



NASSO - COUNT

Numbers 4:21 to 7:89

Judges 13:2-25

Acts 21:17 to 22:29

John 7:53 to 8:11

*Nasso is a continuation of the first study, Bamidbar/Numbers 1:1- 4:20.
For background material to this study, we recommend reading Bamidbar first
(www.sheepfoldgleanings.com).*

In the previous study, Bamidbar, we noted that Moses and Aaron camped on the east side of the Tabernacle before the tribe of Judah and his companions. The Levitical Kohath tribe camped on the south side, before Reuben with his companions and had charge of the Tabernacle furnishings. The study of Nasso continues with the Levitical tribes of Gershon and Merari.

✠ **John 1:14** “And the Word became flesh and *tabernacled* (Strong’s G4637) among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

The Levites - *The Gershon Tribe*

Numbers 4:22–28

The tribes of Gershon, from thirty to fifty years of age, were to care for all the hangings, curtains, and animal/*tachash* skins of the Tabernacle. Their duties were under the authority of Ithamar, the younger brother of Eleazar. Today, in the body of Yeshua, Gershon can represent the intercessors and prayer warriors, those who mediate the covering of God’s/*Elohim* Word with its life-giving principles of restoration to His people.

The Levites - *The Merari Tribes*

Numbers 4:29-33

The descendants of the youngest son of Levi, Merari, were counted – all the men thirty to fifty years of age who were able to serve in the work of the Tabernacle. Each Merari was assigned the duty of caring for the framework and foundation of the Tabernacle, including the crossbars, posts, bases, and everything related to their work. Today, the Merari are those whose primary

focus is to lay a good foundation in the heart of believers. These foundation workers are concerned about the redemption of the soul. Like the framework of the Tabernacle, the modern-day Merari are also hidden in the Body of Yeshua and not often in the limelight. Nevertheless, without the structure, the Tabernacle would not exist.

Numbering The Levite Family Numbers 4:34-49

Moses, Aaron, and the leaders of the community counted the Levites aged thirty to fifty years that came to serve in the Tabernacle. The Kohath numbered 2,750, Gershon 2,630, and the tribe of Merari, 3,200. *“According to the commandment of the LORD/Yahweh they were numbered by the hand of Moses, each according to his service and according to his task; thus were they numbered by him, as the LORD/Yahweh commanded Moses” (Numbers 4:49).*

A Wheel Within A Wheel

Seeing the completed picture of the tribes camped on the outskirts of the Tabernacle and the Levites camped on the inside, you can make out a circle or a wheel within a wheel design resembling Ezekiel’s vision. When believers walk in God’s/*Elohim* ordinances, they move as one unit in unison with His Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh*. This picture also symbolizes the omnipresence of God/*Elohim* Tabernacling among His people, which is likened to a wheel within a wheel (Strong’s H4039).

🔥 **Ezekiel 1:15-20** “Now as I looked at the living creatures, behold, a wheel was on the earth beside each living creature with its four faces. The appearance of the wheels and their workings was like the color of beryl, and all four had the same likeness. The appearance of their workings was, as it were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel. When they moved, they went toward any one of four directions; they did not turn aside when they went. As for their rims, they were so high they were awesome; and their rims were full of eyes, all around the four of them. When the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. Wherever the spirit wanted to go, they went, because there the spirit went; and the wheels were lifted together with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.”

🔥 **John 20:29** Yeshua said, “Because you have *seen* me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not *seen* and yet have believed.”

Today

Many believers today have come from various theological backgrounds before crossing over to a more Biblical Hebraic redeemed lifestyle. When believers move toward the study of Torah, they realize they have entered a very organized lifestyle that mirrors Yeshua’s Heavenly pattern. As believers begin to walk this heavenly pattern, they find that His Word and all of His appointed Sabbaths and Feasts move as a single unit in unison with His Presence. When believers live by

Yeshua's Word, His Spirit/*Ruach* engages, and this heavenly orchestration moves to transform ordinary men and women into a mighty army all worshiping God's/*Elohim* Presence together.

Camp Purity Numbers 5:1-4

God/*Elohim* commanded the Israelites to keep the camp clean. He reminded them of the teaching given earlier on *tahor* and *tamei* in Leviticus 14:1 to 15:33 to know the difference between ritual purity and cleanliness versus ritual impurity and uncleanness.

“Command the Israelites to send away from the camp anyone who has an infectious skin disease or a discharge/*tzarat* of any kind or who is ceremonially unclean because of a dead body. Send away male and female alike; send them outside the camp so they will not defile their camp, where I dwell among them” (Numbers 5:1-3; Leviticus 13:1-15:33).

As believers in the Holy One of Israel, we see His instructions are first and foremost to shed light on the heart. His people are to be holy and of one mind in Him. If the heart were impure, diseases of the spirit and flesh would appear as a warning. Any mixing of uncleanness with the clean would not only profane God's/*Elohim* holy name but bring contamination upon the whole camp. God/*Elohim* is forming the Israelites into His army of firstborn - a royal priesthood. To activate this role among believers they first must learn His Kingdom instructions and principles. This teaching applies to all who believe today. Now more than ever the call of Torah is being heard in the hearts of God's/*Elohim* people. Many are responding to the clean, holy lifestyle, and a walk without contamination, pure of heart, and in fellowship with our Holy God/*Elohim*. It is critical. For, without holiness, there is no army or priesthood.

📖 **Deuteronomy 8:3** “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*.”

📖 **Amos 8:11** “Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord/*Adonai* our God/*Elohim*, “That I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD/*Yahweh*.”

