

Greetings, today our manna is from Genesis 8; Matthew 8; Ezra 8; Acts 8

January 8 – Melchizedek Devotional Perspective

[Note: I have added emphasis with underlines, highlights, and [brackets] to Scripture for teaching purposes only.]

Genesis 8

The Flood Subsides

Gen 8:1 And Elohim remembered Noah, and all the beasts and all the cattle that were with him in the ark. And Elohim made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided.

Gen 8:2 And the fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were stopped, and the rain from the heavens was withheld.

Gen 8:3 And the waters receded steadily from the earth, and at the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters diminished.

Gen 8:4 And in the seventh new moon, the seventeenth day of the new moon, the ark rested on the mountains of Ararat.

Commentaries will present several different points of view as to what calendar these numbered months pertain to in the Book of Genesis. Some relate it to the ‘civil’ annual calendar and others the ‘sacred’ annual calendar. Also, keep in mind, words italicized in Scripture such as ‘moon’ mean they were not in the original text.

We understand that YHWH identified the biblical ‘covenant’ calendar as starting with the month of Abib in Exodus 12:1-3 and Exodus 13:3-4. Apparently, the question we should ask is, ‘Would YHWH have been using a different calendar in Genesis as He was instructing Moses to use in Exodus?’ I believe the answer to be no. YHWH’s people had been in Egypt for 430 years and had been functioning on a pagan calendar. It only stands to reason that YHWH would reset His people back to His calendar with the first month being Abib.

Exo 12:1 And יהוה spoke to Mosheh and to Aharon in the land of Mitsrayim, saying,

Exo 12:2 “This new moon is the beginning of new moons for you, it is the first new moon of the year for you.

Exo 12:3 “Speak to all the congregation of Yisra’el, saying, ‘On the tenth day of this new moon each one of them is to take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household.

Exo 13:3 And Mosheh said to the people, “Remember this day in which you went out of Mitsrayim, out of the house of slavery. For by strength of hand יהוה brought you out of this place, and whatever is leavened shall not be eaten.

Exo 13:4 “Today you are going out, in the new *moon* Abib.

There are many different interpretations when it comes to understanding the calendar. In earlier Biblical times, the year was an exact 360-day calendar; but now we have an approximately 365-day calendar. Over thousands of years, that can have a huge impact.

As with the first exodus, YHWH reset the calendar for His people. He will probably reset the calendar again with the greater exodus. Until then, we do our best knowing that His Ruach HaKodesh will lead us into all truth.

YHWH’s calendar starts with the month of Abib as the 1st month. His moedim are determined by the start of the 1st day of the 1st month of Abib. His moedim give us insights to significant Scriptural events, both past and prophetic. His moedim are His bride’s wedding rehearsals. For instance, Genesis 8:4 speaks of Noah’s ark resting on the 7th month. Depending on what calendar is used, the reader could potentially end up in two totally opposite places on the calendar.

I am not a calendar expert; however, it is important to learn about YHWH’s biblical calendar and about calendar language. Please visit the following website for additional resources: <https://www.studythecalendar.com/resources>. The Book of Genesis gives us several key calendar dates. It requires much prayer and research to reveal the pearls of wisdom behind each date.

Pro 25:2 It is the esteem of Elohim to hide a matter, And the esteem of sovereigns to search out a matter.

Gen 8:5 And the **waters decreased steadily until the tenth new moon**. In the tenth *new moon*, on the first day of the new *moon*, the tops of the mountains became visible.

Gen 8:6 And **it came to be, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made,**

Gen 8:7 and he sent out a raven, which kept going out and turning back until the waters had dried up from the earth.

Gen 8:8 Then he sent out a dove from him, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground.

Gen 8:9 But the dove found no resting place for its feet and returned into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of all the earth. So he put out his hand and took it, and pulled it into the ark to himself.

Gen 8:10 And he waited **yet another seven days**, and again he sent the dove out from the ark.

Gen 8:11 And the dove came to him in the evening, and see, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in its mouth. And Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth.

Gen 8:12 And he waited yet **another seven days and sent out the dove**, which did not return to him again.

Gen 8:13 And it came to be in the **six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the new moon**, that the waters were dried up from the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and saw the surface of the ground was dry.

Gen 8:14 And in the **second new moon, on the twenty-seventh day of the new moon, the earth was dry.**

Gen 8:15 And Elohim spoke to Noah, saying,

Gen 8:16 “Go out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and your sons’ wives with you.

Gen 8:17 “Bring out with you every life *form* of all flesh that is with you: of birds, of cattle and all creeping *creatures* – the creeping *creatures* on the earth. And let them teem on the earth, and bear and increase on the earth.”

