

ONE TORAH FOR ALL

Zerubbabel ben Emunah
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Testing the Spirits

1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from Elohim; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of YHWH: every spirit that confesses that Yeshua Mashiach has come in the flesh is from YHWH; 3 and every spirit that does not confess Yeshua is not from Elohim; and this is the spirit of the anti-Mashiach, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. 4 You are from Elohim, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

Yochanan Aleph [1st John] 4:1-4

Brethren, with the recent post “What is Your Hope?” I made reference to testing the spirits. As a result of that reference, several people wrote to me to ask the specifics on how this was done. Since there were that many questions concerning this matter, YHWH has laid it upon me to write to the group, as there were probably others who had similar questions, but did not write.

In the passage above there is a commandment to test the spirits. This is not a suggestion, but rather we are commanded to test each and every spirit to make sure that it is from our Heavenly Father, YHWH.

We will not offend any spirit from YHWH, including the Spirit of YHWH. Why? Because He has commanded us to do this and when we obey His commandments, it pleases Him.

However, if we test a spirit and it does not happen to be from YHWH, then, that spirit will become angry, agitated, belligerent, pushy, demanding and any other number of anti-Torah manifestations.

What constitutes a spirit?

It seems wise in gaining an understanding of this very important subject to begin with defining what constitutes a spirit.

A person, when he comes to you can come in any number of ways (spirits). He could come to you in a spirit of anger. He could come to you in a spirit of jealousy. He could come to you in a spirit of deceit. I think you are getting the picture. On the other side he could also come to you in a spirit of love and compassion.

Towards the end of the pagan calendar year, many people get into the spirit of christmas. Or at other times people refer to the spirit of easter.

I remember many years ago when the USA had their 200th year birthday in 1976. It was a very big deal all over the USA. One of the major themes of that time was "The Spirit of '76".

Strong alcoholic drink is often referred to as 'spirits'.

When attending sports games and events, there is team spirit that is often referred to in all the hullabaloo.

These references are not just incidental, but very instructive to the one who will learn from Him.

Then we could also list spirits of pride, lust, deceit, greed, rebellion, cowardliness, idolatry and many more that could be named.

Basically, each person that you meet has a spirit about them. This is not to say that the person is possessed in any way. Please refer above as one can be “in a spirit” without necessarily having an unclean spirit. Your task is to test that spirit and determine whether that spirit is from YHWH or somewhere else.

I think that most reading this article can easily see that the spirits of christmas and easter are not from YHWH. But what about some of these other spirits, like a team spirit of a person’s favorite sport team? Some reading this article will not be able to (i.e., really not want to) see where that type of spirit is from. Why? Because, if they actually see the truth in this matter, then those individuals clearly understand what is required of them, namely, putting that spirit away.

Can a person be a spirit in this context?

1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from Elohim; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Please take careful note of exactly what the above sentence states.

- 1) We are not to believe every spirit;
- 2) We are to test every spirit;
- 3) The purpose of the testing to determine the source of the spirit;
- 4) The reason for testing is because of the multitude of false prophets.

So, we find that false prophets come in a wrong spirit, a spirit that is against YHWH or anti-Torah.

It would follow that in order to truly know who is a false prophet and who is a true prophet, a person would have to know what the Torah says.

Perhaps we need to define the duties and calling of a prophet at this point. Most would understand that a prophet is one who utters prophetic sayings

of what the future holds. And truly this is one of the tasks of a prophet. However, this is not the main task of a prophet. The main task of a prophet is to declare to YHWH's people His Words. Thus, Moshe was a prophet; David was a prophet; Yeshua was a prophet; because in each case they clearly fulfilled the roll of a prophet in declaring "Thus says YHWH Elohim..."

So when a person stands before His people and delivers a sermon, whether that is in written form or in verbal form, they are standing in the office of a prophet. When one stands in the office of a prophet, this does not necessarily make him a prophet.