Contamination

Today, without the understanding of purity, many congregations tolerate people who have contaminated hearts and lifestyles. A growing number of pastors have bowed to worldly pressure by taking a more *politically correct* approach in regards to handling sin; therefore, have added a false grace called *compromise*. Grace without taking responsibility coddles sin. Placating the sinner is a denial that brings contamination upon the whole congregation. Real leadership applies God's/*Elohim* Kingdom principles (instruction) that frees contamination from the camp. Only

obedience to the truth will bring holiness and purity into people's lives. That is the highest form of grace and mercy.

The sins of covetousness and assumption can build spiritual strongholds in people's lives where bitterness, jealousy, pride, retaliation, judging others, murmuring, etc. can take root. They manifest and spread quickly not only in the person but among those who listen to adverse reports. Today, *lashon hara* (Hebrew for gossip and slander) is in epidemic proportions infecting all in its path. As an example, many became hooked on *lashon hara* addiction in the '60s and '70s through TV soaps that have now morphed into reality shows. As the sin of dishonor grew so did much immorality that not only defiles a person's thinking and speaking but also brings judgment upon the whole community – i.e. on those who listen. For those who taste gossip's unclean fruit, the loss will be seen when friends are no longer friends and fellowships begin to fracture, and even collapse. When it happens in families, many weaken and fell prey to divorce.

The proper application of Torah principles, through the Spirit of Yeshua, should strengthen, and keep the camp healthy, strong, and vibrant. When believers have the courage to love and attend to those who cause contamination, there will be a blessing for all. That is the principle of *loving our neighbor*. Sadly, many church statistics report that where there is continued assumption and dishonor any attempts to restore are rarely received. When rebellion and lawlessness are allowed to abound within a person or verbally among others, God's/*Elohim* name is profaned, bringing curses against self and corporately upon His people. That is the enemy's number one fruit and goal.

🌿 **Haggai 1:3-11** “Then the word of the LORD/*Yahweh* came by Haggai the prophet, saying, ‘Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?’ Now therefore, thus says the LORD/*Yahweh* of hosts: ‘*Consider your ways!* You have sown much, and bring in little; you eat, but do not have enough; you drink, but you are not filled with drink; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes.’ Thus says the LORD/*Yahweh* of hosts: ‘*Consider your ways!* Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified,’ says the LORD/*Yahweh*. ‘You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?’ says the LORD/*Yahweh* of hosts. ‘Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house. Therefore the heavens above you withhold the dew, and the earth withholds its fruit. For I called for a drought on the land and the mountains, on the grain and the new wine and the oil, on whatever the ground brings forth, on men and livestock, and on all the labor of *your* hands.’”

Cleaning Camp

🌿 **Numbers 5:6-10** “When *a man or woman* commits any sin that men commit in unfaithfulness against the LORD/*Yahweh*, and that person is guilty, then he shall confess the sin which he has committed. He shall make restitution for his trespass in full, plus one-fifth of it, and give *it* to the one he has wronged. But if the man has no relative to

whom restitution may be made for the wrong, the restitution for the wrong *must go* to the LORD/*Yahweh* for the priest, in addition to the ram of the atonement with which atonement is made for him. Every offering of all the holy things of the children of Israel, which they bring to the priest, shall be his. And every man's holy things shall be his; whatever any man gives the priest shall be his.”

God/*Elohim* meets with His people relationally, face to face/*panim el panim*. If we have wronged our neighbor or caused offense, we wrong Yeshua, as His presence is between the two. Therefore, we are not only slandering our neighbor but also God/*Elohim*, the Creator of the universe.

🌿 **Leviticus 19:16-18** “You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: *I am* the LORD/*Yahweh*. You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: *I am* the LORD/*Yahweh*.”

Cleaning Camp - *Have We Wronged Our Neighbor?*

If a person, who hurt his neighbor (brother in Yeshua), was not aware of it at the time but afterward became conscious of his wrongdoing, he or she is commanded to go and offer the neighbor forgiveness and reconcile humbly. If the neighbor does not receive the forgiveness offered or has to think about it for whatever reason and deliberately withholds mercy and forgiveness, then the person making restitution has fulfilled the law of reconciliation and is set free. Therefore, is no longer under the law of sin and death.

🌿 **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.”

Not offering closure to a brother or sister seeking closure is a violation of contempt and a form of control. Even if the neighbor does not *feel* he or she has unforgiveness towards that individual and *feels* warranted in putting that person on hold until a time in the future, to delay reconciling is still not Scripturally correct in God's/*Elohim* eyes. Withholding forgiveness (spiritual release) is a judgment that violates an individual. If he or she does not offer forgiveness *quickly*, then *their* failure to act becomes a sin that will not be forgiven *them*, and then *they* become the defiled one. They have spiritually bound themselves by not following the law of redemption. Their sin will remain on them while the person extending the olive branch is set free (Ezekiel 18:21-32).

🌿 **John 20:23** “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Yeshua warns us to offer forgiveness quickly to the neighbor and not delay, and for the neighbor (brother or sister) to respond just as quickly to appropriate reconciliation.

🌿 **Luke 17:3-4** “Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times *in a day*, and seven times *in a day* returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ *you shall forgive him [that day]*” (Matthew 18:21-22).

Paul was so concerned about Yeshua’s people and reminded them not to let the sun go down before reconciling. To retain offenses and especially have them linger overnight into the next day was very grievous. Yeshua requires His people keep *very* short accounts. That is why we are to offer forgiveness when people seek, even before they ask (Luke 15:17-24).

🌿 **Ephesians 4:25-27** “Therefore, putting away lying, let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.”

