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Shemot [Exodus] 10:1-13:16

Humble Yourself

Shemot (Exodus) 10:3

And Moshe and Aharon went in to Pharaoh, and said to him, "Thus says YHWH, the Elohim of the Hebrews, 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me.'"

In this question that YHWH asks Pharaoh through Moshe, we find the essence of the difference between one who dwells in Babylon and one who dwells in Israel with YHWH the Elohim of the Hebrews. As we study this difference today, do not lose sight of the fact that YHWH has asked Pharaoh to do something; namely, to humble himself. If a person is not willing to humble himself before YHWH, then it is not possible for him to have eternal life. This question is the beginning point of one's spiritual journey with YHWH.

The antithesis of humbling oneself is to be full of pride or strength of heart. In this case we see that Pharaoh hardened his heart against what YHWH wanted to do in his life personally. To do this is to ask YHWH for plagues to be poured upon oneself. Let us first examine this concept of the hardening of the heart a little closer.

Shemot (Exodus) 10:1

And YHWH said to Moshe, "Go in to Pharaoh; for I have hardened his heart, and the heart of his servants, that I may show these signs of Mine in their midst."

The Hebrew word that is translated as "hardened" is הִקְבַּדְתִּי – "hik'ebadti", which is in the hiphil stem giving this word the meaning of "to make heavy". The root word כָּבַד – "kabad" means to *weigh* or to *be important*. It is from this word that we get the word כְּבוֹד – "k'vod" which commonly means "glory". So what was happening in Pharaoh's mind, heart and spirit was that he was having a greatly elevated esteem of himself, way more than he should have.

It is still true today as it was then and as it has been in every age since then that those who refuse to humble themselves before YHWH will be lifted up with pride and be destroyed because they refuse to serve Him.

Mishle (Proverbs) 18:12

***Before destruction the heart of man is haughty;
And before honor goes humility.***

A man's heart which is lifted up with pride faces destruction every day of his life. And the further he travels in his life, the more sure the destruction is that is coming his way. In order to avert this sure and sudden destruction he must humble himself and repent of all his evil ways and submit his life to YHWH and make Him his Elohim.

Yeshayah (Isaiah) 2:11-12

***11 The proud looks of man shall be brought low, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and YHWH alone shall be exalted in that day.
12 For there shall be a day of YHWH Tzava'ot upon all that is proud and haughty, and upon all that is lifted up; and it shall be brought low.***

If a man refuses to humble himself, then YHWH will do it for him. And when YHWH does it, then destruction comes as well. This is what happened to Pharaoh when he refused to humble himself before YHWH. This is what will happen to every person who refuses to seek YHWH in humility. Pride is a sinful thing in a person's life. It bears no good fruit, only the fruit of an evil and wicked way. Please notice what such a prideful attitude begets in this next passage of Scripture.

Yeshayah (Isaiah) 65:5

Who say, "Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am holier than you!" These are smoke in My nostrils, a fire that burns all the day.

I have run into this attitude a lot recently and it is quite disturbing to me, and apparently it is disturbing to YHWH as well. For, He says that those who have this attitude will be smoke in His nostrils. He will repay them by consuming them with His fire and burning them up.

There is no room in His kingdom for the attitude that one person is better than another!

Luqa (Luke) 18:10-11

***10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a tax-collector.
11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'Elohim, I thank you, that I am not as the rest of men, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax-gatherer.'"***

Yeshua gave us the above example as a warning to all who have ears to hear that those who have an elevated view of themselves YHWH does not regard, but rather takes note of those who come before Him and humble themselves before YHWH.

The question that YHWH asks Pharaoh through Moshe is still pertinent for every single person today. How long will we continue to live not humbling ourselves to YHWH? There are many people today who claim to follow YHWH as their Elohim, yet many of these same people walk before Him with a heart full of pride. They are proud of themselves as that Pharisee was in Yeshua's day. They are proud of their belief and faith in Yeshua. They are proud of their marriage relationships. They are proud of their children. They are proud of who they know. They are proud of the calling that YHWH has placed upon their lives. They are proud of the job or career that they have. They are just simply proud.

Pride in a person's life always leads to hardness of heart. It leads to hardness of heart first to his fellow man, then lastly pride leads to hardness of heart towards YHWH Himself.

Romans 2:4-11

4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of the Elohim leads you to repentance?

5 but after your hardness and impenitent heart treasures up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of the Elohim;

6 who will render to every man according to his works;

7 to them that by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and incorruption, eternal life;

8 but to them that are factious, and obey not the truth, but obey unrighteousness, shall be wrath and indignation,

9 tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that works evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Greek;

10 but glory and honor and peace to every man that works good, to the Yehudim first, and also to the Aramean;

11 for there is no respect of persons with Elohim.

Writer after writer confirms to us that hardness of heart in a person results in the judgment of YHWH our Elohim coming upon such a person in its fullest measure. Furthermore, He does not care who that person is, He will judge regardless of who he is.

Ivrim (Hebrews) 3:7-8

7 Wherefore, even as the Holy Spirit says,

“Today if you shall hear His Voice,

8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation,

Like as in the day of the trial in the wilderness.”

Each time that a person transgresses the Torah of YHWH hardness of heart sets in. And left unrepented of, this hardness will lead to more hardness of heart and more disobedience. This cycle of hardness and

disobedience will continue until judgment and destruction is sent from YHWH and the individual is dealt a final blow in which he is humbled before YHWH and all men through this destruction.

However, each one of us has an alternate choice that we can choose rather than choosing to continue in this hardness of heart and disobedient life that we have inherited from our forefathers. We can humble ourselves before YHWH.

Kepha Aleph (1st Peter) 5:6-7

6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of Elohim, that He may exalt you in due time;

7 casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.

We need to stop trying to exult ourselves! We need to live a simple life minding those things that YHWH has placed in our care and do the very best that we can with what He has given to us. Brothers and sisters in Mashiach, let us beware of all those who exult themselves as being someone important, but let us look to those whom YHWH is raising up amongst us. And to those of us whom He raises up, let us beware lest pride of heart also take hold of us, knowing that we too may fall by the wayside if we do not stay humble before YHWH our Maker and Judge!

ABBA YHWH, we ask that You fill us with Your Spirit that we might walk in complete humility before You and before all men at all times knowing that if it were not for Your grace we would be nothing and have no eternal life; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

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