Gen 8:18 So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him,

Gen 8:19 every beast, every creeping *creature*, and every bird, whatever creeps on the earth, according to their kinds, went out of the ark.

Just look at all the dates mentioned just between Genesis 7 and Genesis 8!

Gen. 7:10	600 th year	2 nd month	10 th day	After 7 days flood arrives
Gen. 7:11	600 th year	2 nd month	17 th day	Flood arrives
Gen. 7:17	600 th year	3 rd month	27 th day	40 days of rain
Gen. 7:24 & Gen. 8:3 record 5 months equivalent to 150 days equating 1 month = 30 days				
Gen. 8:4	600 th year	7 th month	17 th day	Ark rests on Ararat
Gen. 8:5	600 th year	10 th month	1 st day	Mountain tops are seen
Gen. 8:6	600 th year	11 th month	10 th day	Raven sent out
Gen. 8:10	600 th year	11 th month	17 th day	Dove sent out
Gen. 8:12	600 th year	11 th month	24 th day	Dove sent out again
Gen. 8:13	601 st year	1 st month	1 st day	Covering of ark removed-land dry
Gen. 8:14	601 st year	2 nd month	27 th day	Noah leaves ark

Gen 9:28 And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years.

Gen 9:29 So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years, and he died.

Covenant with Noah

Gen 8:20 And Noah built a slaughter-place to יהוה, and took of every clean beast and of every clean bird, and offered ascending offerings on the slaughter-place.

Gen 8:21 And יהוה smelled a soothing fragrance, and יהוה said in His heart, “Never again shall I curse the ground because of man, although the inclination of man’s heart is evil from his youth, and never again strike all living *creatures*, as I have done,

Gen 8:22 as long as the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”

Matthew 8

Yahusha ushered in the priestly transference back to the reign of the Melchizedek Order! As prophesied, He was the Messiah they were expecting. He would make a New Covenant that would establish His reign as our Melchizedek High Priest forevermore.

The Aaronic Levitical Priesthood served its purpose UNTIL Yahusha would come. Those that believe and receive Yahusha HaMashiach, are His kingdom of priests inclusive of EVERY tribe, tongue, people, and nation.

Yahusha performed great miracles. The blind could see; the lepers were healed; the dead were risen; the deaf could hear; the dumb could speak; demons were cast out. All of these served as a memorial witness to Yahusha HaMashiach [YHWH in Son].

There were four Gospel accounts that bore witness to these truths and events.

Yahusha Cleanses a Leper

Mat 8:1 And when He came down from the mountain, large crowds followed Him.

Mat 8:2 And see, a leper came, and bowed before Him, saying, “Master, if You desire, You are able to make me clean.”

Mat 8:3 And stretching out His hand יהושע touched him, saying, “I desire it. Be cleansed!” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

Mat 8:4 And יהושע said to him, “See, mention it to no one. But go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Mosheh commanded, as a witness to them.”

The Faith of a Centurion

Mat 8:5 And when יהושע had entered Kephrah Nahum, a captain came to Him, appealing to Him,

Mat 8:6 saying, “Master, my servant is lying in the house paralysed, grievously tortured.”

Mat 8:7 And יהושע said to him, “I shall come and heal him.”

Mat 8:8 And the captain answering, said, “Master, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. **But only say a word, and my servant shall be healed.**”

Mat 8:9 “For I too am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

Mat 8:10 And when יהושע heard, He marvelled, and said to those who followed, **“Truly, I say to you, not even in Yisra’el have I found such great belief!”**

Mat 8:11 “And I say to you that many shall come from east and west, and sit down with

Abraham, and Yitshaq, and Ya'aqob in the reign of the heavens,

Mat 8:12 but **the sons of the reign shall be cast out into outer darkness** – there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Rom 9:6 However, it is not as though the word of Elohim has failed. **For they are not all Yisra'el who are of Yisra'el.**^a **Footnote: ^aA play on words. See Explanatory Note on “Overcomers.”**

Rom 9:7 neither are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham, but, **“In Yitshaq your seed shall be called.”** Gen 21:12.

Rom 9:8 That is, **those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of Elohim,** but **the children of the promise are reckoned as the seed.**

Mat 3:9 and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as father.’^a For I say to you that Elohim is able to raise up children^b to Abraham from these stones.^b Footnotes: ^aSee Joh 8:33-44, Rom 9:8 and Rom 2:26-29. ^bThe only difference in Hebrew between children and stones is the first letter of the word. Children-banim. Stones-aḅanim.