Cleaning Camp - *Has Our Neighbor Wronged Us?*

On the other hand, if a brother or sister in Yeshua sins against you, Yeshua commands *we* seek restoration with that individual by sharing one-on-one to produce the fruit of reconciliation that will bless both sides. We are commanded to do it in such a way that will win our brother or sister over, not to *our* side but that both parties exhibit a proper attitude and conduct before *Yeshua*. That means we are to share in love, with respect, and with honor, toward that person. We are not permitted to speak about this issue with *anyone else* - not with friends, relatives or acquaintances, and especially not publically. It is a private matter. There are a couple of reasons for this. First, we do not war against flesh and blood, but against spiritual principalities that war within *ourselves* and secondly, we may have all the evidence to the fact that indeed our neighbor has wronged us but as we learned in the study *Kedoshim* Leviticus 19, even an eyewitness account can be incorrect. That is why we are not at liberty to share our story *publically*. We must *first* go to our brother in a spirit of reconciliation to help resolve the matter otherwise we will bring contamination upon ourselves that can spread among others.

🌿 **Ephesians 6:12** “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

🌿 **James 4:1** “Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?”

However, if the brother or sister does not receive our testimony, then we are to bring *one* or *two* others *with us* who are unbiased and understanding of Yeshua’s principles to help mediate a

discovery between the two *reconciling* parties. More often than not we may find the situation has nothing to do with the other person but may be a misunderstanding about a comment or action.

✚ **Matthew 7:3** “And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?”

After speaking in Matthew 7:3, Yeshua then taught what to do with a person *who is totally rebellious and not interested in repentance or correction*. That brother or sister was brought before the body of believers then sent outside the camp until he or she could receive correction.

✚ **Matthew 18:15-17** “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.”

Any unforgiveness is an open door for the enemy to approach. Not only does our judgment of a person affect that individual, but also sin is infectious and will continue to contaminate others. Unforgiveness is the unpardonable sin against the Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh*. We are commanded to quickly restore a person who is asking for forgiveness and also be quick to forgive those who do not know they have sinned. That is our duty, to make restitution available for those who desire restoration; otherwise, we show contempt and dishonor to Yeshua.

✚ **Mark 11:25-26** “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6:12, 14-15, 18:35).

✚ **Luke 6:37** “Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.”

✚ **Luke 11:4** “And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

✚ **Ezekiel 18:26-28** “When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies. Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive. Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die.”

Cleaning Camp - *The Law of Jealousy* Numbers 5:11-31

✚ **Numbers 5:12-15** “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘If any man’s wife goes astray and behaves unfaithfully toward him, and a man lies with her carnally, and it is hidden from the eyes of her husband, and it is concealed that she has defiled herself,

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and *there was no witness* against her, *nor was she caught* - *if the spirit of jealousy comes upon him* and he becomes jealous of his wife, who has defiled herself; or *if the spirit of jealousy comes upon him* and he becomes jealous of his wife, although she has not defiled herself - then the man shall bring his wife to the priest.”

The Law of Jealousy is for the protection of *both* the man and the woman – *as the same rules apply to both*. Jealousy is a spirit of destruction. It lives in suspicion and looks for a contrary or negative intent before a blessing is given, as in their estimation (those who host a spirit of jealousy) *a blessing must be earned*. That way of thinking is corrupt. It is the enemy’s number one tool to force people to do *works* in order to receive a *blessing*. It is also used to control people into a mindset of slavery before they can receive or earn a blessing – all based on a religious spirit. Thus, jealousy is a very devious spirit. Many religious doctrines and even families are based on this theory that *affection or love* is a commodity that must be earned. The exact opposite is true in the Torah where God/*Elohim* freely gives a blessing *as a gift*. A blessing is the outward sign or fruit of a person who walks in sync with Him. It is not the *sin* that the Law of Jealousy focuses on, but the *suspect* of it, which can tempt and allow the presence of an evil spirit to rule over *man*. Case in point: Solomon was dealing with the two prostitutes fighting over the one living baby. Solomon never *judged* the women for the *sin* of prostitution (1 Kings 3:16-28).

What then is this Law of Jealousy? The Law of Jealousy is about the *redemption* of the sinner, (not the death of the sinner) – *one who knows the Torah (a believer) but has strayed from the truth*. Therefore, the rules for the Law of Jealousy are to *free* God’s/*Elohim* people from a *pursuing suspecting spirit*. Many do not fully realize that it is this law of Numbers 5 that Yeshua fulfilled for the *redemption of believers*. He fulfilled this law on *our* behalf for *our* redemption when He stood *silently* before *His* accusers. When believers have this knowledge detailing their redemption, it sets precedence in the heart to help be more attentive to lifestyle, behaviors, and choices.

The Law of Jealousy was for a *husband* who suspected his *wife* of being unfaithful to him in behavior, thought or deed. *If he judged her as being impure, a spirit of jealousy came upon him*. He was then to bring *his wife* before *the priest* in the Tabernacle with an offering of grain for his wife *on her behalf* and there before the priest the matter would be settled. No oil or incense was placed on this offering, as it was the grain offering *for jealousy*, a reminder to draw attention to *guilt*. The priest then presented this man’s wife alone before God/*Elohim*, *her Savior*. The priest took *holy water* (water of cleansing) in a clay jar, to which he added dust from the Tabernacle floor. He loosened her hair and placed in her hands the husband’s grain offering on her behalf. Under oath before her Savior, she would drink this cup. If she were innocent, the cup would produce a blessing but if she had committed adultery the bitter water would cause her abdomen to swell and her thigh (represents her lineage/generations) to waste away. Thus upon hearing the instruction, the woman answered “*Amen and Amen*” meaning “*So be it, so be it,*” “*Bring on the test, bring on the test.*”

The priest wrote the curses from the accusing husband on a Torah scroll, which contained the truth, and sponged the ink off with a small amount of vinegar (according to Hebrew thought), and put this into a clay vessel filled with water. The priest took from the wife's hand a handful of grain *as the memorial offering* before the Lord/Yahweh and placed it on the altar. She then drank from the cup. If she were unfaithful, the *cup* would cause her to suffer, but if she were innocently accused (*sotah* in Hebrew), she would be cleared of her husband's curses and any guilt or impurity that were spoken against her and restored as a virtuous woman able to conceive children.

