



EIKEV – REWARD

Deuteronomy 7:12 to 11:25

Isaiah 49:14 to 51:3

Hebrews 12:1-29

Luke 4:1-13

In the last study *Va'etchanan*, we learned that the Word (the Gospel) that was in the beginning (Genesis/*Beresheet*), was the same Word Moses imparted to the people and the same Word we hear today. We also learned from Paul in Romans that “*death reigned from Adam to Moses.*” Paul did not say, “*death reigned from Adam to Yeshua.*”

📖 **Romans 5:14** “Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to *Moses*.”

In this study *Eikev*, Moses continues to give wisdom and to carefully go over the details of life contained within the Gospel so it will go well for the Children of Israel when they return to the Promised Land. It is through Moses that we learn how to walk in Yeshua’s righteousness. Without the impartation of our Messiah through the wisdom of Moses our faith has no foundation, will be weak and ineffectual.

📖 **2Timothy 1:8-10** “Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God/*Elohim*, who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace [*through the gospel*] which was given to us in Christ Jesus/Yeshua HaMashiach before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ/Yeshua HaMashiach,”

📖 **Romans 10:4-5** “For Christ/*Messiah* is the end of the law *for righteousness to everyone who believes*. For Moses writes about *the righteousness [,] which is of the law*, “The man who does those things shall live by *them* [*what is written in the law*].” ”

Messiah is the goal of the law for righteousness. The law of righteousness is Yeshua. During the time from Adam to Moses, the Gospel was not *formally written as law for the people* on the earth yet. It was not until the Ten Commandments were written on two stone tablets at Mount Sinai that the Israelites fully accepted the Gospel *as their law of righteousness*. Under oath, the people verbalized to live according to it. The Commandments then became *the people’s standard*

or *the law of life in Yeshua* for all generations. Thus, Messiah is the end/*telos*, goal, or purpose of *the law for righteousness* (John 5:46-47).

Moses made sure, in his last words to the Israelites, why it was crucial to keep *the law of righteousness*. With the people pledging to obey, they were then bound by their own words. If they did not honor their word, their rejection would bind them *to the law of sin and death (contained in the law of righteousness)*. That is why “Moses” is the witness against them and why he stressed over and over again for the people to be very careful to obey the vow they made.

📖 **Numbers 30:2** “If a man makes a vow to the LORD/*Yahweh*, or swears an oath to bind himself by some agreement, he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth” (Leviticus 5:4; Nahum 1:15).

📖 **Deuteronomy 23:21-23** “When you make a vow to the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim*, you shall not delay to pay it [*pay* - Strong’s H7999 שָׁלַם *shalam* means *to complete, finish, make good your vow, restore, perform, be at peace*]; for the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim* will surely require it of you, and it would be sin to you. But if you abstain from vowing, it shall not be sin to you. That which has gone from your lips you shall keep and perform, for you voluntarily vowed to the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim* what you have promised with your mouth.”

📖 **Deuteronomy 7:11-13** “Therefore you shall keep [*Keep what? Your vow*] [*keep* - Strong’s H8104 שָׁמַר *shamar* means *to keep, guard, observe, perform, protect*] [*to*] the commandment, the statutes, and the judgments [*The Gospel*] which I command you today, to observe them. Then it shall come to pass, **because you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them, that the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim* will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers.**”

Moses taught that if the people observed all the words of their affirmation, God/*Elohim* would love, bless, and multiply them. He would bless the fruit of their womb as well as the fruit of their land with new grain, wine, and oil. Their flocks would also multiply, and all sickness be kept from them. They would be delivered from their enemy and not live in fear. This God/*Elohim* would give to them little by little to strengthen them in the process (Deuteronomy 7:14-24).

📖 **Deuteronomy 7:21-23** “You shall not be terrified of them; for the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim*, the great and awesome God/*Elohim*, is among you. And the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim* will drive out those nations before you little by little; you will be unable to destroy them at once, lest the beasts of the field become *too* numerous for you. But the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim* will deliver them over to you, and will inflict defeat upon them until they are destroyed.”

