

Sheepfold Gleanings

BESHALACH - WHEN HE SENT

Exodus 13:17 to 17:16

Judges 5:1-31

John 6:25-35

Revelation 15:1-4

Continuing from the last lesson, we find those who followed *the law of the firstborn* at Passover, called *Israel*, are about to leave Egypt, cross over the Red Sea and walk into the desert in obedience to Yahweh to “*hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.*” The feast Israel was to celebrate fifty days after Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread was called Pentecost or in Hebrew *Shavuot* (Exodus 5:1).

At the *Feast of Unleavened Bread* the Israelites were commanded to eat only unleavened flat bread for seven days. This is likened to a personal consecration time for those who obeyed the Passover.

Shavuot is a high holy Sabbath day and is the formal betrothal of the Bride *Israel* to Yahweh the Bridegroom and the giving of His Wedding Covenant to her. The Covenant was always with the Bride but now for the first time it will be formally written down for her to keep so that if she is in a place of common (outside His Kingdom) or dishonor she will be able to discern what was of Him and what was not of Him. On the Feast of *Shavuot*, at Mount Sinai, Yahweh will give His Bride her *ketubah* containing the promises and instructions of their Wedding pledge to each other (also called the *Torah*). It is here they are called husband and wife but do not legally live together or consummate the marriage until their wedding day. During the betrothal time they are legally married but if the Bride is found unclean, the husband can legally divorce her. This can only happen in the betrothal stage and not after the wedding.

Through the Covenant Yahweh gave revelation, as illustrated by the Israelites and the Exodus story, as a living parable for Believers (the Bride). Today, believers are approaching the Passover season. This is the time Yahweh offers us an opportunity to leave any sinful dishonoring ways or lifestyles (*Olam Hazeh*) by remove any unclean wants, needs and desires that bring contamination. These wedding preparations sanctify, cleanse and bring redemptive qualities to the Bride so she can draw near to her Bridegroom when He calls for her.

Yeshua’s blood cleanses us from sin – the sin of dishonoring our Marriage Covenant with Him. Now the walk of redemption is before each of us. Every one is given a choice, the same opportunity the Israelites were given, by drawing near to Him at the *Passover* to enter into betrothal at the Feast of Pentecost/*Shavuot*. Pharaoh is a type and shadow of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil representing a common worldly system. The choice is whether we

will leave that mindset to walk in Yeshua's Heavenly Kingdom – the Tree of Life? We cannot have both or they will war within us.

✠ **Romans 7:23-25** “But I see another law [*worldly common system*] in my members, warring against the law [*Heavenly Kingdom*] of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God -- through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.”

✠ **Romans 12:1-2** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your *mind*, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Since having come and put our trust in Yeshua, with His cleansing blood, many believers have yet to stop acting and behaving as if they had not left Egypt and that Yeshua's blood had not cleansed or saved them. Often the ways of the world still rule and reign more prominently in our lives than do the ways of Yeshua and His Kingdom. Doing this gives Satan a legal hold on us. Without recognizing these issues we may still have characteristics and attitudes operating in our hearts that reflect unredeemed lifestyles and reproduce in our behavior that which is the opposite of Yeshua's Kingdom within us. Many of us still need our hearts cleansed and our minds purified and conformed to reflect the redemption Yeshua offered us.

The Passover season offers *the firstborn*, who have been scattered into the wilderness by disobedience, a chance to deal with areas resonating from their thoughts that holds them back from Yahweh's blessings and gives them an opportunity to re-turn to *Shavuot* to worship Him. Following Yahweh into the Passover and obeying His Word by eating unleavened bread for the seven days consecrates those who choose to cross over from death to life. Those who choose life have, in the same way the Israelites did, chosen to separate from an unsanctified past to press on to serve and worship Him alone in holiness at *Shavuot*.

