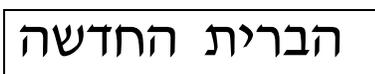




Masei

(journeys)

Bemidbar [Numbers] 33:1-36:13



HaB'rit HaChadashah

(the new covenant)

Matithyah [Matthew] 24:23-28

We have chosen this portion from the Brit because it reminds of the record of the wilderness journeys of the nation of Israel in days of old, as this portion speaks of those claiming Mashiach is in the wilderness.

Believe it Not!

Matithyah [Matthew] 24:23

"Then if any man shall say to you, 'Behold, here is the Messiah', or, 'Here'; believe it not."

Many times in Scripture we find passages that are worded in such a way that can be rightly understood in more than one way. Such is the case with Yeshua's opening statement of this discourse.

Matithyah [Matthew] 24:4

And Yeshua answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you."

The recorded words of Yeshua in this verse could also rightly be translated and understood as saying,

"See to it that you mislead no one."

Both are equally true and equally valid! Not only should we not be misled, but we should also be careful that we do not mislead others as well.

Our focus today is upon Matithyah 24:23-28; however, Yeshua before speaking this particular warning, gave two additional warnings that we should put before us.

Matithyah [Matthew] 24:4-5

4 And Yeshua answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you."

5 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Messiah,' and will mislead many."

Yeshua actually begins this discourse with this warning to beware of those who claim to be Messiah. When we come across any person making the claim to be Messiah, we should run as far away from them as possible.

Matithyah [Matthew] 24:11

"And many false prophets shall arise, and shall lead many astray."

In the first warning from Yeshua He warns about false messiahs. In this warning, just six verses later, He warns about false prophets. Please note that Yeshua Himself states that there shall be many false prophets.

Yeshua's admonishment is to be careful that we are not misled!

False Messiahs and False Prophets

Matithyah [Matthew] 24:24

"For there shall arise false Messiahs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect."

This is not the third warning from Yeshua. In this warning He is warning about both false messiahs and false prophets. Yeshua even tells us that these people will be doing miracles. If a person just follows after miracles as a sure means to validate the person doing them, then that person is sure to be led astray! With the above passage in mind let us look at this next passage.

Matithyah 7:22-23

22 "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy by your name, and by your name cast out demons, and by your name do many mighty works?'

23 And then will I say to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you that work iniquity.'"

We need to understand that there are many who would lead us astray. There are many today that do mighty works in the name of Yeshua, whom He does not know. Brothers and sisters, we need to carefully and consistently test the spirits of those who desire to minister in and to His body. If we do not do this as we have been commanded to do in Scripture, then it is nearly a given that we will be led astray. We cannot afford this. Many have come in the past claiming to be someone. When a person claims to be someone, we need to use and exercise extreme caution.

There are many today who are claiming to be an apostle or a prophet. There are many who even claim to be Eliyah or Moshe or Enoch. Back in 1993, there were then in the USA, over 1500 men and women who were making the claim to be Messiah. It has increased since then!

Let us look at Shaul's description of the latter days in which we now live and how he describes these false prophets and false messiahs that come among His people to lead them astray.

2nd Timothy 3:1-7

1 But know this, that in the last days grievous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, no lovers of good,

4 traitors, headstrong, puffed up, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of Elohim;

5 holding a form of commandment keeping, but having denied the power thereof; from these also turn away.

6 For of these are they that creep into houses, and take captive silly women laden with sins, led away by various lusts,

7 ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Brethren, if there was ever a time when we need to guard ourselves and our families from those who would prey on us, it is now. Ladies, please take note of verse six in which it states that these will come into your homes and take you captive. Please carefully consider what comes into our homes on the TV or now, especially via the internet. Truly, there are many who claim to be teaching the truth, but in fact do not teach the truth, but are only tickling the ears of those who will listen to them.

We Have Been Warned

Matityah [Matthew] 24:25

"Behold, I have told you in advance."

Yeshua has warned us in advance. Yeshua has given us information in order that, if we will but listen and obey His Voice, it will protect and preserve us. However, if one does not listen to and obey His Voice, then that person cannot expect to receive the blessings and protection of the Almighty!

When Yeshua taught us these things, it was not simply for our entertainment. It was not simply just to be talking. No! He expects this information to propel us into the appropriate action. This is why He likened His return to the days of Noah. YHWH warned Noah in advance and gave him specific instructions as to what he was to do in order to preserve himself and his family. Had Noah not obeyed YHWH we would never have known his name!

Likewise, YHWH expects us to act in accordance with His teaching concerning these days. The question is this: are we listening? Are we taking the time to get alone with Him and seek out His Voice so that we will not be deceived?

There are many voices today on the internet that say that we should do this, that, or the other. There are many who say one thing, and others who say something that is diametrically opposed to the first; all the while all are claiming to be teaching His truth. But Yeshua warned us in advance not to be deceived. He has given us the promise of His Spirit, but if one is not filled with His Spirit then that person is almost certain to be deceived. Let us look at one other warning concerning this matter.

Tessaloniqim Bet [2nd Thessalonians] 2:8-11

8 And then that lawless one will be revealed whom Adonenu Yeshua will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;

9 the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders,

10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

11 And for this reason Elohim will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe the lie.

Please note the reason clearly stated in verse ten above as to why those who perish are perishing. It is because they did not receive the love of the truth. When a person receives the love of the truth it is manifested in his life through his actions. Yeshua said that if we love Him, then we will obey His commandments. This is truth, His commandments, but also He is truth. Therefore, if we do not love Him or His commandments to keep and obey them, then we shall surely be deceived and perish.

It is important to note verse eleven above as well. To those who do not receive the love of the truth, Elohim Himself will send a deluding influence that they would believe the lie of Satan and perish.

