

Greetings, today our manna is from Genesis 16; Matthew 15; Nehemiah 5; Acts 15.

January 15 – Melchizedek Devotional Perspective

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

Genesis 16

Sarai and Hagar

Gen 16:1 And Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no child. And she had a Mitsrian female servant whose name was Haḡar.

Gen 16:2 And Sarai said to Abram, “See, יהוה has kept me from bearing children. Please, go in to my female servant. It might be that I am built up by her.” And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.

Tens years had passed since Abram and Sarai dwelt in Canaan. Sarai’s hopes of conceiving a child grew cold and her faith dwindled. In her mind, the only possibility was to have a child by her female servant. What seemed impossible to her in the flesh; would not be impossible with YHWH. Sarai grew weary and devises her own plan to have a child by her female servant.

The lesson to remember here, is that we can totally trust in the promises of YHWH.

- If YHWH has promised to gather us from all the places we have been scattered, He will.
- If YHWH has told us He would never leave us or forsake us; He won’t.
- If YHWH has told us we will rule and reign with Him, we will.
- If YHWH told Sarai she would bear her own child; she would.

YHWH will do as He has promised despite what seems to be insurmountable impossibilities in the natural.

Gen 16:3 And Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Haḡar her female servant, the Mitsrian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Kena’an.

Gen 16:4 And he went in to Haḡar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.

Gen 16:5 And Sarai said to Abram, “My wrong be upon you! I gave my female servant into your bosom. And when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes. Let יהוה judge between you and me.”

Gen 16:6 And Abram said to Sarai, “See, your female servant is in your hand, do to her what is good in your eyes.” **And Sarai treated her harshly, and she fled from her presence.**

Gen 16:7 And the **Messenger of יהוה** found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur,

Gen 16:8 and He said, **“Haḡar, Sarai’s female servant, where have you come from, and where are you going?”** And she said, “I am fleeing from the presence of Sarai, my mistress.”

Gen 16:9 And the **Messenger of יהוה** said to her, “Return to your mistress, and humble yourself under her hand.”

YHWH shows compassion to Hagar and gives her a promise. He speaks to her through the Angel of YHWH. This is a very significant contact. He reveals to Hagar, a female servant, that He would increase her seed greatly and that she was to give her son a specific name, Ishmael. He would be a wild and rebellious one with many conflicts among the people.

H3458 ישמעאל yishmâ'êl **BDB Definition:** Ishmael = “God will hear”

Gen 16:10 And the **Messenger of יהוה** said to her, “I am going to increase your seed greatly, too numerous to be counted.”

Gen 16:11 And the **Messenger of יהוה** said to her, **“See, you are conceiving and bearing a son, and shall call his name Yishma'ël, because יהוה has heard your affliction.**”

Gen 16:12 **“And he is to be a wild man, his hand against every one and every one’s hand against him, and dwell over against all his brothers.”**

Gen 16:13 And she called the Name of יהוה who spoke to her, **“You are the Ĕl who sees,”** for she said, **“Even here have I seen after Him who sees me?”**

Gen 16:14 That is why the well was called **Be'ēr Lahai Ro'i**, see, it is between Qaḡš and Bered.

H883 באר לחי ראי be'ēr láchay rō'iy **BDB Definition:** Beer-lahai-roi = “well of the Living One seeing me”

The well was called “YHWH sees me” and Hagar’s son name Ishmael means “YHWH will hear.” YHWH saw Hagar and He heard Hagar in her affliction.

H1904 הגר hâgâr **BDB Definition:** Hagar = “flight”

YHWH turned Hagar from fleeing and back into community. She would be forever changed. She had once only been known as a female slave or concubine; but now she had had an encounter with the most High Elohim. YHWH saw her; He heard her; He spoke to her; and he blessed her.

Gen 16:15 And Haḡar bore Aḡram a son, and Aḡram called the name of his son, whom Haḡar bore, Yishma'ēl.

Gen 16:16 And Aḡram was eighty-six years old when Haḡar bore Yishma'ēl to Aḡram.

Matthew 15

Traditions and Commandments

Mat 15:1 Then there came to יהושע **scribes and Pharisees** from Yerushalayim, saying,

Mat 15:2 “Why do Your taught ones transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.”

Mat 15:3 But He answering, said to them, “Why do you also transgress the command of Elohim^a because of your tradition? Footnote: ^aSee footnote [Mat 5:20](#).

