

Greetings, today our manna is from Genesis 17; Matthew 16; Nehemiah 6; Acts 16.

January 16 – Melchizedek Devotional Perspective

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

Genesis 17

Abraham and the Covenant of Circumcision

Gen 17:1 And it came to be when Abram was **ninety-nine years old, that יהוה appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am Ēl Shaddai – walk before Me and be perfect.**

Gen 17:2 “And I give My covenant between Me and you, and shall greatly increase you.”

Gen 17:3 And Abram fell on his face, and **Elohim spoke with him, saying,**

✚ **Gen 17:4** “As for Me, look, My covenant is with you, and you shall become a father of many nations.

✚ **Gen 17:5** “And no longer is your name called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, because I shall make you a father of many nations.

✚ **Gen 17:6** “And I shall make you exceedingly fruitful, and make nations of you, and sovereigns shall come from you.

✚ **Gen 17:7** “And I shall establish My covenant between Me and you and your seed after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be Elohim to you and your seed after you.

✚ **Gen 17:8** “And I shall give to you and your seed after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Kena’an, as an everlasting possession. And I shall be their Elohim.”

Gen 17:9 **And Elohim said to Abraham,**

✚ “As for you, guard My covenant, you and your seed after you throughout their generations.

✚ **Gen 17:10** “This is My covenant which you guard between Me and you, and your seed after you: **Every male child among you is to be circumcised.**

✚ **Gen 17:11** **“And you shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall become a sign of the covenant between Me and you.**

○ **Gen 17:12** “And a son of eight days is circumcised by you, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with silver from any foreigner who is not of your seed.

○ **Gen 17:13** “He who is born in your house, and he who is bought with your silver, has to be circumcised. **So shall My covenant be in your flesh, for an everlasting covenant.**

✚ **Gen 17:14** “And an uncircumcised male child, who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, his life shall be cut off from his people – he has broken My

covenant.”

Isaac's Birth Promised

Sarai's name changed to Sarah.

Gen 17:15 And Elohim said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, do not call her name Sarai, for Sarah is her name.

Gen 17:16 “And I shall bless her and also give you a son by her. And I shall bless her, and she shall become nations – sovereigns of peoples are to be from her.”

Gen 17:17 And Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Is a child born to a man who is a hundred years old? Or is Sarah, who is ninety years old, to bear a child?”

Even Abraham, approaching 100 years of age, could not see himself and Sarah 99 years of age conceiving a child. What seems impossible for man; is never impossible for YHWH.

Gen 17:18 And Abraham said to Elohim, “Oh, let Yishma'el live before You!”

Gen 17:19 And Elohim said, “No, Sarah your wife is truly bearing a son to you, and you shall call his name Yitshaq. And I shall establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.”

YHWH clearly affirms that the covenant would be established through Isaac, the son that Abraham and Sarah would bear. YHWH would also bless Ishmael, but the covenant would be established through Isaac.

Gen 17:20 “And as for Yishma'el, I have heard you. See, I shall bless him, and shall make him fruitful, and greatly increase him. He is to bring forth twelve princes, and I shall make him a great nation.

Gen 17:21 “But My covenant I establish with Yitshaq, whom Sarah is to bear to you at this appointed time next year.”

Gen 17:22 And when He had ended speaking with him, Elohim went up from Abraham.

Gen 17:23 And Abraham took Yishma'el his son, and all those born in his house and all those bought with his silver, every male among the men of Abraham's house, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that same day, as Elohim told him.

Gen 17:24 And Abraham was **ninety-nine years** old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

Gen 17:25 And Yishma'el his son was **thirteen years old** when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

Gen 17:26 **Abraham and his son Yishma'el were circumcised that same day.**

Gen 17:27 And all the men of his house, born in the house or bought with silver from a

foreigner, were circumcised with him.

The covenant seed would pass through Abraham's circumcised flesh and would be conceived in Sarah. This would establish the covenant to be through Isaac, born of Abraham and Sarah.