It is fairly easy to determine who has a love of the truth and who does not, regardless of the words which come out of their mouths. If a person would rather follow the traditions of man than the commandment of Elohim, then that person does not love His truth! For when a person loves His truth, then when a new truth is learned it is readily incorporated into his life to obey, do, and keep the commandment. Those who do not love His truth do not do this; they make excuses for not obeying His commandments. Which do you do?

In The Wilderness

Matithyah [Matthew] 24:26

“If therefore they shall say to you, ‘Behold, he is in the wilderness’; do not go forth; or, ‘Behold, he is in the inner rooms’; believe it not.”

Yeshua is speaking of two separate groups of people here. We need to discuss each one.

First, we have those who say that Yeshua is in the wilderness or that He is coming in the wilderness. This is not true. Yeshua states very clearly that we are not to believe anyone who teaches this. He is not in the wilderness; nor is He coming to those in the wilderness! Now there are those who twist Scripture who want you to believe otherwise, but Scripture clearly states that when He returns He is coming to Mount Olivet.

Zecharyah [Zechariah] 14:4

And His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east; and the mount of Olives shall be cleft in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

This is further verified in the book of Acts.

Ma’aseh [Acts] 1:9-12

9 And when He had said these things, as they were looking, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

10 And while they were looking steadfastly into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 who also said, “You men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Yeshua, who was received up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as you beheld Him going into heaven.”

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Shabbat day’s journey off.

Scripture is clear; the location of His return is Mount Olivet in Jerusalem.

But then Yeshua also warns about those who will teach a secret coming (inner rooms). To understand that Yeshua’s reference to inner rooms is in fact a reference to a secret coming, let us look at another place where He uses this same word picture to depict secrecy.

Matithyah [Matthew] 6:6

“But you, when you pray, enter into your inner room, and having shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret shall reward you.”

As we can clearly see here, the reference to an inner room is a reference to secrecy. This is essentially what those who teach a pre-tribulation rapture are teaching. They teach that Yeshua comes secretly for His people and that the rest of humanity, those who are not believers do not see Him. Yeshua says that we are not to believe those who teach this! He illustrates the reason for not believing such false doctrines in the very next verse.

As Lightning

Matithyah [Matthew] 24:27

“For as the lightning comes forth from the east, and is seen even to the west; so shall be the coming of the Son of man.”

As is recorded here by Matthew, Yeshua taught that His disciples should not believe anyone who said that Yeshua was in any particular place other than where Scripture says He is. Furthermore, Yeshua taught the type of return His would be. To assure that there would be no misunderstandings, He used the analogy of lightning. Here He is not referring to the quickness of His return. He is referring to the universal visibility of it. When lightning flashes, no one needs to tell you that the lightning flashed, even though you may be indoors, with the door shut and the curtains drawn. For one of the phenomenon that always occurs with a lightning strike, is thunder. And the closer the lightning strike, the louder the thunder. So also, when Yeshua returns, no one will need to tell another individual that it is Yeshua coming. Like the lightning, all will know that it is Yeshua. It will be that plain, visible to all, disciples and unbelievers alike. Just as the lightning flashes upon disciple and unbeliever, and makes no distinction between them, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.

A Gathering Place of Death

Matithyah [Matthew] 24:28

“Where the carcass is, there the vultures will be gathered together.”

One of the questions that often arises concerning this passage is the word “vulture” as some translations render it as “eagle.” So which is correct? The Peshitta has in the text of this passage the word הַנְּשָׂרִים – hanesharim. The root word here is נָשַׂר – nashar, which can mean either a vulture or eagle. In this case it is clearly a vulture because there are dead carcasses present which eagles do not typically feast upon, but vultures do. So the correct translation and understanding here is clearly that of vultures as the word form is in the masculine plural with the definite article, making it read *the vultures*.

This brings to mind several other passages of Scripture.

Gilyana [Revelation] 19:17-18

17 And I saw a messenger standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in mid heaven, "Come and be gathered together to the great supper of Elohim; 18 that you may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses and of them that sit thereon, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, and small and great."

It would seem that this passage is directly related to, and the companion passage of, the words of Mashiach as recorded by Matithyah. The idea contained in these verses come straight from the Torah.

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 28:26

"And your dead body shall be food to all birds of the heavens, and to the beasts of the earth; and there shall be none to frighten them away."

This verse is found in the midst of YHWH's promised curses for disobedience to His Torah commandments which start at Devarim 28:15 and go to verse 68 of that same chapter.

Yeshua speaks of a place of death in several contexts. In the following one it is concerning the judgment of those who do not accept Him as Mashiach.

Matithyah [Matthew] 13:30

"Let both grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, 'Gather up first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them; but gather the wheat into My barn.'"

Please note that in this passage those who are taken first are those who are NOT believers. In the teaching of a pre-tribulation rapture those taken first are the believers, which is not according to this passage and many others that teach us that those who know and follow Yeshua as Mashiach will go through the tribulation. Yeshua Himself taught us that we should actually expect this for ourselves.

Yochanan [John] 16:33

"These things have I spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

Yeshua clearly teaches us that as long as we are in this present world, then we can expect to have tribulation. The reason for this, is because they hated Him first, and because we love Him and follow Him, the world will hate us as well. We are not above our Master.

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 4:30

“When you are in tribulation, and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days you shall return to YHWH your Elohim, and shema His Voice.”

YHWH put this truth in the Torah! When we come into tribulation we are to let this remind us to return to YHWH our Elohim! May all His people in these days of tribulation and those days of tribulation that are to come, know and understand that it is because of His great love for us that He is allowing this tribulation to come so that we might return to Him and love and serve only Him all the days of our lives!

ABBA YHWH, please give us wisdom that we might know how to walk through tribulation in joy and understanding; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

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