Mat 15:4 “For Elohim has commanded, saying, ‘**Respect your father and your mother,**’ [Exo 20:12](#), [Deu 5:16](#), ‘**He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.**’ [Exo 21:17](#), [Lev 20:9](#).

Mat 15:5 **“But you say, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me has been dedicated,”**

Mat 15:6 **is certainly released from respecting his father or mother.’ So you have nullified the command of Elohim by your tradition.**

Mat 15:7 “Hypocrites! Yeshayahu [Isaiah] rightly prophesied about you, saying,

Mat 15:8 **‘This people draw near to Me with their mouth, and respect Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.**

Mat 15:9 **‘But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as teachings the commands of men.’ ”^b [Isa 29:13](#). Footnote: ^b [Mar 7:7](#), [2Ki 17:19](#).**

The scribes and the Pharisees were all about their ‘image’; looking and speaking as if they were godly but their hearts were far from Him. We read the same in Luke.

Luk 20:46 “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk in long robes, and love greetings in the market-places, and the best seats in the congregations, and the best places at feasts,

Luk 20:47 who devour widows’ houses, and for a show make long prayers. They shall receive greater judgment.”

What Defiles a Person

Mat 15:10 And calling the crowd near, He said to them, “Hear and understand:

Mat 15:11 “Not that which goes into the mouth defiles the man, but that which comes

out of the mouth, this defiles the man.”

Mat 15:12 Then His taught ones came and said to Him, “Do You know that the Pharisees stumbled when they heard this word?”

Mat 15:13 But He answering, said, “Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted shall be uprooted.

Mat 15:14 **“Leave them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both shall fall into a ditch.”**

Mat 15:15 **And Kěpha answering, said to Him, “Explain this parable to us.”**

Mat 15:16 And יהושע said, **“Are you also still without understanding?”**

Mat 15:17 “Do you not understand that whatever enters into the mouth goes into the stomach, and is cast out in the sewer?”

Mat 15:18 “But what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and these defile the man.

Mat 15:19 **“For out of the heart come forth wicked reasonings, murders, adulteries, whorings, thefts, false witnessings, slanders.**

Mat 15:20 **“These defile the man, but to eat with unwashed hands^c does not defile the man.”** Footnote: ^c[This refers to the mistaken belief that demons entered the person eating bread with “unwashed hands”.](#)

Yahusha explains. What comes out of the mouth comes from a person’s heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart, the mouth speaks.

Heb 9:10 [only as to foods and drinks, and different washings, and fleshly regulations](#) imposed [until a time](#) of setting *matters* straight. [Until Yahusha]

Heb 13:8 יהושע Messiah is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

Heb 13:9 **[Do not be borne about by various and strange teachings.^b For it is good for the heart to be established by favour, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.](#)** Footnote: ^b [Eph 4:14](#).

Heb 13:10 We have a slaughter-place from which those serving the Tent have no authority to eat.

Heb 13:11 For the bodies of those beasts whose blood is brought into the Set-apart Place by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp.

Heb 13:12 And so יהושע also suffered outside the gate, to set apart the people with His own blood.

Heb 13:13 Let us, then, go to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach.

Heb 13:14 **[For we have no lasting city here, but we seek the one coming.](#)**

Yahusha was ushering in the days when His Word would be written on our hearts. We would be a kingdom of priests under the Melchizedek Order. We would become living stones making up the ‘temple man’; the one new man consisting of many parts and wearing a priestly garment representing believers of every tongue, tribe, people, and nation. Yahusha is the head and we are the body. Col. 1:18.

The Faith of a Canaanite Woman

Mat 15:21 And יהושע went out from there and **withdrew to the parts of Tzor and Tsidon.**

Mat 15:22 And see, **a woman of Kena'an** came from those borders and cried out to Him, saying, “Have compassion on me, O Master, Son of Dawid! My daughter is badly demon-possessed.”

Mat 15:23 But He did not answer her a word. And His taught ones came and asked Him, saying, “Send her away, because she cries after us.”

Mat 15:24 And He answering, said, “**I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Yisra'ël.**”^d Footnote: ^dSee [Mat 10:6](#).

Mat 15:25 But she came and was bowing to Him, saying, “Master, help me!”

Mat 15:26 And He answering, said, “**It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs.**”

Mat 15:27 But she said, “**Yes Master, for even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.**”

Mat 15:28 **And יהושע answering, said to her, “O woman, your belief is great! Let it be to you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that hour.**

Persistent faith prevails much. Even those considered to be far from Him, moved Him to compassion by their belief.