Where is the believer's accuser today? Yes, we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God/Elohim. However, all are justified through Yeshua's redemption. He is our memorial portion. But, does this mean a believer can just keep sinning? No one has the authority to be an accuser of the brethren. Who is the adulterous wife today? If believers are in betrothal relationship with Yeshua, what cup will they drink at the wedding? Will it be the *cup of redemption* revealing their faithfulness to Him or will it be a *cup of trembling* from the Law of Jealousy? Who is faithful and who is adulterous will be revealed on The Day – Yom Kippur – the Wedding Day (also known as the Day of Atonement for *judgment* or *redemption*), as all stand before Yeshua on that day, as only He knows the truth. (For more information, refer to the Yom Kippur study www.sheepfoldgleanings.com).

🌿 **Romans 3:22-24** “This righteousness is given through faith in Christ Jesus/Yeshua HaMashiach to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all [*believers*] have sinned and fall short of the glory of God/Elohim, and all [*believers*] are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus/Yeshua HaMashiach.”

🌿 **Hebrews 4:1-2** “Therefore, since the promise of entering His rest still stands, let us [*believers*] be careful that none of you [*believers*] be found to have fallen short of it. For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did [*at Mount Sinai*]; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because they did not share the faith [*of obedience to the vow Exodus 24*] of those who obeyed [*the vow*].”

Cleaning Camp - *The Woman Caught In Adultery*

🌿 **John 8:2-7** “Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, they said to Him, ‘Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?’ This they said, testing Him, that they might have *something* of which to accuse Him. But Jesus/Yeshua stooped down and wrote on the ground with *His* finger, as though He did not hear.

It is interesting to note that the so-called teachers of *the law* in John 8: 2-7 only brought the woman before Yeshua and not the man. Upon seeing their web of accusations, He refused to be

enticed by their spirit of jealousy, but bent down and started to write in the *dirt of the temple floor* (Leviticus 20:10; John 8:6).

Three sins render a person unclean separating them from community life. First, touching a dead body. Secondly, sexual immorality and third a *tzarat* infection, that which contaminated the body by discharge, either verbally or otherwise. Gossip, assumption, accusation, slander, and murmur, are all forms of verbal/*tzarat* infection called *lashon hara* in Hebrew (Numbers 5:2). *Lashon hara* affected not only the one *speaking* but also those enticed wanting to hear the malicious maligning. Both parties were rendered unclean and found guilty, as out of the mouth of two or three witnesses it is established.

In John 8:2-7, Yeshua fulfilled the law by not listening to *man's judgment* against this woman nor did He pass judgment on her. Inscribing in the dirt of the temple floor with His *finger* was a Hebrew expression for *His authority*. In this one act, Yeshua revealed Himself as the Word made flesh and also as *the authority* of God/*Elohim*, *the Messiah*, the author and writer of the very law they were using to accuse this woman (John 1:14). Could Yeshua have written the Law of Jealousy in the dirt of the Temple floor as a warning against those trying to incriminate this woman?

As the teachers of the law and Pharisees continued to question Yeshua, He stood up and said, "*He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first*" (John 8:7).

Yeshua exposed their spirit of jealousy and misinterpretation of the Law of Moses. They used God's/*Elohim* Word as a striking rod against the sheep rather than as a guide for how to elevate and walk in redemption. The leaders were propagating a religious spirit of judgment against this woman rather than place before her a heart of reconciliation after the Spirit of the Holy One.

Who was the adulterer in this story: the woman or the religious leaders? As believers, we will all stand before Yeshua (*the Truth*), one day. Will we have blessed people by teaching them *how* to walk in the life applications of Torah or will we have beaten them with a religious spirit? In essence, a religious spirit *judges* Yeshua's people in the name of God/*Torah*.

As Yeshua stooped down to write in the dirt on the Temple floor He made known what are the foundational pillars that uphold God's/*Elohim* House. They are *the Law of Moses and the Prophets*? What did the Prophet's teach? The Prophets were masters in understanding the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) and the pillars (principles) upholding those Commandments (Exodus 21-23). Therefore, the Prophet's word carried legal status upon the earth, as they understood the Commandments and principles *became one in Yeshua*. That is why people study Moses and the prophets today (1 Peter 1:10-11).

All the people present before Yeshua that day with the woman had made a vow/oath to obey and act upon the teachings of Moses and the Prophets thus, everything in the Kingdom rested on the *Shema*.

📖 **Deuteronomy 6:4-5** “Hear, O Israel: The LORD/*Yahweh* our God/*Elohim*, the LORD/*Yahweh* is one! You shall love the LORD/*Yahweh* our God/*Elohim* with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

Yeshua is the fulfillment of Moses and the Prophets. Thus one greater than Moses was in their midst. What did Yeshua write the second time? Could He have written the Law of Redemption, which has precedence over the Spirit of Jealousy? This Scripture silenced the woman’s accusers.

Note: The word *dirt* in the Scriptures can represent people. In writing on the temple floor, Yeshua revealed that people are inscribed with His Word/Torah upon them. To condemn the woman without revealing the truth of the Word to her would be to put her and her future generations into enslavement, shame, and spiritual decrease. Their judging of her was an incorrect interpretation of the Law, as God’s/*Elohim* truth is designed to set captives free *from* the law of sin and death, not continue to put them under it.

