Purest gold was dropping as dew from the skies for forty years, and these people complained. The implications of all of

this are simply astounding. Could you imagine these people, our forefathers, trampling over the manna to get to the quail?

This same powder has been found all over the place, most interestingly in crop circles. It is common knowledge that many crop circles are nothing more than hoaxes, yet there are still many that are so far unexplainable. These crop circles have electromagnetic fields resonating from them. These are the ones where the powder can be found. Could some sort of pan-dimensional event be occurring over the wheat fields of the earth?

Now with all of that in mind, let's look at one of the messages to the churches found in the book of Revelation. This is the message to the church in Pergamum:

"And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this: 'I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

'But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the **teaching of Balaam**, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit *acts of immorality*. So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.

'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **To him who overcomes, to him I will give *some of the hidden manna*, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.**' (Revelation 2:12-17)

This church is dealing with apostasy. The teachings of Balaam are that of compromise and we will be going into them in depth later on. The part I want to focus on now is the promise at the end. For those of us who escape the great apostasy, overcoming not only the apostasy, but also Satan himself, we will receive the hidden manna and a white stone. Could it be that the manna and the stone are one in the same? Could this substance change us so much within that we need a new name to go with our new selves?

What I have written here came as quite a shock to me. I don't think I fully grasp the implications yet. It is simply too mind-boggling. I have heard it said that angels are pan-dimensional beings. Could this powder be the "pixy dust" that gives them entrance into our dimension? Is this one of the secrets the Temple Knights discovered and have been protecting all these years? It would seem to be the case, from what I can see.

If this is the manna of the wilderness, no wonder Adonai was so angry with us for complaining about it! If this was the manna placed into the Ark of the Covenant, no wonder the Ark could kill anyone who touched it.

Yeshua said that He was the bread that came down from heaven.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh." (John 6:47-51)

The information in this chapter sheds new light on the depths of this statement, don't you think? Some authors even equate the manna/white powder with the Tree of Life. If Yeshua is relating Himself to this same gold powder, not only does He bring healing to us, but He is also the doorway to the next dimension. It also gives more depth to the statement, "I am the way."

When manna is looked at in this light, providing healing, nutrition like none other, and providing a deeper spiritual conscience, no wonder Adonai became angry every time they complained. They truly had no idea of just how blessed they were! They were eating the "food of the gods" normally reserved for the most wealthy and powerful people in the world. They literally walked over gold to get the quail that killed them.

When we are in their shoes and He is providing for our every need, may we learn from their mistakes and be grateful for what we have, not demanding more. Grumbling never produces anything good, so let's stop doing it! May we learn to overcome all that the enemy sends our way, including the false teachings that have infiltrated the church universal. We need to stand up against the compromise of our faith. We need to go back to the original faith of our fathers, of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and learn to treat what is holy as holy and to stay away from the profane.

The Rest of the Tests in the Wilderness

After burying these who died eating the quail, the people packed up and moved again, settling in a place that came to be known as Hazeroth. This name basically means, "villages", or even, "palaces". Here a very strange thing happened that caused judgment to fall on Moses' own sister.

Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married (for he had married a Cushite woman); and they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us as well?" And the LORD heard it. (Numbers 12:1-2)

Hold on just a second here! I thought that Moses married a Midianite woman! What's this then? Did he marry another woman and we missed it? To find the answer to these questions, one would obviously look towards the Bible commentaries that are found in many study Bibles. When we do we will find some sort of explanation stating that because Midian and Ethiopia (Cush) were so close together that often they would be interchangeable. But one only has to look at a map of the Middle East to see that these two lands were separated by the Red Sea, so they really are not that close.

If we look into some of the Jewish commentary, we might be able to find more insight. According to the Jewish scholar Rashi:

Zipporah was from Midian, not Ethiopia. The description of her as a Cushite was a euphemistic reference to her great beauty. It is common in Scripture and Talmudic literature to attach a derogatory epithet to a loved one in order to prevent an "evil eye", i.e. envy. The numerical value of "Cushite" is equal to that of "beautiful in appearance". (In the original Hebrew.) The term is repeated later in the verse to suggest that her physical beauty was matched by her character.

To me, this explanation makes more sense.

The sage Ramban teaches:

Since Moses had to be ready to hear God's word at any moment, he had to be ritually pure at all times, which meant that he had to refrain from marital relations with his wife Zipporah. This intimate matter remained their private affair, until Miriam learned of it from a chance remark by Zipporah. Not realizing that God had instructed Moses to do so, and feeling that it was an unjustifiable affront to Zipporah, Miriam

shared the news with Aaron, who agreed with her. They were critical of Moses, contending that since the two of them were also prophets, but were not required to withdraw from normal life, neither was Moses.

When we study the Torah, learning about the Levites and their duties in the Tabernacle, and the Laws regarding clean and unclean, pure and impure, we see a pattern developing regarding holiness and bodily emissions. Any time we desire to stand before a Most Holy God, we must be sure to be clean, both inside and out. Since Moses must be ready to stand before Elohim at a moment's notice, he had to go the extra step of having to remain clean at all times. Even though Aaron was High Priest, ministering to Adonai within the Tabernacle, he was not summoned to speak directly to El Shaddai as Moses was.

At this point in the text there is a parenthetical insertion:

(Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth.) (Numbers 12:3)

When we see something inserted into the text like this (in the original text) we must stop and ask ourselves, "Why?" There are just as many opinions regarding why this was inserted as there are sages, and I could sit here and quote each and every one of them, but I will leave it up to the reader to answer that question for their own self. While we are at it, we might want to ask God just what it means to our walk of faith.

Suddenly the LORD said to Moses and Aaron and to Miriam, "You three come out to the tent of meeting." So the three of them came out.

Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the doorway of the tent, and He called Aaron and Miriam. When they had both come forward, He said, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, shall make Myself known to him in a vision. I shall speak with him in a dream. Not so, with My servant Moses, He is faithful in all My household; with him I speak mouth to mouth, even openly, and not in dark sayings, and he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant, against Moses?"

So the anger of the LORD burned against them and He departed. But when the cloud had withdrawn from over the tent, behold, Miriam *was* leprous, as *white as* snow. As Aaron

turned toward Miriam, behold, she *was* leprous. (Numbers 12:4-10)

What Miriam did here was two-fold. On one hand, she questioned Moses' walk and compared it to her own, and on the other hand, she spoke badly of her own brother. In Hebrew this is called, "lashon hara", or the evil tongue. Most people simply call it gossip. In questioning him and his actions, she was really questioning Adonai and His. In speaking badly of Moses to Aaron, she planted a seed of doubt in his heart as well. Aaron was not affected by the judgment because Adonai could see that he was a victim, from what I can tell.

Although God led the people out of Egypt, he used a man to do it. Although He Himself will gather His people once again, He may just use a man, or an angel, to do it. We must be careful not to question that leader and his walk, as we would not want to fail this test as they did. We must also be very careful about what we say regarding our brethren and their walk so that we are not planting seeds of doubt in other's hearts. If we have concerns regarding someone's walk of faith, the only one we should be speaking to is Adonai, and then in prayer for our friend. We don't need to measure each other. Remember what Yeshua warned us about judging one another.

"Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you." (Matthew 7:1-2)

After these things, Moses cried out to Adonai, begging for him to forgive and heal Miriam. Although He did heal her, He still made her pay the consequences of her actions by making her stay outside of the camp for a week, just as any leprous person would. The camp did not move until her time was up and she could return to the camp.

When the Israelites made the Golden Calf and declared it to be their god, they rejected His presence. When they complained of adversity, they rejected his deliverance (salvation). Now they are questioning God's anointed, rejecting him as being the true leader. They have failed nine out of ten tests.

The next campsite was a place called Rithmah, which apparently referred to the juniper bushes that grew there. The site was located in the wilderness of Paran. Most people know the site as Kadesh-barnea, which means, "holiness of an inconstant son", according to Hitchcock's Bible Names.

It was here that the Israelites sent twelve spies into the Promise Land, and ten came back with a bad report.

When they returned from spying out the land, at the end of forty days, they proceeded to come to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the sons of Israel in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; and they brought back word to them and to all the congregation and showed them the fruit of the land. Thus they told him, and said, "We went in to the land where you sent us; and it certainly does flow with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.

"Nevertheless, the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified *and* very large; and moreover, we saw the descendants of Anak there. Amalek is living in the land of the Negev and the Hittites and the Jebusites and the Amorites are living in the hill country, and the Canaanites are living by the sea and by the side of the Jordan."

Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it." But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us."

So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of *great* size. "There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight." (Numbers 13:25-33)

The ten spies could only think of the giants, the Nephilim, who lived in the land. The Nephilim is a study in and of itself, but suffice it to say that they had good reason to be afraid, if it weren't for the fact that their God could kick the Nephilim out before them. Just like yawns, fear is contagious.

Then all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. All the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron; and the whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! Why is the LORD bringing

us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder; would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" So they said to one another, "Let us appoint a leader and return to Egypt." (Numbers 14:1-4)

Oh yea of little faith! Once again, the children of Israel have failed the test, only this one was the big one. This one showed that they rejected His kingdom. They simply did not trust Adonai their Elohim... at least they didn't trust Him with their children. The folks spoke of open rebellion. They were ready to head back to Egypt, forsaking all that He had done for them.

Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, of those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; and they spoke to all the congregation of the sons of Israel, saying, "The land which we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. If the LORD is pleased with us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us--a land which flows with milk and honey. **Only do not rebel against the LORD;** and do not fear the people of the land, for they will be our prey. Their protection has been removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them." But all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Then the glory of the LORD appeared in the tent of meeting to all the sons of Israel. (Numbers 14:6-10)

The lesson for us is clear; we must not rebel against Adonai. We must trust Him with our very lives and the lives of those we love. We must not fear the giants in the land, even though they seem to be able to swallow us up with one gulp, because our Elohim is with us to protect us. When He tells us to do something, we must do it, expecting Him to provide the way.