Torah's Covering

God's/*Elohim* people are instructed to keep a daily inventory. They are to examine their heart and take every thought captive. If believers feel they may have violated the Torah or come in contact with uncleanness, they are required to rectify it quickly and not allow it linger or take root becoming part of their nature.

📖 **Matthew 5:23-26** “Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.

Believers are to ask themselves, “*Are my thoughts from God/Elohim, self or Satan?*” “*Do my conduct, clothing, association, and lifestyle match with my confession?*” If not, ask, “*Have I missed the mark and am I out of order in Yeshua?*” Any opposition to obedience within one's self will cause a missed blessing. The Words Moses shared are as relevant today as they were in the Wilderness. That is why Moses and his writings are shared at length in the New Testament/*Brit Chadasha*.

📖 **Isaiah 52:7** “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news [*the Gospel*], who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good *things*, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God/*Elohim* reigns!’ ”

📖 **Luke 9:1-6** Then He [*Yeshua*] called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God/*Elohim* and to heal the sick. And He said to them, ‘Take nothing for the journey, neither staffs nor bag nor bread nor money; and do not have two tunics apiece. Whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. And whoever will not receive you, when you go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet as a testimony against them.’ So they departed and went through the towns, preaching *the gospel* and healing everywhere” (Mark 16:15-20).

In Luke 9:1-6, it was the beginning of Yeshua's ministry, and He was commissioning His twelve disciples on their first missions trip. Note what Yeshua instructed them to preach - *The Gospel*. Many Christians are taught that the Gospel was birth in Acts 2 with the death and resurrection life of Yeshua. However, here we have Yeshua instructing His people what to preach before He died or resurrected. The words Yeshua taught all His disciples before the cross were the same words Moses imparted on Mount Sinai – *called the Gospel* (John 5:46-47).

What Moses taught personifies the *holiness* of Yeshua's teaching in the New Testament/*Brit Chadasha*. His word is how to walk in the order of Melchizedek (*Davidic Covenant*). That same word will bind two separated disobedient sticks (Two Houses or Kingdoms) in Yeshua's authority and raise a valley full of dry slain bones to life (Ezekiel 37). His word gives resurrection spirit life to lifeless and fruitless bodies. Again, the Gospel connection is seen in both Ezekiel's prophecies of the two sticks and a valley of dry bones coming to life becoming a vast army, and the latter-day Melchizedek priesthood as promised to a single people - *the nation of Israel*.

📖 **Ezekiel 37:16-19** “As for you, son of man, take a stick for yourself and write on it: ‘For Judah and for the children of Israel, his companions.’ Then take another stick and write on it, ‘For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and *for* all the house of Israel, his companions.’ Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick, and they will become one in your hand. And when the children of your people speak to you, saying, ‘Will you not show us what you *mean* by these?’ say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD/*Elohim*: ‘Surely I will take the stick of Joseph, which *is* in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick [*echad/united in agreement. A firm tree*], and they will be one [*echad/united in agreement to My Covenant*] in My hand.’”

- One: Strong's H0259 עֶחָד 'echad meaning united with something. Two in one accord or agreement. A tree is a unity of trees.
- Stick: Strong's H6086 עֵצ 'ets meaning *firm tree. Wood, tree, staff, stick, branch.*

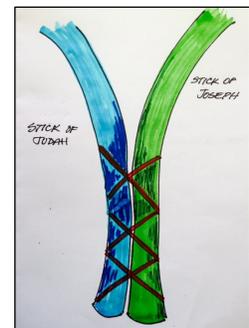
In Ezekiel's prophecy of the two sticks (representing two people groups: the House of Joseph/*Northern Kingdom* and the House of Judah/*Southern Kingdom*), they were found in two separate positions, which means they had broken their “blood” Covenant with God/*Elohim* by *their* transgressing against it. Two kingdoms were always in existence. However, only during the time of King David and King Solomon did the two kingdoms coexist. During this period, they were united in *one* goal and *one* purpose, walking in agreement with God's/*Elohim blood* Covenant. It was *His blood* that bound them together as one nation or one people group - called the *Whole House of Israel* (Ephesians 2). However, without obedience to His Covenant, there would be no binding. That was how the separation occurred. After King Solomon's reign, his son King Rehoboam of Judah lost his kingship over the House of Joseph. Sin breached the Covenant, which broke the bond between the two kingdoms and caused their separation. Therefore, due to the contention and wars between them, they could no longer live unity as one nation.

