

Greetings, today our manna is Judges 6; Acts 10; Jeremiah 19; Mark 5.

July 23 - Melchizedek Devotional Perspective

[Note: **For teaching purposes only**, underlines, bold font, and highlight emphasis have been used in PDFs.]

Scripture Source: e-Sword TS2009 unless otherwise noted: <https://www.e-sword.net/>

Judges 6

Midian Oppresses Israel

Jdg 6:1 And the children of Yisra'el did evil in the eyes of יהוה, and יהוה gave them into the hand of Midyan for seven years,

Jdg 6:2 and the hand of Midyan was strong against Yisra'el. And before the faces of the Midyanites the children of Yisra'el made for themselves the refuges which are in the mountains, and the caves, and the strongholds.

Midianites were stealing their increase:

Jdg 6:3 And it came to be, whenever Yisra'el had sown, that Midyan would come up, and Amalēq and the people of the East would come up against them,

Jdg 6:4 and encamp against them and destroy the increase of the soil as far as Azzah, and leave no food in Yisra'el, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey.

Jdg 6:5 For they came up with their livestock and their tents, coming in as numerous as locusts. And they and their camels were without number. And they came into the land to destroy it.

For us, when we get outside the boundaries of YHWH's Covenant commands; we are on our own. He doesn't force anyone to stay in bounds; but each will 'reap what they sow' individually or nationally. The soil within His boundaries produces good fruit; and outside His boundaries, produces rotten genetically modified fruit.

Jdg 6:6 Thus Yisra'el was brought very low because of Midyan, and the children of Yisra'el cried out to יהוה.

Jdg 6:7 And it came to be, when the children of Yisra'el cried out to יהוה because of Midyan,

Jdg 6:8 that יהוה sent a prophet to the children of Yisra'el, who said to them, "Thus said יהוה Elohim of Yisra'el, 'I have brought you up from Mitsrayim and I brought you out of the house of bondage,

Jdg 6:9 and I delivered you out of the hand of the Mitsrites and out of the hand of all your oppressors, and drove them out before you and gave you their land.

Jdg 6:10 And I said to you, "**I am יהוה your Elohim, do not fear the mighty ones of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. And you have not obeyed My voice.**"

The Call of Gideon

Jdg 6:11 And the Messenger of יהוה came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Yo'ash the Abi'ezerite, while his son **Gid'on threshed wheat in the**

winepress, to hide it from the eyes of the Midyanites.

Jdg 6:12 And the **Messenger of יהוה** appeared to him, and said to him, “**יהוה** is with you, you mighty brave one!”

Jdg 6:13 And **Gid'on said to Him**, “O my master, if **יהוה** is with us, why has all this come upon us? And where are all His wonders which our fathers related to us, saying, ‘Did not **יהוה** bring us up from Mitsrayim?’ But now **יהוה** has left us and given us into the hands of Midyan.”

YHWH speaks to Gideon

Jdg 6:14 **And יהוה turned to him and said**, “Go in this strength of yours, and you shall save Yisra’el from the hand of the Midyanites. Have I not sent you?”

Jdg 6:15 And he said to Him, “O **יהוה**, with what do I save Yisra’el? See, **my clan is the weakest in Menashsheh, and I am the least in my father’s house.**”

Jdg 6:16 **And יהוה said to him**, “Because I am with you, you shall strike the Midyanites as one man.”

Jdg 6:17 And he said to Him, “Please, if I have found favour in Your eyes, then show me a sign that it is You who are speaking with me.”

Jdg 6:18 “Please do not move away from here, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set it before You.” And He said, “I shall stay until you return.”

Gideon goes to prepare an offering, and he request a sign to make sure it was YHWH speaking to him and not some other. There were many gods worshiped in this territory, so this seems to be a reasonable request. The oppression was great; to the point of being able to provide food for themselves to eat.

The messenger of YHWH had found Gideon threshing wheat in the wine press so that the Midyanites would not confiscate his grain. The situation was dire, and the enemy and possessions were numerous as locusts.

Jdg 6:19 And **Gid'on went in, and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour.** The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot. And he brought them out to Him, under the terebinth tree, and presented it.

Jdg 6:20 And **the Messenger of Elohim said to him**, “Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth.” And he did so.

Jdg 6:21 And **the Messenger of יהוה** put forth the end of the staff that was in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread. And **fire went up out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread.** And the Messenger of **יהוה** went from his sight.

Jdg 6:22 And when **Gid'on saw that He was a Messenger of יהוה**, **Gid'on said**, “Oh Master **יהוה**! For I have seen a Messenger of **יהוה** face to face.”

Favor was being shown to Gideon. Gideon knew YHWH’s word concerning death to anyone who would see His face; but YHWH relieves that fear.

Jdg 6:23 And **יהוה** said to him, “Peace be with you! Do not fear, you do not die.”

Jdg 6:24 And **Gid'on built a slaughter-place there to יהוה**, and called it: יהוה Shalom. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abi'ezerites.

BDB Definition: Ophrah = “fawn”

- 1) a Judaite, son of Meonothai (noun proper masculine)
- 2) a town of Benjamin approximately 5 miles (8 kilometers) east of Bethel (noun proper locative)
- 3) a place in Manasseh, native place of Gideon; probably located close to Shechem (noun proper locative)

Gideon is directed to tear down his father's slaughter place to Ba'al and the Asherah beside it. This very much applies to us today. This is in Covenant Torah; as well as, here during the time of the Book of the Law.

YHWH wants us to worship Him only, and not blend with the worldly and cultural feasts of the nations. These practices must be torn out of our lives; we MUST be set-apart to Him only! What ‘holidays’ do you observe? Can you find their observance condoned in the Bible by YHWH? If not, they are pagan holidays.

Jdg 6:25 And the same night it came to be that יהוה said to him, “Take the young bull of your father, and the second bull of seven years old, and you shall throw down the slaughter-place of Ba'al that your father has, and cut down the Asherah that is beside it.

Ophrah was probably located close to Shechem. We see the patterns of these special meeting places revisited several times with YHWH.

Jdg 6:26 “And **you shall build a slaughter-place to יהוה your Elohim on top of this rock** in an orderly way, and shall take the second bull and offer an ascending offering with the wood of the image which you cut down.”