Yeshua made the way for us. He alone gave *the firstborn* Israel the *deed to holiness*. In His sacrifice for us He also cancelled the certificate of divorce that had resulted from our being a wayward Bride. His death was the perfect sacrifice; He is the Lamb of Yahweh who opened for us the way of Holiness. No other blood sacrifice could do that for us. Only Yeshua's blood brought cleansing, redemption and sanctification from the guilt of dishonor once and for all. As a foreshadowing of Yeshua's sacrifice for the dishonor of sin and guilt only the high priest could walk into the place of complete holiness to Yahweh at that time on earth called the Holy of Holies, and only once a year. Today, under the covering of Yeshua's blood we are all given the opportunity to enter into that Most Holy Place and have intimacy with our beloved Messiah because the guilt from sin has been removed. It is a gift for all who believe. But within this gift is another choice; to walk in what Yahweh calls holiness, as only a *holy* Bride will enter into the Bridal Chamber with her Bridegroom.

Passing through the Sea

Exodus 13:17-22

When Pharaoh let the people go, the Israelites left Egypt in their full divisions, all twelve tribes, as a mighty army. Witnessing the faithfulness of Yahweh, the people were transformed from slavery to victory overnight. This is a prophetic picture of the book of Revelation of *Yeshua*, which speaks of the twelve gates into the New Jerusalem and reveals that all twelve tribes will come out from under the enemy's domination in full victory once again, transformed to rule and reign with Him!

Joseph's return

Exodus 13:19 "And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had placed the children of Israel under solemn oath, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here with you."

When the Israelites left Egypt, Moses took Joseph's bones with him. Joseph made his brothers swear before he died that they would take his bones home with them when Yahweh delivered Israel from Egypt. Why were these bones important? Because of what was held within them - Joseph's DNA. A person's DNA represents their *identity*. Joseph's bones are a picture of the House of Israel, the "lost" ten tribes, and are therefore prophetic of the return, of not just Judah and Benjamin - the two tribes currently living in the land, but of ***all twelve tribes returned and living in the land***. Joseph's bones represent a continuous heritage promised to Abraham's descendant's generations ago.

Joseph bones also represented his firstborn status over his brothers. Joseph inherited the firstborn position from his father Jacob at an early age which was confirmed by Yahweh in two dreams before he was sold into Egypt at the age of seventeen. Just before Jacob's passing, he called for Joseph to confirm again his firstborn status. At the same time he also appointed Ephraim, Joseph's second born son, firstborn rights over his elder brother Manasseh. The inheritance of the firstborn was so important to Jacob that he usurped Joseph's authority of appointing his own son and did it for him. Jacob's blessing his grandson Ephraim over his brother Manasseh was huge. He confirmed two generations into the future of firstborn status but made it abundantly clear to all his own sons just how preeminent Joseph was by appointing Ephraim and Manasseh ahead of THEM. To supersede his own sons when bestowing firstborn status made a statement that endorsed Joseph's position in the family for generations to come and could not be refuted. Jacob indeed named Joseph firstborn and Ephraim firstborn after him. Besides the firstborn receiving a double portion in stature and authority above his brothers, physically Jacob gave Joseph a double portion of land to inherit above his brothers as well.

Another reason Joseph's bones were commanded to be carried back to the land of Israel was because Joseph's brothers had tried to kill him (Genesis 37:18). Without his DNA, or identity, it could be alleged that Joseph was not "alive" and that his ancestors no longer existed, even to this day. If this were true and Joseph were not alive through his descendants, then the selling of Joseph's land, like they sold Joseph in the past (Genesis 37:28), would be a viable option for peace, however, the truth is, peace can only come by making peace with Yahweh in ones heart first and not by means of making "peaceful" negotiations with outside foreign nations who are not appointed by Yahweh to inherit His land. Unfortunately very few of the descendants of