Matthew 16

The Pharisees and Sadducees Demand Signs

Mat 16:1 And the **Pharisees and Sadducees came**, and trying Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven.

Mat 16:2 And He answering, said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'Fair weather, for the heaven is red,'

Mat 16:3 and in the morning, 'Stormy weather today, for the heaven is red and overcast.' You know how to discern the face of the heaven, but you are unable to *discern* the signs of the times!

Mat 16:4 **"A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Yonah."** And He left them and went away.

Yahusha has and will fulfill every prophecy written about Him. He has given more signs than anyone can count. All creation gives testimony to YHWH! He can be found; when a person seeks Him with a sincere and repentant heart. Why? Because He lives and He can speak to each person Himself. There is no excuse not to find Him unless a person has unbelief, pride, and their heart is hardened.

Mat 7:7 "Ask and it shall be given to you, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you.

Mat 7:8 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened.

The Leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees

Mat 16:5 And His taught ones came to the other side, and had forgotten to take bread.

Mat 16:6 And יהושע said to them, **"Mind! And beware of the leaven** of the Pharisees and the Sadducees."

Mat 16:7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "Because we brought no bread!"

Mat 16:8 But יהושע, aware of this, said to them, **"O you of little belief, why do you reason among yourselves because you brought no bread?"**

Mat 16:9 "Do you still not understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you picked up?"

Mat 16:10 "Or the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you

picked up?

Mat 16:11 “How is it that you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread, *but* to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees?”

Mat 16:12 Then they understood that **He did not say to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching** of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.

Leaven is false teaching; added doctrine of men; added man-made traditions. This was the leaven that Yahusha was warning His taught ones about. Yesterday we shared that the 5 loaves represented the first five books of the Torah. In the feeding of the 4,000, we saw 7 loaves were available. These extra loaves represented the ‘added leaven’ or the ‘added teachings’ of the Pharisees and the Sadducees. His Word mixed with leaven only produced 7 baskets of leftovers and not 12. Teaching ‘mixed-doctrines of men with His truth’ makes YHWH’s sheep weak, malnourished, and unfulfilled. Added leaven, make His sheep consume more but with less benefit. Leaven is fed to sheep by hirelings.

Peter Confesses Yahusha as the Messiah

Mat 16:13 Now when יהושע came into the parts of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His taught ones, saying, “Who do men say the Son of Adam is?”

Mat 16:14 And they said, “Some say Yoḥanan the Immerser, and others Ēliyahu, and others Yirmeyahu or one of the prophets.”

Mat 16:15 He said to them, “And you, who do you say I am?”

Mat 16:16 And Shim'on Kěpha answering, said, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living Elohim.”^a Footnote: ^aThis is repeated in eight more places.

Mat 16:17 And יהושע answering, said to him, “Blessed are you, Shim'on Bar-Yonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father in the heavens.”

Mat 16:18 “And I also say to you that you are Kěpha, and on this rock I shall build My assembly, and the gates of She'ol^b shall not overcome it. Footnote: ^bShem Tob² reads: GěHinnom, i.e. ‘valley of weeping’.

Mat 16:19 “**And I shall give you the keys of the reign of the heavens, and whatever you bind on earth shall be having been bound in the heavens, and whatever you loosen on earth shall be having been loosened in the heavens.**”^c Footnote:

^cBinding and loosening is a Hebrew idiom for *exercising authority* (to prohibit and permit).

Mat 16:20 Then He warned His taught ones that they should say to no one that He is יהושע the Messiah.

When our garments are washed by the blood of the Lamb, Yahusha; we serve Him on earth as His Royal Ambassadors; we become part of His kingdom of priests after the order of Melchizedek. We are set-apart and walk in the authority He has given us to fulfill His Father’s will on earth. Each person is special. Each person has a kingdom purpose. Each person should be zealous in finding the narrow path that leads to righteousness; then be vigilant in sharing the Good News! As we go, we grow. Daily we are being sanctified; set-apart, more and more for His purposes in our lives.