The LORD said to Moses, "How long will this people spurn Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, despite all the signs which I have performed in their midst? I will smite them with pestilence and dispossess them, and I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they."

But Moses said to the LORD, "Then the Egyptians will hear of it, for by Your strength You brought up this people from their midst, and they will tell *it* to the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that You, O LORD, are in the midst of this people, for You, O LORD, are seen eye to eye, while Your cloud stands over them; and You go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night.

"Now if You slay this people as one man, then the nations who have heard of Your fame will say, 'Because the LORD could not bring this people into the land which He promised them by oath, therefore He slaughtered them in the wilderness.'

"But now, I pray, let the power of the Lord be great, just as You have declared, 'The LORD is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth *generations*.'

"Pardon, I pray, the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of Your lovingkindness, just as You also have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now." (Numbers 14:11-19)

For those with a calling for intercessory prayer, take note of the prayers of Moses for the people. Notice how he reminds Adonai of His promises and His word and the reason for bringing these people thus far. Yes, the people have rejected Him once again, and yes, they deserve punishment, but Moses knew that Adonai was a merciful God. What Moses was doing was asking Him to extend grace to these people; which is exactly what He did.

So the LORD said, "I have pardoned *them* according to your word; but indeed, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD. Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, **yet have put Me to the test these ten times** and have not listened to My voice, shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it. But My servant **Caleb, because he has had a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land** which he entered, and his descendants shall take possession of it. Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites live in the valleys; turn tomorrow and set out to the wilderness by the way of the Red Sea."

The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, "How long *shall I bear* with this evil congregation who are grumbling against Me? I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel, which they are making against Me. Say to them, 'As I live,' says the LORD, '**just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will surely do to you**; your corpses will fall in this wilderness, even

all your numbered men, according to your complete number from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against Me. Surely you shall not come into the land in which I swore to settle you, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.

'Your children, however, whom you said would become a prey--I will bring them in, and they will know the land which you have rejected. But as for you, your corpses will fall in this wilderness. Your sons shall be shepherds for forty years in the wilderness, and they will suffer *for* your unfaithfulness, until your corpses lie in the wilderness. According to the number of days which you spied out the land, forty days, for every day you shall bear your guilt a year, *even* forty years, and you will know My opposition.

'I, the LORD, have spoken, surely this I will do to all this evil congregation who are gathered together against Me. In this wilderness they shall be destroyed, and there they will die.'"
(Numbers 14:20-35)

Our words are powerful and we need to be very careful about what we say. Ten times they put Adonai to the test, and they were the one who actually failed the tests, not He. We will be faced with very similar circumstances in our near future. The question is, "Will we learn from their mistakes?" Will we truly trust Adonai? No matter what?

Only Caleb and Joshua had enough faith to believe that they could, with Adonai's help, take the land. Because of their faith, they were the only members of their generation to step foot into the Promised Land. If we want to make it, we too must have the same unwavering faith. How do we build up our faith?

So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Messiah. (Romans 10:17)

So many of us forget that the Bible is one long story, from beginning to end. We often see it as two books instead of one. Yeshua didn't come saying anything new; He came speaking the words of the Father. He spoke the words aloud and things happened. We too need to speak aloud the good things, the promises of God. Then they can come alive in our lives as never before for we have given them life.

Forty Years in the Wilderness

Because many of the campsites are given more than one name, it can be very difficult at times to distinguish which event happened at which place. As a result, I will only place the events with locations that I am pretty sure of, leaving the others for the next section.

After refusing to go into the land, Adonai told them to head south. The next site mentioned in the list found in the 33rd chapter of Numbers is Rimmon-Perez. Although the commentators could not agree on the meaning of the first word, they do agree that Perez means, "divided". This may be the same place that the spies gave their bad report, as the camp was divided from that point onward, between those above the age of twenty, and those below.

After they left Rimmon-Perez, they camped in Libnah (white; whiteness) before setting out for Rissah (watering; distillation; dew). Traveling on, they reached Kehelathah (assembly) then on to Mount Shepher (beauty). Next they camped at Haradah (well of great fear), Makheloth (place of assemblies), and Tahath (fear; going down) before camping in Terah. Interestingly enough, although the word means to breathe or a scent, it's also the name of Abraham's father.

When they left Terah, they journeyed on to Mithkah (sweetness), Hashmonah (fatness) and Moseroth (erudition; discipline). Simply going by the name, we can pretty much assume that something major happened at this site causing the Israelites to be disciplined by God. Maybe this is where the rebellion of Korah took place? Or it could have been at the next site, Bene-jaakan, which means, "sons of sorrow".

After leaving Bene-jaakan, the Israelites traveled to Hor-haddidgad, which means, "hole of the cleft", or, "hollow of Gidgad". They then moved on to Jotbathah (goodness) which is where the tribe of Levi was set apart for Adonai, receiving no inheritance in the land because Adonai Himself is their inheritance. Jotbathah is described as "a land of brooks of water" and was probably quite pleasant, compared with some of the other sites.

Traveling on, they next camped at Abronah, or Ebronah, which means, "passage". Their next campsite was near Eloth on the shore of the Red Sea called Ezion-geber (the wood of the man). From here they traveled into the wilderness of Zin.

The wilderness of Zin is not to be confused with the wilderness of Sin, as Zin means, "buckler" or "coldness". It is here that Miriam dies. Another name for this place is Kadesh, which means, "holiness" and it is located at the southern end of present day Israel, alongside Edom. This is also the place where Moses lost his right to enter the land. This will be discussed further in the next section as well.

They are now nearing the end of their forty years of wandering, and Aaron is an old man. After arriving at Mount Hor (who conceives or shows; a hill), Adonai instructs Moses to anoint Aaron's son, Eleazer, as High Priest for Aaron is about to die. He does this in the sight of the entire congregation so that there is no doubt about his priesthood. Aaron dies in the 40th year, on the first day of the fifth month. This is also were the Canaanites attack the children of Israel and are soundly defeated. Therefore, they also name this location Hormah, which means, "utter destruction".

Although close to the end of their wanderings, they still travel on to Zalmonah (the shade; the sound of the number; his image) before camping at Punon (precious stone; that beholds). It is here that they, once again, grumble against Moses and Adonai.

Then they set out from Mount Hor by the way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the people became impatient because of the journey. The people spoke against God and Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this miserable food." The LORD sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. (Numbers 21:4-6)

At this point, most of the first generation of Israelite who came out of Egypt had already died. Many were killed in the various judgments against their complaints that will be detailed in the next section. Even so, the children of Israel still have not learned their lesson. They refer to God's provision as "miserable food" and announce that they loathe it. Once again, judgment comes down upon them, this time in the form of serpents whose bite kills, and many more people die.

So the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, because we have spoken against the LORD and you; intercede with the LORD, that He may remove the serpents from us." And Moses interceded for the people. (Numbers 21:7)

Moses could be called, "the Great Intercessor"! It seems that he spends most of his life interceding on behalf of the Israelites. For those of us who have been called to be intercessors, studying Moses' life would give us a better understanding of what it means to intercede for others. But most importantly here, the people came to Moses and confessed their sin! It seems that they just might be learning what we all need to learn; when we confess our sins, God will be faithful to forgive and bring healing.

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery *serpent*, and set it on a standard; and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, he will live." And Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on the standard; and it came about, that if a serpent bit any man, when he looked to the bronze serpent, he lived. (Numbers 21:8-9)

The Jewish sages have been trying for centuries to understand this incident. Here is an example of what they taught:

Does a serpent cause death or life? Rather, when they looked upward and subjected their hearts to their Father in Heaven they were healed, but if not, they died. (Rashi)

God could have healed them without the serpent, but then they would have thought they were cured through natural means. (B'chor Shor)

Now let's look at what the greatest sage of all taught:

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life. (John 3:14-15)

This was an important lesson for them, and for us, to learn. This is all about faith. Remember, faith is the evidence of things not seen. To the natural man, there is no healing power found in simply looking upon something, but to the spiritual man, all healing power comes from God, so if we will simply look to Him, He can save us. John later shares more insight into the "lifting up" of Messiah:

"Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." So the crowd *of people* who stood by and heard it were saying that it had thundered; others were saying, "An angel has spoken to Him."

Yeshua answered and said, "This voice has not come for My sake, but for your sakes. Now judgment is upon this world; now

the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die.

The crowd then answered Him, "We have heard out of the Law that the Messiah is to remain forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?"

So Yeshua said to them, "For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light." These things Yeshua spoke, and He went away and hid Himself from them. (John 12:28-36)

The serpent on a pole in the wilderness was a foreshadowing of the coming Messiah. This is the only time I know of that a serpent was a good thing. Ramban, another sage, said, "the source of the destruction was the source of healing." In the end times, this will be turned around and the source of healing will be the source of destruction. It is up to us which one we will choose.

Even though this pole with the serpent brought healing to the Israelites, it also brought sin to the descendants of these people.

Now it came about in the third year of Hoshea, the son of Elah king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah became king. He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah. He did right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done. He removed the high places and broke down the *sacred* pillars and cut down the Asherah. He also broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the sons of Israel burned incense to it; and it was called Nehushtan. (2 Kings 18:1-4)

It just goes to show that even something created for good can be used for evil. This Nehushtan (the brazen serpent) was worshipped as if it were a god, leading the people into apostasy. So too we see people worshipping the image of a man on a cross (crucifix) as if it were God. It is true; there is nothing new under the sun.

Leaving Punon, the Israelites camp at Oboth (dragons; fathers; desires) before moving on to Iye-abarim in the wilderness east of Moab. This word means, "ruins of the passers" and may be the place where many of the sons of Israel entered into sin with the Moabites. We will discuss that in the next section as well.

The next campsite was called Dibon-gad (great understanding; abundance of sons), which is also referred to as Wadi Zered. They then moved on to Almon-diblathaim, which apparently had an abundance of fig trees, because the name means, "hidden in a cluster of fig trees" or even, "Almon of the double cake of figs."