Joseph's brothers believe Joseph is alive today. The oath Joseph made his brothers swear to return him to the land generations ago is still valid (Genesis 50: 24-25). According to scripture the West Bank in Israel is Joseph's land. The fact is, today, Joseph's descendants are ready to return but before they can there are a few "in house" family affairs to clear up first. It is interesting to note, that it is not outsiders who are hindering Joseph's return but it is his blood brothers who live in the land today. The firstborn will return. We must believe Yahweh is faithful to His promises and that not one tribe will be left behind or left out - with all twelve tribes returning to live in their Yahweh-appointed lands - as it is written. *Thus, through Moses, Joseph's bones are carried out.* (Genesis chapter 48; Genesis 50:25; Joshua 24:32; 1 Chronicles 5:2; John 4:5; John 5:46-47; Ezekiel 47:13-48:35)

Joseph is a type and shadow of the Messiah. Yeshua said "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me." That is why Moses carried Joseph's bones with him when he left Egypt as they would have enormous bearing on future generations to come.

The Journey into the Wilderness Continues

The Israelites left Succoth and on the second day of their journey camped at Etham. Archaeologists feel Etham was a region around the top of the right fork of the Red Sea at the edge of the desert.

Exodus 13:21-22 "By day Yahweh went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people."

When you feel alone or lonely as in a wilderness experience, or feel you just have no direction, we need to remember the Exodus. There was a pillar of cloud to guide the Children of Israel by day, and a pillar of fire to give them light by night. We are never alone or without direction when Yeshua, the Light of the world, is in our hearts.

John 8:12 When Yeshua spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Turn Back?

Exodus 14:2

Fleeing Pharaoh's mighty army and carrying off the plunder of Egypt was hard enough, but for Yahweh to ask the Israelites to turn back and encamp by the sea must have seemed like the most perilous thing to do during this critical time of leaving. Yet that is just what Yahweh asked the Israelites to do. The command was to *turn back*. Though the Israelites did not know that Yahweh was setting an ambush for Pharaoh's army, they obeyed His directive. But when the Israelites saw the Egyptians approach in full armored regalia, sheer terror overcame them. Instead of looking to Yahweh for help, they brought judgment upon Moses. They judged Moses for what they *saw*. In a sense, their *fleshly perspective* already had them "slain" by the Egyptian guard. In spite of the ever-present cloud and fire cover of Yahweh, they still did not acknowledge His

physical covering over them because *fear* had entered their hearts. Therefore they were unable to understand the value and significance of Yahweh's plan at that time (Isaiah 35).

How many of us have left Yahweh when the pressure has mounted, and made decisions for our lives without the thought that maybe the challenge we faced was from our imagination or has appeared in our lives in order to bring about *our deliverance*? How many of us stand firm on Yahweh's Covenant in extreme situations and wait upon His faithfulness? In the face of the Israelites' grumbling, Moses encouraged the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of Yahweh, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever" (Exodus 14:13. Isaiah 12:2; Psalm 118:14).

The word for salvation in Hebrew is *Yeshua* (Strong's 3444). Yeshua is the Deliverer, the Deliverance and the Power of Yahweh. What Moses was saying to the people was, "Stand still and see Yeshua deliver His people...today!"

After instructions to turn back, and then to stand firm, the next step was to move "forward." This was key and vital to their survival. With no ability to save themselves against Pharaoh's army, and confronted with the Red Sea and a watery grave, Yahweh told the Israelites to move forward into the sea. Moses raised his staff and the sea separated and mounted up into a wall of water on either side, revealing the way Yahweh had prepared for them to walk *...on dry ground!* The Israelites had little or no faith in themselves, but now before them was Yahweh's Faithfulness being revealed coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

An east wind blew through the night, drying the land before them. The path was made ready and the Israelites crossed over in safety. By faith in Yahweh's love and care for them, they walked between the two powerful walls of water.

📖 **Isaiah 48:17** "This is what Yahweh says-- your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: 'I am Yahweh your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go.' "

📖 **Jeremiah 31:9** "They shall come with weeping, and with supplications I will lead them. I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters, in a straight way in which they shall not stumble; for I am a Father to Israel..."