Act 1:8 “But you shall receive power when the Set-apart Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Yerushalayim, and in all Yehudah and Shomeron, and to the end of the earth.”

He has given us authority in His Name to bind and loose; to pray; to evangelize the lost; to give sight to the blind; hearing to the deaf; bring the dead to life; to cast out demons; and to keep our temples clean etc. Most of this occurs in the spiritual realm of sight, hearing, and life; but some believers with the gift of healing and have seen the Ruach HaKodesh provide physical healings for blindness; deafness; and even the dead being raised. Smith Wigglesworth was one of those believers.

Most importantly we should walk within our boundaries and gifts. Otherwise we could harm and not help.

Yahusha Foretells His Death and Resurrection

Mat 16:21 From that time יֵשׁוּעַ began to show to His taught ones that it was necessary for Him to go to Yerushalayim, and **to suffer much from the elders and chief priests and scribes**, and **be killed, and to be raised again the third day.**

Mat 16:22 And Kěpha took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Be kind to Yourself, Master, this shall not be to You!”

Mat 16:23 But He turned and said to Kěpha, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to Me, for your thoughts are not those of Elohim, but those of men.”

We should bring every thought captive and ponder if it is from YHWH; Satan; or our own fleshly thoughts. Like Peter, we have all uttered words that were not in alignment with His Word. This was one of those times for Peter; Peter’s words may have sounded compassionate, but if Yahusha did not carry out the mission of why He had come; then mankind would have been held in captivity forever.

Yahusha knew who had dropped that thought into Peter’s mind. Though Yahusha was looking at Peter, He was speaking to Satan in the spirit realm. It was not Peter’s desire to prevent the mission of the Messiah. Therefore, we must stay in His Word and know His Word; and if a thought doesn’t align with His Word; we should reject that thought.

Eph 6:12 Because we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against authorities, against the world-rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *matters* of wickedness in the heavenlies.

Take Up Your Cross and Follow Yahusha

Mat 16:24 Then יהושע said to His taught ones, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his stake, and follow Me.

Mat 16:25 “For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it.

Mat 16:26 “For what is a man profited if he gains all the world, and loses his own life? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his life?

Act 20:24 “But I do not count my life of any value to me, so that I might accomplish my mission with joy, and the service which I received from the Master יהושע, to bear witness to the Good News of the favour of Elohim.

Mat 16:27 “For the Son of Adam is going to come in the esteem of His Father with His messengers, and then He shall reward each according to his works.^d [Psa 62:12](#), [Pro 24:12](#) Footnote: ^dSee also [Mat 21:44](#), [Joh 5:29](#), [Rom 2:6](#), [2Co 5:10](#), [Eph 2:10](#), [Tit 2:7](#) and [Tit 2:14](#), [Jas 2:14-24](#), [Rev 22:12](#).

Mat 16:28 “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death at all until they see the Son of Adam coming in His reign:”^e Footnote: ^eSee [Mat 17:2-5](#).

Mat 17:2 and He was transformed before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as the light.

Mat 17:3 And see, Mosheh and Ēliyahu appeared to them, talking with Him.

Mat 17:4 And Kēpha answering, said to יהושע, “Master, it is good for us to be here. If You wish, let us make here three booths: one for You, one for Mosheh, and one for Ēliyahu.”^a Footnote: ^aSee footnote [Mar 9:4](#).

Mat 17:5 While he was still speaking, see, a bright cloud overshadowed them. And see, a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I did delight. Hear Him!”

Nehemiah 6

Conspiracy Against Nehemiah

Neh 6:1 And it came to be when Sanballat, and Tobiyah, and Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall, and that there were

no breaks left in it – though at that time I had not set up the doors in the gates –
Neh 6:2 that Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, “Come, let us meet together in the villages in the plain of Ono.” But they were planning to do evil to me.

Be cautious in meeting with people outside your comfort zone. Sometimes the enemy tries to set His people up for harm. If the Ruach HaKodesh, keeps your spirit uneasy about a meeting, listen and do not go. Nehemiah knew in his spirit this meeting was a set-up to do him evil.

