

Greetings, today our manna is Judges 4; Acts 8; Jeremiah 17; Mark 3.

July 21 - 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 4

Deborah and Barak – the children of Israel continue the ebb and flow of obedience and disobedience.

Jdg 4:1 And when Ĕhud was dead, the children of Yisra'ël again did evil in the eyes of יהוה.

Jdg 4:2 **Therefore יהוה sold them into the hand of Yabin the sovereign of Kena'an**, who reigned in Ĥatsor. And the commander of his army was Sisera, who was dwelling in Ĥarosheth Haggoyim.

Jdg 4:3 And the children of Yisra'ël cried out to יהוה, because he had **nine hundred chariots of iron**, and **for twenty years** he **harshly oppressed the children of Yisra'ël**.

Deborah

BDB Definition: Deborah = “bee” 1) the nurse of Rebekah who accompanied her from the house of Bethuel 2) a **prophetess who judged Israel**

Jdg 4:4 And **Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth**, was **ruling Yisra'ël at that time**.

Jdg 4:5 And **she was dwelling under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bēyth Ĕl in the mountains of Ephrayim**. And **the children of Yisra'ël came up to her for right-ruling**.

Deborah calls for Barak

Jdg 4:6 And **she sent and called for Baraq** son of Abino'am from Qedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, **“Has not יהוה Elohim of Yisra'ël commanded**, ‘Go, and you shall draw towards Mount Taḇor, and shall take with you **ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun**,

Jdg 4:7 and I shall draw unto you Sisera, the commander of Yaḇin's army, with his chariots and his company at the wadi Qishon, and shall give him into your hand'?”

BDB Definition: Barak = “lightning” or “lightning flash”

1) son of Abinoam of Kedesh who, incited by Deborah, a prophetess of Ephraim, delivered the Israelites from the yoke of Jabin by routing the Canaanites in the plain of Jezreel

Jdg 4:8 **And Baraq said to her, “If you go with me, then I shall go; but if you do not go with me, I do not go.”**

Jdg 4:9 **And she said, “I shall certainly go with you. Only, there shall be no esteem for you in the journey you are taking, for יהוה is going to sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.”** So Deborah arose and went with Baraq to Qedesh.

Jdg 4:10 And Baraq called Zebulun and Naphtali to Qedesh. And he went up – ten thousand men under his command – and Deborah went up with him.

Jdg 4:11 And **Heber the Qëynite, of the children of Hobab the father-in-law of Mosheh**, had separated himself from the Qëynites and pitched his tent near the terebinth tree at Tsa'anayim, which is beside Qedesh.

BDB Definition: Heber = “comrade” 1) the Kenite, husband of **Jael, who slew Sisera** by driving a nail into his temple 2) grandson of Asher from whom came the Heberites...

Sisera received the report...

Jdg 4:12 And they reported to Sisera that Baraq son of Abino'am had gone up to Mount Tabor.

Jdg 4:13 So **Sisera called all his chariots, nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people who were with him, from Harosheth Haggoyim to the wadi Qishon.**

Deborah proclaims victory before the battle engaged...

Jdg 4:14 And Deborah said to Baraq, **“Rise up! For this is the day in which יהוה has given Sisera into your hand. Has not יהוה gone out before you?”** And Baraq went down from Mount Tabor with **ten thousand men** after him.

Jdg 4:15 And **יהוה destroyed Sisera and all his chariots and all his army with the edge of the sword before Baraq.** And **Sisera leaped from his chariot and fled away on foot.**

Jdg 4:16 But Baraq pursued the chariots and the army as far as Harosheth Haggoyim, and **all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword, not one was left.**

Sisera runs for his life...

Jdg 4:17 Sisera, meanwhile, had fled on foot to **the tent of Ya'ël, the wife of Heber the Qëynite**, for there was peace between Yabin sovereign of Hatsor and the house of Heber the Qëynite.

Jdg 4:18 And Ya'ël went out to meet Sisera, and said to him, **“Turn aside, my master, turn aside to me, do not fear.”** So he turned aside with her into the tent, and she covered him with a blanket.

Jdg 4:19 And he said to her, “Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty.” So she opened a bottle of milk, and gave him a drink, and covered him.