Yahusha Heals Many

Mat 15:29 And moving from there, יהושע came toward the Sea of Galil, and going up on the mountain, He was sitting there.

Mat 15:30 And large crowds came to Him, having with them those who were lame, blind, dumb, crippled, and many others. And they laid them down at the feet of יהושע, and He healed them,

Mat 15:31 so that the crowd marveled when they saw the dumb speaking, the crippled well, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they praised the Elohim of Yisra'ël.

There had been a long period of silence, approximately 400 years, between the last words of the prophets and writings until the coming of Yahusha. Now, Yahusha was preparing the soil of their hearts to receive the Good News, the New Covenant Confirming Gospel message.

The people were believing again. The people started having hope. The people had cause for rejoicing. The people had miraculous healings. Yahusha was the Messiah. He was [YHWH in Son], and some received Him, yet others just desired a miracle.

Yahusha Feeds the Four Thousand

Mat 15:32 And יהושע, having called His taught ones near, said, **“I have compassion on the crowd, because they have now continued with Me three days and do not have whatever to eat.** And I do not wish to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way.”

Mat 15:33 And His taught ones said to Him, “Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to satisfy such a large crowd?”

Mat 15:34 And יהושע said to them, **“How many loaves do you have?”** And they said, **“Seven, and a few little fish.”**

Mat 15:35 And He commanded the crowd to sit down on the ground,

Mat 15:36 and taking the seven loaves and the fish, giving thanks, He broke them and gave to His taught ones, and the taught ones to the crowd.

Mat 15:37 And all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up what was left over of the broken pieces – seven large baskets, filled.

Mat 15:38 And those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children.

Mat 15:39 And dismissing the crowd, He went into the boat, and came to the borders of Maḡdala.

We will understand more about the feeding of the 5,000 and the feeding of the 4,000 in Matthew 16.

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.**

Yesterday we shared that the 5 loaves represented the first five books of the Torah. In the feeding of the 4,000, we see 7 loaves represented. These extra loaves represent the ‘added leaven’ or the ‘added oral traditions’ of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.

To this day we should guard ourselves from feeding on resources other than His Word. We are to clean our homes and libraries of such leaven that adds to or takes away from His Word. Who is to say that some of these ‘extra-biblical resources’ were not laid in our path as a stumbling block? YHWH is perfectly capable of providing us His Word.

Only 7 baskets of leftovers were picked up after the blessing and feeding of 7 loaves; yet 12 baskets of leftovers were picked up after the blessing and feeding of the 5 loaves. When leaven is added to His Word, it may still produce, but it will not produce abundantly. It will lack nourishment even though more is consumed; because it has been modified. The 5 loaves represented His Word which produced a maximum yield.

Nehemiah 5

Nehemiah Stops Oppression of the Poor

Neh 5:1 **And there was a great outcry of the people and their wives against their brothers, the Yehudim.**

Neh 5:2 **And there were some who were saying,** “We, our sons, and our daughters are many. Let us get grain for them, and eat, and live.”

Neh 5:3 **And there were some who were saying,** “We have mortgaged our lands and vineyards and houses. Let us buy grain because of the scarcity of food.”

Neh 5:4 **And there were those who were saying,** “We have borrowed silver for the sovereign’s tax on our lands and vineyards.

Neh 5:5 “And now our flesh is like the flesh of our brothers, our children like their children. And see, we are subjecting our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have *already* been subjected, and there is no power in our hands, for other men have our lands and vineyards.”

Neh 5:6 **And it was very displeasing to me when I heard their outcry and these words.**

Neh 5:7 **And my heart ruled over me, and I strove with the nobles and with the deputy rulers, and said to them,** “You are exacting interest, each one from his brother.” **And I called a great assembly against them,**

Neh 5:8 **and said to them,**

- “According to our ability we have redeemed our brothers, the Yehudim, who were sold to the nations.
- And you even sell your brothers! Or should they be sold to us?” And they were silent and found not a word to say.

Neh 5:9 **I also said,**

- “What you are doing is not good.
- Should you not walk in the fear of our Elohim because of the reproach of the nations, our enemies?
- **Neh 5:10** “And also, I, my brothers and my servants, am lending them silver and grain. Please, let us leave off this interest!
- **Neh 5:11** “Please, give back to them, even today, their lands, their vineyards, their olive-trees, and their houses, also the hundredth part of the silver and of the grain, and of the new wine, and of the oil, that you have taken from them.”