Neh 6:3 So I sent messengers to them, saying, “I am doing a great work, and I am unable to come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and come down to you?”

Neh 6:4 **However, they sent me the same word four times**, and I answered them the same word.

Neh 6:5 Then Sanballat sent his servant to me with an open letter in his hand, the same word, **the fifth time**.

Another key of discernment, is often there is an unusual persistence in wanting to meet and particulars about where to meet.

Neh 6:6 **In it was written:** Among the nations it has been heard, and Gashmu is saying, that you and the Yehudim are planning to rebel, therefore you are rebuilding the wall, and you are to be their sovereign – according to these words.

Neh 6:7 And you have also appointed prophets to proclaim concerning you at Yerushalayim, saying, ‘A sovereign is in Yehudah!’ And now these words are heard by the sovereign. Therefore come now, and let us take counsel together.

False accusations are sure to come with spiritual attacks.

Neh 6:8 **Then I sent to him, saying, “There are no such matters done as you are saying, but you are inventing them in your own heart.”**

Neh 6:9 For all of them were making us afraid, saying, “Let their hands slacken for the work, and it not be done.” **But now, make my hands strong.**

Neh 6:10 And when I came to the house of Shemayah son of Delayah, son of Mehētab’ēl, who was restrained, he said, “Let us meet together in the House of Elohim, inside the Hēkal, and let us close the doors of the Hēkal, for they are coming to kill you – by night they are coming to kill you.”

Neh 6:11 And I said, **“Should a man like me flee? And who is there like me who would go into the Hēkal to save his life? I do not go in!”**

Neh 6:12 **And see, I perceived that Elohim had not sent him, but that he spoke**

this prophecy against me because Tobiyah and Sanballat had hired him –

Neh 6:13 because he was a hireling – that I should be afraid, and do so, and shall sin, and so they could give me an evil name, to reproach me.

Neh 6:14 My Elohim, remember Tobiyah and Sanballat, according to these works of theirs, and the prophetess No'adyah and the rest of the prophets who would have made me afraid.

If various attempts bring no results then 'covens' or networks bring in others to befriend; but they are really a foe, a hireling that has made an unholy alliance. Stand your ground with YHWH. See through their evil tactics and decline.

The Wall Is Finished

Neh 6:15 And the wall was completed on **the twenty-fifth of the month of Elul, in fifty-two days.**

Neh 6:16 And it came to be, when all our enemies heard, and all the nations around us saw, that they fell greatly in their own eyes, and **knew that this work was done by our Elohim.**

Neh 6:17 In those days the nobles of Yehudah also sent many letters to Tobiyah, while those of Tobiyah came to them.

Adam Clarke Commentary - Nehemiah 6:17 The nobles of Judah sent many letters - The circumstances marked in this and the following verses show still more clearly the difficulties which Nehemiah had to encounter; he had enemies without and false friends within. A treacherous correspondence was carried on between the nobles of Judah and the Ammonites; and had almost any other man been at the head of the Jewish affairs, Jerusalem had never been re-established.

Neh 6:18 For many in Yehudah were sworn to him, because he was the son-in-law of Shekanyah son of Arah, and his son Yehoanan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekyah.

Adam Clarke Commentary - Nehemiah 6:18 He was the son-in-law of Shechaniah - Previously to the coming of Nehemiah, the Jews seemed to be fast intermixing with the heathen, by intermarriages with Ashdodites, Ammonites, and Moabites; see [Neh 13:23](#). Ezra had many evils of this kind to redress, ([Ezr 9:3](#), etc.), chiefly among the common people, though there were both chiefs and priests in that trespass. But here we find the heathen and Jewish nobles interlinked; and the latter were so far imbued with the spirit of idolatry, that they forgot God, his service, their brethren, and their own souls.

Neh 6:19 They were also speaking about his good deeds before me, and reported my words to him. Tobiyah sent letters to frighten me.