Jdg 4:20 And he said to her, “Stand at the door of the tent, and it shall be if anyone comes and asks you, and says, ‘Is there a man here?’ you shall say, ‘No.’”

Jael had other plans for Sisera...

Jdg 4:21 But **Ya’ël, Heber’s wife**, took a **tent peg and took a hammer in her hand, and went softly to him and drove the peg into the side of his head, and it went down into the ground** – for he was fast asleep and exhausted – and he died.

Jdg 4:22 And see, as Baraq pursued Sisera, **Ya’ël came out to meet him**, and said to him, **“Come, let me show you the man whom you are seeking.”** And when he went into her tent, there lay Sisera, dead with the peg in the side of his head.

Jdg 4:23 And **on that day Elohim humbled Yabin sovereign of Kena’an** in the presence of the children of Yisra’ël.

Jdg 4:24 And **the hand of the children of Yisra’ël grew stronger and stronger against Yabin sovereign of Kena’an, until they had cut off Yabin sovereign of Kena’an.**

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 this 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 they would be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the end of the earth. The great persecution left the assembly no choice but to carry the Good News into the world; and to go rapidly.

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, 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. Today, YHWH had me focus on those two words ‘set up’, which makes me not rule out the possibility of an abominable ‘statue’ 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.

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 in Jerusalem and we read dedicated men bury Stephen and made great lamentation over him. He was very beloved.

Then we read Paul continues to ravage the assembly. Apparently, there was a remnant of the assembly that did not make their way out of the path of Sha’ul.

Philip Proclaims Yahusha in Samaria

Philip was one of the 7 chosen to serve and 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!

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 Kěpha 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 Kěpha 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' in regard to 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 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 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; and, from that time till the present, they have preserved the Jewish religion...

Menelik I (called Bāynā Ləḥkəm 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. After all, **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.

⁶And 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.

Malkiyahu means– My king is YHWH

⁷And 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.

⁸And 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."

¹⁰And 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."

¹¹So 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.

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

¹³and 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 Gaze 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, Josh. 13:47. 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.

- In Jerusalem Philip was one of the deacons (Acts 6:5)
- In Samaria Philip preached and converted many Samaritans including Simon the sorcerer (Acts 8:4)
- Philip obeys the angel and goes to the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza. Here he leads the Ethiopian eunuch to faith in Jesus and baptizes him (Acts 8:26)

- The Spirit takes Philip to Azotus (Acts 8:40)
- Philip preaches in the towns along the coast
- Philip settles in the city of Caesarea. He lives here for at least 20 years and raises four daughters. (Acts 21:8)

Jeremiah 17

The Sin of Judah – Judah had trusted in man more than YHWH. The ways of the world had been engraved on the tablet of their heart with nature's 'hardest' stone of all, the diamond. Nothing was sacred any longer as they turned to pagan worship and made unholy alliances.

Jer 17:1 "The sin of Yehudah is written with a pen of iron, engraved with the point of a diamond on the tablet of their heart, and on the horns of your slaughter-places,

Jer 17:2 while their children remember their slaughter-places and their Asherim by the spreading trees on the high hills.

Jer 17:3 "My mountain in the field, I give as plunder your wealth, all your treasures, your high places of sin, throughout all your borders.

Jer 17:4 "And you, even of yourself, shall let go of your inheritance which I gave you. And I shall make you serve your enemies in a land which you have not known, for you have kindled

a fire in My displeasure which burns forever.”

Jer 17:5 **Thus said יהוה,**

- “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his arm, and whose heart turns away from יהוה.
- Jer 17:6 “For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and not see when good comes, and shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, a salt land that is not inhabited.
- Jer 17:7 “Blessed is the man who trusts in יהוה, and whose trust is יהוה.
- Jer 17:8 “For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and does not see when heat comes. And his leaf shall be green, and in the year of drought he is not anxious, nor does he cease from yielding fruit.

Jer 17:9 **“The heart is crooked^a above all, and desperately sick – who shall know it?**

Footnote: ^a Jer 7:24, Jer 16:12, Jer 18:12, Jer 23:17.

Jer 17:10 **“ו, יהוה, search the heart, I try the kidneys, and give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.**

Jer 17:11 “As a partridge that broods but does not hatch, so is he who gets riches, but not by right. It leaves him in the midst of his days, and at his end he is a fool.”