The last site they camped was Abarim (passages; passengers), which was the mountainous area just across the Jordan River from Jericho. This was the place where Moses sat down and told the children of Israel everything that would befall them in the years to come. He was then permitted to ascend a mountain and view the Promised Land. After anointing Joshua as their new leader, he ascended a mountain alone and died. To this day, no one knows where he died, and I believe it is because Adonai knew that his grave would become some sort of holy shrine, leading to the worship of Moses, which, of course, would be apostasy.

Each of these 42 sites have a meaning for us, but we might not know exactly what they are until we experience them ourselves. These sites might be tied in with the 42 cities that were established for the Levites once they had taken the land promised to them by Adonai. Yeshua also referred to these cities when teaching about the end times.

"You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved. But whenever they persecute you in one city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you will not finish *going through* the cities of Israel until the Son of Man comes. (Matthew 10:22-23)

Could this be a message for us that we missed because we have not studied the Exodus and the time in the wilderness? Could the cities and the months of the tribulation have more in common than just their numbers? It would be interesting to list the names of these cities, and their definitions, just as we did the campsites and see if there is a correlation.

Apostasy

Returning to Paul's teaching to the Corinthians, let us now look to some of what happened in the wilderness, referred to by Paul in his letter to the Corinthians. Paul stated, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY." Just what does this mean? To understand this, we must go back to the verses that Paul was quoting (for one of the principles of translation is that when the author is quoting Scripture, the translator indicates this by using all capital letters).

Now when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people assembled about Aaron and said to him, "Come, make us a god who will go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Tear off the gold rings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring *them* to me."

Then all the people tore off the gold rings which were in their ears and brought *them* to Aaron. He took *this* from their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool and made it into a molten calf; and they said, "This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt."

Now when Aaron saw *this*, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow *shall be* a feast to the LORD." So the next day they rose early and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and **the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.** (Exodus 32:1-6)

What Paul was referring to is what is commonly known as the Golden Calf incident. Once again, allow me to set the scene... The children of Israel had already witnessed the plagues, crossed the Red Sea, witnessing the destruction of the Egyptian army, and had themselves heard the voice of Adonai their Elohim. Yet they still did not truly trust Moses. When he did not return when they expected him, they quickly turned to idolatry. Even though they had been saved from Pharaoh, and had become betrothed to the One True Elohim, their hearts turned from Him and they were judged. What lesson can we learn from this? If our hearts turn astray, we will be judged. It's as simple as that.

When the children of Israel left Egypt, they didn't leave alone; they came out of Egypt with a mixed multitude of people. The Hebrews were not the only slaves in Egypt, and many of these others joined them in the Exodus.

Now the sons of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, aside from children. A **mixed multitude** also went up with them, along with flocks and herds, a very large number of livestock. (Exodus 12:37-38)

Is there a parallel in Revelation? You bet!

And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand *were* sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand, from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand *were* sealed.

After these things I looked, and behold, **a great multitude** which no one could count, **from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches *were* in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." (Revelation 7:4-10)

Many believe that those who made Aaron create the golden calf were part of the mixed multitude that had come with the Israelites, not the Israelites themselves. In light of the history of Israel, I would have to disagree. It really doesn't matter who your father was; apostasy is just as easy for the Jew as the Gentile.

The Christians believe that salvation is for them alone and the Jews will be "left behind" to face judgment. The Jews believe that since they are God's chosen people, the promises of God are for them alone. Obviously, both are wrong. God's Laws and promises are available to any and all who desire to

be called by His name, regardless of their race, color or anything else. What matters to the Most High God is our hearts.

Apostasy is defined as the falling away from the true faith, we can all agree on that. The question is, just what is the true faith? There are almost as many answers as believers these days. I don't think we know the answer to that question. I don't think we know what defines true faith in the eyes of God our Father. Many of us are too afraid to look because we know that whatever it is, we don't have it. Deep down within our hearts, we know we are walking in apostasy even now, and have all our lives.

The faith of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob looked nothing at all like the faith we practice now. I dare say Samuel would be appalled at how we've turned out, as would Peter. It's not our fault; we have inherited lies. Our fathers didn't know any better, for they had been lied to as well. The church fathers are not necessarily the heroes we have made them out to be. Some of them had the heart of the disobedient son.

The teachings of Balaam led to apostasy in the wilderness and many died as a result. For some reason Simeon was hardest hit. When Phinehas stood up and filled with righteous indignation ran through Zimri and Cosbi, the plague was checked and God rewarded Him with the covenant of peace. Anything we can do to combat apostasy, for His name's sake, will bring blessings upon us.

Does our faith look anything like the faith displayed by Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? When was the last time we thought of sacrifices and why we need to make them? Who do we most identify with, Moses or Balaam? Do we have the heart of the obedient son, or the disobedient son? These are questions that we each need to ask ourselves and answer truthfully.

Every single judgment that has ever come upon the children of Israel has come to them because they turned from the true faith, either to this side or to that. How do we know that we are not doing the same if we don't study Torah? God took us out into the wilderness to write His Torah, His Laws, directly on our hearts, but we just couldn't wait around long enough for Him to do it. From the Golden Calf to the refusal to let the land have its Sabbath rest, we have refused to follow God's commands and have paid the price. We have been scattered into the nations where we are suffering under the bondage of our cruel taskmasters. This time when we cry out and He comes and rescues us, will we be appreciative enough to obey Him?

I Want to do it My Way

One of the biggest spiritual problems then, and now, is the desire to do things our way instead of God's way. If we learn nothing else from their wandering in the wilderness for forty years, may we at least learn this lesson. From the Ephraimites who left Egypt according to their own reckoning, to those who wouldn't look to the serpent and died, each of these people had one thing in common; they didn't trust God enough to obey Him.

No one was immune to this problem, including Moses himself. Because Moses decided to do one thing his own way, he lost the right to lead the people into the Promised Land. That job was given instead to Joshua. How could this be? How could it be that Moses, the one who stood up against Pharaoh and led the children of Israel out of Egypt, through the Red Sea and interceded on their behalf before Almighty God, could not enter into the Promised Land? One act of disobedience was all it took.

Then the sons of Israel, the whole congregation, came to the wilderness of Zin in the first month; and the people stayed at Kadesh. Now Miriam died there and was buried there. There was no water for the congregation, and they assembled themselves against Moses and Aaron. The people thus contended with Moses and spoke, saying, "If only we had perished when our brothers perished before the LORD! Why then have you brought the LORD'S assembly into this wilderness, for us and our beasts to die here? Why have you made us come up from Egypt, to bring us in to this wretched place? It is not a place of grain or figs or vines or pomegranates, nor is there water to drink." (Numbers 20:1-5)

Once again, the Israelites are grumbling due to the lack of water. You'd think that at this point they would simply ask for water, but true to human nature, they instead complain to Moses. I'm sure Moses was getting very tired of this "game" and that probably affected his actions here. I know that I'm getting tired of them always accusing Moses of trying to kill them as if they forgot who really led them out of Egypt.

Then Moses and Aaron came in from the presence of the assembly to the doorway of the tent of meeting and fell on their faces. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to them; and the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Take the rod; and you and

your brother Aaron assemble the congregation and **speak to the rock** before their eyes, that it may yield its water. You shall thus bring forth water for them out of the rock and let the congregation and their beasts drink."

So Moses took the rod from before the LORD, just as He had commanded him; and Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly before the rock. And he said to them, "Listen now, you rebels; shall we bring forth water for you out of this rock?" Then Moses lifted up his hand and **struck the rock** twice with his rod; and water came forth abundantly, and the congregation and their beasts drank. (Numbers 20:6-11)

Did you see it? Did you see what Moses did wrong? He was clearly instructed to speak to the rock, yet he struck the rock instead. This might seem petty on the surface, but it is actually very important. First, as the leader of the congregation, and the teacher of the Law, Moses is held to a higher standard, just as Adonai told Aaron and Miriam back in Hazereth. This is so important that James wrote:

Let not many *of you* become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. (James 3:1)

We have already been told that the rock that followed the Israelites in the wilderness was Messiah. Moses was told to speak to the rock so that we would understand that all we need to do is speak to the Rock (Messiah) to receive the waters of life. Instead, he struck the Rock, just as the Jewish leadership did when Messiah stood before them. If Moses had obeyed the command, would things have turned out differently for Yeshua? Probably not, as it was His plan for Yeshua to be crucified, but there might have been more people to understand the need to speak to Him (in prayer) to receive His goodness.

But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them." Those *were* the waters of Meribah, because the sons of Israel contended with the LORD, and He proved Himself holy among them. (Numbers 20:12-13)

Meribah means, "strife, contention, and dispute". There are many locations in the wilderness given this same name, because there were many places where the assembly disputed that Adonai really cared for them. Moses was the one who was to show them how to follow Adonai, yet he too

disputed His word. No one knows for sure why he did what he did, and he did repent of his actions, but the judgment was already made.

Moses was not the only member of the leadership who came under judgment during their time in the wilderness; Aaron's sons had trouble as well. It happened after the Tabernacle and its altar was dedicated, which took seven days. On the eighth day Aaron sacrificed sin, burnt and peace offerings for the people, then turned, lifted up his hands and blessed the people. Fire came down from heaven and consumed the offering in the sight of all the people. Then something strange happened.

Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the LORD, **which He had not commanded them**. And fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. Then Moses said to Aaron, "It is what the LORD spoke, saying, 'By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, and before all the people I will be honored.'"

So Aaron, therefore, kept silent. (Leviticus 10:1-3)

Nadab and Abihu had already been consecrated as priests of Adonai, yet that didn't give them leeway when it came to ministering to Him. Why they did this, no one knows for sure. Some say that they were drunk while others say that they were just excited about serving Adonai and they got carried away in the moment. What we do know for sure is that they did not follow His commands, instead wanting to worship Him their own way.

