



Message 3-3-18
Ki Tissa-When You Elevate
Exodus 30:11-34:35
1 Kings 18:1-39
Mattityahu 22:29-33

Introduction

Shabbat is the heart of our lives – quite a claim for a day that is frequently ignored by so many! Yet, an examination of our past reveals how vital Shabbat has always been in Jewish family life, in the lives who follow with them, and how central to our spiritual experience. Moreover, an examination of our own age, with its careerism and its bustle, reveals that Shabbat is needed more now than ever before. “You must keep My Shabbats, for this is a sign between Me and you throughout the ages, that you may know that I Adonai have consecrated you.” Work is prohibited on the seventh day.

Exodus 31:12-18

12 ADONAI said to Moshe, ¹³ "Tell the people of Isra'el, 'You are to observe my *Shabbats*; for this is a sign between me and you through all your generations; so that you will know that I am ADONAI, who sets you apart for me. ¹⁴ Therefore you are to keep my *Shabbat*, because it is set apart for you. Everyone who treats it as ordinary must be put to death; for whoever does any work on it is to be cut off from his people. ¹⁵ On six days work will get done; but the seventh day is *Shabbat*, for complete rest, set apart for ADONAI. Whoever does any work on the day of *Shabbat* must be put to death. ¹⁶ The people of Isra'el are to keep the *Shabbat*, to observe *Shabbat* through all their generations as a perpetual covenant. ¹⁷ It is a sign between me and the people of Isra'el forever; for in six days ADONAI made heaven and earth, but on the seventh day he stopped working and rested.'" ¹⁸ When he had finished speaking with Moshe on Mount Sinai, ADONAI gave him the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God. (CJB)

The Almighty makes it very clear how He feels about the Shabbat. He gets straight to the point with Moses. It is a sign between Him and the people of Israel forever, so if someone desires to become part of Israel, they must abide by the command about the Shabbat as well as the rest of Torah. It is a sign that will set His people apart from everyone else, and we see that in our world as it is today. Those who are part of the church meet on Sunday, but that is not the Shabbat because He says you will labor for six days and rest on the seventh – the Shabbat. If you do work on the Shabbat, you are to be put to death or cut off from their people – Israel. Now, to be fair, if you come to the Shabbat today, and you are working in a job that has you working on the Shabbat, it may be difficult to change it, but if you submit it to prayer, the Holy One will make a way for you to keep His Sabbath

if this is the path you want to take. You need to remember that it is not just about the seventh-day Shabbat. It also includes entering His covenant of Torah through faith in His Son Messiah Yeshua. It's a package deal, my friends. You cannot pick what you want to do from the Torah, you do what you are able to do. Remember the Torah is for men, women, children, business, marriages, and the sacrificial system. There are parts of the Torah we cannot do today without a Temple, but we can offer ourselves to Him as a living sacrifice committed to His Son and Torah.

1 Kings 18:36-39

36 And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. ³⁷ Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back." ³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. ³⁹ And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God." (ESV)

This is one of the most memorable passages in the Bible with the Holy One of Israel sending forth fire to consume an offering and answering the prayer of one man, the Prophet Elijah, against the prayers and machinations of the pagans. It took this event to get the people of Israel back in line with the Almighty, when they should have been committed to Him all along. This is the sad story of His people how they fluctuated back and forth between following Him and following the ways of the nations, something He had told them not to do from the very beginning. When Adam and Chavah disobeyed the Creator, they set mankind on a path that will lead us to the end of all things and yet the beginning of something new as promised from the very beginning through Messiah Yeshua.

It's not an easy walk when you take the time to think about it. It takes a commitment to follow the path the Messiah Yeshua has already walked down. He is at the end of the road waiting for us to finish the journey.

Hebrews 12:1 So then, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us, too, put aside every impediment- that is, **the sin which easily hampers our forward movement- and keep running with endurance in the contest set before us**, ² looking away to the Initiator and Completer of that trusting, Yeshua- who, in exchange for obtaining the joy set before him, endured execution on a stake as a criminal, scorning the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (CJB)

The *Shaliach* Shaul ran the race and made it to the end completing the journey the Almighty set before him. Can we say the same thing? Will we run the race defying everything that tempts us, so we can finish the same way Shaul did? It is not an easy road we are on, but with our faith in Messiah and the help of the *Ruach HaKodesh*, we can make it to the end to be there with Him seeing Him sitting at the right hand of His Father.

Psalm 110:1 *A Psalm of David.* The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." ² The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies! ³ Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours. ⁴ The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek." ⁵ The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath. ⁶ He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth. ⁷ He will drink from the brook by the way; therefore, he will lift up his head. (ESV)

One Lord says to another sit at My right hand. Who are these two Lords? None other than the Father and the Son Yeshua. Yeshua is the mighty scepter to rule amid His enemies. Those who belong to Messiah will offer themselves freely to the Holy Son of the Father. Yeshua, born through the line of Judah, a descendant of the line of David, the rightful King of Israel, is also its priest after the order of Melchizedek, the one who came before the Aaronic line of priests. Yeshua is both King and Priest bringing everything and everyone together in His hand by the command of the Father.

Mattityahu 22:29-33

29 But Yeshua answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God. ³⁰ "For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ³¹ "But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God: ³² 'I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB '? He is not the God of the dead but of the living." ³³ When the crowds heard *this*, they were astonished at His teaching. (NAU)

The Pharisees wanted to trap Yeshua trying to make Him say something He could not back up or not be able to answer. Yeshua knew what they were trying to do and turned it around on them leaving them speechless. He told them the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is not a God of the dead but of the living. We serve a living God who loves all of us and who created us to be different, testing who and what we are in the fires meant to purify His people. He has called us to be different from the other nations. We have all been grafted into an Israel made up of those who have placed their faith and trust in the Messiah Yeshua and live their lives by the covenant of Torah of which the first sign is the keeping of the seventh-day Shabbat. Take it one step at a time, and follow His teachings. They will bring you to eternal life, not eternal separation from the Creator.

Torah Man says: "It is better to wear out than to rust out."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

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TORAH: LEARN IT, LOVE IT, LIVE IT AS YESHUA DID! PSALM 119



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