Neh 5:12 And they said, “Let us give it back, and ask no more from them, we do as you say.” Then I called the priests, and made them swear to do according to this word.

Neh 5:13 **I also shook out the fold of my garment and said, “Let Elohim in this way shake out each man from his house, and from his property, who does not do this word, even to be thus shaken out and emptied.”** And all the assembly said, “Amēn!” and praised יהוה. And the people did according to this word.

Nehemiah's Generosity

Neh 5:14 Also, from the day I was commanded to be their governor in the land of Yehudah, from the **twentieth year until the thirty-second year of Sovereign Artahshashta**, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the governor's food.

Neh 5:15 But **the former governors who were before me laid burdens on the people, and took from them bread and wine, besides forty sheqels of silver. Their servants also oppressed the people, but I did not do so, because of the fear of Elohim.**

Neh 5:16 And I also *worked* strongly in the work on this wall. We did not buy any land. And all my servants were gathered there for the work.

Neh 5:17 And at my table were one hundred and fifty of the Yehudim and deputy rulers, besides those who came to us from the nations around us.

Neh 5:18 And that which was prepared for me daily was one ox and six choice sheep, and birds were prepared for me, and once every ten days plenty of all kinds of wine. And in spite of this I did not seek the governor's food, because the bondage was heavy on this people.

Neh 5:19 **O my Elohim, remember me for the good – all that I have done for this people.**

We recall not all that had returned among the exiles out of Babylon, could prove their genealogy.

Ezr 2:59 And these were those who came up from Tēl Melaḥ, Tēl Ḥarsha, Kerub, Addan, Immēr; but they were unable to show their father's house, and their seed, whether they were of Yisra'ēl:

Ezr 2:60 sons of Delayah, sons of Tobiyah, sons of Neqoḡa, six hundred and fifty-two;

Ezr 2:61 and of the sons of the priests: sons of Ḥaḇayah, sons of Qots, sons of Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gil'adite, and was called by their name.

Ezr 2:62 These sought their register *among* those who were counted by genealogy, but they were not found, so they were *barred* from the priesthood as defiled.

Intermarriages had also taken place among them.

Ezr 9:1 And when these *matters* had been done, the leaders came to me, saying, “The people of Yisra’ël and the priests and the Lëwites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands, as to their abominations, *those* of the Kena’anites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Yëbusites, the Ammonites, the Mo’abites, the Mitsrites, and the Amorites,

Ezr 9:2 for they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and their sons, so that the set-apart seed is intermingled with the peoples of those lands. And the hand of the leaders and rulers has been foremost in this trespass.”

Now, Nehemiah reprimands those charging interest and oppressing the brethren that had returned. Many were poor and struggling and instead of helping one another they attempted to take advantage of their circumstances. Former governors had also taken advantage of them and now Nehemiah was trying to ‘right’ the many ‘wrongs.’ It was evident that there were already tares among the wheat.

Acts 15

The Jerusalem Council

This picture says it all. Gathered are different backgrounds and different perspectives of what it means to belong to Yahusha HaMashiach. The Good News has reached those from strict Judaic upbringing to others from pagan worship. The worldviews collide as they debate what this ‘one new man’ should be and look like according to the Scriptures.



Sparks fly when iron sharpens iron, but the price paid to find this narrow road is worthy of protection, defense, correction, reproof, and teaching.

Act 15:1 And certain men came down from Yehudāh and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised, according to the practice of Mosheh, you are unable to be saved.”

Act 15:2 So when Sha’ul and Barnaba had no small dissension and dispute with them, they arranged for Sha’ul and Barnaba and certain others of them to go up to Yerushalayim, to the emissaries and elders, about this question.

Paul and Barnabas go to meet with the Jerusalem Council. Along the way, they spread the Good News and the good reports.

Act 15:3 So, being sent on their way by the assembly, they passed through Phoenicia and Shomeron, relating the conversion of the nations. And they were causing great joy to all the brothers.

Act 15:4 **And having arrived in Yerushalayim, they were received by the assembly and the emissaries and the elders.** And they reported all that Elohim had done with them.

Act 15:5 And **some of the believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees**, rose up, saying, **“It is necessary to circumcise** them, and to command them to keep the Torah of Mosheh.”