Jdg 6:27 And **Gid'on took ten men** from among his servants and did as יהוה had said to him. And **it came to be, because he feared his father's household and the men of the city too much to do it by day, that he did it by night.**

Gideon not only had to be concerned that the Midyanites would see his provisions and his acts; but he also feared retribution from the very household of his father that had adopted pagan rituals. Therefore, he did the ascending offerings cloaked in the dark of night. That had to be hard to pull off when considering gathering the bull and ten men! Next, morning comes and...

Gideon Destroys the Altar of Baal

Jdg 6:28 And the men of the city arose early in the morning and saw the slaughter-place of Ba'al was broken down, and the Asherah that was beside it had been cut down, **and the second bull was being offered on the slaughter-place which was built.**

Jdg 6:29 **And they said to each other, “Who has done this deed?”** And when they had inquired and asked, they said, “Gid'on son of Yo'ash has done this deed.”

Jdg 6:30 **And the men of the city said to Yo'ash, “Bring out your son, so that he dies,** for he has broken down the slaughter-place of Ba'al, and because he has cut down the Asherah that was beside it.”

Jdg 6:31 And Yo'ash said to all who stood against him, “You, would you plead for Ba'al? You, would you save him? Let the one who would plead for him be put to death by morning! **If he is a mighty one, let him plead for himself, because his slaughter-place has been broken down!”**

Jdg 6:32 So that day he called him Yerubba'al, saying, “Let Ba'al plead against him, because he has broken down his slaughter-place.”

BDB Definition: Jerubaal = “let Baal contend”

- 1) name given to Gideon by his father when he destroyed the altar of Baal

The pot has been stirred and the Midyanites; Amalekites; and the people of the East gathered...

BDB Definition: Midian or Midianite = “strife”

- 1) son of Abraham by Keturah and progenitor of the tribe of Midianites or Arabians (noun proper masculine)
- 2) the tribe descended from Midian (noun proper masculine)
- 3) the territory of the tribe descended from Midian; located principally in the desert north of the Arabian peninsula; land to which Moses went when he fled from Pharaoh (noun proper locative)

BDB Definition: Amalekite = see Amalek “people of lapping”

- 1) descendants of Amalek, the grandson of Esau

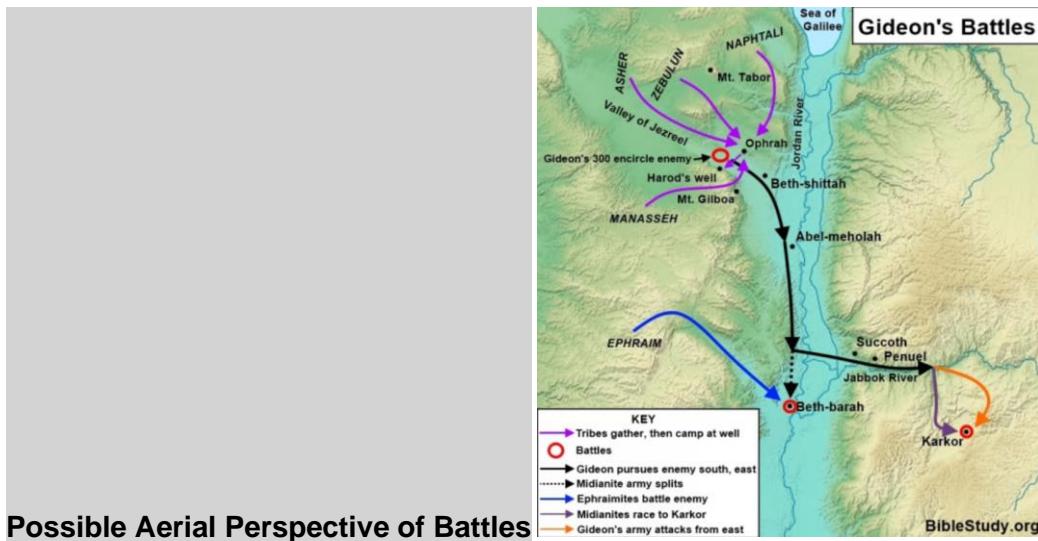
Jdg 6:33 Now all Midyan and Amalēq and the people of the East, were gathered together. And they passed over and encamped in the Valley of Yizre'ěl. [Jezreel = “God sows”]

Jdg 6:34 Then the **Spirit of יהוה came upon Gid'on,** and **he blew the shophar,** and the Abi'ezerites gathered behind him.

BDB Definition: Abiezer = “my father is help”

- 1) a Manassite, called “son” of Gilead, also son of Gilead's sister
- 2) a Benjaminite, warrior of David

Jdg 6:35 And he sent messengers throughout all Menashsheh, who also gathered behind him. And he sent messengers to Asher, and to Zebulun, and to Naphtali. And they came up to meet them.



The Sign of the Fleece –

If dew is only on the fleece and the surrounding ground is dry; then Gideon would know that YHWH will save Israel.

Jdg 6:36 And Gid'on said to Elohim, "If You are saving Yisra'ĕl by my hand as You have said,
Jdg 6:37 see, **I am placing a fleece of wool on the threshing-floor**. If there is dew only on the fleece, and it is dry on all the ground, **then I shall know that You are saving Yisra'ĕl by my hand, as You have said.**"

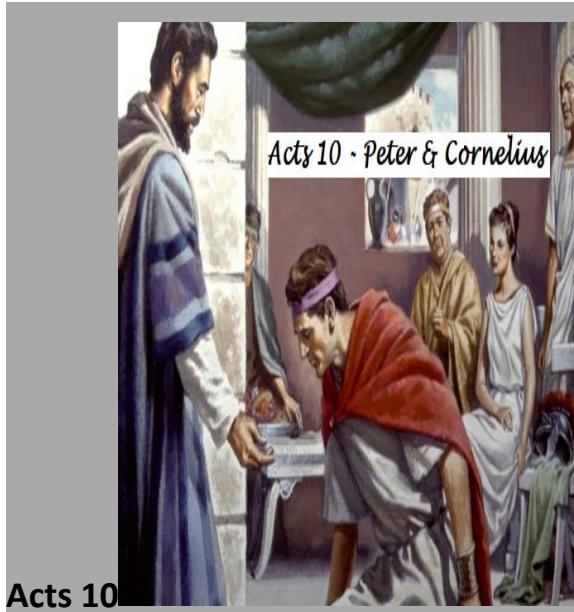
Jdg 6:38 **And it was so**, and he rose early the next morning and pressed the fleece, and wrung dew out of the fleece, to fill a bowl with water.