So many of us are guilty of this same transgression. We believe that Adonai will be so glad that we worship Him that He will accept our worship no matter what form it takes. This belief is what led Israel into apostasy for which they were judged. What Nadab and Abihu did might seem like a small thing to us, but to the Most High God, it was the beginning of apostasy and must be squashed. If He truly is Holy, we must treat Him as such by following His commands word-for-word, for each word He speaks is precious and important - indeed, they are our very lives!

The LORD then spoke to Aaron, saying, "Do not drink wine or strong drink, neither you nor your sons with you, when you come into the tent of meeting, so that you will not die--it is a perpetual statute throughout your generations-- and so as to make a distinction between the holy and the profane, and between the unclean and the clean, and so as to teach the sons

of Israel all the statutes which the LORD has spoken to them through Moses." (Leviticus 10:8-11)

These verses are the basis for the belief that Nadab and Abihu were drunk when they approached Adonai offering strange fire. Regardless, they make it very clear that Adonai expects those who minister to Him to understand the difference between Holy and profane, clean and unclean. We are not to approach Him carelessly, without granting Him the dignity He deserves. In fact, one of the statutes that the sons of Aaron were to teach the Israelites was that they could never approach His altar unless they were clean, both inside and out.

Unfortunately, we no longer teach these things to our children. We teach that He is totally approachable, no matter what condition our souls are in. This is simply not true. Yes, He will accept all who call on His name and He meets us right where we are at, but our hearts must be clean. We must be totally honest with Him about who we are and where we are at, because He knows it all already. Our sincerity must be evident to Him, and we must approach Him as He dictates: humbly and with honesty.

There once was a prophet of God named Balaam, son of Beor, who lived near the river Jordan. He had a reputation of being able to bless or curse people and having that blessing or curse stick. The Moabite king, Balak, had heard about the battle between the Israelites and the Amorites (another nation that attacked them in the wilderness), and how the Israelites had prevailed against them. Now they were camped just outside of his land and he knew he needed help. So, he sent for Balaam to curse the Israelites so that Moab would be safe.

So he sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor, at Pethor, which is near the River, *in* the land of the sons of his people, to call him, saying, "Behold, a people came out of Egypt; behold, they cover the surface of the land, and they are living opposite me. Now, therefore, please come, curse this people for me since they are too mighty for me; perhaps I may be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land. For I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed."

So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the *fees for* divination in their hand; and they came to Balaam and repeated Balak's words to him. He said to them, "Spend the night here, and I will bring word back to you as the

LORD may speak to me." And the leaders of Moab stayed with Balaam.

Then God came to Balaam and said, "Who are these men with you?" Balaam said to God, "Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent *word* to me, 'Behold, there is a people who came out of Egypt and they cover the surface of the land; now come, curse them for me; perhaps I may be able to fight against them and drive them out.'" God said to Balaam, "Do not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed." (Numbers 22:5-12)

To make a long story short, Balak did not take no for an answer. He again sent men to bring Balaam to curse the Israelites, this time offering even more money. Apparently, money was the key, because Balaam again spoke with Adonai regarding this request. This time God told him that he could go with them, only he must only speak the words given to him by Adonai.

It seems as if Adonai was hoping that Balaam would say, "Well, if you don't want me to go, I won't," because the text tells us that He was angry with Balaam for going and sent the angel of Adonai as an adversary to stand in his way. Although Balaam did not see this angel, his donkey did. They say that animals can see the spiritual realm better than we, and this seems to confirm that belief.

Two times the angel stands before Balaam, to block his path, and two times his donkey turns aside, and Balaam beats her for it. The third time the angel blocks their path there is nowhere for the donkey to turn, so she simply lays down. Then, a very strange thing happens:

When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam was angry and struck the donkey with his stick. And the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" Then Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have made a mockery of me! If there had been a sword in my hand, I would have killed you by now." The donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden all your life to this day? Have I ever been accustomed to do so to you?" And he said, "No."

Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way with his drawn sword in

his hand; and he bowed all the way to the ground. The angel of the LORD said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out as an adversary, because your way was contrary to me. But the donkey saw me and turned aside from me these three times. If she had not turned aside from me, I would surely have killed you just now, and let her live." (Numbers 22:27-33)

How often in our lives are we so busy doing what we think is right, or at least right in our own eyes, that we miss what can be so obvious to others? What he was doing was pleasing the king, and that's always a good thing, and what's wrong with making a couple of extra shekels doing so? Everything, if it is contrary to Adonai's will.

Although Balaam was unable to curse the children of Israel, he did do something that has made his name appear throughout the Bible. He gave some very good advice Balak that has affected the lives of every descendant. What did he advise? He advised that Balak and the other leaders of the Moabite and Midianites should send their daughters down to intermingle with the Israelites. What's so bad about that? What harm could come from them mingling with their new neighbors? No harm would come to the Midianites and the Moabites... but much harm would come to the Israelites!

This event has so touched the lives of the children of Israel that even the New Covenant teachings refer back to this advice of Balaam, but they never actually tell us what these teachings are.

Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. (Jude 1:11)

But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit *acts of immorality*. (Revelation 2:14)

Just what does, "for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam," mean? That references the fact that when the kings of Moab and Midian offered Balaam more money, he went back to Adonai to ask again. This was obviously because of the money, proving once again that the love of money is the root of all evil (1 Timothy 6:10). I think we can easily see that we need to be careful what our motive is.

What exactly were the teachings of Balaam? The book of Numbers tells us that after Balaam was sent on his way the daughters of Midian and the daughters of Moab began to intermingle with the sons of Israel. This is one thing that HaShem (Hebrew for "the Name" referring to the "unspeakable name of G-d") strictly forbade. There was a reason for that:

While Israel remained at Shittim, the people began to play the harlot with the daughters of Moab. For they invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel joined themselves to Baal of Peor, and the LORD was angry against Israel. (Numbers 25:1-3)

To be honest, this doesn't give us a whole lot of insight, so we tend to look towards commentaries and extra-biblical writings to see what those who have gone before us might have believed. The following comes from the Talmud, a collection of ancient rabbinic writings on Torah (first five books of Moses, comprising the Law of God).

And now, behold I go unto my people; come, therefore, and I will advertise thee what this people shall do to thy people in the latter days. But he should have said, What thy people shall do to this people? — R. Abba b. Kahana said: It is as one who, cursing himself, refers his malediction to others. He [Balaam] said thus to him [Balak]. 'The God of these hates lewdness, and they are very partial to linen. Come, and I will advise thee. Erect for them tents enclosed by hangings, in which place harlots, old women without, young women within, to sell them linen garments.'

So he erected curtained tents from the snowy mountain [Hermon] as far as Beth ha-Yeshimoth [i.e., right from north to south], and placed harlots in them — old women without, young women within. And when an Israelite ate, drank, and was merry, and issued forth for a stroll in the market place, the old woman would say to him, 'Dost thou not desire linen garments?' The old woman offered it at its current value, but the young one for less. This happened two or three times.

After that she would say to him, 'Thou art now like one of the family; sit down and choose for thyself.' Gourds of Ammonite wine lay near her, and at that time Ammonite and heathen wine had not yet been forbidden. Said she to him,

'Wouldst thou like to drink a glass of wine?' Having drunk, [his passion] was inflamed, and he exclaimed to her, 'Yield to me!' Thereupon she brought forth an idol from her bosom and said to him, 'Worship this!' 'But I am a Jew', he protested. 'What does that concern thee?' she rejoined, 'nothing is required but that thou should uncover thyself' — **whilst he did not know that such was its worship.** 'Nay', [said she,] 'I will not leave thee ere thou hast denied the Torah of Moses thy teacher,' as it is written, They went into Baal-peor, and separated themselves unto that shame, and their abominations were according as they loved. Sanhedrin 106a, 17-22

The sons of Israel still didn't understand just how easy it was to slip into idol worship, and neither do we. I don't think we truly understand the definition of the words.

Balaam wanted to do things his own way, and we've been paying the price ever since. He understood that the only way to cut the strength of the people whom God Most High has blessed was to make them foul in the sight of that very same God. This is achieved by getting His people, His called out assembly (the true meaning of "church"), to compromise themselves and their worship. Then their God will be so disgusted by them that He Himself will wipe them out. Truly that was the only way to curse this people.

Don't worry; Balaam didn't get away with it:

The sons of Israel also killed Balaam the son of Beor, the diviner, with the sword among *the rest of* their slain. (Joshua 13:22)

Interestingly enough, Balaam was called a prophet of God before this happened; now he's got the title of diviner. I think this is a good example of what happens when one of God's prophets begins prophesying for a profit, as well as what happens when we want to do things our own way.

The Golden Calf was another good example of the Israelites wanting to do things their own way. Having Moses gone longer than then thought he should be, they decided to try to reach out to God in their own way. Many, when looking at this event, wonder why Aaron went along with this outrageous plan. I have heard it said that he was literally afraid for his life, because of what happened to a man named Hur.

If you remember, Hur was the man who helped Aaron hold Moses' arms up on the day of Joshua's first battle. He was a leader in the tribe of Judah and it was his grandson whom Adonai gifted with all the talents

needed to build the Tabernacle of God per His specifications. The sages find it very interesting that Hur, although spoken of a number of times during the early days of the Exodus, falls from the scene about the same time as this golden calf incident. They believe that when the people demanded that Aaron make them a calf, Hur stood up against them and was killed by the crowd.