Mat 3:10 “And the axe is already laid to the root of the trees. **Every tree, then, which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.**

Mat 8:13 And יהושע said to the captain, “Go, and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.” **And his servant was healed that hour.**

Yahusha Heals Many

Mat 8:14 And when יהושע had come into the house of Kěpha, He saw his wife’s mother lying sick with inflammation.

Mat 8:15 And He touched her hand, and the inflammation left her. And she arose and served them.

Mat 8:16 And when evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick,

Mat 8:17 that it might be filled what was spoken by Yeshayahu the prophet, saying, **“He Himself took our weaknesses and bore our sicknesses.”** Isa 53:4.

Isa 53:4 Truly, **He has borne our sicknesses and carried our pains.** Yet we reckoned Him smitten-, stricken by Elohim, and afflicted.

Isa 53:5 But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our crookednesses. The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

The Cost of Following Yahusha

Mat 8:18 And when יהושע saw large crowds about Him, He gave a command to go off to the other side.

Mat 8:19 And a certain scribe, having come near, said to Him, “Teacher, I shall follow You wherever You go.”

Mat 8:20 And יהושע said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the heaven nests, but the Son of Adam has nowhere to lay His head.”

Mat 8:21 And another of His taught ones said to Him, “Master, first let me go and bury my father.”

Mat 8:22 But יהושע said to him, “Follow Me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead.”

Mat 19:29 “And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My Name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

Mat 19:30 “But many who are first shall be last, and the last first.

Yahusha Calms a Storm

Mat 8:23 And when He entered into a boat, His taught ones followed Him.

Mat 8:24 And see, a great gale arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered by the waves. But He was sleeping.

Mat 8:25 And His taught ones came to Him and woke Him up, saying, “Master, save us! We are perishing!”

Mat 8:26 And He said to them, “Why are you afraid, O you of little belief?” Then, having risen, He rebuked the winds and the sea. And there was a great calm.

Mat 8:27 And the men marveled, saying, “What is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”

Whatever storm in life we face; Yahusha is greater. He tells the storm ‘Peace. Be still.’ We therefore enter His rest; His shalom.

Isa 41:10 Do not fear, for I am with you. Do not look around, for I am your Elohim. I shall fortify you, I shall also help you, I shall also uphold you with the right hand of My righteousness.’

Isa 41:11 “See, all those who raged against you are ashamed and blush, they are as non-existent. And the men who strive with you perish.

Isa 41:12 “You seek them but do not find them, those who struggle with you. Those who fight you are as non-existent, as naught.

Isa 41:13 “For I, יהוה your Elohim, am strengthening your right hand, saying to you, ‘Do not fear, I shall help you.’

Isa 41:14 “Do not fear, you worm Ya’aqob, you men of Yisra’el! I shall help you,” declares יהוה and your Redeemer, the Set-apart One of Yisra’el.

Yahusha Heals Two Men with Demons

Demons are disembodied spirits. Demons are always trying to find a host body. Until Yahusha came, the casting out of demons was not done in the Old Testament, as far as I can tell. Because of the people's disobedience and adoption of pagan practices, many were very vulnerable to demonic possession and/or demonic oppression.

Today, we see a rise in demonic possession and/or oppression for many of the same reasons. People have turned their back to YHWH and have gone after pagan gods and practices. They have also turned to drugs, alcohol, and other mind-altering substances and devices which are just 'magic potions' used by seducing spirits.

In the world of medical technology, men are desiring to 'play the role' of GOD. Technology is going beyond YHWH's boundaries including cloning; test-tube babies; DNA manipulation; designer babies; placing Recombinant DNA into medications made from splicing human and animal DNA together; placing animal parts into humans; the list goes on. They say this is all to save lives but is it? Before saying yes to many of these man-designed procedures; a person needs to think long and hard. YHWH is not a GOD of splicing, blending, or mixing two species for ANY reason.

The demons we read about in Matthew 8; knew they were going to be cast out of their human host bodies; so, their next choice was to be allowed entry into the nearby pigs. Demons are always looking for any type of fleshly body to possess; thereby, being able to manifest in our realm.

Mat 8:28 And when He came to the other side, to the country of the Gergashites, **two demon-possessed ones met Him, coming out of the tombs, very fierce, so that no one was able to pass that way.**

Mat 8:29 And see, they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, יהושע, Son of Elohim? Have You come here to torture us, before the appointed time?"

No one had to tell these demons who Yahusha was. They knew and they knew His authority over them.

Mat 8:30 And at a distance from them there was a herd of many pigs feeding,

Mat 8:31 and the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, send us into the herd of pigs."

Mat 8:32 And He said to them, "Go." And they, coming out, went into the herd of pigs. And see, the entire herd of pigs rushed down the steep place into the sea, and died in the water.