Gideon asks for a confirmation sign. This time Gideon asked that the fleece be dry, and the surrounding ground be wet; then he would know YHWH would save Israel. And so, it was done by YHWH. The world had beaten down Gideon's confidence. We know this by his statement in: **Jdg 6:15** And he said to Him, "O יהוָה, with what do I save Yisra'ĕl? See, **my clan is the weakest in Menashsheh, and I am the least in my father's house.**"

YHWH had told Gideon he was with him. When do you think was the last time Gideon had heard that someone was with him? Probably a long time ago, if at all! Many times, YHWH uses the weak beings of this world; those shunned by the world and their families; to confound the wise.

Jdg 6:39 And Gid'on said to Elohim, “Do not be displeased with me, and let me speak only this time: Please let me try only this time with the fleece, please let it be dry only on the fleece, and let there be dew on all the ground.”

Jdg 6:40 And Elohim did so that night, and it was dry on the fleece only, but there was dew on all the ground.



Where are we at on the linear timeline?	
34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saul arrives in Jerusalem - Stephen debates Jews coming from Cyrene, Cilicia (ie. Saul), Alexandria (Ac. 6:9) - Stephen arrested by Sanhedrin (Ac. 6:12) - Stephen stoned (Ac. 7:59) - Saul persecutes the church in Jerusalem - Philip goes to Samaria (Ac. 8:4) - Philip meets Ethiopian Treasurer (Ac. 8:26)
A.D.	
35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saul converted on road to Damascus (Ac. 9) - Saul is in Damascus - Saul leaves for Arabia (Gal. 1:17)
36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saul is in Arabia
38	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saul returns to preach in Damascus - Saul's life is threatened (Ac. 9:23) - Saul escapes to Jerusalem - Barnabas introduces Saul to disciples - Saul stays with Peter 15 days (Gal. 1:18-19) - Saul debates Grecian Jews (Ac. 9:29) - Saul flees to Tarsus in Cilicia (Ac. 9:29, 30)
39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saul preaches in Cilicia and Syria for five years (Gal. 1:21) - Persecution has ceased in Jerusalem - Jerusalem church continues to grow (Ac. 9:31) - Peter travels Judean Countryside (Ac. 9:32) - Peter heals Aeneas in Lydda (Ac. 9:33) - Peter raises Tabitha in Joppa (Ac. 9:36) - Peter called to Caesarea by Cornelius (A. 10)
40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peter has to defend having preached in a Gentile house to the church leaders in Jerusalem. (Ac. 11) - Missionaries from Cyrene in North Africa come to Antioch in Syria and preach to the Gentiles (Ac. 11:20) - Saul is preaching in Cilicia and Syria

Peter and Cornelius

Cornelius was a captain (or Centurion) serving in what was called the Italian Regiment of the Roman Army. He apparently grew to love the Elohim of the Hebrew people and was devoted to Him and to good deeds.

The Book of Acts focuses mainly on acts of Peter and Paul. We know YHWH sends Peter to the circumcised and Paul to the nations; however, this doesn't mean that is a 'hard-fast line.' Both, Peter and Paul, share the Good News as directed by the Ruach HaKodesh. The Good News was presented to the Jews/Hebrews first, but many rejected

the message. This doesn't mean that they are forgotten; no, to this day the Good News is shared with everyone. By belief in Yahusha, His kingdom of priests is a multi-colored coat from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation.

Gal 2:6 But from those who were esteemed to be whatever – what they were, it makes no difference to me, **Elohim shows no partiality** – for those who were esteemed contributed naught to me. 7 But on the contrary, when they saw that **the Good News to the uncircumcised had been entrusted to me, even as Kěpha to the circumcised** – 8 for He who worked in Kěpha to make him an emissary to the circumcised also **worked in me [Paul] for the nations.**

Act 10:1 Now there was **a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius**, a captain of what was called the Italian Regiment,

Act 10:2 **dedicated, and fearing Elohim with all his household**, doing many kind deeds to the people, and praying to Elohim always.

Act 10:3 He clearly saw in a **vision**, about the **ninth hour of the day**, a messenger of Elohim coming to him, and saying to him, "Cornelius!"

Act 10:4 And looking intently at him, and becoming afraid, he said, "What is it, master?" And he said to him, "**Your prayers and your kind deeds have come up for a remembrance before Elohim.**

Instructions given by the messenger:

Act 10:5 "And now

- **send men to Yapho, and**
- **send for Shim'on who is also called Kěpha.**
- **Act 10:6** "**He is staying with Shim'on, a leather-tanner, whose house is by the sea.**"

Act 10:7 And when the messenger who spoke to him went away, Cornelius called **two of his household servants, and a dedicated soldier** from among those who waited on him continually.

Act 10:8 And having explained to them all, he sent them to Yapho.

At the ninth hour (3 p.m.) is the same 'time of day' that Yahusha had died. I call these 'time markers' that show us patterns and possible connections to pivotal events. **At 3 p.m.** a messenger angel appears **to Cornelius** in a vision; which was all possible because of **the finished work of Yahusha on the tree**. The Good News was for all! **Galatians 3:28** There is not Yehudite nor Greek, there is not slave nor free, there is not male and female, for you are all one in Messiah **יהוָשׁעַ**.

What made Cornelius stand out? Acts 10:4b and he said to him, "**Your prayers and your kind deeds have come up for a remembrance before Elohim.**

Cornelius Calls his Dedicated ‘Devout’ Soldier

Cornelius was a leader. He not only ruled his cohort regimen well; he ruled his household servants, and family well. We see him call two household servants and a dedicated soldier who waited on Cornelius continually.

Called a devout soldier. —The word implies that the man was, like his superior officer, a convert to the faith of Israel, though not, in the full sense of the word, a proselyte. It is natural to infer the same of the two slaves to whom their master imparted the vision, which to those who were living as heathens would have seemed strange and unintelligible. It is obvious that all such facts are interesting as throwing light on the character of Cornelius, and showing that, to the extent of his power, he sought to lead those over whom he had any influence to the Truth which he had found precious as leading him to a higher life. (**Ellicott's Commentary**)

Peter's Vision

Act 10:9 And on the next day, as they were on their way and approaching the city, Kěpha went up on the house-top to pray, about the sixth hour.