📖 **Mark 12:28-34** “Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He [*Yeshua*] had answered them well, asked Him, ‘Which is the first commandment of all?’ Jesus/*Yeshua* answered him, ‘The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the LORD/*Yahweh* our God/*Elohim*, the LORD/*Yahweh* is one. And you shall love the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim* with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This *is* the first commandment. And the second, like *it*, *is* this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.’ So the scribe said to Him, ‘Well *said*, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God/*Elohim*, and there is no other but He. And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.’ Now when Jesus/*Yeshua* saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, ‘You are not far from the kingdom of God/*Elohim*.’”

Even though Yeshua did not speak audibly to the accusing crowd, those who “heard” Him began leaving, from the eldest down to the youngest, until only the woman remained alone with Yeshua. Yeshua stood up and asked her, “*Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?*” “*No one sir,*” she said. “*Then neither do I condemn [judge] you. Go now and leave your life of sin*” (John 8:10-11).

Yeshua teaches us many things here. Believers are not to listen to gossip and slander (*lashon hara*), and no man is to be an accuser of the brethren in thought, in deed or verbally. An accusation is the slandering tool of the enemy. Yeshua alone is our advocate and speaks on our behalf. The power of the Torah, if correctly applied, brings life, not death. This lesson was profoundly demonstrated to this woman and her accusers that day. That is the purpose and heart of the Torah. Life in Yeshua is ministering redemption that sets His people free from the law of sin and death.

Cleaning Camp - *The Woman At The Well* John 4:4-38

Another example of the Law of Jealousy versus the Law of Redemption was when Yeshua spoke with an *adulterous* woman living in the Northern Kingdom in the town of Samaria. She came to the well that once belonged to her Father *Jacob*. Jacob's well revealed her heritage in that she was from *the House of Israel*. Yeshua's ministry was specifically to the *lost sheep of the House of Israel* - those walking outside the Torah principles for life and redemption (Matthew 10:6; 15:24).

At the well, Yeshua asked this woman for a *drink* while sharing His identity with her as the Living Water. In veiled language, He said she needed to return to her *husband*; her first love, Yeshua the Living Torah (*Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy*), for the husband she was with now was keeping her from Life in Him. Yeshua then went on to explain that the *cup* He would drink on her behalf (meaning He would die her death at His crucifixion) would produce life in her, not death and that she would be set free from any dishonor she now lived.

Was it a feel-good kind of grace Yeshua presented this woman or the truth of God's/*Elohim* *grace found in Torah* that brought conviction and redemption? Yeshua is the *goal of Torah*. He *empowered* the Word that governs the earth with His Spirit. When His people walk in His principles, they walk in Him. Yeshua's Torah/*Gospel* is not a book of judgments. Rather, His Torah/*Gospel* is brought into its full authority and understanding *through* Him.

✠ **Matthew 5:17-19** Yeshua said, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to *fulfill*. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law/*Torah* till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

The story of the woman at the well in John 4 is a prophetic picture of the House of Israel, the adulterous/*sotah* bride. Yeshua taught this woman the Law of Redemption over the Law of Jealousy and how to silence the accuser through the Torah principles to receive the breath of life. Torah then became *the Law of Life* to her. By presenting Himself, the Living Torah, in such a manner, she believed, repented, and was redeemed. As a result of her testimony, many from Samaria also came to believe in Yeshua as their Messiah and return to His ways.

Cleaning Camp - *The Golden Calf* Exodus 32:11-22

Returning from Mount Sinai after forty days, Moses carried the Marriage Covenant - written on two stone tablets to present before the assembly of Israel. It was an exceptional time. Just weeks earlier, Israel had betrothed herself to God/*Elohim*. Now Moses was returning to camp with the

formal Marriage Covenant/*ketubah*. However, when he arrived, he found God's/*Elohim* betrothed bride Israel *wayward*, as an adulterous/*sotah* bride, bowing down to a false bridegroom made in the image of a golden calf.

Moses shattered the two tablets and ground the golden calf to powder. He then scattered the dust on the water and made the Israelites drink. God/*Elohim* said to him, "*Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbor.*" How did Moses know who participated in the worship of the golden calf? Their *bellies swelled, and their reproductive organs rotted* according to the Law of Jealousy. Sadly, three thousand died by the sword that day.

Cleaning Camp - *The Law of Jealousy and The Cup of Redemption*

Yeshua's disciples joined Him for the Passover meal/*Seder* early on the day before the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover Lambs were sacrificed.

✿ "After taking the cup, he [*Yeshua*] gave thanks and said, 'Take this and divide it among you [*all twelve*]. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God/*Elohim* comes.' And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the *new* covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you'" (Luke 22:7-42).

Note: The Hebrew word for *new* as in "*the new covenant in [His] blood,*" is Strong's G2537 *kainos* meaning *re-newed*, not as we think in English linguistics as *something entirely brand new*. For example, the word *new* in *new moon* each month is also *kainos* meaning *re-newed*, not a brand new moon each month. Hence, a proper rendering of the text is: "*This cup is the renewed Covenant in my blood which is poured out for you*" (Luke 22:20).