Mat 8:33 And the herdsmen fled, and went away into the city and reported all this, and about those possessed by demons.

Mat 8:34 And see, all the city came out to meet יהושע. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their borders.

Even at the freeing of these two men possessed by powerful demons; the locals valued their income more than the freedom and peace of these two men. All they saw, was the fact that they had lost money by the drowning of the herd of pigs.

Ezra 8

Genealogy of Those Who Returned with Ezra

Ezr 8:1 These are the heads of their fathers' *houses*, and this is the genealogy of those who went up with me from Babel, in the reign of Sovereign Artahshashta:

Ezr 8:2 of the sons of Phinehas, Greshom; of the sons of Ithamar, Dani'el; of the sons of Dawid, Hattush;

Ezr 8:3 of the sons of Shekanyah, of the sons of Parosh, Zeqaryah, and registered with him were one hundred and fifty males;

Ezr 8:4 of the sons of Paḥath-Mo'ab, Elyeho'eynai son of Zerahyah, and with him two hundred males;

Ezr 8:5 of the sons of Shekanyah, the son of Yaḥazi'el, and with him three hundred males;

Ezr 8:6 and of the sons of Aḍin, Ebed son of Yehonathan, and with him fifty males;

Ezr 8:7 and of the sons of Eḥlam, Yeshayah son of Athalyah, and with him seventy males;

Ezr 8:8 and of the sons of Shephatyah, Zeḇadyah son of Miḳa'el, and with him eighty males;

Ezr 8:9 of the sons of Yo'ab, Oḇadyah son of Yeḥi'el, and with him two hundred and eighteen males;

Ezr 8:10 and of the sons of Shelomith, the son of Yosiphyah, and with him one hundred and sixty males;

Ezr 8:11 and of the sons of Bēḇai, Zeqaryah son of Bēḇai, and with him twenty-eight males;

Ezr 8:12 and of the sons of Azgad, Yoḥanan son of Haqqatan, and with him one hundred and ten males;

Ezr 8:13 and of the last sons of Aḍoniqam, whose names are these; Eliphelet, Ye'i'el, and Shemayah, and with them sixty males;

Ezr 8:14 and of the sons of Biḡwai, Uthai and Zabbuḍ, and with them seventy males.

Ezra Sends for Levites

Ezr 8:15 And I assembled them at the river that flows to Ahawa, and we camped there three days. **And I looked among the people and the priests, and did not find any of the sons of Lěwi there.**

Ezr 8:16 Then I sent for Eli'ezer, for Ari'ěl, for Shemayah, and for Elnathan, and for Yariḇ, and for Elnathan, and for Nathan, and for Zeḡaryah, and for Meshullam, leaders – also for Yoyariḇ and Elnathan, men of understanding.

Ezr 8:17 And I gave them a command for Iddo the chief man at the place Kasiphya, and put in their mouth words to speak to Iddo and his brothers the Nethinim at the place Kasiphya, **to bring us servants for the House of our Elohim.**

Ezr 8:18 Then, by the good hand of our Elohim upon us, they brought us a man of understanding, of the sons of Maḡli son of Lěwi, son of Yisra'ěl, and Shěřěḃyah, with his sons and brothers, eighteen;

Ezr 8:19 and Ḥashabyah, and with him Yeshayah of the sons of Merari, his brothers and their sons, twenty;

Ezr 8:20 and of the Nethinim, whom Dawiḡ and the leaders had appointed for the service of the Lěwites, two hundred and twenty Nethinim, all of them designated by name.

Fasting and Prayer for Protection

Ezr 8:21 I then **proclaimed a fast** there, at the river of Ahawa, to humble ourselves before our Elohim, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions,

Ezr 8:22 for **I was ashamed to ask of the sovereign a group of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy on the way, because we had spoken to the sovereign, saying, "The hand of our Elohim is upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power and His wrath are against all those who forsake Him."**

Ezr 8:23 So we fasted and prayed to our Elohim for this, and **He answered our prayer.**

Ezra admits he contemplated asking the sovereign for a group of soldiers and horsemen in case the enemy came against them. However, Ezra had already declared Elohim's hand upon them; therefore, even though his fleshly thought arose about asking for soldiers; he reconsidered since that would have reflected his lack of faith in Eloah and would have instilled doubt. We will see that YHWH does prove Himself faithful in protecting them from the enemy!

Priests to Guard Offerings

Ezr 8:24 And I separated twelve of the leaders of the priests: Shěřěḃyah, Ḥashabyah, and ten of their brothers with them;

Ezr 8:25 and weighed out to them the silver, and the gold, and the utensils, the contribution for the House of our Elohim which the sovereign and his counsellors and

his heads, and all Yisra'ël who were there, had presented.