At the sixth hour (12:00 p.m.) is the same ‘time of day’ that the three hours of darkness occurred during Yahusha HaMashiach’s crucifixion on the tree.

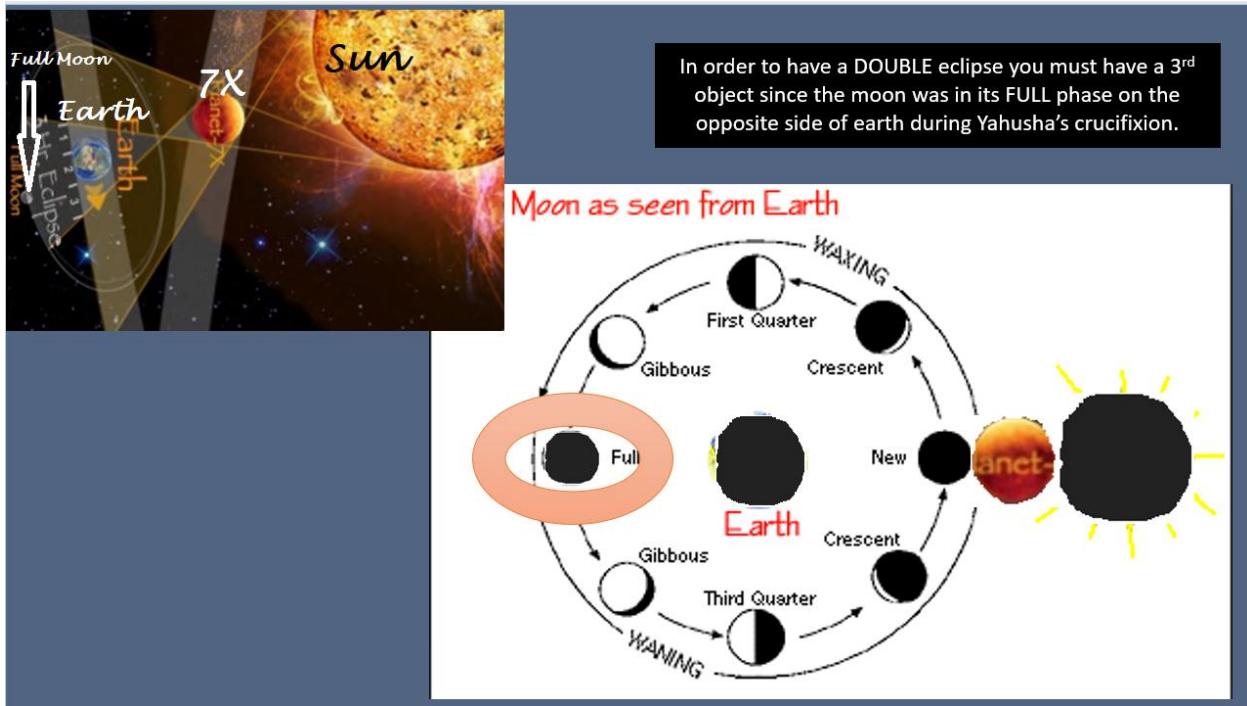
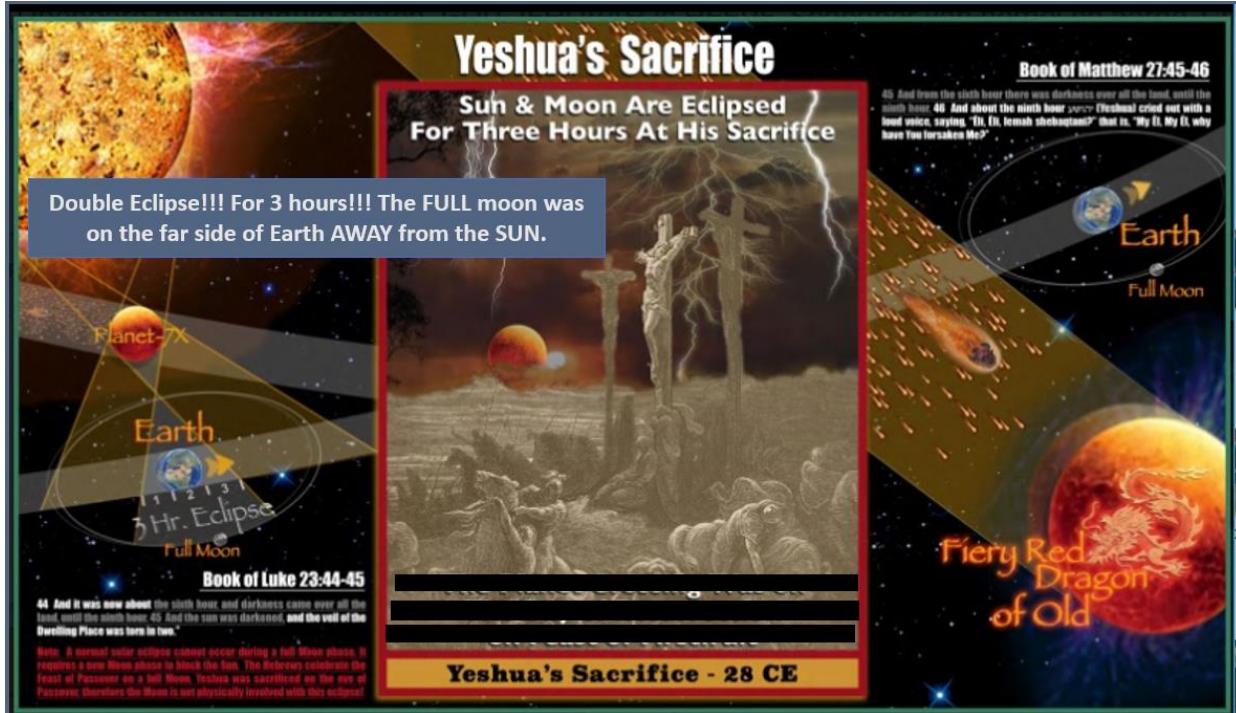
We can only imagine what work Yahusha was combating in the spiritual realm during the 3 hours of darkness; noon to 3 p.m. What we do know, was His finished work of laying down His life and taking it back up again; ushered in His proposal of the New Covenant Confirming Gospel message for all people. Now, here in the account of Peter and Cornelius, we see the Gospel message starting to go out to the nations. The 'time markers' in this account directly links us to Yahusha’s work on the crucifixion tree!