Jer 17:12 An esteemed throne, exalted from the beginning, is the place of our set-apart place.

Jer 17:13 **O יהוה, the expectation of Yisra’el, all who forsake You are put to shame. “Those who depart from Me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken יהוה, the fountain of living waters.”^b Footnote: ^bSee Jer 2:13.**

Jeremiah Prays for Deliverance

Jer 17:14 Heal me, O יהוה, so that I am healed. Save me, so that I am saved, for You are my praise.

Jer 17:15 See, they say to me, “Where is the word of יהוה? Let it come now!”

Jer 17:16 **And I have not run away from being a shepherd who follows You, nor have I longed for the desperately sick day. You Yourself have known, that which came out of my lips was before You.**

Jer 17:17 Do not be a ruin to me, **You are my shelter in the day of evil.**

Jer 17:18 **Let these who persecute me be put to shame, but do not let me be put to shame. Let them be broken, but do not let me be broken. Bring on them the day of evil, and destroy them with double destruction!**

Jeremiah knew He served the Most High Elohim. He didn’t take for granted his standing with Him. He pleaded with YHWH to remember him.

Keep the Sabbath Holy

Jer 17:19 **Thus יהוה said to me,** “Go and stand in the gate of the children of the people, by which the sovereigns of Yehudāh come in and by which they go out, and in all the gates of Yerushalayim.

Jer 17:20 “And you shall say to them, ‘Hear the word of יהוה, you sovereigns of Yehudāh, and all Yehudāh, and all the inhabitants of Yerushalayim, who enter by these gates.

Jer 17:21 **Thus said יהוה, “Guard yourselves, and bear no burden on the Sabbath day, nor bring it in by the gates of Yerushalayim.**

Jer 17:22 **nor take a burden out of your houses on the Sabbath day, nor do any work. And you shall set apart the Sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers.**

Jer 17:23 “But **they did not obey**, or incline their ear, and they made their neck stiff not to hear and not to receive instruction.

Jer 17:24 “And it shall be, if you diligently obey Me,” declares יהוה, “

- to bring in no burden through the gates of this city on the Sabbath day, and
- set apart the Sabbath day, to do no work in it,
- Jer 17:25 **then** sovereigns and heads sitting on the throne of Dawid shall enter in through the gates of this city, riding in chariots and on horses, they and their heads – the men of Yehudāh and the inhabitants of Yerushalayim.
- And this city shall be inhabited forever.
- Jer 17:26 “And they shall come from the cities of Yehudāh and from the places around Yerushalayim, and from the land of Binyamin and from the low country, from the mountains and from the South, bringing ascending offerings and slaughterings, grain offerings and incense, bringing offerings of praise to the House of יהוה.

Jer 17:27 “But if you do not obey Me to set apart the Sabbath day, and not to bear a burden when entering the gates of Yerushalayim on the Sabbath day,

- then I shall kindle a fire in its gates, and
- it shall consume the palaces of Yerushalayim, and not be quenched.” ’ ’ ”

Mark 3

A Man with a Withered Hand

Mar 3:1 And He went into the congregation again, and a man who had a withered hand was there.

Mar 3:2 And **they were watching Him, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath**, so as to accuse Him.

Mar 3:3 And He said to the man who had the withered hand, “Get up to the middle.”

Mar 3:4 And **He said to them, “Is it right to do good on the Sabbath, or to do evil, to save life or to kill?” But they remained silent.**

Mar 3:5 And **having looked around on them with displeasure, being grieved at the hardness of their hearts**, He said to the man, “**Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as healthy as the other.**

Mar 3:6 **And the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him, how to destroy Him.**

Helping mankind takes priority. Turning away from someone in need is not of YHWH. Showing love and compassion is first and foremost.

The Book of the Law was not forgiving or gracious, but Covenant Torah is gracious, through faith in Yahusha HaMashiach. Praise Yah!

A Great Crowd Follows Yahusha

Mar 3:7 But **יהושע** withdrew with His taught ones to the sea. And a great crowd from Galil followed Him, and from Yehudah.