📖 **John 14:6** Yeshua answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

As mentioned earlier, the day after Passover was the start of the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread (15th day of the first month, Nisan). The first and last days of this feast are to be holy days set-apart as Sabbaths (no-work days). It was on this seventh or last day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread that the waters parted for the Israelites. This seven-day consecration time concluded in what can be seen as a giant *mikvah* for the Children of Israel. Passing through the waters of cleansing effectively brought a seemingly *dying* peoples the opportunity for a change

of status, essentially washing away the uncleanness of Egypt (the world). They were set-apart with Yahweh, no longer pursued or tortured by the presence of the enemy. They now walked with the Holy One of Israel who is faithful and true. (Leviticus 23)

This is where our walk begins. It is the same process for us today. What the Israelites experienced is likened to what we experience when we respond to Yeshua's calling. John's baptism/*mikvah* was of repentance for the sins of dishonor and to redeem and restore that which was lost; those who failed to keep Yahweh's Kingdom principles and lifestyle. John, a priest (a servant of the King), came out to meet with the people where they were scattered - in the wilderness. Today, Yeshua the King comes Himself to find the lost sheep that are scattered in the wilderness among the nations, to restore and redeem the House of Israel and to make right the dishonor we had committed against Him. Yeshua is purifying His bride. As we come to Yeshua we do not approach in our uncleanness. The Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread is for the Bride's consecration (walk out) and status change (*mikvah*) to enter into a faithful covenant relationship with the One who reached out to save her.

Keeping the Feasts of Yahweh will bring deliverance into our lives. Many people are beginning to understand the importance of Yahweh's *season* of Passover. Yeshua has fulfilled the first four Spring Feasts: Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits and Pentecost/*Shavuot*. We keep these as memorials today as there are three Fall Feasts yet to be fulfilled by Yeshua: the Feast of Trumpets/*Yom Teruah* (the arrival of the King for His Bride), the Day of Atonement/*Yom Kippur* (the Wedding Day) and the Feast of Tabernacles/*Sukkot* (the Wedding reception). Each Feast acts in unison, in concert with the King's Heavenly court realm in His Kingdom. They are similar to an elaborate road map that prepares the Bride (Believers) to meet her Bridegroom. We rehearse these Fall feasts each year as if they are the real event, as *we do not know the day or hour of His return*. The Bride is to make herself ready.

The Song of Moses

Only when the Israelites had passed through the waters and were safely on the other side did Yahweh lift His cloud of protection. Even though the Egyptians pursued the Israelites through the night, they could not see past the cloud. By morning when all the Israelites were safely on the other side, the parted Red Sea returned to its normal place, entombing the Egyptians into their watery graves. When the Israelites saw Yahweh's great power displayed in the destruction of this mighty Egyptian army, they revered and put their trust in Him and broke out into the *Song of Moses*. Even though Yahweh's principles were not formally written down until Mount Sinai, the Children of Israel always had His principles; they were with Adam in the Garden. We will see in the next studies that when the Israelites arrive at Mount Sinai, His principles will be given to them in the form of a betrothal, the Marriage Covenant called a *ketubah*. At the Sea, the Israelites were able to see Yahweh's principles in action. Moses never wavered and stood on these principles, thus the *Song of Moses – the Torah* - was sung.

Yahweh's principles are *good news* to those who love and obey them, as obedience brings Yahweh's blessings. When they saw the great miracle of deliverance, Israel trusted and put their faith in Yahweh and that was worth singing about. *The Song of Moses is the gospel (song) of life!* That is why every Hebrew child is taught to sing that *Gospel, the Song of Moses* at an early age

as it will always give them light and direct their path to follow Yahweh's right ways; called *the paths of righteousness*.