Mat 27:45 And from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land, until the ninth hour.

Mat 27:46 And about the ninth hour עִזָּה בְּנֵי cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Ěli, Ěli, Iemah shebaqtani?" that is, "My Ěl, My Ěl, why have You forsaken Me?" Psa 22:1.

If you will allow me to continue for a moment, we know YHWH can make anything happen. We also know He usually incorporates nature in His miracles; the parting of the Sea of Reeds; the storm on the sea of Galilee; the water from the rock; the meteor shower of Sodom & Gomorrah etc. So, is the possibility of a 3rd planetary body coming into our solar system feasible to cause a double eclipse and 3 hours of darkness?

Three hours of darkness is biblical astronomy language. A planetary body approaching so closely between the sun and the earth; would cause great geological disturbances. Such a planetary body passing through our solar system has been documented in times past; the 'Chinese Guest Star of 1054 C.E.



We continue...

Act 10:10 And he became hungry and wished to eat. But while they were preparing, he fell into a trance,

Act 10:11 and he saw the heaven opened and a certain vessel like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth,

Act 10:12 in which were all kinds of four-footed beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping creatures, and the birds of the heaven.

Act 10:13 And a voice came to him, “Rise up, Kěpha, slay and eat.”

Act 10:14 But Kěpha said, “Not at all, Master! Because I have never eaten whatever is common or unclean.”

Act 10:15 And a voice came to him again the second time, “What Elohim has cleansed you do not consider common.”

Act 10:16 And this took place **three times**, and the vessel was taken back to the heaven.

Act 10:17 And while Kěpha was doubting within himself about what the vision might mean, look, **the men who had been sent from Cornelius**, having asked for the house of Shim'on, stood at the gate,

Here we have what I call a connecting 'numerical marker.' In the trance, Peter sees this sheet of unclean creatures **3 times**. We know there are **3 'gentile' people** approaching Shimon's home [2 household servants and a dedicated soldier]. The meaning of Peter's vision follows immediately by **the 3 men arriving**. The message being, the Gospel Message of Yahusha if offered to all people. As mentioned before, in Him, there is neither Jew nor Greek; slave or free; male or female for all are one in Messiah Yahusha.

Act 10:18 and calling out, they enquired whether Shim'on, also known as Kěpha, was staying there.

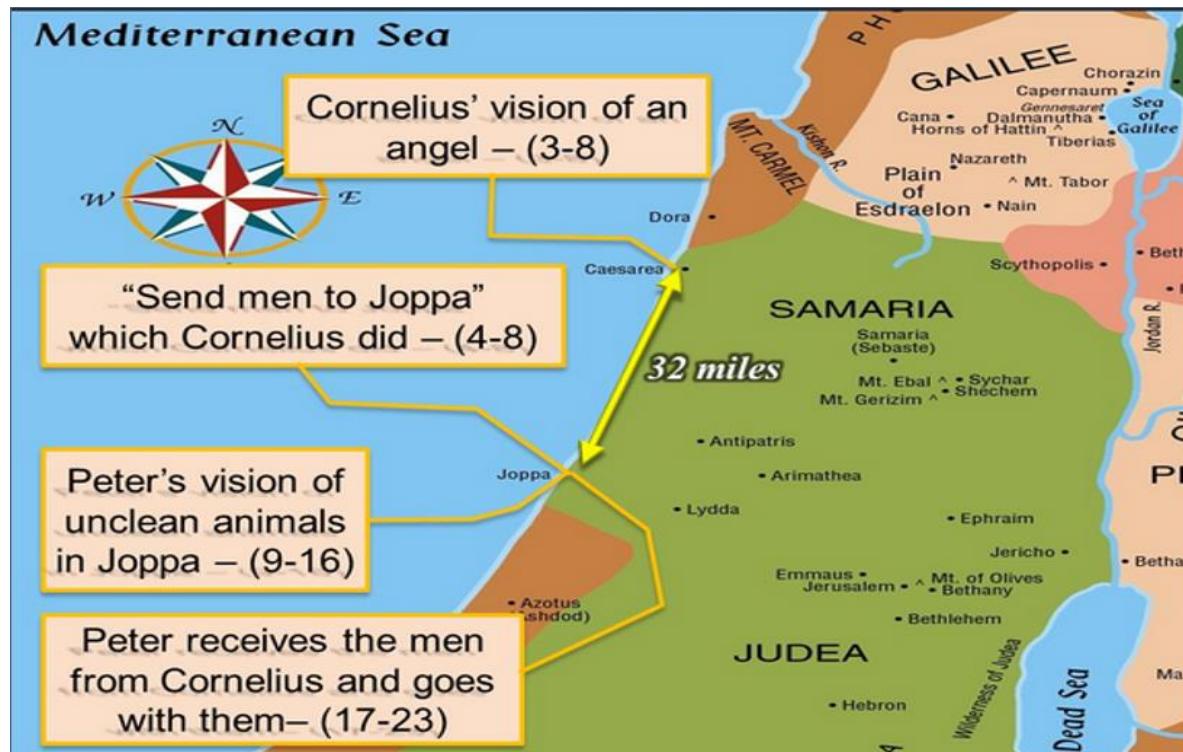
Act 10:19 And as Kěpha was thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “**See, three men seek you.**

Act 10:20 **“But rise up, go down and go with them, not doubting at all, for I have sent them.”**

Act 10:21 So Kěpha went down to the men who had been sent to him from Cornelius, and said, “Look, I am the one you seek. Why have you come?”

Act 10:22 **And they said, “Cornelius the captain, a righteous man and one who fears Elohim and well spoken of by the entire nation of the Yehudim, was instructed by a set-apart messenger to send for you to his house, and to hear words from you.”**

Act 10:23 So inviting them in, he housed them. And **on the next day Kěpha went away with them, and some brothers from Yapho went with him.**



Act 10:24 And the following day they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius was waiting for them, having called together his relatives and close friends.