Sin is still what separates the two kingdoms today. That is why Ezekiel's prophecy in Chapter 37 describing *how* God/*Elohim* will repair the breach between the two Houses is so important. Redemption through circumcision of the heart renews and returns His people back to Covenant agreement, bound in Yeshua's blood. Obedience to God's/*Elohim* Covenant is the only condition under which the Two Houses (along with all who walk in Covenant with the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) will sojourn and come together.

🌿 **Ezekiel 37:19** ‘Surely I will take the stick of Joseph, which *is* in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick [*echad/united in agreement. A firm tree*], and they will be one [*echad/united in agreement to My Covenant/blood*] in My hand [*of authority*].’”

🌿 **Luke 22:19-20** “And He [*Yeshua*] took bread, gave thanks and broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, saying, ‘This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ Likewise He also *took* the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup *is* the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.’”

Some have taught that the two sticks in Ezekiel 37 will not stay “two *kingdoms*” but become “one *stick or branch*” in the Father’s hand. However, *how* they become one stick is missing from their teaching. If the *two houses have not reconciled with the blood* (i.e., *sanctified themselves*), then there is no coexisting between Houses, as the blood Covenant can only be understood through *Moses and the Prophets in Yeshua*. That is why great arguments, controversies, and disagreements have broken out between the two houses over this teaching today. Some even say there will no longer be two kingdoms or twelve tribes but “*one new man*.” This One New Man theory infers assimilation has occurred. If that is true, where does this leave Israel’s identity as twelve individual identifiable tribes, especially if Yeshua, our High Priest, serving in the Heavenly Tabernacle today, wears engraved on His breastplate and shoulders *all twelve tribes*? How do these theories reconcile Israel’s identity if all twelve tribes are in one solid stick or one new man? That theory was not the context of Ezekiel’s prophecy. The protocol of Ezekiel was for *man to reconcile his sin and to return to the Covenant bound by oath in the blood thereby renewing himself back to God/Elohim*. If God’s/*Elohim* people do not sanctify themselves then, this teaching on the two houses becoming one stick or one new man is all heresy. *Sanctification* is the purpose behind the binding of the two sticks, *as the binding can only be with blood*. When His people do reconcile, they restore again in unity/*echad/one* keeping their identity in all twelve individual tribes. Not only do the twelve reconcile but all those who desire to sojourn along with the twelve in Covenant with the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob also come into the bond. They then come under God’s/*Elohim* hand of authority (*The Branch of Righteousness*) representing His heavenly government on the earth – called the Whole House of Israel. Thus, the two kingdoms unite (*one/echad*) in one *mind* and one *purpose* in Him once again (Zechariah 3:8; Jeremiah 23:5; Isaiah 60:21).



🌿 **Ephesians 2:14-18** “For He Himself is our peace, who has made both [*Houses*] one [*echad/united*], and has broken down the middle wall of separation [*the veil/sin*], having abolished in His flesh [*body*] the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances [*in the law of sin and death*], so as to create in Himself one new man [*New Strong’s G2537 kainos meaning re-newed. Not brand new. Man Strong’s G444 anthropos meaning human beings/believers renewed in the image of God/Elohim through sanctification*] from the two [*people groups/kingdoms - Ezekiel 37*], thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both [*two people groups*] to God/*Elohim* in one body

[in Yeshua] through the cross [His blood], thereby putting to death the enmity [of sin and death]. And He came and preached peace [sanctification/reconciliation through the Gospel of Peace] to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.”

📖 **Romans 11:25-27** “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel [*House of Judah/Southern Kingdom*] until the fullness of the Gentiles [*House of Israel/Northern Kingdom*] has come in. And so all Israel [*the Whole House of Israel*] will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob [*Israel*]; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.”