Ezr 8:26 Thus I weighed into their hand six hundred and fifty talents of silver, and silver objects of one hundred talents, one hundred talents of gold,

Ezr 8:27 and twenty gold basins of a thousand drachmas, and two utensils of fine polished bronze, precious as gold.

Ezr 8:28 And I said to them, “You are set-apart to יהוה, and the objects are set-apart. And the silver and the gold are a voluntary offering to יהוה Elohim of your fathers.

Ezr 8:29 “Watch and guard them until you weigh them before the leaders of the priests and the Lëwites and heads of the fathers’ houses of Yisra'ël in Yerushalayim, in the rooms of the House of יהוה.”

Ezr 8:30 So the priests and the Lëwites took the weight of the silver and the gold and the utensils, to bring them to Yerushalayim to the House of our Elohim.

Ezr 8:31 Then we set out from the **Ahawa River on the twelfth of the first new moon, to go to Yerushalayim. And the hand of our Elohim was upon us, and He delivered us from the hand of the enemy and from ambush along the way.**

Ezr 8:32 And when we came to Yerushalayim, **we dwelt there three days.**

Ezr 8:33 And **on the fourth day** the silver and the gold and the utensils were weighed in the House of our Elohim by the hand of Merëmoth son of Uriyah the priest, and with him was El'azar son of Phinehas. And with them were the Lëwites, Yozaḅaḍ son of Yëshua and No'adyah son of Binnui,

Ezr 8:34 with the number and weight of all. And all the weight was written down at that time.

Ahawa 'ahăvâ' **BDB Definition:** Ahava = “I shall subsist” 1) town or area in Babylonia

Merriam-Webster definition of ‘subsist’

intransitive verb

1a : to have existence : [be](#)

b : [persist](#), [continue](#)

2 : to have or acquire the necessities of life (such as food and clothing) especially : to nourish oneself subsisting on roots, berries and grubs

3a : to hold true

b : to be logically conceivable as the subject of true statements

transitive verb

: to support with provisions

The “12th of the 1st month”; “the dwelling for three days”; and “the fourth day” as mentioned, would have fallen within the timing of the feasts of Passover, Unleavened Bread, and the First Fruits offering. As YHWH had delivered them from the hand of the enemy; Yahusha, the Passover Lamb of Elohim, has delivered us from the enemy and from ambush along the way! Praise YHWH!

Ezr 8:35 The sons of the exile, who had come from the captivity, brought ascending offerings to the Elohim of Yisra’ël: twelve bulls for all Yisra’ël, ninety-six rams, seventy-seven lambs, and twelve male goats as a sin offering – all as an ascending offering to יהוה.

Ezr 8:36 And they gave the sovereign’s orders to the sovereign’s viceroys and the governors beyond the River. And they lifted up the people and the House of Elohim.

Acts 8

Sha’ul, Paul, Ravages the Church

Act 8:1 And **Sha’ul was giving approval to his death**. And on that day there was a great persecution against the assembly which was at Yerushalayim, and they were all scattered throughout the countries of Yehudah and Shomeron, **except the emissaries**.

Act 8:2 And **dedicated men buried Stephanos**, and **made great lamentation over him**.

Act 8:3 But **Sha’ul was ravaging the assembly**,

- entering every house, and
- dragging off men and women,
- putting them in prison.

YHWH uses the persecution of His people to spread the Good News of the Covenant Confirming Gospel Message of Yahusha HaMashiach. We recall in Acts 1:8, that He said believers would be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the end of the earth. The great persecution left the assembly of believers no choice but to rapidly flee carrying the Good News into the world.

Acts 8:1 shows that this great persecution came on ‘**that day.**’ What day? It appears to be the same day Stephen had been stoned. The manifestation of evil on the faces of the Sanhedrin council proliferated with vengeance. This is how it will be in the end of days. The spirit of the Anti-messiah will rage.

The assembly of believers, or the ecclesia, in our day will also have to move out quickly under great distress. When will we need to flee? When we see the ‘abomination that lays waste,’ spoken of by Daniel, ‘set up’ in the set-apart place. The two words ‘set up’, makes us ponder the possibility of an abominable ‘statue’ being put in place; as it was in the Maccabean days with the statue of Zeus. This would be in addition to the other possibilities I have shared in the past as to marks or implantable devices that affect a person’s DNA.

We also must keep in mind that the Feast of Passover is the ‘feast of fleeing’ and the ‘night of watches.’ We are to stay close to YHWH; remain alert; keep His moedim; and listen for His still small voice. He will most certainly, without a doubt, direct our path.