Act 10:25 And it came to be, that when Képha entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and bowed before him.

Act 10:26 **But Képha raised him up, saying, “Stand up, I myself am also a man.”**

Act 10:27 And talking with him, he went in and found many who had come together.

Act 10:28 And he said to them, “You know that a Yehudi man is not allowed^a to associate with, or go to one of another race. But Elohim has shown me that I should not call any man^b common or unclean. Footnotes: ^aThis was a man-made law. See [Mat 15:3](#), [Mat 15:9](#), [Mar 7:7-8](#), [Col 2:14](#), [Col 2:20](#) and [Col 2:22](#). ^bNot animal - See also [Act 10:35](#).

Act 10:29 **“That is why I came without hesitation** when I was sent for. So I ask, why have you sent for me?”

Act 10:30 And Cornelius said, “**Four days** ago I was fasting until this hour. And at **the ninth hour** I prayed in my house, and see, a man stood before me in shining garments,

Act 10:31 and said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your kind deeds were remembered before Elohim.’

Act 10:32 Now send to Yapho and call Shim'on here, who is also called Képha. He is staying in the house of Shim'on, a leather-tanner, by the sea. When he comes, he shall speak to you.’

Act 10:33 “So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. And now, we are all present before Elohim, to hear all that you have been commanded by Elohim.”

Gentiles Hear the Good News

Act 10:34 And opening his mouth, Képha said, “Truly I see that Elohim shows no partiality,

Act 10:35 **but in every nation**, he who **fears Him** and **works righteousness** is accepted by Him.

Act 10:36 ‘He sent the word to the children of Yisra’él, bringing the Good News: peace through **וָשָׁעַת יְהוָה** Messiah! He is Master of all.

Act 10:37 “You know what word came to be throughout all Yehudah, **beginning from** Galil after the immersion which Yoḥanan proclaimed:

Act 10:38 how Elohim did anoint **וָשָׁעַת** of Natsareth with the Set-apart Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for Elohim was with Him.

Timing is important. At Yahusha’s Immersion by John the Baptist, He is identified as the Lamb of Elohim. From that point to the time of Passover was 490 days; meaning, Yahusha met the requirements of the Passover Lamb by being without spot or blemish and one year of age.





Act 10:39 “And **we are witnesses** of all He did, both in the country of the Yehudim and in Yerushalayim, whom they even killed **by hanging on a timber.** [Deu 21:22-23](#).

Act 10:40 “Elohim raised up this One on **the third day**, and let Him be seen,

Act 10:41 not to all the people, but to witnesses, those having been chosen before by Elohim – to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.

Act 10:42 “And He commanded us to proclaim to the people, and to witness that it is **He who was appointed by Elohim to be Judge of the living and the dead.** ^c Footnote: ^cSee [Act 17:31](#), [Joh 5:29](#), [Psa 96:13](#), [Psa 98:9](#), [Rev 19:11](#).

Act 10:43 “To this One all the prophets bear witness, that **through His Name, everyone believing in Him does receive forgiveness of sins.**”

The Holy Spirit Falls on the Gentiles

Act 10:44 While Képha was still speaking these words, the **Set-apart Spirit fell** upon all those hearing the word.

Act 10:45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Képha, **because the gift of the Set-apart Spirit had been poured out on the nations also,**

Act 10:46 for they were hearing them speaking with tongues and extolling Elohim. Then Képha answered,

Act 10:47 “Is anyone able to forbid water, that these should not be immersed who have received the Set-apart Spirit – even as also we?”

Act 10:48 And he **commanded them to be immersed in the Name of יְהוָה Messiah.** Then they asked him to remain a few days.

That is worth repeating! And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Kěpha, because the gift of the Set-apart Spirit had been poured out on the nations also, for they were hearing them speaking with tongues and extolling Elohim. HalleluYAH!

Jeremiah 19

The Broken Flask

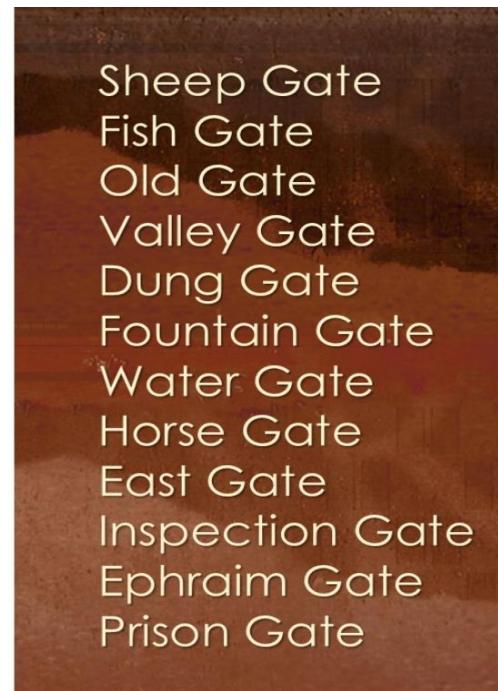
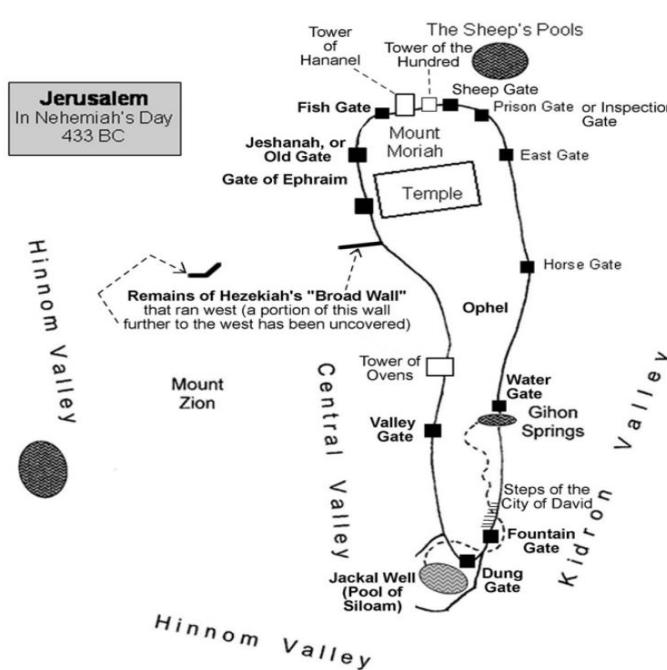
Jer 19:1 Thus said יהוה, “Go and get a potter’s earthen jug, and take some of the elders of the people and some of the elders of the priests.