📖 **1Thessalonians 4:3-8** “For this is the will of God/*Elohim*, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles [*Nations*] who do not know God/*Elohim*; that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. For God/*Elohim* did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. Therefore he who rejects *this* does not reject man, but God/*Elohim*, who has also given us His Holy Spirit” (2Thessalonians 2:13-14).

📖 **Ezekiel 34:13-16** “And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land; I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them in good pasture, and their fold shall be on the high mountains of Israel. There they shall lie down in a good fold and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I will feed My flock, and I will make them lie down,’ says the Lord GOD/*Elohim*. ‘I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick; but I will destroy the fat and the strong, and feed them in judgment.”

As believers, we must understand that while being filled with the Spirit covers us it is not until we walk *under His heavenly authority* that we are one/*echad* in Yeshua. *Authority* in God’s/*Elohim* Kingdom comes when we obey His Gospel found in our Mosaic Covenant, which includes honoring God’s/*Elohim* Feast Days, His Sabbaths, and His clean holy ways (plus what He says is food for us). Accepting His ways blesses and covers us in His Kingdom *authority*. As believers, we may be filled with the Spirit and speak in tongues but if we are still eating meat with blood (walking in sexual impurity) or eating a pepperoni pizza, we are placing impure blood and pork on the altar of His Tabernacle *within* us. This is not a salvation issue but a matter of our obedience to the confession we made to honor His word in our lives (Exodus 19:5-6; Ezekiel Chapters 16 and 44; Amos 9:11; Act 15:16-21; 2Corinthians 6:16-7:1; 1Peter 2:9; Hebrews 4).

📖 **Hebrews 12:1-2** “Therefore, since we [*believers*] are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and

let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Yeshua, the **author** and **perfecter** of our faith...”

- ✚ **Hebrews 12:10-14** “God/*Elohim* disciplines us [*believers*] for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Therefore [*Believers*], strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. ‘Make level paths for your feet,’ so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed. [*Believers*] Make every effort to live in peace with all men [*love your neighbor*] and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.”

It is through obedience to His Word/Gospel (His blood) that binds the broken hearted and keeps believers safe (*The Tree of Life – The Law of Life*). However, if His people have not kept their word, *their* dishonor will bind them (*The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil – The Law of Sin and Death*). It is in obedience to His Principles/*truth* that the captives are set free.

- ✚ **Proverbs 12:13** “The wicked is ensnared by the transgression of *his* lips”
- ✚ **Luke 4:18** “The Spirit of the LORD/*Yahweh* is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to *the* poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to *the* captives and recovery of sight to *the* blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed;”
- ✚ **Galatians 5:1** “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ/*Messiah* has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”
- ✚ **Isaiah 49:6** “Indeed He says, ‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles [*Nations*], that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

The Progression Of Sin

God/*Elohim* warns His people that sin can enter many different ways. We learned that if believers do not honor *the* vow of salvation they pledged to God/*Elohim*, *their* action would be what condemns and binds them.

- ✚ **2Thessalonians 2:9-12** “The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they [*believers*] did not receive [*obey*] the love of the truth, that they might be saved [*this is a reference not for salvation but for sanctification*]. And for this reason God/*Elohim* will send them [*believers*] strong delusion, that they [*believers*] should believe the lie, that they [*believers*] all may be condemned who did not believe the truth [*honor their word to keep Covenant with God/Elohim*] but had pleasure

in unrighteousness [*acts of sin*].”

Other entry points of sin are *the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life*. These entry points lead to *grumbling and complaining, and presumption, which leads to a spirit of covetousness*. A spirit of covetousness leads to a *perverse spirit*. A *perverse spirit leads to a seductive spirit (adultery)*, and a *seductive spirit leads to idolatry and the worship of other gods*. We see this progression all through the Bible. King Solomon was one who fell in this manner. Yeshua spoke of it regularly, especially to the Pharisees. Paul was a master ambassador for Yeshua and taught on the holiness of the blood among an unclean people who desired to walk in righteousness. Wherever he went, he professed Moses and the Prophets because many of the people were from the lost House of Israel. All of Paul’s letters are filled with *how* to be set free from the progression of sin and walk in the law of liberty.

