



Mordekhi's Drash for Shabbat April 19, 2008 / Nisan 14, 5768

Parashah #29

Torah: *Acharei Mot* (After the death), *Vayikra* (Leviticus) 16.1-18.30

Haftorah: *Mal'akhi* (Malachi) 3.4-24(4.6) for *Shabbat HaGadol*

Suggested Messianic Writings: 1 Corinthians 6.9-20

Shalom,

As you will note above, this coming Shabbat is called *Shabbat HaGadol*, the Great Shabbat, the Shabbat just prior to *Pesakh*, Passover. This particular Shabbat is in commemoration of the 10th day of the month of Nisan (April 15 this year), for this is the day that the people of Israel were to select a lamb without defect to be the sacrifice lamb for *Pesakh*. On the evening of the 14th of Nisan, at dusk, the lamb was to be slaughtered, with the blood of the lamb smeared on the two sides and the door frame of the entrance to their homes. During the four days, the lamb was to be inspected so that no fault was found with it, and it also gave each family a short period to become attached to the lamb, for between *Sh'mot* (Exodus) 12.3 and 12.5 the description changes from "a" lamb to "your" lamb. On the 14th of Nisan, each "personal" lamb was publicly sacrificed "by the entire assembly" of Israel (12.6), but the blood from each "personal" lamb was put upon the doorposts as a sign of faith in the G-d of Israel.

From *Yochanan* (John) 12 we can understand that Yeshua rode a donkey into *Yerushalayim* (Jerusalem) on the 10th of Nisan. The crowd that surrounded Him as He entered the city riding upon the donkey (fulfilling Zechariah 9.9) thus "inspected" the Lamb, and found Him worthy:

- Hosanna! (*Hoshia Nah!* הוֹשִׁיעָה נָא Please! Deliver us!) וְיְבָרֵךְ הַבָּא בְּשֵׁם אֲדֹנָי *Barukh haba b'shem ADONI!* Blessed is He whom comes in the Name of ADONI! (*Mattityahu* (Matthew) 21.9).
- Blessed is the coming kingdom of our Father David! (Mark 11.10).
- Blessed is He who comes... the King of Israel! (*Yochanan* 12.13).
- Peace in heaven and glory in the highest! (Luke 19.38).

Although the people in *Yerushalayim* that day probably did not fully realize it at the time, by acclaiming Yeshua as Messiah and King, they were also approving and designating Him as their sacrifice Lamb, for this was the Messiah's destiny (like a lamb led to be slaughtered... (*Yasha'yahu* (Isaiah) 53.7)). It is good to remember what He has done for us, and celebrate it so each year at *Pesakh*. *Pesakh* is the remembrance of the Sacrifice of the Lamb, and this what *Sha'ul* (Saul/Paul) was referring to in 1 Corinthians 11.26, when he said, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the L-rd's death until He comes." Communion services are good, but they are essentially a man-made service; the Seder is the instructed time and location to remember Yeshua's death, to eat the bread and drink the cup. And that death we are to "proclaim" until He returns, for at that time He will drink it new with us.

The Haftorah reading from the prophet *Mal'akhi* has two key significant thoughts for us: 1) Remember the Torah of Moshe... (3.22(4.4)); and 2) I will send to you *Eliyahu haHavi* (Elijah the Prophet) before the great and terrible day of the L-rd (3.23(4.5)). The first key from *Mal'akhi* is our foundation, the flooring of our house, so to speak, the "material" of that floor being Yeshua, the Rock of Israel. The great and terrible day of ADONI, יוֹם הַגְּדוֹל וְהַנוֹרָא *Yom ADONI HaGadol v'Ha-no-rah*, will be *terrible* for those who *have not* built upon the solid foundation, but it will be a *great* day for those who *have* built upon the solid foundation. *Yo'el* (Joel) 2.2 describes that day as, "a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness." This is the Day of Tribulation, the Time of Jacob's Trouble. Don't plan on an early escape into the sky; that will only come after some trouble. Yeshua told us in *Mattityahu* 7 that whoever hears His words and acts upon them – He who was the Creator, and who holds all things together (Colossians 1.16-17); He who is *not only* the subject from Matthew to Revelation, but He who is also the subject of every book to the "left" of Matthew – whoever builds upon *those words* may be compared to a wise man who builds his "house" upon the rock, and *when the storm comes*, the "house" stands firm. No mention of the house not being there, just the fact that *during* the storm, the "house" will stand strong.

The second key is *Eliyahu*. Some scholars believe that *Eliyahu* may be one of the two witnesses of Revelation 11; Jewish people believe he will return at *Pesakh* someday, bringing Messiah with him. At any rate, his prophesied return is more than just symbolic, i.e., *Yochanan* the Immerser, this next time.

And not by coincidence, but by “G-d incidence” the Torah portion of this same week teaches of the scapegoat and the goat of the sin-offering. In this seemingly strange manner, the sins of the nation of Israel were done away with for a year; this chapter describes the Day of Atonement, *Yom Kippur*. The blood of the slaughtered goat was to be sprinkled upon the cover of the ark, in Hebrew **הַכַּפֹּרֶת** *ha-kahp-poh-ret*. The Roman execution tree, that instrument of death, is a picture to us of this cover; therefore, as one of those G-d paradoxes, it becomes an instrument of *life*. Yeshua has become our *kapparah*, our atonement, our propitiation, our covering, our forgiveness (Romans 3.25; Hebrews 2.17; 1 *Yochanan* 2.2, 4.10).

Holiness, holiness, holiness – that has been the subject of the Torah portions over and over and over. Our humanity, our flesh, is so weak that we just can't quite get seem to it. Even the most righteous among us are not so in our own strength – “there is none righteous, not even one” (Romans 3.9 quoting Psalm 14.1). Thank ADONAI for His mercy. Our 1 Corinthians reading tells us (6.11) that “through the power of the Lord Yeshua the Messiah and the Spirit of our God” we have cleansed ourselves, we have been set apart for G-d, *we have come to be counted righteous*.

The most religiously observant non-Messianic Jewish scholars of our day have written volumes of material explaining away the deity of Yeshua, and they are very good at what they write, very believable – only the Spirit of G-d can protect a heart that seeks and knows the truth. These men (and women) are the Sha'ul of Tarsus of our day (who by the way did *not* change his name to Paul and become a Christian, see Acts 13.9 & 23.6). Would that they might have the same type of encounter with Yeshua soon.

שְׁאַלוּ שְׁלוֹם יְרוּשָׁלַם – *Sha'alu shalom Yerushalayim* – Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

B'rakhot v'todah rabbah

(Blessings & thank you very much)

Mordekhi

This Yeshua, who has been taken away from you into heaven, will come back to you in just the same way as you saw him go into heaven.

(Acts 1.11 CJB)