Act 15:6 And **the emissaries and elders** came together to look into this matter.

Act 15:7 **And when there had been much dispute, Kěpha rose up and said to them,**

Peter addresses the Jerusalem Council

“Men, brothers, you know that a good while ago Elohim chose among us, that by my mouth the nations should hear the word of the Good News and believe.

Act 15:8 **“And Elohim, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Set-apart Spirit, as also to us,**

Act 15:9 **and made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by belief.**

Act 15:10 “Now then, **why do you try Elohim by putting a yoke on the neck of the taught ones which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?**

Act 15:11 “But through the favour of the Master יהושע Messiah we trust to be saved, in the same way as they.”

Barnabas and Paul also declare the miracles and wonders of Elohim done among the nations.

Act 15:12 And all the crowd was silent and were listening to Barnaba and Sha’ul declaring how many miracles and wonders Elohim did among the nations, through them.

James, head of the Jerusalem Council and brother of Yahusha, speaks to all those gathered.

Act 15:13 And after they were silent, **Ya’aqob answered**, saying,

“Men, brothers, listen to me:

Act 15:14 “Shim'on has declared how Elohim first visited the nations to take out of them a people for His Name.

Act 15:15 “And the words of the prophets agree with this, as it has been written:

Act 15:16 **‘After this I shall return and rebuild the Booth of Dawid which has fallen down. And I shall rebuild its ruins, and I shall set it up,**

Act 15:17 **so that the remnant of mankind shall seek יהוה, even all the nations on whom My Name has been called, says יהוה who is doing all this,’**

Act 15:18 **who has made this known from of old.** [Amo 9:11-12.](#)

Act 15:19 “Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the nations who are turning to Elohim,

Act 15:20 **but that we write to them to**

1. abstain from the defilements of idols,^a
2. and from whoring,^b
3. and from what is strangled,^c
4. and from blood.^d Footnotes: ^a [Exo 22:20](#), [Lev 17:7](#), [Deu 32:17](#), [Deu 32:21](#), [1Co 10:14](#), [1Co 10:20-21](#). ^b [Num 25:1-3](#), [Lev 17:7](#). ^c [Gen 9:4](#), [Eze 33:25](#) (Strangled - One way of eating meat with blood) [Pro 21:25](#). ^d [Lev 17:10-14](#).

Act 15:21 **“For from ancient generations Mosheh has, in every city, those proclaiming him – being read in the congregations every Sabbath.”**

James reasons with the council based on what had been shared by Peter and what was supported by the Scriptures in Amos. He sets down four guidelines for the nation people to follow and the rest they would learn as they gathered and heard the Scriptures read every Sabbath.

Ephesians 2

**Who are we?
Where do we sit?**

¹And you were dead in trespasses and sins,^a

²in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience,^a

³among whom also we all once lived in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, as also the rest.

⁴But Elohim, who is rich in compassion, because of His great love with which He loved us,

⁵even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Messiah – by favour you have been saved –

⁶and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenlies in Messiah יהושע, *Where do we sit?*

⁷in order to show in the coming ages the exceeding riches of His favour in kindness toward us in Messiah יהושע.

⁸For by favour you have been saved, through belief, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of Elohim,

⁹it is not by works, so that no one should boast.

¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Messiah יהושע unto good works, which Elohim prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.



Romans 11:17-24

¹⁷ And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, have been grafted in among them, and came to share the root and fatness of the olive tree,

¹⁸ do not boast against the branches. And if you boast, remember: you do not bear the root, but the root bears you!

¹⁹ You shall say then, "The branches were broken off that I might be grafted in."

²⁰ Good! By unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by belief. Do not be arrogant, but fear.

²¹ For if Elohim did not spare the natural branches, He might not spare you either.

²² See then the kindness and sharpness of Elohim: on those who fell sharpness, but toward you kindness, if you continue in His kindness, otherwise you also shall be cut off.

²³ And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, shall be grafted in, for Elohim is able to graft them in again.

²⁴ For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree, how much more shall these who are the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

Ephesians 2 - continued - Who are we?

¹¹ Therefore remember that you, once gentiles^a in the flesh, who are called 'the uncircumcision' by what is called 'the circumcision' made in the flesh by hands,

¹² that at that time you were without Messiah, excluded from the citizenship of Yisra'el and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no expectation and without Elohim in the world.