Mat 24:15 “So when you see the ‘**abomination that lays waste**,’^b Dan 11:31 spoken of by Dani’el the prophet, **set up** in the set-apart place” – he who reads, let him understand – Footnote:
^bSee also Dan 9:27 and *Abomination that lays waste* in Explanatory Notes.

Mat 24:16 **“then let those who are in Yehudah flee to the mountains.**

Mat 24:17 “Let him who is on the house-top not come down to take whatever out of his house.

Mat 24:18 “And let him who is in the field not turn back to get his garments.

Mat 24:19 “And woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing children in those days!

Mat 24:20 “And pray that your flight does not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.

Mat 24:21 “For then there shall be **great distress**,^c such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. Footnote: ^cOr *great pressure, or great affliction*.

Mat 24:22 “And if those days were not shortened, no flesh would be saved, but for the sake of the chosen ones those days shall be shortened.

The apostles stay behind in Jerusalem and we read dedicated men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. He was very beloved.

Then we read Paul continues to ravage the assembly. Apparently, there were remnants of the assembly that were caught in the path of Sha’ul.

Philip Proclaims Yahusha in Samaria

Philip was one of the 7 chosen in Acts 6 to serve and he becomes an evangelist (he was not one of the apostles). The Samaritan’s were viewed as ‘half-breed’ Jewish descent. Yet it was a Samaritan that shined in the story of the ‘Good Samaritan’.

Act 8:4 Then those who had been scattered went everywhere bringing the Good News: the Word!

Act 8:5 And going down to the city of Shomeron Philip proclaimed Messiah to them.

Act 8:6 And the crowds with one mind heeded what Philip said, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

Act 8:7 For unclean spirits came out of many who were possessed, crying with a loud voice, and many who were paralysed and lame were healed.

Act 8:8 And there came to be great joy in that city.

We see here that the witnesses were numerous; not just one or two. We must keep this in mind in the end of days as well. In the end days, YHWH may send a 'Moses & Elijah'; but, along with them He may send the two lampstands of Philadelphia & Smyrna.

The purpose of the Ruach HaKodesh is that His message would exponentially grow through each believer. As with Philip, the two witnesses in the end of days will be granted an extra outpouring of the Ruach HaKodesh to perform miracles.

Rev 11:5 And if anyone wishes to harm them, fire comes out from their mouth and consumes their enemies. And if anyone wishes to harm them, he has to be killed in that way.

Rev 11:6 These possess authority to shut the heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy. And they possess authority over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they wish.

Simon the Magician Believes

Act 8:9 Now there was a certain man called Shim'on, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Shomeron, claiming to be someone great,

Act 8:10 to whom they all were giving heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This one is the power of Elohim, which is great."

Act 8:11 And they were giving heed to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic.

Act 8:12 And when they believed Philip as he brought the Good News about the reign of Elohim and the Name of יהושע Messiah, both men and women were immersed.

Simon the sorcerer was very influential in Samaria with the magic he would perform. The least to the greatest believed his magic deceptions were a display of the power of Elohim.

When Philip came to Samaria with the Good News and authentically did signs and miracles in the Name of Yahusha HaMashiach; Simon the sorcerer covertly blended in as a ‘believer.’ Simon even was ‘immersed.’ Later we will see Simon was more interested in the ‘power’ than the ‘Source’ from which that power came.

From this we should realize, that believing is more than saying ‘words’ and being ‘immerse’; we will ONLY know true believers by their fruit! Fruit takes time to develop and observe; it is not always initially obvious that the fruit is bad or full of parasites.

Act 8:13 And Shim'on himself also believed. And when he was immersed he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which took place.

Act 8:14 And when the emissaries who were at Yerushalayim heard that Shomeron had received the Word of Elohim, they sent Kēpha and Yohanan to them,

Act 8:15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them to receive the Set-apart Spirit,

Act 8:16 for He had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been immersed in the Name of the Master יהושע.

Act 8:17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Set-apart Spirit.

Act 8:18 And Shim'on, seeing that through the laying on of the hands of the emissaries the Set-apart Spirit was given, he offered them money,

Act 8:19 saying, “Give me this authority too, so that anyone I lay hands on shall receive the Set-apart Spirit.”

Act 8:20 But Kēpha said to him, “Let your silver perish with you, because you thought to buy the gift of Elohim through money!

Act 8:21 “You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before Elohim.”

Simon the sorcerer reveals his bad fruit to Peter. Simon wanted to ‘purchase’ this power to add to his repertoire and not receive a ‘changed life in Messiah.’