According to scripture, there will be a time of apostasy when God's people will have forgotten the words (*the Song of Moses*) given by Yeshua to Moses at Mount Sinai and will be taught a counterfeit song from another kingdom. When, in the latter days, the people who do not know Moses sing this counterfeit song, the true Song of Moses will be a witness against them. These are the people who will fear the end times instead of looking forward to the *revelation* of Yeshua. However, Yahweh is faithful to His Covenant and His Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh* is breathing life into the dry bones of His people and restoring Moses to their hearts as they dwell among the Synagogues, Churches and Fellowships in the Nations today.

📖 **Deuteronomy 31:19-22:** "Now therefore, write down this song for yourselves, and teach it to the children of Israel; put it in their mouths, ***that this song may be a witness for Me against the children of Israel.*** When I have brought them to the land flowing with milk and honey, of which I swore to their fathers, and they have eaten and filled themselves and grown fat, then they will turn to other gods and serve them; and they will provoke Me and break My covenant. Then it shall be, when many evils and troubles have come upon them, ***that this song will testify against them as a witness; for it will not be forgotten in the mouths of their descendants, for I know the inclination of their behavior today, even before I have brought them to the land of which I swore to give them.***"
Therefore Moses wrote this song the same day, and taught it to the children of Israel."

📖 **Hosea 8:12** "I have written for him the great things of My law [*Song of Moses*], but they were considered a strange thing."

The *Song of Moses* is prophetic for the people of the end times. Those who revere Yahweh's commandments and walk in His ways will sing the true *Song of Moses*. We are beginning to hear it across the *Nations* today. Yahweh in His mercy shows us the end (Revelation) from the beginning (the prophets – the voice of the principles) before it happened. In the book of *Revelation of Yeshua*, we see a description of Yahweh's people being restored back to His ways, and, they are singing the TRUE *Song of Moses*. **Revelation 15:1-4** "And they sang the *Song of Moses* the bond-servant of God and the song of the Lamb, saying, 'Great and marvelous are Thy works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Thy ways, Thou King of the nations.'"

According to the book of Revelation those who are victorious over the beast will sing the Song of Moses after the last plague. They will be a people who have returned to the pathways of Yahweh by keeping the words given Moses at Mount Sinai. Together they will sing the song as a thanksgiving offering to Yeshua (their Savior *and Redeemer*) (John 5:46-47). Why? Because the song speaks of the saving power of Yahweh, and because keeping His Word brings victory in our lives.

As Moses' song is a prophetic message and a song for us today, when we return to Yeshua's ways and keep his feast days/*moedim*, we too are the victorious. We are not to fear the destruction around us. Judgment such as demonstrated against the Egyptians meant *deliverance* for Yahweh's people. The same is true in the book of Revelation. That is why, when we walk in Yahweh's ways, we are not to entertain any anti-Christ spirits of fear. As in the days of Moses,

we are told to stand firm. Those who stand firm, on the Living Stone/Mount Sinai will see the salvation of Yeshua as they have the testimony of Yeshua – *the Song of Moses* – the Torah - on their lips and in their hearts (Revelation 15:3-4).

“Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city” (Revelation 22:14)

The Waters of Marah and Elim

Exodus 15:22

The Israelites were now directed to journey into the wilderness. By the third day the Israelites came to Marah. No water could be found there, and so the people began to grumble against Moses.

Three days without water is synonymous with being without the *Living Torah*, the *Living Word*, or the *Living Water* that brings Life. Water represents the Spirit Life of Torah, Yeshua. Yeshua is the Living Word. He is the author of the Word (Genesis 1:1; John 1:1, 14). The Torah on its own cannot save or give life. Rather, our souls would become dry and parched without His Life giving Spirit. If we look deeply into *the Word of Yahweh for the Living Water* we will find abundant life. But when the soul goes without water, it is that much easier for it to be influenced by a spirit of grumbling. This is exactly what we see in the case of the Israelites and Moses at Marah.