Then all the people tore off the gold rings which were in their ears and brought *them* to Aaron. He took *this* from their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool and made it into a molten calf; and they said, "This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt." Now when Aaron saw *this*, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow *shall be* a feast to the LORD." (Exodus 32:3-5)

Now this is what the Talmud has to say about this passage:

A difference of opinion is expressed by R. Tanhum b. Hanilai, who says that the verse quoted refers only to the story of the golden calf, as it is written: And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. What did he actually see? — R. Benjamin b. Japhet says, reporting R. Eleazar: He saw Hur lying slain before him and said [to himself]: If I do not obey them, they will now do unto me as they did unto Hur, and so will be fulfilled [the fear of] the prophet, Shall the Priest and the Prophet be slain in the Sanctuary of God? and they will never find forgiveness. Better let them worship the golden calf, for which offence they may yet find forgiveness through repentance. Sanhedrin 7a, 2-5

Whether this is true or not, I can't say. It does give a new dimension to the story though which makes one think, "How might this apply to our lives in the end times?" Could we have rebellion in the camp, like Korah, and idol worship, like here? Will we have someone stand up, like Phineas, the grandson of Aaron, the High Priest? Or will we make some of the same mistakes as they did, so long ago? Only time will tell if we will learn from the examples that have been laid out before us and be more willing to do it HaShem's way and quit our grumbling. We humans do like to complain and it really only gets us in trouble. Rebellion takes many forms and we want to be very, very sure we are not rebelling against Him, or all will be lost.

After delivering us from Egypt in miraculous ways, teaching us His ways and leading us through the different tests, we finally make it to the

Promised Land. The spies went in, saw the goodness in the land, and yet came out with a bad report concerning the giants in the land. The children of Israel grumbled once again, refusing to go up and take the land for fear of what might happen to their children, and were judged. Forty years more they would wander around the Arabian peninsula before He would take their children into the land.

Even so, the next thing these folks did was say, "We've changed our minds, and we want to go up into the land!"

In the morning, however, they rose up early and went up to the ridge of the hill country, saying, "Here we are; we have indeed sinned, but we will go up to the place which the LORD has promised."

But Moses said, "Why then are you transgressing the commandment of the LORD, when it will not succeed? Do not go up, or you will be struck down before your enemies, for the LORD is not among you. For the Amalekites and the Canaanites will be there in front of you, and you will fall by the sword, inasmuch as you have turned back from following the LORD. And the LORD will not be with you."

But they went up heedlessly to the ridge of the hill country; neither the ark of the covenant of the LORD nor Moses left the camp. Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who lived in that hill country came down, and struck them and beat them down as far as Hormah. (Numbers 14:40-45)

Once again the people wanted to do it their way, in their timing and with their own strength. It never works out for the best that way. Only in Adonai's timing and with His strength will we be able to overcome the giants coming to our land. We don't know what He knows as He can see all things. Why don't we give Him the benefit of the doubt and really do what He tells us to do, even if we can't understand why. We need to truly trust that Abba knows best.

It is truly an issue of trust. The Israelites who came out of Egypt really didn't trust Adonai their Elohim. Even though they had seen His wonders and His outstretched arm, they didn't trust Him enough to follow Him into the Promised Land. Are we so stubborn and hard-hearted that we will refuse to trust Him as well?

Let's Do it Adonai's Way

We all understand that we are created beings, made for His good pleasure, right? We also understand that as His creation, no one could possibly know what is better for us than Adonai Himself, right? So, then why don't we follow His commands fully? Because some **man** told us we don't have to anymore? What does Adonai say? Does Scripture really tell us that because we are under Yeshua's blood, we are under grace and no longer have to follow the Laws of God? We'd better know for sure, for our own sake.

God gave us a handbook on how to walk out this life of faith, yet we refuse to read it. His holy word should lead and guide us. Instead, we stumble through our lives with our hands tied, wondering why we are getting the diseases of Egypt. It is clearly because we are not fully keeping His commandments.

Take, for example, pigs. Your average pig is slaughtered before it reaches the age of one year. Why is that? Could it be because when they get much older they get too diseased to consume? If we really take a good look at this animal that will eat anything and really has no way to thoroughly process most of it, we will see that their bodies quickly become full of parasites and disease. And this is what we put into our bodies, wondering all the while why we get so sick.

The Torah clearly states that pigs are not food. It is that simple. Yet we continue to stuff our faces full of ham and bacon and pork we can find in some of the strangest places. Most gelatins are made from pork, most hot dogs, bologna, and sausage. When we decide to remove this "meat" from our diet, we find ourselves reading labels like never before. It is amazing what food has pork in it. Pizza topping choices become very limited.

During the time in the wilderness Adonai gave us many different Laws applying to different aspects of our lives. Isn't it our best interest to follow the guidelines set out for us by our Creator? Why are we so quick to throw these away? Didn't Moses tell us that if we do these, we would live? Why do we behave as disobedient sons?

The disobedient son looks at the Laws going, "Do I really have to obey all of those rules?" where the obedient son thinks, "How can I keep these the best I can?" The obedient son understands that only a loving Father would be sure to give His son (daughter) rules to live by. If our Father didn't

care, He would allow us to simply run amuck. All good parents know this to be true.

A good example of this is the story of the men who had to bury a body just before Passover. It was their hearts' desire to keep the feast, yet according to His word they were unclean and only one who was clean was permitted.

So Moses told the sons of Israel to observe the Passover. They observed the Passover in the first *month*, on the fourteenth day of the month, at twilight, in the wilderness of Sinai; according to all that the LORD had commanded Moses, so the sons of Israel did.

But there were *some* men who were unclean because of *the* dead person, so that they could not observe Passover on that day; so they came before Moses and Aaron on that day. Those men said to him, "*Though* we are unclean because of *the* dead person, why are we restrained from presenting the offering of the LORD at its appointed time among the sons of Israel?" Moses therefore said to them, "Wait, and I will listen to what the LORD will command concerning you."

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'If any one of you or of your generations becomes unclean because of a *dead* person, or is on a distant journey, he may, however, observe the Passover to the LORD. In the second month on the fourteenth day at twilight, they shall observe it; they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. They shall leave none of it until morning, nor break a bone of it; according to all the statute of the Passover they shall observe it.

'But the man who is clean and is not on a journey, and yet neglects to observe the Passover, that person shall then be cut off from his people, for he did not present the offering of the LORD at its appointed time. That man will bear his sin. If an alien sojourns among you and observes the Passover to the LORD, according to the statute of the Passover and according to its ordinance, so he shall do; **you shall have one statute, both for the alien and for the native of the land.**'" (Numbers 9:4-14)

That last line is the catch here. What it says is this Law applies to anyone who wants to be a part of the family of God, regardless of whether they are Jewish or not. The early church (the called out assembly) understood this. Oh, and by the way, the Greek word translated as "church" is the word "ekklesia", which means, "gathering of the called out ones". This word was first seen in the Greek translation of the Old Covenant Scriptures in reference to the Exodus. If we relate ourselves with the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, this all applies to us.

It is said that the U.S. is the freest country in the world, yet they also say that we have more laws than any other country in the world. Laws are not bad, or should I say, "**God's** Laws are not bad!" They are what give our lives the structure we need. We are God's children, and just like all children we need structure in our lives in order to grow properly. Without that structure, we behave like wild animals and people get hurt.

Just like the Israelites in the wilderness, we too will have to decide whether or not to trust Adonai Tz'vaot with our very lives, or do we want to do it our own way. We need to be like the people who separated themselves from Korah so that they didn't get sucked into the ground with the rest of the rebels. We need to be the people who separate ourselves from Babylon.

After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory. And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird. For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed *acts of* immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality."

I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "**Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues;** for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back *to her* double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her. To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, 'I SIT *as* A QUEEN AND I AM NOT

A WIDOW, and will never see mourning.' For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong." (Revelation 18:1-8)

Christians like to talk about being under the New Covenant, yet they don't really understand what that means. The New Covenant, as described by Ezekiel:

"I will make a covenant of peace with them and eliminate harmful beasts from the land so that they may live securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. I will make them and the places around My hill a blessing. And I will cause showers to come down in their season; they will be showers of blessing. Also the tree of the field will yield its fruit and the earth will yield its increase, and they will be secure on their land. Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bars of their yoke and have delivered them from the hand of those who enslaved them.

"They will no longer be a prey to the nations, and the beasts of the earth will not devour them; but they will live securely, and no one will make *them* afraid. I will establish for them a renowned planting place, and they will not again be victims of famine in the land, and they will not endure the insults of the nations anymore. Then they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are My people," declares the Lord GOD. "As for you, My sheep, the sheep of My pasture, you are men, and I am your God," declares the Lord GOD. (Ezekiel 34:25-31)

"My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and **they will walk in My ordinances and keep My statutes and observe them.** They will live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons and their sons' sons, forever; and David My servant will be their prince forever.

"I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an **everlasting covenant** with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set **My sanctuary** in their midst forever. My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. And the nations will know that I am

the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when **My sanctuary is in their midst forever.**" (Ezekiel 37:24-28)

The covenant of peace is what we are all awaiting. We look to the day when there will be no more tears, no more wars, no more evil in our lives. This is His promise to us; that one day this will all come to pass and if we have been redeemed by Him, we get to share in this utopian world. Yet we can see that within this promise is the assurance that we will walk in His statutes and ordinances. This is why He will write the Laws directly on our hearts. In fact, that's what He is doing, or at least desires to do, in our hearts right now.

This was His plan from the start. He brought us up out of the land of Egypt to make us a royal priesthood, learning His ways so that we could go out and teach them to the world, yet we have not stayed faithful to our call. We need to be as faithful as Joshua and Caleb.

These two men are perfect examples of the remnant. Over six hundred thousand men came out of Egypt, yet only two remained faithful and true and inherited the Promise. How many of those whom the blood of the firstborn had redeemed didn't make it to the Promise Land? What did Joshua and Caleb have that they didn't have? Faith and trust in Adonai Tz'vaot (the Lord of hosts) is what they had. They truly understood that nothing is impossible with God.

So too we must learn this lesson so that we will pass the test. We need to have the heart of the obedient son, willingly and happily following His commands because He has redeemed us from the hand of our owners. Each and every one of us was born into slavery, whether we know it or not. We are slaves to sin and to the rulers of this world. Adam sinned and we have all been affected; our blindness to our sin is part of the result. Without Torah, we can't possibly know what sin is to repent. Without repentance, there can be no forgiveness. Moses taught this time and time again, through his own example.