Moses was well aware that once the Children of Israel entered the land, they would become complacent and fall into the progression of sin. Nevertheless, he was faithful to fulfill his duty. That was why he outlined *the Gospel* one last time for the Children of Israel. These last words became Moses’ epitaph and farewell speech.

The Progression Of Sin *Idols and Detestable Things* Deuteronomy 7:25-26

As part of the Covenant conditions, Moses warned the people to keep separate from the nations and not worship their idols, or they would become ensnared and perish along with them.

📖 **Deuteronomy 7:16** “And you shall destroy all the peoples whom the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim* delivers over to you; your eye shall have no pity on them; nor shall you serve their gods, for that *will be* a snare to you.”

📖 **Deuteronomy 7:25-26** “You shall burn the carved images of their gods with fire; you shall not covet the silver or gold *that is* on them, nor take *it* for yourselves, lest you be snared by it; for it *is* an abomination to the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim*. Nor shall you bring an abomination into your house, lest you be doomed to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest it and utterly abhor it, for it *is* an accursed thing.”

God’s/*Elohim* people must be careful not to covet images, gods other cultures, or invite them into their homes. To admire them or place them before God/*Elohim* is an abomination. He calls us to burn them in the fire and not regard the gold and silver in them. The detestable can innocently be given access into a believer’s life when bought as souvenirs or items of arts and crafts. These items can be symbolic of that country’s pagan idol, god or other religious relics. Lifting up other cultures or religions mementos, shrines or places of worship are all forms of *worshipping the high places*. We are cautioned not to covet, bring them into our homes, or put in places of importance in our lives, or we will perish along with them.

I once met a Christian wearing a voodoo doll on a necklace because her father said it would bless her health. Another believer wore a Native Indian occult warrior design on the back of their jacket and another who wore pieces of jewelry depicting Aztec gods purchased on their travels because they liked them as pieces of art. Often believers have no idea what lawlessness they place before God/*Elohim*, *who is holy*.

📖 **Hosea 4:6** “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge.”

Coveting people, places or things are forms of *idol worship*. Lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, and pride of life all stem from coveting. God/*Elohim* warns His people against these forms of worship (1John 2:16). As we learned in the study of *Balak*, lust can ensnare believers by eating what He forbids, and tolerating wrong associations, assuming workaholic lifestyles or seeking worldly pleasures that are opposed to His Covenant. These examples show how God’s/*Elohim* people invite other gods and their spiritual activity into their homes and lives. These idols may have eye appeal, and even cost a significant amount, but they are unacceptable abominations before God/*Elohim*, as they represent false gods and pagan religions before Him (Deuteronomy 7:25-26).

The rich young ruler in Luke 18:18-23, came to Yeshua asking how to inherit eternal life. He had no idea he was given eternal life when he came to salvation (Abrahamic Covenant) as his possessions had blinded the way, which prevented him from entering. Yeshua perceived the idol in his heart and told him to honor the Covenant. Still not able to understand, Yeshua plainly spoke to the root of his difficulty. It was not “money” that concerned Yeshua, but the spirit of covetousness that blinded him. Yeshua instructed this young man how to be released from the spirit of covetousness. “*Sell your possessions*” and in his repentance, the veil barring his entry into eternity would tear open, releasing him to enter. However, the rich ruler could not *see* or *hear* Yeshua. Valuing his possessions more highly than honoring God’s/*Elohim* Commandments, he sadly turn away, clutching his possessions.

📖 **Luke 18:18-23** “Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, ‘Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’ So Jesus/*Yeshua* said to him, ‘Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God/*Elohim*. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’ And he said, ‘All these things I have kept from my youth.’ So when Jesus/*Yeshua* heard these things, He said to him, ‘You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me [*eternity*].’ But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.”

📖 **Exodus 20:3** “You shall have no other gods before Me.”