Yahweh showed Moses a piece of wood that he was commanded to throw it into the water. This caused the water to become sweet, making it palatable for all the people to drink. Wood signifies the Tree of Life, the Torah. When Yahweh’s Spirit (represented by the water) and Torah come together, there is a wellspring of life making the Torah palatable for Yahweh’s people.

Yahweh then reminded the Israelites of their identity as Children of the Covenant and warned them against grumbling, saying, "***If*** you listen carefully to the voice of Yahweh your God ***and*** do what is right in his eyes, ***if*** you pay attention to his commands and keep all his ***decrees I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am Yahweh, who heals you***" (Exodus 15:26). This still holds true today.

Yahweh spoke this before they arrived at Mount Sinai, before the laws and decrees were spoken to Moses. This meant that the principles that govern the earth—called Torah—had been with them in Egypt and had been with their fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, as well as with Noah and with Adam. *Torah* is eternal, timeless and everlasting because the Torah became life and dwelt among us—in the person, Yeshua. (John 1:1, 14).

Then Yahweh brought the Children of Israel to Elim, a beautiful oasis where they camped beside twelve springs and seventy palm trees (Exodus 15:27). Yahweh taught them the principle of His word at Marah, and then showed them this principle in “picture” form at Elim. The twelve springs of water represent the twelve tribes of Israel, the royal priesthood and government of Yeshua to the Nations (Exodus 19:5-6). The seventy palm trees represent the seventy nations. The twelve tribes are to present the Living Word, the Torah, in *spirit and truth* to the nations

through the Messiah, the Living Torah. The twelve tribes are to supply *living water (Yeshua)* to the nations; *living water streams from the well in the Garden of Eden that still flows out to us today*. This living water from the Torah is for the healing of the nations.

🌿 **Revelation 22:2** “On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the *leaves of the tree [of life/Torah]* are for the healing of the nations.”

This is a picture of believers, when returning to Yahweh’s Torah and walk in His ways. There will be streams of living water flowing out of us (all twelve tribes) to share with and nourish others. We are returning to the Garden.

🌿 **John 4:10-11;7:38** Yeshua said to the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" Later, at the Feast of Tabernacles, Yeshua declared in a loud voice, “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

Manna and Quail

Exodus 16

As the whole Israelite community set out from Elim they came to the Desert of Sin, between Elim and Sinai. On the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt they again grumbled to Moses.

The supplies they brought with them from Egypt had quickly dried up. They could no longer rely on themselves for their basic needs. Water and food were the two primary needs, especially in a desert situation with over a million people. There was nothing in the wilderness to sustain life...or so they thought. Moses was an instrument of Yahweh who had been used by Him time and again to reveal Yahweh’s deliverance. So what was it in their minds that continued to contaminate, grumble and blame him for their situation? Yahweh was teaching and testing the Israelites while they were being led into the wilderness to a place of *worship*. Would they put their trust in Yahweh? He had shown them time and time again that faith in themselves was insecure. They needed to put their faith in the One who was and is and will be forever Faithful.

How could the Children of Israel worship Yahweh when they were yet grumbling at Him? He was teaching them that everything came from Him and that He had never left them. The cloud and the fire were still overhead. The signs and wonders were signposts of His love for them. But they were quick to forget their Elohim as they reminisced of how “abundant” food was for them in Egypt. In only four short weeks they had forgotten the Egyptian abuse and had begun to convince themselves it would have been better had they remained in Egypt.

Pray that we do not easily forget our Redeemer when faced with trials and tribulations; they may be placed there to *test* and assist us in our faith to reveal His Faithfulness to us.

Then Yahweh said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. *In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.* On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days" (Exodus 16:4-5).

Keeping the Sabbath is a test of our faithfulness to Yahweh. Shabbat is called the wedding ring of the Bride of Yeshua.