Indeed, Moses was like a god unto the people. After spending forty days and nights on the mountain in the presence of the Most High God, Moses' face shone so brightly that the people needed him to wear a veil. They simply could not look upon his face, just as they couldn't look upon the face of God Himself. This in itself was a foreshadowing of the coming Messiah. When He comes again in all His glory, mankind will not be able to look upon His face for the glory! Our sins are just too great.

With the exception of the time he was to speak to the rock, Moses always did exactly what Adonai told him to. This is why it went well for Moses and he was protected from all of the plagues and judgments that fell on the rest of the Israelites. When we obey, they we receive the blessings.

Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. Now then, if you will indeed **obey My voice and keep My covenant**, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel." (Exodus 19:3-6)

Adonai El Shaddai made a deal with us and we have failed to live up to our end of the agreement, yet the agreement still stands because He says it does. The question is, does it apply to us? Yes, but only if we want to be a part of the kingdom of God. If we don't care what god we worship, then I guess it doesn't apply. Just how seriously do we take our faith?

Adonai has had a plan from the very beginning. He knew what was going to happen in the garden even before He created us, yet He created us anyway. HaShem created all that is seen and all that is unseen and He cares about our daily lives. He has given us a library full of writings and teachings and stories designed to teach very powerful lessons and He has preserved it down through the ages so that we, you and I, could know and understand His plan.

The library we call the Christian Bible has 66 books made up of the teachings given to Moses, the prophets and the writings (such as Psalms and Proverbs) and the Brit Chadashah (Hebrew for New Covenant). Smack dab in the middle of it all we find the book of Psalms, and the longest chapter of the book of Psalms is chapter 119. Many believe this to be the key to understanding all of Scripture. The 22 stanzas match the 22 letters of the Hebrew alephbet as each one begins with successive letters from aleph to tav. A study of each stanza reveals the meanings behind the letters themselves and give us another, deeper level of understanding.

But besides all of that, there is something else about this chapter that makes it so very special. It is a love song for Torah. This book is literally in the heart of the Bible for that is itself a part of the teaching. Just as a love song for God's Law is found in the heart of Scripture, so too

should Torah remain in our heart. We are to have such a love for God's word that it literally dwells within our hearts.

How can we have that kind of love when we want to be excused from keeping parts of the Law? Has grace become a god? According to the new covenant that we hold so dear, the Torah (God's Law or Teachings) is to be written on our hearts. That word, "Torah" literally means "teachings" but also refers to the first five books of the Bible, written by God through the hand of Moses. It is not limited to those ten commands given from Sinai, but to all of the words of God.

Teach me, LORD, the way of your statutes. I will keep them to the end. (Psalms 119:33)

O how love I thy law! It *is* my meditation all the day. (Psalms 119:97)

All of your words are truth. Every one of your righteous ordinances endures forever. (Psalms 119:160)

If we were to pray those three verses every day for a year, especially prayed aloud, we would find ourselves in love with the Law! David was a man after God's own heart because he loved the Law. He understood what Moses told us; that this is our very life. "Great peace have they which love Your Law!" the psalm tells us. Do you have great peace? I don't... or, at least, I didn't. I am gaining that peace now, because I am falling in love with Torah.

Maybe this might help... Close your eyes (not really, because then you couldn't read what comes next, but you know what I mean) and picture this: You have been raised your whole life to marry one person in particular. You've been betrothed since you were very young, and this is normal in your society. The man you are to marry has some house rules that are different from your own. Would you want to know these rules before the wedding day, or would you like to be surprised? You've been betrothed for years and you don't even know that your groom is allergic to peanuts? How about the fact that he is the trustworthiest person you've ever met, wouldn't you want to help and encourage him in his endeavors? Wouldn't we want to study the same interests? What about his weaknesses? Wouldn't we want to know what they are so that we could compensate for them?

Now imagine this: your fiancé gave you a "cheat sheet", so to speak, listing all the information you could ever need to prepare for a life together with this man. Wouldn't that be lovely? If this man was a sea captain, you could study the oceans and their currents so that when he returned home you could understand that of which he spoke. Do you see what I mean? To

have "all the answers" when it came to dealing with this man so that we could be the best wife ever, anticipating his needs and meeting them before he has realized them, would be a wonderful gift. What man wouldn't want such a mate? What man wouldn't boast of such a wife?!

We have been given such a cheat sheet, but we refuse to read it let alone study it. We have better things to do with our time, or so we think. Because we don't read the guidebook not only can we do nothing to help our mate, but we also go bumbling through life, oblivious of what is really going on around us, headed straight for destruction. This was actually Lucifer's plan for our lives anyway, so at least he'll end up happy. I don't know about you, but that is not what I want!

Our Father loves us very much and wants us to be with Him always, but only if we are willing to do things His way. If not, we are free to leave. He will not force Himself on anyone, but once you've declared yourself His, you are His and no force in heaven or anywhere else can take you away. We are the only one who can mess it up through spiritual adultery, yet we can't clearly define the term because we can't clearly define true faith.

God has a plan and if we want to be a part of us we'd better wise up, get our heads on straight and start studying the manual that He gave us. It may not seem like it at first, but the more of these teachings we embrace, the less we feel shame when reading His Word. We know we should be doing exactly what the text indicates, and when we continue to walk in the stubbornness of our own hearts, the shame can become overwhelming. The only thing that will make it go away is confession, repentance, and obedience.

The Israelites didn't get to step one foot into the Promised Land until they learned to trust Adonai El Shaddai and learned to obey His Word. We too are longing to see the land promised to us so long ago, not just the land flowing with milk and honey, but also the land of peace. The enemy will be coming promising peace as well, and we will be tested just as those who came out of Egypt were tested. Will we follow the world around us and do it our own way, or will we be willing to put our trust in Him, obeying Him even when all seems lost? Our test is coming soon; have you studied?

The Greater Exodus

"Therefore behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when it will no longer be said, 'As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt,' but, 'As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of the north and from all the countries where He had banished them.' For I will restore them to their own land which I gave to their fathers." (Jeremiah 16:14-15)

We identify who our God is by what He has done for us. The first commandment He gave us identified Him for us.

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me." (Exodus 20:2-3)

What God is saying through Jeremiah is that the ingathering to come will be even bigger than the Exodus out of Egypt. The Exodus was great, this is true, but the Exodus to come will be even greater! We saw localized judgments before; this time it will be worldwide. What's coming will make the plagues of Egypt look like child's play. The very way we identify our God will even change.

Throughout Scripture we see references to the ingathering of God's people, the remnant who have devoted themselves to Him fully. Often it is spoken of in terms of its relationship with the Exodus out of Egypt. From Moses to Jeremiah to Paul, we have seen how the prophets tied the two events, using both to declare just who this God is whom we serve. HaShem, the Name, speaks of more than His proper name; it speaks to His authority, His attributes. One of His greatest strengths is His ability not only to recognize His people, no matter how scattered they may be, but also His ability to gather them together once again.

Coming out of the wilderness, before he went up onto the mountain to die, Moses addressed the children of Israel one last time. He warned them not to deviate from the course set before them by their Elohim, but also told them that they would regardless of what he said.

"So watch yourselves, that you do not forget the covenant of the LORD your God which He made with you, and make for yourselves a graven image in the form of anything *against* which

the LORD your God has commanded you. For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

"When you become the father of children and children's children and have remained long in the land, and act corruptly, and make an idol in the form of anything, and do that which is evil in the sight of the LORD your God *so as* to provoke Him to anger, I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will surely perish quickly from the land where you are going over the Jordan to possess it. You shall not live long on it, but will be utterly destroyed.

"The LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD drives you. There you will serve gods, the work of man's hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. **But from there you will seek the LORD your God,** and you will find *Him* if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul. When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, **in the latter days you will return to the LORD your God and listen to His voice.**

"For the LORD your God is a compassionate God; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them. Indeed, ask now concerning the former days which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and *inquire* from one end of the heavens to the other. Has *anything* been done like this great thing, or has *anything* been heard like it? Has *any* people heard the voice of God speaking from the midst of the fire, as you have heard *it*, and survived?

"Or has a god tried to go to take for himself a nation from within *another* nation **by trials, by signs and wonders and by war and by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm and by great terrors,** as the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? To you it was shown that you might know that the LORD, He is God; there is no other besides Him. Out of the heavens He let you hear His voice to discipline you; and on earth He let you see His great fire, and you heard His words from the midst of the fire.

"Because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them. And **He personally brought you from Egypt** by His great power, driving out from before you nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in *and* to give you their land for an inheritance, as it is today.

"Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the LORD, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other. So you shall **keep His statutes and His commandments which I am giving you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you**, and that you may live long on the land which the LORD your God is giving you for all time." (Deuteronomy 4:23-40)

These are the words that Moses spoke to the Israelites just before he died. These are not the words of a later prophet who saw the nation go into apostasy... these were the words of Moses himself. He could see it coming. He could see that we truly are a stiff-necked people. Even though the Bible makes it quite plain that we are to follow the commandments He gave to Moses to give to us, we still want to find some way around them, just like Moses said we would. Therefore, Adonai would have to scatter us into the nations.

But while we are there, scattered among the nations, we will begin to seek Adonai anew. Our hearts will turn towards Him and listen to His voice. It is then that He will gather us back unto Himself and place us back onto the Promised Land. When He does, HaShem will do it by trials, by signs and wonders and by war and by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm and by great terrors. It will truly be like nothing we have ever seen before, nor will we ever see again.

Moses told us that all of these things would happen and indeed they are happening now. We have truly been scattered among all the nations because there is not a nation in the world that has not been touched by the children of Israel. As Adonai El Shaddai promised Abraham, his seed has truly touched the entire world, for Yeshua our Messiah has changed the entire world.

HaShem brought the Israelites out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and He will do so again. Only this time we won't be facing a little regional anti-messiah, we will be facing one indwelt with pure evil, who will have power over the entire world. Well, maybe not the entire world.