📖 **Numbers 33:51-52** “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you have crossed the Jordan into the land of Canaan, then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, destroy all their engraved stones, destroy all their molded

images, and demolish all their high places’”

The Progression Of Sin - *The Asherah Pole*

Growing up in West Vancouver, in British Columbia, Canada, our family home was situated fifty feet above a beautiful creek that flowed through West Coast Native Indian land. In the fall, salmon would swim up to spawn in this protected fisheries stream. My father loved West Coast Native art and acquired one of the last deep-carved totem poles in the region. The day it arrived, five chiefs from three generations and differing tribes also came in full regalia. They sought the best location pleasing to the spirits and then performed a ceremony dedicating our property to the three gods carved upon the pole. After all the official duties were complete, my father secured the coveted sacred idol overlooking the stream beside our house on the side of the hill.



Unknowingly we had opened our lives to the enemy’s realm. Over time, the physical and spiritual significance of accepting and worshipping these gods became evident. *God/Elohim* is as faithful to the curse as He is to the blessing. Eventually, the unclean spirits prevailed in our lives and on our property. About the time the Asherah totem pole came into our lives, our family began to suffer emotionally and physically. Over the years, it took a toll on our lives. One terrible night, the household woke with the earth shaking and a thunderous rumbling noise. In the morning we found that much of the property except the ground where the totem pole stood had slid down the bank into the river below. The trees, beautifully landscaped garden, patio with the lawn furniture, were all gone in an instant. The house was intact but now sat precariously close to the edge of an unstable cliff. Only a small part of the original property was left, along with the totem pole. Poverty, alcohol abuse, and divorce soon ate away at our family and resources. Several years later, when the house sold, the totem pole was removed and returned to those who carved it. Through all of our tragedies, my parents and I sought Yeshua as our Lord and Savior. In our repentance, He saved us, healed us, and restored us (Exodus 34:13; Deuteronomy 7:5; 12:3; 16:21).

🦁 **Deuteronomy 7:26** “Do not bring a detestable thing into your house or you, like it, will be set apart for destruction. Utterly abhor and detest it, for it is set apart for destruction.”

What ways do we falsely worship *God/Elohim* and what things open our lives to the detestable? Here are just a few idols our Western culture elevates:

- Christmas worship. The Christmas tree (a male phallic symbol with balls, which is a modern-day Asherah pole that people bow down/worship for gifts – Jeremiah 10:3-4), Mistletoe, Santa Claus, stockings, Yule log, and wreaths (all symbols of the worship of Tammuz, the Queen of Heaven, and the celebration of the Feast of Saturnalia).

- Easter worship and Easter bunnies, eggs and hot cross buns (Worship of Tammuz and of sacrificing the firstborn to Baal through sexual immorality and the worship of the heavenly host)
- Angelic images and objects of worship (worship of Greek mythological gods)
- Everything associated with the celebration of Halloween (Satan's Day)
- Abhorred forms of worship found in secret societies like Freemasonry, fraternities, and sororities, and their symbols (Vows that bind to another master/kingdom other than the one true God/*Elohim*)
- False religions such as Buddhism, Islam, and Hinduism, religious symbols, idols, foreign gods, and obelisks
- Yoga, Pilates, horoscopes, martial arts like karate, pagan symbols, dream catchers (Eastern mysticism. All have roots in astrology, the worship of the host of heaven Deuteronomy 4:19)
- Pharmacia (Strong's G5331 meaning *sorcery/witchcraft*. When Pharmacia becomes a god, which includes prescription drugs or homeopathic remedies, that masks the illness instead of going to the spiritual root of the problem for our health. Galatians 5:19-21; Revelation 18:23)
- Acupuncture, psychology, occultic forms of massage, Reiki (Forms of occultic worship)
- Science fiction, occultic music, occultic books, and movies like Harry Potter, Science Fiction, and many Disney animated movies, which are loaded with magic, spells and demons. Mind control courses, mazes (including coloring mazes), and the list could go on and on...