Jer 19:2 “Then you shall go out to the **Valley of the Son of Hinnom**, which is by the entry of the Potsherd Gate [East Gate in some translations], and shall proclaim there the words that I speak to you,

I don’t exactly understand why it is said that the ‘Valley of the Son of Hinnom’ is by the entry of the East Gate; when the Hinnom Valley is on the west side? Maybe we will discover why later.

BDB Definition: Hinnom = “lamentation”

- 1) a valley (deep and narrow ravine) with steep, rocky sides located southwest of Jerusalem, separating Mount Zion to the north from the hill of evil counsel and the sloping rocky plateau of the ‘plain of Rephaim’ to the south



View of the valleys and the 12 Gates of Jerusalem in Nehemiah's Day 433 BC

YHWH says what He means and means what He says. To this day, His Word tells us to be set-apart to Him. Do not continue to practice Baal pagan holiday worship! Today these ‘holidays’ are numerous based on what continent a person lives on. For North America, they are ‘holidays’ such as the Dec. 25th birthday of Tammuz, called ‘Christmas’; Easter, the celebration of the fertility goddess, Ishtar; Halloween shouldn’t even be on the radar of a believer; not even disguised as ‘Fall Fest’ or ‘Harvest Fest! Etc.’

His feast days, our ‘wedding’ rehearsals with our Groom are:

Passover

Unleavened Bread

First Fruit

Pentecost or [Shavuot] or [Festival of Weeks by counting of the Omer]

Feast of Trumpets or [Yom Teruah]

Day of Atonement or [Yom Kippur]

Feast of Tabernacles or [Sukkot] or [Feast of Ingathering]

These are not ‘Jewish Feasts’ these are ‘YHWH’s Feasts!’ YHWH moves on His prophetic feast days. This is major! His rehearsals reveal who He is and they mature His bride!

Jer 19:3 and shall say, ‘Hear the word of יהוה, O sovereigns of Yehudah and inhabitants of Yerushalayim. Thus said יהוה of hosts, the Elohim of Yisra’el,

- “See, I am bringing evil on this place, that makes the ears tingle of all who hear it.
- **Jer 19:4** “Because they have forsaken Me and have profaned this place, and
- have burned incense in it to other mighty ones whom neither they, their fathers, nor the sovereigns of Yehudah have known, and
- they have filled this place with the blood of the innocents,
- **Jer 19:5** and have built the high places of Ba’al, to burn their sons with fire for ascending offerings to Ba’al, which I did not command or speak, nor did it come into My heart.

Therefore...

Jer 19:6 “Therefore see, the days are coming,” declares יהוה,

- “that this place shall no more be called Topheth or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but rather the Valley of Slaughter.
- **Jer 19:7** “And I shall pour out the counsel of Yehudah and Yerushalayim in this place,
- and I shall make them fall by the sword before their enemies and by the hands of those who seek their lives.
- And I shall give their corpses as meat for the birds of the heavens and for the beasts of the earth.
- **Jer 19:8** “And I shall make this city a ruin, and a hissing – everyone who passes by it is appalled and hisses because of all its plagues.

- **Jer 19:9** “And I shall make them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and eat one another’s flesh in the siege and in the distress with which their enemies and those who seek their lives distress them.” ’

Jeremiah is instructed to break the potter’s earthen jug.

Jer 19:10 “And you shall break the jug before the eyes of the men who go with you,

Jer 19:11 and shall say to them, ‘**Thus said יהוה** of hosts,

- “Even so I break this people and this city, as one breaks a potter’s vessel, which one is unable to repair again.
- And let them bury them in Topheth till there is no place to bury.
- **Jer 19:12** “This is what I shall do to this place,” declares **יהוה**, “and to its inhabitants, so as to make this city like Topheth.
- **Jer 19:13** “And the houses of Yerushalayim and the houses of the sovereigns of Yehudah shall be as unclean as the place of Topheth, because of all the houses on whose roofs they have **burned incense to all the host of the heavens**, and **poured out drink offerings to other mighty ones.**” ”

Jer 19:14 And when **Yirmeyahu returned from Topheth**, where **יהוה** had sent him to prophesy, **he stood in the courtyard of the House of יהוה** and **said to all the people**,

Jer 19:15 “**Thus said יהוה** of hosts, the Elohim of Yisra’el, ‘See, I am bringing **on this city and on all her towns all the evil that I have pronounced against it**, because they have **stiffened their necks so as not to hear My words.**’ ”

Mark 5

Yahusha Heals a Man with a Demon

Mar 5:1 And they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes.

Mar 5:2 And when He came out of the boat, immediately there met Him **out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit.**

Mar 5:3 who had his **dwelling among the tombs**. And **no one was able to bind him, not even with chains.**

Mar 5:4 because he had often been bound with shackles and chains but the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces, and no one was able to tame him.

Mar 5:5 And **continually, night and day**, he was **in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.**

Mar 5:6 And seeing **יהוָשׁעַ** from a distance, he ran and bowed down to Him,

Mar 5:7 and having called out with a loud voice, said, “What have I to do with You, **יהוָשׁעַ**, Son of the Most High Ěl? Swear to Elohim not to torture me.”

The ‘strong man’ spirit is speaking not the possessed man. We know this because the ‘strong-man’ spirit knows Yahusha; he bows down to Yahusha; and he knows His authority over him. Yahusha asks the ‘strong man’ spirit a follow-up question. Not for His knowledge, but for ours. From what I understand in deliverance ministries, one should limit conversation with demonic spirits in the deliverance process. Keep it to a ‘need to know’ basis.

In this case, it almost seems Yahusha wants us to recognize that this man has a ‘strong man’ spirit. Usually with the possession of a strong-man spirit; that spirit must be bound first, in order to rid the individual of lesser demonic spirits. Otherwise, the strong-man spirit will not allow the lesser demonic spirits to exit.