Acts 16

Paul begins his 2nd missionary journey with Silas, and when they come to Derbe and Lustra; they bring on Timothy. Paul and Silas began their journey from Antioch Syria.



Timothy Joins Paul and Silas

Act 16:1 And he came to Derbe and Lustra. And see, a certain taught one was there, named Timotiyos, the son of a certain Yehudi woman who believed – but his father was Greek –

Act 16:2 who was well spoken of by the brothers who were at Lustra and Ikonion.

Act 16:3 Sha’ul wished to have this one go with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Yehudim who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was Greek.

Paul did NOT circumcise Timothy because of the statute in the Book of the Law; but he circumcised Timothy to avoid unnecessary grief to Timothy since his mother was a Yehudi, but his father was Greek. In addition, circumcision was already a ‘hot topic’; and for that reason, Paul was delivering the ruling, the letter that was agreed upon at the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15. Even today, circumcision is performed for various reasons. In the Acts 16 account, one should NOT point to this and say, ‘See, Paul is following the Book of the Law.’ No, Paul’s reason is clearly stated as to why Timothy was circumcised.

Act 16:4 And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the regulations to keep, which were decided by the emissaries and elders at Yerushalayim.

Act 16:5 Then, indeed, the assemblies were strengthened in the belief, and increased in number every day.

Supplemental chart from internet – not fully vetted.

<i>Second Missionary Journey Acts 15:36 - Acts 18:22</i>					
Letter, Time Period, or Key Event	Where Written or Occurred	Date and co-author, if any	Evidence for where and when a letter was written, as well as events that occurred before and after to show the context in which it was written	External References	References in the Letters
Start of Second Missionary Journey	Antioch (in Syria)	Late 49?	Paul and Barnabas prepare to leave again on a Second Missionary Journey, but have a serious disagreement about whether to take along his cousin John Mark, who had abandoned them in the middle of the First Missionary Journey (Acts 13:13), and part company. Barnabas and John Mark set out for Cyprus, whereas Paul sets out for Syria, accompanied this time by Silas. (However, this rift between Paul and Barnabas and John Mark turns out not to have been permanent: Barnabas is mentioned several times in Paul's letters (see endnote 2), always positively, and John Mark is similarly mentioned quite positively, in Colossians 4:10 as someone to be welcomed, in 2 Timothy 4:11 as someone useful to Paul for ministry, and in Philemon 24 as sending greetings to Philemon.)	Acts 15:36-40	
	Derbe & Lystra		Timothy joins them in Lystra (his hometown) and is circumcised. Paul had probably met him several years earlier on his First Missionary Journey (see NT Chronology expanded.html).	Acts 16:1-3	
	Iconium & Antioch (in Pisidia)?		They travel from town to town, strengthening the churches. (The only other churches we know to have existed in the area then were those in Iconium and Antioch.)	Acts 16:4-5	
	Phrygia & Mysia		They continue travelling, but the Holy Spirit forbids them to preach the word in the province of Asia.	Acts 16:6-8	
	Troas		Paul receives the "Macedonian call". Luke apparently meets Paul and his companions in Troas (possibly for the first time), joins their group from that point on, as evidenced by his suddenly beginning to use the pronoun "we" and its corresponding verb forms, and travels with them to Philippi. (See the "we" sections of Acts in NT Chronology expanded.html .)	Acts 16:9 Acts 16:10-17	
	Philippi		Paul and Silas are arrested in Philippi (and plant the church there). (Their companions Timothy and Luke are not arrested with them.)	Acts 16:12-40	1 Thess. 2:2

The Macedonian Call

Act 16:6 And having passed through Phrygia and the Galatian country, they were forbidden by the Set-apart Spirit to speak the word in Asia.

Act 16:7 When they came to Musia, they tried to go into Bithunia, but the Spirit did not allow them.

Act 16:8 And having passed by Musia, they came down to Troas.

Act 16:9 And in the night a vision appeared to Sha'ul: A man of Makedonia was standing, begging him and saying, "Come over to Makedonia and help us."