Deuteronomy 8:1-3 “Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the LORD/*Yahweh* swore to your fathers. And you shall remember that the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim* led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you *and* test you, to know what *was* in your heart, whether you would KEEP [*do*] His commandments or not. So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; *but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD/Yahweh.*”

🏰 **Deuteronomy 8:4, 6-9** “Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim*, to walk in His ways and to fear Him. For the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim* is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones *are* iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper” (Deuteronomy 29:5).

Thankfulness

🌿 **Deuteronomy 8:10-18** “Observe the commands of the LORD/*Yahweh*, walking in His ways and revering Him. When you have eaten and are satisfied (after the meal), praise LORD/*Yahweh* for the good land He has given you.”

We see in the New Testament/*Brit Chadasha* that both Yeshua and Paul gave the blessing *before* a meal. This blessing had to do with the offerings listed in Leviticus Chapters 1-7. However, God/*Elohim* also commands us to remember to thank Him *after* the meal. The reason is to protect His people from idol worship. The Word says that if we are not thankful *after* the meal, we will be inclined to forget God's/*Elohim* provision and get caught up in the riches of the land. Then our hearts will become proud of what *we* have done and be led astray, enticed by other gods to worship, quickly forgetting His abundant blessings in our lives.

“Then you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth. And you shall remember the *Yahweh* your God/*Elohim*, for *it is* He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day” (Deuteronomy 8:17-18; Hebrews 4).

In Romans, Paul exposes the root of this in a more sobering thought...

🌿 **Romans 1:18-32** “For the wrath of God/*Elohim* is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God/*Elohim* is manifest in them, for God/*Elohim* has shown *it* to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God/*Elohim*, they did not glorify *Him* as God/*Elohim*, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God/*Elohim* into an image made like corruptible man - and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God/*Elohim* also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God/*Elohim* for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

“For this reason God/*Elohim* gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God/*Elohim* in *their* knowledge, God/*Elohim* gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, backbiters, haters of God/*Elohim*, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God/*Elohim*, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”

Remember And Never Forget

📖 **Deuteronomy 9:7-10:5** “Remember! Do not forget how you provoked the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim* to wrath in the wilderness” (Deuteronomy 9:7).

What are we to remember today that could cause God’s/*Elohim* anger? When the people refused *to keep their Covenant vow* (Gospel), they quickly tried to fill the void with the worship of an idol – the golden calf. It is the same for believers today. Our vow will condemn us if we are not true to our confession. Therefore, we are called to remember and be responsible to our commitment by honoring The Word, so that it will go well for us.

There is hope in all this as we read Ezekiel 11:19

📖 **Ezekiel 11:19** “Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh.”

After forty days on Mount Sinai, Moses returned with the newly inscribed tablets in his hands for the Children of Israel. This prophetic picture is Yeshua’s grace and mercy. God’s/*Elohim* renewal that day of the Marriage Covenant is a prophecy that is still being fulfilled even in our day. We witnessed this in Acts Chapter one, when forty days after Yeshua’s death and resurrection His disciples asked Him, “***Lord [Yeshua], wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?***” (Acts 1:6). They were not asking about His death and resurrection but about *the reunification of the Two Houses*, His witness of heaven on earth in those who carry His truth. The Feast of Shavuot/*Pentecost* in Acts 2 was not the start of something new, but the beginning of His renewal to restore *Israel to the Heavenly Kingdom*. When the two witnesses of the Messiah (the House of Israel and the House of Judah), truly obey their Covenant (the Gospel given at Mount Sinai), they will come together. *This is the restoration of the Kingdom to Israel* (Hebrews 8:8-10).

Yeshua wants His people to remember *His Words* and to observe the protocol of our commitment to Him. We see Peter reminding us when he quoted Exodus 19:5-6 saying we are a *royal priesthood, a holy nation*. Yeshua wants us to inherit and keep all of His promised blessings in our lives – and inherit the Land. He wants to pour out His blessings upon us. That is His abundant love and mercy toward us. We are commanded never to forget *how to walk in His ways*.

📖 **1Peter 2:9-10** “But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God/*Elohim*, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy” (Exodus 19:5-6).