Just as there was a small group of people, living in Goshen, who were not touched by the plagues of Egypt, so too will we find a small group of people who will be kept safe from the plagues to come.

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this: 'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, **and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.**

'Behold, I will cause *those* of the synagogue of Satan, **who say that they are Jews and are not**, but lie--I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and *make them* know that I have loved you. Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, **I also will keep you from the hour of testing**, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

'He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'" (Revelation 3:7-13)

Philadelphia means, "The city of brotherly love." For those who have true brotherly love, who keep His word and do not deny His name will be kept from the hour of His testing, which will come upon the whole world. Land of Goshen! What do we have to do to be a part of this group of people? Well, according to Moses, we are supposed to keep His statutes and His commandments that Moses gave to us, which have been written down and preserved for us in the Bible.

The big question we have here is this, "But what about all of those sages and church fathers who tell us that neither *can* we keep, nor are we *expected* to keep these commands now that Yeshua has come and/or the Temple has been destroyed?" To them I say, "Hogwash!" Those are the teachings of disobedient sons who have followed the way of Korah and will perish right alongside him. Those who overcome are obedient sons, who delight to do their Father's will.

So, if this is all true, and the Bible says that it is, what must we do to be a part of the church of Philadelphia? How can we be considered a part of the remnant? I would say the first thing we need to do is admit we've done something wrong. Every time the children of Israel sinned against Adonai their Elohim, Moses would go before Him and confess the sins of Israel. It was his confessing on their behalf that brought out the compassion in God's eyes. We must now learn to confess our own sins, and the sins of our fathers.

"If they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their forefathers, in their unfaithfulness which they committed against Me, and also in their acting with hostility against Me-- I also was acting with hostility against them, to bring them into the land of their enemies--or if their uncircumcised heart becomes humbled so that they then make amends for their iniquity, then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and I will remember also My covenant with Isaac, and My covenant with Abraham as well, and I will remember the land.

'For the land will be abandoned by them, and will make up for its sabbaths while it is made desolate without them. They, meanwhile, will be making amends for their iniquity, **because they rejected My ordinances and their soul abhorred My statutes.** Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them, nor will I so abhor them as to destroy them, breaking My covenant with them; for I am the LORD their God. But I will remember for them the covenant with their ancestors, **whom I brought out of the land of Egypt** in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God. I am the LORD.'" (Leviticus 26:40-45)

You see, we have done just that; we have rejected His ordinances and we abhor His statutes. This is what we are guilty of, and this is what we must confess before Adonai Most High. The problem is, we don't understand what that means. Allow me to explain.

Ordinances is defined (by the New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance) as, "mishpat - *judgment*: - arrangements, case, case, cause, charge, claim, court, crimes, custom, customs, decide, decision, decisions, deserving, destruction, due, injustice, judge, judged, judgment, judgments, just, justice, justly, kind, manner, matters of justice, mode of life, order, ordinance, ordinances, plan, plans, practice, procedure, properly, regulation,

right, rightful place, rights, rule, sentence, sentenced, standard, trial, unjustly, verdict, way prescribed, what is right, and worthy." That was the long of it. The short of it is this: we just don't see things the same way that He does.

The world around us has turned upside down. What was bad is now good, even desirable. This is very true and I'm not disputing this fact one iota, but I have to tell you that this is not exactly what Adonai was talking about. Remember, He is more concerned with our spiritual well being than our political one. His ways are right and true and just, yet we spurn them at every opportunity. He says, "If you keep My ways, you will live," yet we continue to say, "All we need is love." I think we've been listening to the Beatles too long. I think it's time we start listening to what He has to say. Just what is His definition of love?

Without Torah, which contains His definitions of more than just love, we are clueless. The proverbial blonde, we bumble around not quite sure what we're doing, but somehow getting it right in the end. Wouldn't we rather be the wise one who not only understands what is going on, but is able to help others along their path as well? When He says something is an abomination, by golly, it is an abomination. These judgments are not up for debate.

Statutes are defined (also according to the NASEC) as, "*chuqqah - something prescribed, an enactment, statute: - appointed, customs, due, fixed order, fixed patterns, ordinance, ordinances, statute, statutes, and statutory.*" These are the fixed times, the appointments that Adonai Tz'vaot has made with us throughout the Biblical year. Otherwise known as the Feasts of Adonai, we have, for the most part, ignored these holidays in favor of other days.

HaShem has had a plan for His people for quite some time and He has revealed parts of this plan within the celebrating of the feasts and festivals that He gave to Moses. He has revealed many secrets to us, yet we fail to see them because we refuse to look. "I don't have time to read my Bible," or "I don't like the Old Testament, " or "I get all I need at my church/synagogue," is what we continually offer up as excuses, yet not one holds water. Until we get serious about our faith and the more time we give our relationship with our Bridegroom, the better off we will be in the end. Remember, Goshen means, "approaching or drawing near," so if we want to be protected we must be drawing ever closer to Adonai our Elohim and husband.

We were taken out of the land of Egypt to be a nation of priests, and we blew it. We have been given a second chance; let's not blow it again. What

we have coming in terms of judgment, and believe me we all deserve it, makes all other judgments pale in comparison. To be prepared we have to be truly seeking His word in our lives, making each and every applicable Law a part of our lives so that we can be like the prophets of old, standing firm in Him and having His Spirit filling our hearts.

No one knows for sure how exactly He is going to gather up all of His people. We don't know the exact timing, but we have clues to narrow it down. What is "it"? That Day. We all know about it. All of the major religions have an equivalent version of it. Although commonly referred to as, "Judgment Day," it will actually last more than the twenty-four hour time span we call a day. In Scripture, a day can mean an era or a certain time period. Similar titles may include, "The Latter Days," and "The Day of the Lord," or even simply, "That Day."

When we study the Exodus we are given a better understanding of what we too will be facing, in that day. More than that, when we study the Torah given to Moses on the mountaintop, we learn how we can gain the strength we need to overcome in that day. The Torah (Law) Adonai gave us in the wilderness is a handbook for our Exodus out of exile we now endure.

Some are destined for the sword, some for the chopping block, but there are some who are destined to be awaiting His return with gladness in their hearts. These are the people who had been grieving over the appointed feasts. These are the folks collecting palm fronds because they understand it is time to celebrate Sukkot!

He loves us more than we will ever know. We simply cannot understand that kind of love. But deep down within each of us is the desire to worship something or someone greater than us. There are so many false gods that can be worshipped without us really understanding that we are engaging in idol worship, just like the Israelites with the daughters of Moab and Midian. The same thing happened again with the Northern Kingdom. They thought they could simply change the location of worship without changing the God they were worshipping and ended up with Baal (master; lord) worship. Do you think they originally intended to switch gods?

It is easy to accidentally mix in some of the ways of Egypt while we are living in Egypt, but it will make it a lot easier to come out of Babylon when we desire the ways of our Adonai more. Egypt and Babylon are synonymous, just as Pharaoh and Anti-Messiah are.

After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with

his glory. And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird. For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed *acts of* immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality."

I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "**Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues;** for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back *to her* double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her. To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, 'I SIT *as* A QUEEN AND I AM NOT A WIDOW, and will never see mourning.'

"For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong. (Revelation 18:1-8)

There are many people who speculate just who this woman is, this Babylon the Great. Since I tend to look at the spiritual aspect of things, and I know that Babylon was the seat of all the ancient pagan religions, I tend to think of this great harlot as being the church. Not just one church, mind you, but any church, universal, whether in a building called a church or a synagogue or a warehouse or a home. Babylon in my mind's eye is the spiritual seat of all deceit.

Just as Balaam taught, Satan knows that we can make ourselves abhorrent in the eyes of Adonai by compromising our worship. The instant we turn aside, either to the left or to the right, of the commands our Elohim has given us, we get ourselves into trouble. The sooner we learn this lesson, the better off we will be in tribulation. We must fully rely on Adonai, believing what He tells us to be true. Only then will we have the strength we need to stand firm in His word. Only after studying the Word will we have it written on our hearts.

Remember what happened to Korah; remember what happened to Aaron's sons. Think about those poor Ephraimites who set out on their own

strength, only to be slaughtered with only ten remaining. But remember also the cloud of smoke and fire, the Shekinah glory of God, that led them and protected them and provided for them as they made their way out of Egypt and into the wilderness. They experienced His glory first hand.

We too will experience His power and glory first hand. The entire world will witness His glory. They will also witness His protection of His people. Remember, He delivered Israel in the sight of all the nations; so too will He deliver Israel in the sight of all the nations in that day.

It is time for us to return to Adonai. We must listen to His voice and choose this day whom we will serve. If we are going to serve Adonai El Shaddai, then let's do it right. Let us follow the pattern that He gave to Moses back in the wilderness of Sinai. May we join ourselves with all of God's children, down through the ages, who have boldly proclaimed, "All that Adonai has spoken, we will do!"

Do you want to be ready to meet with the Most Holy God? Then you must consecrate yourself, separating from the world around, and cleanse yourself from within. Just as the Tabernacle was designed from the inside out, so we also must be transformed from the inside out. Beginning in the most holy place within our heart, Yeshua, our High Priest, brings the Law of God and writes it directly onto our hearts. How can we then deny this very same Law? Surely to do so would be to deny our very being. And we wonder why there are so many walking wounded, spiritually speaking.

The enemy has been working hard, down through the ages, so undermine our faith and further subjugate us to him. He has infiltrated our churches and synagogues and corrupted our faith and our worship. The shocker is the fact that this did not just happen recently, but happened centuries ago before any of us were born. We have inherited lies.

O LORD, my strength and my stronghold, and my refuge in the day of distress, to You the nations will come from the ends of the earth and say, "Our fathers have inherited nothing but falsehood, futility and things of no profit." (Jeremiah 16:19)

It is true; we have inherited lies. Somewhere along the line someone decided that man can interpret God's Laws (Torah) however he wants, even circumventing the Laws themselves, and the rest of us have to believe him over the Word itself. We hold up the Bible, declaring it to be the Truly Inspired Word of God, yet we don't open it, read or, or believe it.