The question then becomes, is that person a true prophet or a false prophet. What is the spirit that they come in? How is this determined?

Knowing for sure

By this you know the Spirit of YHWH: every spirit that confesses that Yeshua Mashiach has come in the flesh is from YHWH; ³ and every spirit that does not confess Yeshua is not from Elohim; Yochanan Aleph 4:2-3

In George Lamsa's translation of the Peshitta he has the above translated as (names and titles corrected to reflect a Hebraic understanding):

The Spirit of Elohim is known by this: Every prophecy which declares that Yeshua Mashiach is come in the flesh is from Elohim. And every prophecy which does not declare that Yeshua Mashiach has come in the flesh is not from Elohim. Yochanan Aleph 4:2-3

Basically, what this is saying is that a true prophet will declare to you that Yeshua is YHWH in the flesh, which was prophesied from of old.

There are many today (as it was then) that said that Yeshua was just a very righteous man, or he was a prophet, or something other than the fact that He was YHWH manifested in the flesh. If you hear a man (or woman) expounding upon Scripture and they are saying anything else but that

Yeshua is YHWH in the flesh, then that person is a false prophet according to the passage above.

And if a person will denigrate Yeshua, then you can be sure that they will not have a problem teaching you something other than the pure Word of truth. That person will mix error in with the truth, so why listen to them?

Yochanan Aleph [1st John] 2:21-23

21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth. 22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Yeshua is the Mashiach? This is the anti-Mashiach, the one who denies the Father and the Son. 23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

There are many well-meaning Messianics and Nazarenes today who support ministers and ministries that deny Yeshua as Mashiach. Please, may we be perfectly honest with ourselves here for just a moment? How is it possible to financially support a ministry (or minister) whom you know is against believing in Yeshua as Mashiach? Or, that Yeshua is YHWH in the flesh? Is this not supporting the spirit of error? To be sure!

Brethren, these things ought not to be this way. Each and every one of us should support the truth and only the truth. And when a ministry (or minister) consistently speaks against Torah, against Yeshua or teaches that Yeshua was just a man and not YHWH in the flesh or attempts to reason away the keeping of any commandment, we (both you and I) should not just walk away from them, we should run away as fast and as far as we can get.

Now, here is the critical part

Yochanan [John] 14:26

But the Helper, the Set-Apart Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

A person can understand all Scripture, but if that person does not shema (hear and obey) the Set-Apart Spirit, then, it is highly doubtful that the one hearing a false teaching will be able to properly discern truth from error. Having a good solid base of Torah learning will be used by the Set-Apart Spirit to speak in His Still Small Voice in order to inform the hearer that what he is reading or hearing is false.

Of all those that will read this, I firmly believe and am convinced, that many of you have a strong desire and longing to obey YHWH in all things. If you know without any doubt that something is YHWH's will for you, you will do it. The problem seems to be actually getting tuned into the right channel, being able to hear clearly His Voice.

There are false prophets in the world, which according to our passage there are many. To weed through all the spiritual noise each one of us needs to reduce that noise. This is done by removing from our midst those teaching a mixture of truth and error. If we are not willing to do that, then, how can we expect to hear clearly His Voice in all things? Especially since we are not obeying this commandment?

It takes practice, but it is possible to clearly hear His Voice. It is when the busyness of life crowds in and pushes us along the way that we fail to step aside for a season and just listen. The importance of this cannot be overstressed.

In your times of praying, when was the last time you just listened?

If you are always telling YHWH what you need and want, but never take the time to listen, how can you be sure that you are where you should be in your walk with Him? If you are always the one speaking and not listening, then, may I be so bold as to ask you who is the servant and who is the Elohim?

If we are to properly discern the spirits around us, then we must be able to hear His Voice.

It is a matter of life and death, yours and mine.

ABBA YHWH teach us Your ways in this matter in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach,

Amein and Amein.

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