Though Yahusha already knew what spirit He was addressing, He has the strong-man spirit identify himself. The spirit knew who he was speaking to and tells Yahusha, ‘My name is Legion, because we are many.’ There you have it. The strong-man spirit was the ‘leader of the pack.’ Now we know we are dealing with not one demonic , but many!

Legion request that Yahusha would send his ‘team of demons’ to a great herd of pigs. Keep in mind, demons are disembodied spirits of the Nephilim/Rephaim. Their goal is always to find a ‘host body’ to take over. In these ends of days, and with all the laboratory experimentations; sadly, there will be host ‘bodies’ of all types from DNA splicing of various species; cloning; transhumanism; etc. available.

Then we read, ALL the demons chiming in and begging Yahusha to send them to the pigs, approximately 2,000! Yahusha gave them permission but He already knew the outcome as well. He was sending ‘unclean spirits’ to ‘unclean animals.’

Mar 5:8 For He had said to him, “Come out of the man, unclean spirit!”

Mar 5:9 And He was asking him, “What is your name?” And he answered, saying, “**My name is Legion, because we are many.**”

Mar 5:10 And he begged Him very much that He would not send them out of the country.

Mar 5:11 Now a great herd of pigs was there, feeding near the mountains.

Mar 5:12 And all the demons begged Him, saying, “Send us to the pigs, so that we enter into them.”

Mar 5:13 And He gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered into the pigs – they were about two thousand – and the herd rushed down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea.

Mar 5:14 And those who fed the pigs fled, and reported it in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what had taken place.

Mar 5:15 So they came to **עֲשָׂרֶה**, and saw the **demon-possessed one, him who had the legion,**

- sitting, and
- dressed, and
- in his right mind. And they were afraid.

After the encounter with Yahusha, the demoniac man was set free. He had peace; sound mind; and was clothed. He no longer dwelled among the tombs; he no longer was without clothing; he no longer was tormented; no longer cutting himself; and no longer did he cry out day and night. Amazing changes happen when a person receives Yahusha and is delivered from the slavery of this world; and/or unclean spirit possessions or oppressions.

Mar 5:16 And those who saw it related to them what was done to the demon-possessed one, and about the pigs.

Mar 5:17 And they began to plead with Him to leave their borders.

Mar 5:18 And as He was entering into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him.

Mar 5:19 And יעשׂה did not allow him, but said to him, “Go home to your friends, and report to them what the Master has done for you, and how He had compassion on you.”

Mar 5:20 And he left and began to proclaim in Dekapolis all that יעשׂה had done for him, and all marvelled.

The man that was set-free of demon possession went and proclaimed the Good News of Yahusha! He was a powerful witness of Yahusha's compassion. We serve a compassionate Elohim; His desire is that none perish. No one is too ‘far gone’; that by faith in Yahusha, can't be redeem.

Yahusha Heals a Woman and Jairus's Daughter

Mar 5:21 And when יעשׂה had passed over again by boat to the other side, a large crowd assembled to Him, and He was by the sea.

Mar 5:22 And see, one of the rulers of the congregation came, Ya'ir by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet,

Mar 5:23 and begged Him strongly, saying, “My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come, lay Your hands on her to heal her, and she shall live.”

Mar 5:24 And He went with him. And a large crowd was following Him, and they were thronging Him.

Mar 5:25 And a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years,

Mar 5:26 and had suffered much from many physicians, and spent all that she had and was no better, but rather became worse.

Mar 5:27 Having heard about יעשׂה, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment,

Mar 5:28 for she said, “If I only touch His garments, I shall be made well.”

Mar 5:29 And immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that

she was healed of the affliction.

Mar 5:30 And immediately יְהוָשָׁעַ, knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched My garments?”

Mar 5:31 And His taught ones said to Him, “You see the crowd is thronging You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’ ”

Mar 5:32 And He was looking around to see her who did this.

Mar 5:33 And the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what was done to her, came and fell down before Him and spoke to Him all the truth.

Mar 5:34 And He said to her, “**Daughter, your belief has healed you. Go in peace, and be relieved from your affliction.**”

We see the ‘numerical marker’ of 12 with the woman with the issue of blood and later with Yair’s daughter being 12. This numerical marker connects us to the 12 Tribes of Israel. The woman connects us to thinking about His bride.

With Yahusha's first coming, most all the tribes were scattered; bleeding; crying out among the tombs and the mountains, and on their last breath. Without Yahusha having come, death would not have been conquered. The 12 tribes were at the 'end of their rope'; and at the end of their hope.

With Yahusha, everything changed! There was life; there was joy; there was righteousness; there was peace; there was love; and there was hope! Praise Yah!

Mar 5:35 As He was speaking, they came from the ruler of the congregation's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?"

Mar 5:36 But having heard the word that was spoken, **יְהוָה** said to the ruler of the congregation. “Do not be afraid – only believe.”

Yahusha didn't want Yair, the ruler, to believe the report of men; but believe in Him, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Faith must silence and block out the naysayers; for this reason, Yahusha only allows Peter, James, and John to follow with Him.

All the mockers are put outside. He took along the father and the mother, and Peter, James, and John. Yahusha takes the child by the hand and tells her to 'arise.' And she does and it is noted she is 12 years old. He asked that they keep this to themselves and give the girl food to eat.

Mar 5:37 And He allowed no one to follow Him except Kēpha, and Ya'aqob, and Yoħanan the brother of Ya'aqob.

Mar 5:38 So they came to the house of the ruler of the congregation, and saw a commotion, and much weeping and lamenting.

Mar 5:39 And coming in He said to them, “Why make this commotion and weep? The child has not died, but is sleeping.”

Mar 5:40 And they were laughing at Him. And when He had put them all out, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those who were with Him, and went in where the child was lying.

Mar 5:41 And taking the child by the hand He said to her, “Talitha, qumi,” which is translated, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.”

Mar 5:42 And immediately the girl rose up and was walking, for she was twelve years old. And they were completely astonished.

Mar 5:43 But He ordered them many times that no one should know it, and said that she should be given food to eat.

~ *Shalom ~ Libby*

Devotional Reading Plan Link: <http://www.mcheyne.info/calendar.pdf>