We are slaves in Egypt (Babylon) and we don't even know it. We have all been born into slavery and have never really tasted freedom. We think we

have, but it is an illusion. "They" have owned us since day one, because they work for the one we sold ourselves to that day back in the garden. Satan is using the very same trick today that has brought him so many victories in days past. He is holding fast to the teachings of Balaam. He is corrupting our faith, our beliefs, with the spirit of compromise. We compromise with the world around us, bending our beliefs and our worship to be more "user friendly" and "seeker sensitive", corrupting our very hearts and souls in the process. And like it or not, we have done it all for financial gain.

The true faith, the true worship of Adonai El Shaddai is outlined clearly for us in Torah. It applies to any and all who call themselves the children of God, even if they are a part of the mixed multitude. Torah is a handbook for life and has the information we need in order to work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12). Day by day we must learn to trust Him, to rely on Him for our provision just as the Israelites had to rely on Him to provide water and manna in the wilderness. We have some trials up ahead and I wonder if we have what it takes to pass those tests, or will we be one of those whose heart becomes hardened and we deny God's power to save.

The religious training that most of us have received has been woefully lacking in real meat. We have been given nothing but milk, and have never moved on to the meat. Therefore we are spiritually malnourished. We spend all of our time reading the commentary, like the Talmud and Epistles of Paul, and forget to read the Torah itself. How can we understand what they are commenting on if we haven't read the original? We can't. Yet we continue to try, to our own peril.

Our God is a great and mighty Elohim, who is mighty to save. Just as He brought us out of Egypt, so too will He bring us out of Babylon, delivering us from the hand of the evil king who wants to destroy us. Instead, He will destroy the destroyer! Three times the call has been made in this study alone, did you see it? We are to come out from the world around us. We must stop looking like the rest of the world. We must stop acting like the rest of the world. We have to stop looking at life with the worldview. We must begin to see life in Adonai's view alone.

We are being called into Goshen, to a place where we can approach a most Holy God. We need to come out of any place that undermines our faith in the One True God, the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Babylon's influence on our faith, both Christian and Jewish, is felt even today. We need to strip away any teaching that does not line up with Torah.

When the Great I Am sent Moses to bring His people out of Egypt, He did not deliver them in the manner they would have expected. He delivered them, yes, but He also tested them to see whether or not their hearts truly trusted Him. So too our hearts will be tested when He gathers us together.

"As I live," declares the Lord GOD, "surely with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out, I shall be king over you. **I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered**, with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out; and I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and **there I will enter into judgment with you face to face**. As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you," declares the Lord GOD.

"I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; **and I will purge from you the rebels and those who transgress against Me**; I will bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but **they will not enter the land of Israel**. Thus you will know that I am the LORD.

"As for you, O house of Israel," thus says the Lord GOD, "Go, serve everyone his idols; but **later you will surely listen to Me**, and My holy name you will profane no longer with your gifts and with your idols. For on My holy mountain, on the high mountain of Israel," declares the Lord GOD, "there the whole house of Israel, all of them, will serve Me in the land; there I will accept them and there I will seek your contributions and the choicest of your gifts, with all your holy things.

"As a soothing aroma I will accept you when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered; and I will prove Myself holy among you in the sight of the nations. And you will know that I am the LORD, when I bring you into the land of Israel, into the land which I swore to give to your forefathers.

"**There you will remember your ways and all your deeds with which you have defiled yourselves; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for all the evil things that you have done**. Then you will know that I am the LORD when I have dealt with you for My name's sake, not according to your evil

ways or according to your corrupt deeds, O house of Israel," declares the Lord GOD.'" (Ezekiel 20:33-44)

When He gathers us together, bringing us out of Babylon, He will be testing us and judging us, and not all of us will make it. This is often referred to as the sheep and goat judgment. This is where we will hear many cries of, "Lord, Lord!" only to hear, "I knew you not." Very sad indeed, yet this is what the Scriptures above confirm.

We need to remember our ways and deeds and how they have defiled us, and then repent, changing our lives and turning back to His ways, leaving the world and its ways behind. Yes, the Egyptian fish was free, but we were eating garbage. Again we find ourselves eating garbage; when will they take away our straw? The sooner we begin relying on His provision, the sooner we can stop depending on the world's provision.

Get to know His voice now. Take time to get to know your Bridegroom. Look to Him and be healed. Allow Him to set up an altar in your heart so that your prayers can go up like incense. Yeshua intercedes on our behalf even better than Moses. Let Him pour out Living Water to refresh and restore your soul. Expect to receive the hidden manna.

One Last Word

Let us take the advice given to us by Moses just before he died. We need to learn these lessons if we want to receive the blessings.

"So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call *them* to mind in all nations where the LORD your God has banished you, and you **return to the LORD** your God and **obey Him** with all your heart and soul **according to all that I command you today**, you and your sons, then the LORD your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will **gather you again** from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back. The LORD your God will **bring you into the land** which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and **He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers**.

"Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live. The LORD your God will inflict all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you.

"And you shall again **obey the LORD, and observe all His commandments which I command you** today. Then the LORD your God will prosper you abundantly in all the work of your hand, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your cattle and in the produce of your ground, for the LORD will again rejoice over you for good, just as He rejoiced over your fathers; **if you obey the LORD your God to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law**, if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and soul.

"**For this commandment** which I command you today **is not too difficult for you**, nor is it out of reach. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?' Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross the sea for

us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?' But the word is very near you, **in your mouth and in your heart**, that you may observe it.

"See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity; in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to **walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments**, that you may live and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it. But if your heart turns away and you will not obey, but are drawn away and worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall surely perish. You will not prolong *your* days in the land where you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess it.

"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. **So choose life** in order that you may live, you and your descendants, **by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him**; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them." (Deuteronomy 30:1-20)

Basically what Moses just said was this: "Return to the LORD; obey Him according to all that I command you today. He will gather you again and bring you into the land. He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. Obey the LORD, and observe all His commandments which I command you. Obey the LORD your God to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law. For this commandment is not too difficult for you in your mouth and in your heart walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments. So choose life by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him."

Return to Adonai and His ways, obeying all that He has commanded, and He will gather you together with the rest of His people and bring you into the land that He promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, prospering us even more than they. This will only happen if we obey His commands and keep His statutes. These are the guidelines by which we are to live. If we follow these simple guidelines, we will prosper greater than all those who have gone before and our enemies will suffer. We must put these commands in our

mouths, teaching them to our children, and in our hearts, using them to direct our lives.

The children of Israel were told to take a lamb that they had chosen from the entire flock because of its perfection, sacrifice it and use its blood to bring protection to their households. They didn't understand why this needed to be done; they simply did it because Adonai said so. So too we don't know why Adonai has given us all of these feasts and festivals to celebrate; we just need to celebrate them as best we can because He said so. Maybe then we will be the bride who is prepared for the coming of the Bridegroom.

A long, long time ago in a country far, far away, a Most Holy God took to Himself a special people and called them Israel. In a short time He will be returning to bring judgment first upon the household of God, then upon the entire world. When He is done, He will have his bride fully prepared for the wedding feast. The guests will have arrived (angelic?) and the chuppah erected and we will begin the "happily ever after" we've all be dreaming of.

The Exodus out of Egypt was a foreshadowing of the coming in gathering of the children of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who've been scattered worldwide. This teaching is found throughout the Scriptures, from Moses to Jeremiah to Paul, yet it is not taught in most schools of faith. Why is that? Could this be one of those hidden teachings that are revealed through the Spirit if one will only take the time to search the Scriptures?

"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law." (Deuteronomy 29:29)

O Heavenly Father, most merciful and ever-loving God, we praise and bless Your holy name. From everlasting to everlasting You are faithful and true, ruling in righteousness and bestowing lovingkindness to those who love You and keep Your commandments. Grant us, we pray, the wisdom and knowledge that can only come from You, so that we might understand these parables You have given us in Your word. O Adonai, our hearts ache for the abominations, the apostasies, happening in our midst, enjoyed and encouraged by all around. Make Your Word dwell richly in the hearts of Your people, engraining it into our very souls. May we be the people You have made us to be; a holy priesthood unto Your name, O Adonai Tz'vaot. We have sinned constantly and continually and we now come before You repenting of those deeds and that lifestyle, embracing instead the path You have chosen for us.

Teach us, O God, the ways of Your statutes and testimonies so that we can walk in them as You have commanded. Continue the work You have begun in us, cleaning out the cobwebs and filling us with Your light from within. Cleanse us and we shall be cleansed, heal us and we shall be healed. Pour out Your spirit upon Your people, making us to be the bride You deserve.

Blessed are You, Adonai our Elohim, maker of all that is seen and unseen. There is nothing outside of Your power and Your will and we trust in Your mighty hand and outstretched arm. Stretch out Your arm once again, and gather together Your flock. Remove from us the false shepherds who lead us astray so that You Yourself can lead and guide us into the pastures You have promised us so long ago. Keep us under the shadow of Your wings in the days ahead and strengthen us. Give us the desire to know You more clearly so that we can love You more dearly, causing the desire to follow You more nearly, day by day.

Blessed is Your holy name, O Lord God of Hosts, for You have given us a wonderful gift, with value beyond compare. May You remember the atonement of Yeshua, the Lamb of God who was worthy, is worthy, and ever more shall be to open the seals. Cover us, Your children, with the precious blood of our Lamb, our Savior, our Messiah. Keep us save within the palm of Your hand, teaching us, leading us and guiding us along the way so that in the end we will be awake and ready for Your return, as our Glorious Bridegroom. Shema Yisrael, Adonai Elohenu, Adonai Echad. Baruch shem k'vod malkhuto l'olam va'ed. Yeshua HaMashiach, hu Adonia. Hear O Israel, the Lord your God, the Lord is One. Blessed be His name, whose glorious kingdom is forever and ever. Yeshua the Messiah, He is Lord! Amein.