📖 **Malachi 4:4-6** “Remember [*our confession to the Word*] the Law of Moses, My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes [*blessings*] and judgments [*curses*]. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD/*Yahweh*. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”

We are called to encourage our children and the next generations in *The Way* of the words held in His Covenant to help them also become good stewards who love to obey His words. Our children are commanded to live by His Words, as *every word* spoken by God/*Elohim* is relevant for *today*. His words are not to be given as rote academia or received as head knowledge, but truly lived with a whole heart and walked with purpose in our lives, as that is *the good news of the Gospel* to share with others. We are to be people who never grow tired of hearing the Words of *Our Father*. The Word spoken at Mount Sinai became *flesh* and dwelt among us. He is Yeshua, the Living Word (Genesis 1:1; John 1:1,14).

If You Remember Your Commitment To My Words

📖 **Deuteronomy 11:22-25** “For if you carefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do - to love the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim*, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him - then *Yahweh* will drive out all these nations from before you, and you will dispossess greater and mightier nations than yourselves. Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the River Euphrates, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory. No man shall be able to stand against you; the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim* will put the dread of you and the fear of you upon all the land where you tread, just as He has said to you.”

The Marriage Covenant

When Moses carried the final legal confirmation of the Marriage Covenant (*the Gospel, our ketubah*), written on two stone tablets, down the mountain for the second time, he carried the representation of the truth in Messiah on those tablets. Contained within the words were the three witnesses on heaven: *The Father, The Word, and the Holy Spirit* (the three are one); and the three witnesses on earth: *The Spirit, the water, and the blood* (all three agree as one). Thus the truth was established for all time – *legally – in His Authority!* The contents within the two witnesses of the Messiah are inscribed on the heart of every believer. The people of heaven and earth will be found in the House of Judah and the House of Israel – and those who sojourn with the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – carriers of the written word (Jeremiah 31:31-33; Hebrews 8:8-10; 1John 5:6-8 KJV/NKJV).

The Shepherd Looking For His Lost Sheep

We are seeing in our day, Yeshua *gathering* His sheep (those who carry the testimony of His witness), the two scattered Houses of Israel, to restore His truth on the earth. And in doing so, He gave explicit instructions to His disciples *to focus on the House of Israel*.

📖 **Matthew 10:5-6** “These twelve Jesus/Yeshua sent out and commanded them, saying: ‘Do not go into the way of the Gentiles/Nations, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’ ”

📖 **Jeremiah 23:4-6** “I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking,” says the LORD/Yahweh. “Behold, *the days are coming*,” says the LORD/Yahweh, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days *Judah* will be saved, and *Israel* will dwell safely; Now this *is* His name by which He will be called: *THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS*.”

Yeshua would not have given specific directions to His disciples about House of Israel if it were not His focus also. Therefore, we see Yeshua supporting His own mission in saying,

📖 **Matthew 15:24** “But He [Yeshua] answered and said, ‘I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel’ ” (Luke 15:4-5).

📖 **Ezekiel 37:11-14** “Then He said to me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!’ Therefore prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD/Adonai Eloheanu: Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD/Yahweh, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD/Yahweh, have spoken *it* and performed *it*,’ says the LORD/Yahweh.”

As His Covenant people come to understand that by obeying His Word (including His Sabbaths, Feast Days, and New Moon celebrations integrated as part of their lifestyle), the restoration of Kingdom of Israel in the order of Melchizedek/priesthood has begun. (Acts 1:6; Hebrews chapter 3-5; Revelation 22:2).

📖 **Acts 1:6** “Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him [Yeshua], saying, ‘Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?’ ”

📖 **Isaiah 49:6** “For He has said: ‘It is too little that you should be My servant in that I raise up the tribes of Jacob [*reference to all twelve tribes of Israel/the Whole House of Israel*]

and restore the survivors of Israel: I will also make you a light of Nations, that My salvation [*Yeshua*] may reach the ends of the earth.”

✠ **Joel 2:28-32** “And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of LORD/*Yahweh*. And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of LORD/*Yahweh* shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as LORD/*Yahweh* has said, among the remnant whom the LORD/*Yahweh* calls” (Acts 2:16-21).

Shabbat Shalom
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