After the dinner, Yeshua and the disciples journeyed to the Mount of Olives where Yeshua prayed,

✿ **Luke 22:42** "Father, if you are willing, take this "cup" from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

As Yeshua prayed in the Garden after the Passover, which cup was He referring to? Was it the cup He had just shared with His disciples or was this a separate cup? Yeshua prayed for the cup from the Law of Jealousy, for those suspect of adultery. Today, there are many believers suspect of adultery; those not committed to their Covenant of Marriage, those who are lukewarm in their walk with Him, and those who have strayed from Him. One day, we will all hold this cup Yeshua prayed for in the Garden. The Good News is, Yeshua fulfilled the Law of Jealousy by gifting us *His* cup of Redemption. With this cup, He wed us. He took our waywardness and drank our cup. If a believer acknowledges a wayward heart and repents, returning to His ways, then when the time comes to drink the cup with Him on *The Day* (the Feast of Yom Kippur - The

Wedding), it will be Yeshua's Cup for His Bride who will be found virtuous. Together they will enter into His Sabbath Rest (Matthew 25:1-13).

Hebrews 4:1-16 “Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest [*Sabbath*], let us fear lest any of you [*believers*] seem to have come short of it. For indeed the Gospel was preached to us as well as to them [*at Mount Sinai*]; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith [*obedience to the word*] in those who heard *it*. For we who have believed do enter that rest [*Sabbath*], as He has said: ‘So I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest [*Sabbath*],’” although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh *day* in this way: ‘And God/*Elohim* rested on the seventh day from all His works;’ and again in this *place*: ‘They shall not enter My rest [*Sabbath*].’ Since therefore it remains that some *must* enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, again He designates a certain day, saying in David, ‘Today,’ after such a long time, as it has been said: ‘Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.’ For if Joshua had given them rest [*Sabbath*], then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. There remains therefore a rest [*Sabbath*] for the people of God/*Elohim*. For he who has entered His rest [*Sabbath*] has himself also ceased from his works as God/*Elohim* did from His. Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest [*Sabbath*], lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. For the word of God/*Elohim* is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must* give account. Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God/*Elohim*, let us hold fast *our* confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Drink The Cup

✠ **John 19:28-30** “After this, Jesus/*Yeshua*, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, ‘I thirst!’ Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put *it* on hyssop, and put *it* to His mouth. So when Jesus/*Yeshua* had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”

The Hebrew meaning behind the words “*it is finished*” stems from the same root word as bride *kala* Strong's G3634 *one who makes complete or makes perfect*. *Shalom* is an additional Hebrew word for *finish* (Strong's H7999). As Yeshua cried out at His death “*it is finished*,” He cried for His Bride to make complete her return to Him through His perfect provision and enter into His *Shalom* called *His eternal Sabbath-rest*. In essence, Yeshua was crying out “*Shalom My Bride*” (Hebrews Chapters 3-4).

As stated earlier, in the Law of Jealousy, a *priest* wrote the curses on a scroll then sponged the ink off with a small amount of vinegar before adding it to the water filled earthen vessel. Yeshua is the Living Torah scroll. He is the living water, the vessel, and the cup. The priest then took the memorial from the grain offering (to bring iniquity to remembrance) and burned it on the altar. Yeshua, *our* priest, took *our* sin and *our* guilt upon Himself becoming *our* grain offering and died *our* death. Therefore, our sin is remembered no longer, thus, no accuser.

The Restoration

Acts 1:1 to 2:47

After Yeshua had suffered, He showed Himself to His disciples and gave many proofs that He was indeed alive. He also appeared over a forty-day period to many and shared countless testimonies of His Kingdom. The timing would have been during the Counting of the Omer before the Feast of *Shavuot* (Pentecost). On one occasion, while He was eating with the disciples, He gave them this command, “*Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit*” (Acts 1:4-5).

At the end of the fifty-day Counting of the Omer, a hundred and twenty people were gathered in an area of the Temple called the *upper room* to celebrate *the Feast of Shavuot* (Pentecost) (Luke 24:53; Acts 2:1).

✿ **Acts 2:1-4** “Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house [*the Temple, Yahweh’s House*] where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them [*believers*] were filled with the *Holy Spirit/Ruach HaKodesh* and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit empowered them.”

Later, Peter addressed the crowds of people who had come in from the Nations to Jerusalem for *the Feast of Shavuot/Pentecost*. Many were present in the Temple area and witnessed this amazing event.

✿ **Acts 2:5-11** “And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, ‘Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And *how is it that* we hear, each in our own language in which we were born Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, *both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs* - we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God/*Elohim*.’ ”

However, Peter shared from *the prophet Joel*, who prophesied to the *whole house of Israel* about what would take place in the future,

🌿 **Joel 2:27-32** “Then you shall know that I *am* in the midst of Israel: I *am* the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim* and there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame. 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 the LORD/*Yahweh*. And it shall come to pass *that* whoever calls on the name of the LORD/*Yahweh* shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the LORD/*Yahweh* has said, among the remnant whom the LORD/*Yahweh* calls.

After, Peter informed these same *men of Israel* about Yeshua and quoted King David’s prophecy of the Messiah. Israel, as an adulterous Bride, had broken the betrothal Covenant at Mount Sinai. However, Yeshua restored the Mosaic Betrothal Covenant at His death. In His resurrection, He empowered the Bride and restored her as holy and virtuous. The Feast of *Shavuot* is that place of restoration and empowerment of the Bride to her Messiah (Hebrews 8:8-10; Jeremiah 31:31).

When Moses found Israel worshipping the golden calf three thousand lost their lives that day. Sixteen hundred years later, during the same feast, at *Shavuot*/Pentecost in Jerusalem, three thousand were redeemed. In His death and resurrection, Yeshua restored the broken Covenant and renewed it in what is called the Renewed Covenant (or New Testament/*Brit Chadashah*) (Jeremiah 31:31-33; Hebrews 8:8-10; Acts 2:1-4).