Act 16:10 And when he saw the vision, immediately we sought to go to Makedonia, concluding that the Master had called us to bring the Good News to them.

Here we see YHWH temporarily close the door to Asia [Minor] and Bithunia; not that these regions would not eventually be reached; but apparently because there was a more pressing need in Makedonia [Macedonia]. Paul understands this to be the case when he receives a night vision of a man's prayerful plea; therefore, Paul sets course to obey YHWH and bring the Good News to Macedonia.

The Conversion of Lydia

Act 16:11 Therefore, sailing from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrake, and the next day came to Neapolis,

Act 16:12 and from there to Philippi, which is the principal city of that part of Makedonia, a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days.

Be sure to trace the routes on the maps provided. In this way, you will not forget, nor mix up, the various journeys of Paul.

Act 16:13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the city by a river, where there used to be prayer. And having sat down we were speaking to the women who met there.

Act 16:14 And a certain woman named Ludia,^a a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, worshipping Elohim, was hearing, whose heart the Master did open to pay attention to what Sha'ul said. Footnote: ^aMost probably a gentile by birth, converted to יהושע.

Act 16:15 And when she was immersed, and her household, she begged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be believing in the Master, come to my house and stay.” And she urged us.

Lydia was worshipping Elohim, so she may have been a proselyte to Judaism. YHWH opened her heart to hear what Paul was sharing. She receives the Good News and follows through with immersion along with her household! Praise Yah! She also opened her home to Paul, Silas, and Timothy if they had judged her as believing in the Master. Apparently they did and accepted her hospitality.

Paul and Silas in Prison

Act 16:16 And it came to be, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of Puthon, did meet us, who brought her masters much profit by foretelling.

Puthōn *poo'-thone* From Πυθώ Puthō (the name of the region where Delphi, the seat of the famous oracle, was located); a Python, that is, (by analogy with the supposed diviner there) inspiration (soothsaying): - divination.

Act 16:17 Having followed Sha'ul and us, she cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the Most High Elohim, who proclaim to us the way of deliverance.”

Recall that Luke is the author of the Book of Acts. Therefore, that is why it reads ‘Paul and us.’ On this second journey; Luke joins them.

Act 16:18 And **she was doing this for many days**. But Sha’ul, greatly annoyed, turned **and said to the spirit**, “I command you in the Name of יהושע Messiah to come out of her.” **And it came out that same hour**.

You notice this slave girl possessed with the spirit of Puthon, was annoying, very agitating, and distracting the people away from prayer and the Covenant Gospel Message for **many days**. Why? Why didn’t Paul just immediately cast out this spirit the first day?

Each day, it appears, Paul was sizing up the situation, the players if you will. For instance, who was present to hear the true Gospel message and who were the detractors. Even detectives will watch the small fry that will lead them to the big fish. There was this loud speaking slave girl possessed with a spirit of Puthon, along with her handlers, and profiteers all promoting and participating in **the stench of witchcraft, divination, and false prophecy**. Today they could equate to movie stars, musicians, etc. under MK Ultra mind control. Money-making slave puppets promoting evil agendas.

Act 16:19 **But when her masters saw that their anticipation of money-making was gone, they seized Sha’ul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place to the rulers.**

The spirit of Puthon ‘Python’ can constrict the flow of and can literally steal or ‘milk’ one’s finances or even their life from them. These are the same characteristics of a Python snake. Where Puthon is in operation, the ‘love of money’ and the ‘fear of loss’ is always present.

This girl was a slave to this spirit, but some individuals want to keep these demonic spirits for what power they ‘seem’ to give them, but all the while, they are being self-cannibalized. Some of those divining spirits come in the form of intellectualism, rebellion, Pharmacia, legalism, dominance, control, power, fortune, prominence, position, promotion, and so forth.