¹³ But now in Messiah יהושע you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of the Messiah.

¹⁴ For He is our peace, who has made both one, and having broken down the partition of the barrier,

¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity – the Torah of the commands in dogma – so as to create in Himself one renewed man from the two, thus making peace,

¹⁶ and to completely restore to favour both of them unto Elohim in one body through the stake, having destroyed the enmity by it.

¹⁷ And having come, He brought as Good News peace to you who were far off, and peace to those near.

¹⁸ Because through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the set-apart ones and members of the household of Elohim,^a

²⁰ having been built upon the foundation of the emissaries and prophets, יהושע Messiah Himself being chief corner-stone,

²¹ in whom all the building, being joined together, grows into a set-apart Dwelling Place in יהוה,

²² in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of Elohim in the Spirit.

Isaiah 14:1

¹ Because יהוה has compassion on Ya'aaqoq, and shall again choose Yisra'el,^a and give them rest in their own land. And the strangers shall join them, and they shall cling to the house of Ya'aaqoq.^b Footnotes: ^aSee [Isa 45:17](#), [Jer 30:11](#), [Jer 46:28](#), [Dan 2:44](#), [Amo 9:8](#), [Zec 1:16-17](#), [Zec 2:10-12](#), [Joe 3:16](#). ^bSee [Isa 56:6-8](#) and [Isa 60:3](#), [Amo 9:12](#), [Zec 2:11](#), [Zec 8:23](#), [Rom 11:17-24](#), [Rev 21:24](#).

Gal 6:13 For those who are circumcised do not even watch over the Torah, but they wish to have you circumcised so that they might boast in your flesh.

Gal 6:14 And for me, let it not be that I should boast except in the stake of our Master יהושע Messiah, through whom the world has been impaled to me, and I to the world.

Gal 6:15 For in Messiah יהושע neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any strength, but a renewed [new] creature.^a Footnote: ^aSee [1Co 7:19](#), [Rom 2:26-29](#), and [2Co 5:17](#).

The Council's Letter to Gentile Believers

Act 15:22 Then it seemed good to the emissaries and elders, with all the assembly, to send chosen men from among them to Antioch with Sha'ul and Barnaba: Yehudah being called Barsabba, and Silas, leading men among the brothers,

Act 15:23 having written by their hand this:

The Council's Letter [Acts 15:23-29]

The emissaries and the elders and the brothers, To the brothers who are of the nations in Antioch, and Suria, and Kilikia:

Greetings. Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your lives, to whom we gave no command – it seemed good to us, having become of one mind, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnaba and Sha'ul, men who have given up their lives for the Name of our Master יהושע Messiah.

We have therefore sent Yehudah and Silas, who are also confirming this by word of mouth. For it seemed good to the Set-apart Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessities: that you **abstain from what is offered to idols, and blood, and what is strangled, and whoring.** If you keep yourselves from these, you shall do well. Be strong!

Act 15:30 They, **therefore, being sent off, went to Antioch. And having gathered the crowd together, they delivered the letter.**

Act 15:31 **And having read it, they rejoiced over its encouragement.**

Act 15:32 And Yehudah and Silas, being themselves also prophets, encouraged the brothers with many words and strengthened them.

Act 15:33 And having spent some time, they were sent back in peace from the brothers to the emissaries.

Act 15:34 **But it seemed good to Silas to remain.**

Act 15:35 **And Sha'ul and Barnaba continued in Antioch, teaching and bringing, with many others also, the Good News: the Word of יהוה!**

Paul and Barnabas Separate

Act 15:36 **And after some days Sha'ul said to Barnaba,** “Let us now go back and visit our brothers in every city where we proclaimed the Word of יהוה, and see how they are.”

Act 15:37 And **Barnaba** purposed to take with them Yoḥanan called Marqos.

Act 15:38 **But Sha'ul thought it not fit to take with them the one who withdrew from them in Pamphulia, and had not gone with them to the work.**

Sharp feelings arise and it causes a split, however YHWH works everything out for good, for now there would be two groups going out to spread the Good News!

Act 15:39 A sharp feeling therefore came to be, so that they parted from one another. And so **Barnaba took Marqos and sailed to Cyprus.**

Act 15:40 And **Sha'ul chose Silas** and went off, being committed by the brothers to the favour of Elohim.

Act 15:41 And **he went through Suria and Kilikia, strengthening the assemblies.**

~ Shalom ~ Libby

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