Act 8:22 “Repent therefore of this evil of yours, and plead with Elohim to forgive you the intention of your heart.”

Act 8:23 “For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by unrighteousness.”

Act 8:24 But Shim'on answering, said, “Plead with the Master for me, so that none of what you had said shall come upon me.”

There is a word called ‘**Simony**’ regarding purchasing a ‘church office or role’ and it comes from this event.

Verse 24 is the last point we hear of Simon. He is considered one of the first that operated under an anti-messiah spirit after hearing the Gospel. He was a charismatic ‘business’ man if you will and had eyes on future transactions.

Sooner or later we all have or will be exposed to false teachings even from within assemblies – thus Acts 17:11 – Be good Bereans. His Word is the final authority.

Act 8:25 Then after they had earnestly witnessed and spoken the Word of יהוה, they returned to Yerushalayim, bringing the Good News in many villages of the Shomeronim.



Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Act 8:26 But a messenger of יהוה spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise and go toward the south along the way which goes down from Yerushalayim to Azzah.” This is desert.

Act 8:27 And he arose and went, and saw, a man of Kush, a eunuch of great authority under Kandake the sovereignty of the Kushites, who was in charge of all her treasury, and had come to Yerushalayim to worship,

Act 8:28 and was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Yeshayahu [Isaiah].

Kandake refers to an Egyptian Queen. This Ethiopian Eunuch held great authority under Kandake and oversaw all her treasury. He was obviously a believer in YHWH since he had come from Jerusalem to worship. Ethiopia mentioned here, or Kush, is a different location from the modern-day Ethiopia. This ancient day Ethiopia is the modern-day location of northern Sudan. Philip finds him sitting in his chariot reading from Isaiah.

Act 8:29 And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and join him in that chariot.”

Act 8:30 And running up, Philip heard him reading the prophet Yeshayahu, and said, “Do you know what you are reading?”

Act 8:31 And he said, “How am I able, unless someone guides me?” And he called Philip near, to come up and sit with him.

Act 8:32 And the passage of the Scripture which he was reading was this, “**He was led as a sheep to slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so He opened not His mouth.**”

Act 8:33 “**In His humiliation He was deprived of right-ruling. And who shall**

declare His generation? Because His life was taken from the earth.” [Isa 53:7-8](#).

Act 8:34 And the eunuch, answering Philip, said, “I ask you, about whom does the prophet say this, about himself or about some other?”

Act 8:35 And Philip opening his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, brought to him the Good News: יהושע!

Praise Yah! How beautiful it was that the Ethiopian Eunuch desired YHWH so much that he was willing to read the written Word even if he did not understand! This is what led YHWH to send Philip to seek him out! What great love was displayed in the Ethiopian Eunuch!

The eunuch was reading [from Isaiah 53](#). Today this is the ‘forbidden chapter’ in the religion of Judaism for it tells of the true Messiah. A person with a true thirst for Truth seeks out Yahusha HaMashiach; while many man-driven religions seek their own glory and power; and they hide truth, or they are blind to truth.

How was it that there was a YHWH believing eunuch coming from Kush to worship in Jerusalem? It is believed that through the union of Sheba and Solomon, the belief in YHWH had gone back to her country.

Adam Clarke commentary on Acts 8:27 excerpt...

Let us, for a little, examine this question. In [1Ki 10:1](#), etc., we have the account of the visit paid to Solomon by the queen of Sheba, the person to whom our Lord refers, [Mat 12:42](#), and [Luk 11:31](#). It has been long credited by the Abyssinians that this queen, who by some is called Balkis, by others Maqueda, was not only instructed by Solomon in the Jewish religion, but also established it in her own empire on her return; that she had a son by Solomon named **Menilek**, who succeeded her in the kingdom...

Menelik I (called Bāynā Ləhkəm in the Kebra Nagast; also named Ebna Ia-Hakim, Arabic: Ibn Al-Hakim, "Son of the Wise"), first Solomonic Emperor of Ethiopia, is traditionally believed to be the son of King Solomon of ancient Israel and Makeda, ancient Queen of Sheba.

With this in mind we see how this Ethiopian Eunuch could have been exposed to the belief in the one true Elohim, YHWH. Afterall, **Jeremiah**, in his day, was rescued by a Kushite [Ethiopian] eunuch himself, Ebed Melek. YHWH works in such miraculous ways to reach His children! Praise Yah!!!

Let's study also about another Ethiopian eunuch who rescued Jeremiah from the Cistern?