✠ **Isaiah 58:13-14** "If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of Yahweh honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, **then** you shall delight yourself in Yahweh; and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father."

Exodus 16:10 "While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of Yahweh appearing IN the cloud."

Exodus 16:13-15 "That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, 'What is it?' For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, 'It is the bread Yahweh has given you to eat.'"

In the book of John, the people ask Yeshua, "What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Yeshua said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread." Then Yeshua declared, "*I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty*" (John 6:31-35; Exodus 16:4; Nehemiah 9:15; Psalm 78:24,25).

This manna appeared on the fourth week out of Egypt. The number four in Hebrew understanding symbolizes the four thousandth year from Creation. They were aware that the Messiah would be coming in that four thousandth year period of time. The "manna" from heaven appeared in the *fourth* week and was prophetic of the time when the Messiah would come to appear in bodily form to the Israelites in the four thousandth year.

Each person was to gather an *omer* of manna every day. It was not to be saved into the next day. They were only to gather enough for that one day. The one who gathered much and the one who gathered little, had the amount that each person needed.

Scripture records what happened when they disobeyed Yahweh and saved manna into the next day. **Exodus 16:20** "However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell."

We have all left pieces of bread out overnight or even for many days and did not experience or even worried about having maggots form in the bread. Maggots form in dead, decomposing *FLESH*. This manna that fell in the desert, that sustained the Israelites for forty years, was “*flesh*”—the body of Yeshua’s, made as an offering of life for us.

📖 **John 6:51** Yeshua said, “*I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.*” Yahweh is teaching us that we need to come out to Him and eat His Word daily so that it is fresh everyday in us. When we do this we are eating His very life and filling our life with his life. His life is life sustaining.

📖 **John 14:20-21** Yeshua said, “On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”

Only on the sixth day were they commanded to gather up twice the amount and keep it over for the seventh day/Sabbath. On this seventh day the “manna” would not rot or disintegrate but would stay fresh for them.

Exodus 16:23-28 "This is what Yahweh commanded: 'Tomorrow is to be a day of rest, a holy Sabbath to Yahweh. So bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning.' So they saved it until morning, as Moses commanded, and it did not stink or get maggots in it. 'Eat it today,' Moses said, 'because today is a Sabbath to Yahweh. You will not find any of it on the ground today.' ”

“You will not find any of it on the ground today” is a reference to the Messiah Yeshua—that He would not be found in the ground (grave) on the Sabbath. This passage is prophetic of Yeshua’s death and resurrection. His flesh did not see decay, as He did not die—He is alive! Yeshua is the “living” word (John 1:1;14).

📖 **Acts 1:3** “After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.” He is alive...

“What Is It?”

Exodus 16:15

Manna is Hebrew for “*what is it?*” After feeding the four thousand, “Yeshua and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, ‘Who do people say I am?’ (likened to the question “What is it?”) They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.’ ‘But what about you?’ he asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’ Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah (the Living Manna)’ ” (Mark 8:27-30).

The Israelites ate manna for forty years. After his death and resurrection, Yeshua showed himself for “forty days” upon the earth, another sign that he was the living manna that was with the Israelites in the Desert (Exodus 16:35).

The Sabbath is an eternal prophetic commandment. It prophetically reveals Yeshua. The key to the Messianic Kingdom is to enter and keep the *Sabbath*. It is called the “wedding ring” of the bride of the Messiah, the “sign” of the bride. The bride of Yeshua is the one who is faithful to obey His words and keep her wedding ring on.

The Hebrew word for rest is *sabbath* (Strong’s #6942), its meaning: to sanctify; set apart as in prophetic, holy, betrothal; dwell in His people; and the Day of the Lord (Hebrew understanding).

Yahweh will sanctify His people. He will set them apart, taking them out from among the Nations by their obedience to His Word, which keeps them holy unto Him. He will betroth her by the sign of His Sabbath, His “wedding ring.” His intention is to dwell eternally with His people, those who find rest in Him and His Sabbath. This is *the Day of the Lord* (Hebrews 4:1-13).