At some point, Paul sees that the slave girl was exactly that. She was a slave, a helpless victim rather than a willing participant. That is significant. Once he saw the girl was only a puppet, he looked AT HER but SPOKE TO the possessing spirit and cast it OUT by the only Name that trumps demonic spirits – Yahusha HaMashiach. It didn't immediately leave but came out that same hour. Deliverance isn't always instantaneous. This spirit showed its last act of defiance and rebellion of reluctantly leaving its host body.

This spirit, like the naḥash in the Garden of Eden, is like the 'shining one', the charmer, the beguiling bewitching spirit as it slivers its coils around its prey with its crushing embrace. It loves to play the game of 'cat and mouse.' The victim gazes at the shining one dangling the pendulum of temptation that swings back and forth, back and forth. The unwise take the bait but the wise like Paul sees right through the façade.

Act 16:20 And having brought them to the captains, they said, "These men, being Yehudim, greatly disturb our city,

Act 16:21 and they proclaim practices which are not right for us to receive nor to do, being Romans."

Act 16:22 And the crowd rose up together against them. And the captains tore off their garments and commanded them to be beaten with rods.

Act 16:23 And having laid many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them safely,

Act 16:24 who, having received such a command, put them **into the inner prison** and **fastened their feet in the stocks.**

Their money making 'gig' was up and they were not happy! They stir up the crowd, they make false accusations, they elicit the Roman captains which believe their 'one-sided' claim; tear off Paul and Silas' garments; and beat them many times with rods. Puthon spirits desire to squeeze the life out of ministries.

They then give them to the jailer, and they are placed in the inner prison, in the very belly of the beast, and their feet are placed in stocks! But these are no match for YHWH! One wonders if those in charge had heard of the previous divine escape stories of the 'taught ones' from guards in Jerusalem?

The Philippian Jailer Converted

Act 16:25 **And at midnight [mid of night] Sha'ul and Silas were praying and singing songs to Elohim, and the prisoners were listening to them.**

Act 16:26 And suddenly a great earthquake took place, so that

- the foundations of the prison were shaken, and

- immediately all the doors were opened and
- all the chains came loose.

Act 16:27 And the jailer, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, thinking the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself.

Act 16:28 But Sha'ul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do no harm to yourself, for we are all here."

Prayer and Praise is what the Puthon spirit is trying to STOP!

So, don't STOP! Look at the results!

YHWH can use earthquakes to bring about supernatural miracles!

YHWH even used the circumstances of the attack by the spirit of Puthon to create the situation for His Covenant Message to be heard in the prison, by the jailer, and his family!
Praise Yah!

Act 16:29 And asking for a light, he ran in, and fell down trembling before Sha'ul and Silas.

Act 16:30 And having led them outside he said, "Masters, what do I have to do to be saved?"

Act 16:31 And they said, "Believe on the Master יהושע Messiah, and you shall be saved, you and your household."

Act 16:32 **And they spoke the Word of יהוה to him and to all who were in his house.**

Act 16:33 **And taking them in that hour of the night, he washed their wounds, and immediately he was immersed, he and all that were his.**

Act 16:34 And having brought them into his house, he set food before them. And he rejoiced with all his household, having believed in Elohim.

Act 16:35 And when day came, the authorities sent the officers, saying, "Let these men go."

Act 16:36 And the jailer reported these words to Sha'ul, saying, "The captains have sent to let you go. Now then, come out and go in peace."

Act 16:37 But Sha'ul said to them,

- "They have beaten us publicly,
- uncondemned, being Romans.
- They have thrown us into prison, and
- now, do they throw us out secretly?

No indeed! Let them come themselves and bring us out.”

Act 16:38 And the officers reported these words to the authorities, and **they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans.**

Act 16:39 And having come, they pleaded with them and brought them out, and asked them to leave the city.

Act 16:40 So coming out of the prison **they went to Ludia**, and seeing the brothers, they encouraged them, and went forth.

Believers are not to be a doormat either! Being abused and slandered is not okay. Stay within the parameters of His Word and be wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove. Choose your battles wisely and there are times, it is best just to ‘walk away’ and shake the dust from your feet.

~ Shalom ~ Libby

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