KJV Jeremiah Rescued from the Cistern
Jer 38:7 Now when Ebedmelech^{H5663} the Ethiopian^{H3569} one^{H376} of the eunuchs^{H5031} which^{H1931} was in the king's^{H4428}

Jeremiah 38

The princes in v.1 want him put to death.

Malkiyahu means– My king is YHWH

Ebed-Melek means– servant of the king

6 And they took Yirmeyahu and threw him into the dungeon of Malkiyahu the sovereign's son, which was in the court of the guard, and they let Yirmeyahu down with ropes. And in the dungeon there was no water, but mud. So Yirmeyahu sank in the mud.

7 And Ebed-Melek the Kushite, one of the eunuchs, who was in the sovereign's house, heard that they had put Yirmeyahu in the dungeon. And the sovereign was sitting at the Gate of Binyamin.

8 And Ebed-Melek came from the sovereign's house and spoke to the sovereign, saying, Ebed-Melek means– servant of the king

9 "My master the sovereign, these men have done evil in all that they have done to Yirmeyahu the prophet, whom they have thrown into the dungeon, and he is likely to die from hunger in the place where he is, for there is no more bread in the city."

10 And the sovereign commanded Ebed-Melek the Kushite, saying, "Take thirty men from here with you, and lift Yirmeyahu the prophet out of the dungeon before he dies."

11 So Ebed-Melek took the men with him and went into the house of the sovereign under the treasury, and took old clothes and old rags from there, and let them down by ropes into the dungeon to Yirmeyahu.

12 And Ebed-Melek the Kushite said to Yirmeyahu, "Please put these old clothes and rags under your armpits, under the ropes." And Yirmeyahu did so,

13 and they pulled Yirmeyahu up with ropes and lifted him out of the dungeon. And Yirmeyahu remained in the court of the guard.

Act 8:36 And as they were going on the way, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "**Look, water!** What hinders me from being immersed?"

Did you catch that? Here they are in a desert and behold water! Not just a little water but enough water to be immersed in!

Act 8:37 And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, it is permitted." And he answering, said, "**I believe the Son of Elohim^a to be יהושע the Messiah.**" Footnote:

^aSee [Mat 16:16](#) - Some manuscripts omit verse 8:37.

The Ethiopian Eunuch no doubt had faith in YHWH; but now through the Good News shared by Philip, he understands and believes in the Son of Elohim, Yahusha HaMashiach and is immersed into the Covenant Confirming Gospel Message! Praise Yah!

Act 8:38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still. And **both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he immersed him.**

Act 8:39 And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of יהוה caught Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, for he went his way, rejoicing.

Act 8:40 **Philip, however, was found at Ashdod.** And passing through, he brought the Good News in all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

Philip was miraculously translated by the Ruach HaKodesh and was next found in Ashdod.

Acts 8:40

Philip was found at Azotus - From the time he left the eunuch, he was not heard of till he got to Azotus, which, according to Dr. Lightfoot, was about 34 miles from Gaza, and probably it was near Gaza that Philip met the eunuch. The Azotus of the New Testament is the Ashdod of the old. It was given by Joshua to the tribe of Judah, [Jos. 15:47](#). It was one of the five lordships which belonged to the Philistines, and is a seaport town on the Mediterranean Sea, between Gaza on the south, and Joppa or Jaffa on the north. Herodotus reports, lib. ii. cap. 157, that Psammeticus, King of Egypt, besieged this city 29 years, which, if true, is the longest siege which any city or fortress ever endured.

Preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea - This was Caesarea in Palestine, formerly called Strato's Tower, built by Herod the Great in honor of Augustus. There was an excellent harbour here made by Herod; and, after the destruction of Jerusalem, it became the capital of the whole land of Judea. It must be always distinguished from Caesarea Philippi, which was an inland town not far from the springs of Jordan. Whenever the word Caesarea occurs without Philippi, the former is intended. As Philip preached in all the cities of Palestine till he came to Caesarea, he must have preached in the different cities of the Philistine country, Ashdod, Akkaron, and Jamnia, and also in the principal parts of Samaria, as these lay in his way from Gaza to Caesarea. As there was a readier disposition to receive the word in those places, the Spirit of the Lord, under whose guidance he acted, did not suffer him to accompany the eunuch to Abyssinia. It appears, from [Act 21:8](#), that Philip settled at Caesarea, where he had a house and family, four of his unmarried daughters being prophetesses. It is likely that his itinerant mission ended here; though he continued occasionally to perform the work of an evangelist, and to bring up his family in the knowledge and fear of God, which is the most imperious duty that any master of a family can be called on to perform, and which it is impossible for any man to accomplish by substitute; and which none can neglect without endangering his own salvation.

~ Shalom ~ Libby

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