A hundred and twenty people were in the temple worshipping during the Feast of *Shavuot*. There were also three thousand found outside; those who had journeyed from the nations to Jerusalem for the Feast. However, they were not found worshipping, nor had they consecrated themselves. How do we know? Peter saw them in the *outer court*. After sharing with them, he told them to *repent!* Once they repented and cleansed their way, they too were filled with the Spirit of the Holy One and began to worship. Peter continued to share with the wayward bride. Over five thousand repented and received the truth (*infilling*) during that time (Acts 4:4).

🌿 **Acts 2:37-39** “Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?’ Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized [*cleanse your ways*] in the name of Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach* for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh*. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God/*Elohim* will call.’ ”

What about the “Gentiles”? The term Gentile was introduced in the 1600s when the King James Version of the Bible was published. The Hebrew understanding of the word Gentile is one who is confused and without God – *a pagan*. Who were these people in Acts 2 who were not Jewish but wanting to fulfill the Biblical requirements in Jerusalem for *Shavuot*? A pagan would certainly not desire to do such a thing. In Acts 2:10, we are told of those who were not Jewish

desiring to join with Judah to celebrate the Feast of *Shavuot*/Pentecost in Jerusalem. So who were these people? They represent *the manifestation of the restoration of all twelve tribes of Israel*. Their ancestors were present at Mount Sinai. These are the people who lived hidden among the Gentiles (nations) for generations, now responding to the call of the Torah in their hearts (Deuteronomy 29:14).

📖 **Micah 5:7-8** “Then the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many peoples, like dew from the LORD/*Yahweh*, like showers on the grass, that tarry for no man nor wait for the sons of men. And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles (Nations), in the midst of many peoples,”

We are told in Scripture that those who sojourn among the Israelites, who chose to follow the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob by walking in His ways, keeping a pure lifestyle in Him, and worshipping on the Sabbaths (the Feasts and the New Moon/*Rosh Chodesh* festivals), are to be acknowledged as a *native-born among the tribes of Jacob*. They too are noted as *part of Israel* and no longer to be called a Gentile, stranger, or an alien. Today, those who follow the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are called *Hebrews* (meaning: *ones who have crossed over*) (Leviticus 19:34; Numbers 15:15-16).

📖 **Leviticus 19:34** “The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim*.”

📖 **Numbers 15:15-16** “One ordinance *shall be* for you of the assembly and for the stranger who dwells *with you*, an ordinance forever throughout your generations; as you are, so shall the stranger be before the LORD/*Yahweh*. One law and one custom shall be for you and for the stranger who dwells with you.”

📖 **Isaiah 2:2-3** “Now it shall come to pass in the latter days *that* the mountain of the LORD’S/*Yahweh*’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD/*Yahweh*, to the house of the God/*Elohim* of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD/*Yahweh* from Jerusalem.”

Peter quoted from the Old Testament/*Tanakh* in a language that *only the twelve tribes of Israel* would understand. The Christian Church says it was birthed in Acts 2 by the fact that many were in-filled at the same time by the Spirit/*Ruach* during the *Feast of Shavuot*/Pentecost. However, a closer examination of Scripture reveals that the Church, called *kehillah* in Hebrew and *ekklesia* meaning *assembly* in Greek, was actually birthed at Mount Sinai and *restored* (renewed) in Acts 2. We also read that Acts 2 was not the only time a significant number of people received the infilling of the Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh* at one time. In Isaiah 63 we read *that over six hundred thousand men were all filled within at one time with God’s/*Elohim* Holy Spirit/*Ruach**

HaKodesh, not counting the women and children among them, who were also filled within – thus there were many generations of believers long before Acts 2 (Amos 9:11; Hebrews 4:2).

✠ **Isaiah 63:11-13** “Then he remembered the days of old, Moses *and* his people, *saying*: ‘where *is* He who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of His flock? Where *is* He who put His Holy Spirit within them, who led *them* by the right hand of Moses, with His glorious arm, dividing the water before them to make for Himself an everlasting name, who led them through the deep, as a horse in the wilderness, *that* they might not stumble?’ ”

And thirdly, it was not until Acts 10 that we see a non-Jewish man named Cornelius, who was circumcised in heart (but not in the flesh), also filled within by the Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh* along with his family and close friends. That astounded the Jews at the time, as they thought the infilling was only for the Jews or those who had converted to Judaism and were physically circumcised. Since the Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh* inspired this teaching, the Jerusalem Council deemed it important enough to share with the greater body of believers in the diaspora and to report that salvation was not to be based on Judaism or being physically circumcised.

✠ **Acts 15:24-29** “Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, ‘*You must* be circumcised and keep the law’ - to whom we gave no such commandment - it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach*. We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth. For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh*, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that 1) you abstain from things offered to idols, 2) from blood, 3) from things strangled, and 4) from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well” (NKJ)(Acts 21:20-25).

Not An Issue of Salvation But Of Honoring Our Wedding Vow

In the last days, we are told there will be a great apostasy when the men or women without Torah (God’s/*Elohim* teaching and instruction), will be revealed just like in Acts 2:5-39 when Peter found over three thousand “outside” the temple, some innocent and some knowingly not honoring their commitment. The betrothed Bride who is lukewarm in those days will be found looking like a bride but lacking the necessary heart essentials to enter in (Revelation 1:9-3:22). As Yeshua satisfied the Law of Jealousy, those “believers” not found *in* Him or His Torah (walking in the holiness, sanctification or the redemption He offers) will be counted among the apostate. Yeshua drank the wayward Bride’s cup, and as the perfection of Torah, He has fulfilled all the requirements on her behalf. That is the Bride’s inheritance through the restored/renewed/*kainos* Covenant. *It is finished* means a completed work. Now it is up to the Bride. How does she view this today? Will she honor *the oath*? Does she stay wayward in the “*outer court*” or will she be found sanctified in the “*upper room*” with like-minded as in Acts 2:1-4? (Matthew 25:1-13; 2 Thessalonians 2:3; 2 Timothy 4:3; Revelation 1:9-3:22).