Yahweh commanded Aaron to put an omer of manna in a jar and place it before Yahweh to be kept for the generations to come. Aaron placed the jar in front of the Testimony (Exodus 16:33-34).

Water from the Rock

Exodus 17

With the journey continuing, the whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, to a place called Rephidim. There, again, was no water. This brought quarreling from the people, who threatened Moses to the point of stoning. Yahweh asked Moses to walk ahead of the people. He was to take some of the elders with him and the staff in his hand used to perform the signs before Pharaoh in Egypt. Yahweh stood before him at Horeb (Mount Sinai). As Moses *struck the rock*, water gushed out.

On the heels of this, the Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites. Joshua was sent with chosen men to fight them while Moses, Aaron and Hur went up the hill. Joshua was winning against the enemy while the hands of Moses were raised, but when Moses dropped his hands the Israelites would lose. Moses finally sat *on the rock* with his hands supported and held up by those with him and the victory was won. (Note: Raised hands can also be a Hebrew idiom for holding up a Torah scroll/the word and power of Yahweh).

Yahweh let everyone know that if they grumbled, complained and quarreled, the nations around them would attack. If they rested in Yahweh and in His Faithfulness to them they would have His protection, peace, covering and guidance. This is true for us today. The story of Moses and the people quarrelling in the wilderness is a prophetic lesson for us. The enemies of Israel are on the doorstep and in the land today. May we learn from Moses and apply these teachings in our lives to help deliver Israel for her enemies. Selah.

The Judge of Israel: Deborah

In the Haftorah section, the Israelites had just come through the ruling of Judge Ehud and were once again doing evil in the eyes of Yahweh. This brought the enemies of Israel upon the land, causing the people to cry out to Yahweh for help. Yahweh did bring help, a new judge for the people this time in the form of a woman. In the story of Deborah, an Ephraimite woman, we learn that the men were weak in her day. Yahweh told her to command Barak to go with ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead the way to Mount Tabor to fight against the enemy. Barak told her he would not go unless she came. Deborah said if she went, the victory would be at the hands of a woman and not a man, and this is just what happened. Yahweh chose the best person for the job, a woman who rose and stood in the gap (Judges 4:6-9).

Where are the men and women who will stand up for Yahweh? What will cause men to rise up and step into the leadership role appointed for them? Today, as Israel is coming out of Egypt (the world system), Yahweh continues to consider men and women as equal, both with designated roles, gifting and abilities. If they are not in their positions, then one must carry a double load and life becomes *out of order*.

The challenge facing men and women today is to serve Yahweh in Holiness as the priesthood did. Barak refused to obey Yahweh's commandment to lead the army. Many men today refuse to lead in their homes even though they have been anointed to do so. Women are to be *covered* by the men. Yahweh honors those who honor Him. We pray that men and women will together rise and carry the Banner of Yahweh. The challenge in these scriptures is for men to respond to the call of leadership and be responsible to the call of the priesthood as Moses and Aaron did - to trust and obey Yeshua when He calls. He would not ask us if He had not appointed it. So we trust Yahweh to bring about His deliverance and peace to Israel and to all who worship Him in Spirit and Truth. Amen!

To be continued



Shabbat Shalom
Julie Parker

Since its inception in 2003, *Sheepfold Gleanings* has been written under the pen name of *Carl and Julie Parker*. It will now be published under the author's name *Julie Parker*, with her husband Carl's continued support and covering.

Note: We are in the process of publishing the studies in soft spiral study format and soft bond format for prison ministry (an eBook format is coming!). **Exodus** is the second book in a five part series: **Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers and Deuteronomy**. Each book is part of the yearly Torah cycle starting in Genesis and is designed to be used each year for study purposes. To pre order please contact the information below.

Reference

Omer measurement is approximately two quarts.

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