Mar 3:8 Even from Yerushalayim, and from Edom and beyond the Yardēn, and those around Tsor and Tsidon, a large crowd came to Him when they heard how much He was doing.

Mar 3:9 And **He spoke to His taught ones**, that a small boat should be kept ready for Him because of the crowd, lest they should press upon Him.

Mar 3:10 For **He healed many**, so that as many as had afflictions fell upon Him to touch Him.

Mar 3:11 And **the unclean spirits**, whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried out, saying, “You are the Son of Elohim.”

Mar 3:12 But **He warned them many times that they should not make Him known.**

Yahusha didn’t need nor want the ‘help’ of unclean spirits. It is a privilege of YHWH for believers to proclaim the Good News of Yahusha HaMashiach.

The Twelve Apostles – We had read previously how Yahusha called his apostles to follow Him; but now we see He appoints twelve to be with Him; to be sent out to proclaim; and to possess authority to heal sickness and cast out demons.

Mar 3:13 And **He went up on the mountain and called to Him whom He wished**, and they came to Him.

Mar 3:14 And **He appointed twelve to be with Him, and to be sent out to proclaim,**

Mar 3:15 and to possess authority to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons.

Mar 3:16 And **He appointed the twelve:**

- Shim'on, to whom He added the name Kēpha; Mar 3:17 and
- Ya'aqoḅ the son of Zaḅdai, and
- Yoḥanan the brother of Ya'aqoḅ, to whom He added the name Beni-Reḡes, that is, “Sons of Thunder,” Mar 3:18 and
- Andri, and
- Philip, and
- Bartholomi, and
- Mattithyahu, and
- T'oma, and
- Ya'aqoḅ son of Alphai, and

- Taddai, and
- Shim'on the Kena'anite; [Mar 3:19](#) and
- Yehudah from Qerioth, who did also deliver Him up. And they went into a house,

[Mar 3:20](#) and again the crowd came together, so that they were unable even to eat bread.

[Mar 3:21](#) And **when His relatives heard about this, they went out to seize Him, for they said, “He is out of His mind.”**

His very relatives thought He was out of His mind. Many of us have encountered the same from those closest to us.

Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit

[Mar 3:22](#) And **the scribes who came down from Yerushalayim said, “He has Be'elzebul,”** and, “He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons.”

[Mar 3:23](#) **And calling them near He said to them in parables, “How is Satan able to cast out Satan?”**

[Mar 3:24](#) “And if a reign is divided against itself, that reign is unable to stand.

[Mar 3:25](#) “And if a house is divided against itself, that house is unable to stand.

[Mar 3:26](#) “And if Satan has risen up against himself, and is divided, he is unable to stand, but has an end.

[Mar 3:27](#) “No one is able to enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man, and then he shall plunder his house.

[Mar 3:28](#) **“Truly, I say to you, all the sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they speak,**

Mar 3:29 **but he who blasphemes against the Set-apart Spirit has no forgiveness forever, but is subject to everlasting judgment,”**

[Mar 3:30](#) **because they said, “He has an unclean spirit.”**

These scribes had just blasphemed the Set-apart Spirit. Blasphemous rejection of the Set-apart Spirit is the unforgiveable sin. Without the Ruach HaKodesh coming into a person’s life by faith in Yahusha HaMashiach; there is no other way of salvation. Yahusha makes it clear what they had just said was blaspheming the Set-apart Spirit.

Yahusha's Mother and Brothers

[Mar 3:31](#) And His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him.

[Mar 3:32](#) **And a crowd was sitting around Him. And they said to Him, “See, Your mother and Your brothers are outside seeking You.”**

[Mar 3:33](#) But He answered them, saying, **“Who is My mother, or My brothers?”**

[Mar 3:34](#) And looking about on those sitting round Him, He said, “See My mother and My brothers!

[Mar 3:35](#) **“For whoever does the desire of Elohim is My brother and My sister and**

mother.^a Footnote: ^a [Mat 12:50](#), [Luk 8:21](#).

Through Yahusha we are adopted into His family. In Him, the family of believers are our brothers and sisters. We still have earthly parents that we honor, siblings, etc.; but now, we have been born anew into a holy nation; a kingdom of priests of every tribe, tongue, people, and nation.

~ Shalom ~ Libby

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