✿ **Romans 6:1-7** Paul said, “So then, are we to say, ‘Let’s keep on sinning, so that there can be more grace’? Heaven forbid! How can we, who have died to sin, *still live in it*? Don’t you know that those of us who have been immersed into the Messiah Yeshua have been immersed into his death? Through immersion into his death we were buried with him; so that just as, through the glory of the Father, the Messiah was raised from the dead, likewise we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will also be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was put to death with him, so that the entire body of our sinful tendencies might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin.” CJB

The Nazarene Numbers 6:1-21

A Nazirite vow is when a *man* or a *woman* is set-apart for a specified length of time for the purpose of sanctification and holiness. It is a vow of abstinence. During that period they are not to cut their hair or consume any grape products such as fermented drink like wine, vinegar, grape juice, grapes, raisins, seeds or skins. They are not to come into contact with a dead body, even in the passing of a close relative. When the time is fulfilled, the Nazarene must appear before the priest with his or her offering along with a basket of unleavened bread and oil. He or she must also shave off all hair and dedicate it to God/*Elohim* by placing it on the altar as a fellowship offering (A person’s holiness is linked to hair. The Hebrew root behind the word hair is *crown, separation, consecration* or *hair*).

Paul And The Nazirite Vow Acts 18:18; 21:17 to 22:29

The timing in Acts Chapter 18 was approximately *thirty years after the death and resurrection of Yeshua*. It was Paul’s last emissary journey to the diaspora. Upon his return, he gave a report to the Jerusalem Council about those who lived scattered among the Nations who received the teaching of Moses (the *gospel/good news*) and the Prophets. On this last trip, he had also taken a Nazirite vow. Alarmed by the attack coming against Paul’s ministry by those saying he spoke **against the Law of Moses and the Temple**, the Jerusalem Council advised Paul to fulfill his Nazirite vow at the Temple for all to see that *he did indeed uphold the Law of Moses and the Temple (Prophets)*.

Paul devoted his entire redeemed life to Yeshua his Messiah/*Mashiach* and exemplified this life by correctly teaching Moses wherever he traveled and to all he met. The five books of Moses was the only teaching the Council of Jerusalem upheld, as Moses directly revealed the Messiah/*Yeshua Ha Mashiach* and the way of redemption. Paul complied with the Council when he returned to Jerusalem. The feast Paul returned for was *the Feast of Shavuot* (John 5:46-47; Acts 15:12-41; Acts 20:16; Deuteronomy 16:16).

In David Stern's commentary on the New Testament/*Brit Chadasha* he mentions that approximately 400,000 repented and returned through Paul's teaching "*and all of them are zealous for the Law [of Moses!]*" (Acts 21:20).

Once in Jerusalem, in agreement with the Jerusalem Council's proposal, Paul completed his Nazirite vow. He not only followed the prescribed ceremonial cleansing but also made payment for all the young men traveling with him who had taken the same vow. That payment included each man's offering, which comprised of one male lamb, one ewe lamb, one ram with their drink offerings, and a basket of unleavened bread. That dedication and cost would have created a high public profile that Paul indeed kept the Law of Moses *and* honored the Prophets/Temple. Paul demonstrated this, not because he was a Pharisee or "Jewish," as some would say, but that even *thirty years after the death and resurrection of Yeshua* he was utterly and wholly dedicated to the application of *all of the Torah from Moses and the Prophets*. Paul was entirely faithful to his Messiah *Yeshua* in that he did not teach contrary to his calling nor reject or abolish the Law of Moses or the Prophets.

Seven days after Paul fulfilled his Nazirite vow, some men from the province of Asia saw him at the Temple and stirred up the crowd by spreading an evil report that Paul taught *against* the Law of Moses and the Prophets/Temple.

What would Paul say if he found the majority of the congregations (believers who say they uphold and follow *Yeshua*), teaching *against* the Law of Moses *and* the Prophets today? If Paul walked into a Church or synagogue in this present day, would he find the leaders supporting him if he taught that Moses is relevant today or would he be asked to leave, being told the laws given Moses were done away with at the Cross, no longer relevant, and too legalistic? To declare Torah unimportant would mean *Yeshua* died in vain, Moses and the prophets also, and Paul's life had little or no value. It was a false report (gossip and slander/*lashon hara*) that accused *Yeshua* (Moses) and condemned the Prophets (disciples) and eventually, denounced Paul.

The Aaronic Priestly Blessing

Numbers 6:22-27

"This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them,

*'Yevarech'cha Yahweh v'yishmerecha. Ya'er Yahweh panav eleycha viyechuneka.
Yissah Yahweh panav eleychha veyasem lecha shalom.'*

The LORD/Yahweh bless you and keep you;

The LORD/Yahweh make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;

The LORD/Yahweh lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace/shalom.'

This rendering of the priestly blessing is from a *traditional* Hebrew to Greek to Hebrew/English translation. To see the Aaronic Priestly Blessing in original Hebrew refer to Jeff Benner's Ancient Hebrew Research Center E-Zine Magazine issue June 2012 #064. This article also includes a five-part YouTube presentation on the Aaronic Blessing.



<http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/emagazine/064.pdf>

After the blessing, Moses anointed the altar and dedicated the newly completed Tabernacle. Over the next twelve days, each tribe came forward bringing their freewill offerings in praise and thanksgiving to God/*Elohim* (Numbers 6:10-88).

Shabbat Shalom
Julie Parker

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