

Greetings, today our manna is from Genesis 28; Matthew 27; Esther 4; Acts 27

January 27 - Melchizedek Devotional Perspective

[Note: **For teaching purposes only**, underlines, bold font, and highlights have been added to Scripture text. Version TS2009]

Genesis 28

Genesis 27 closes with Rebekah's concern over finding a wife for Jacob. We know that Esau had intermarried with Canaanites and Ishmaelites.

Gen 27:46 And Ribqah said to Yitshaq, "I am disgusted with my life because of the daughters of Heth. If Ya'aqob takes a wife from the daughters of Heth, like these who are the daughters of the land, what is my life to me?"

In Gen. 26 we read another account arising concerning this same conflict.

Gen 26:34 And when Esau was forty years old, he took as wives Yehudith the daughter of Be'eri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite.

Gen 26:35 And they were a bitterness of spirit to Yitshaq and Ribqah.

Ellicott's Commentary notes: ESAU'S MARRIAGE WITH CANAANITISH WOMEN.

(34) Esau was forty years old.—He was there fore of exactly the same age as Isaac was when, sixty years before, he married Rebekah. But by thus inter marrying with idolaters Esau violated the great principle laid down by Abraham ([Genesis 24:3](#)), forfeited thereby his birthright, and, as such marriages were illegal, is even called a fornicator in [Hebrews 12:16](#). As his conduct was regarded by his parents with "grief of mind"—Heb., bitterness of spirit: that is, with mingled anger and sorrow—Esau partially repented, and took as a third wife a daughter of Ishmael ([Genesis 28:9](#)). In the Toldoth Esau ([Genesis 36:2-3](#)) the names are different, and a fourth wife, of the inhabitants of Seir, takes the place of Judith.

Judith.—The names are remarkable, as showing that the Hittites spoke a Semitic tongue. Judith is the feminine form of Judah, and means praised. Beeri can scarcely be the original name of her father, as it means well-finder, but was probably gained by his skill in discovering water. We find it, however, in the genealogy of Hosea ([Hosea 1:1](#)). Bashemath or Basmath, the fragrant, was the name also of a daughter of Solomon (1 King 4:15); and Elon, oak-grove, was the name of a judge ([Judges 12:11](#)).

As this conduct of Esau prepares the mind for his final rejection and loss of the birthright, the place of these two verses would rightly be at the beginning of Genesis 27. The Jews arrange them as a separate section.

Now, in Gen. 28, we read Isaac informing Jacob about the wife he should choose.

Jacob Sent to Laban

Gen 28:1 And **Yitshaq called Ya'aqob and blessed him, and commanded him, and said to him, "Do not take a wife from the daughters of Kena'an.**

Gen 28:2 “Arise, go to Paddan Aram, to the house of Bethu’ël your mother’s father. And take a wife for yourself from there, from the daughters of Laban your mother’s brother.”

✚ **Gen 28:3** “And Ėl Shaddai bless you, and make you fruitful and increase you, and you shall become an assembly of peoples,

✚ **Gen 28:4** and give you the blessing of Aḅraham, to you and your seed with you, so that you inherit the land of your sojournings, which Elohim gave to Aḅraham.”

Gen 28:5 So Yitshaq sent Ya’aqoḅ away, and he went to Paddan Aram, to Laḅan son of Bethu’ël the Aramean, the brother of Riḅqah, the mother of Ya’aqoḅ and Ėsaw.

Esau Marries an Ishmaelite

Gen 28:6 And Ėsaw saw that Yitshaq had blessed Ya’aqoḅ and sent him away to Paddan Aram to take himself a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he gave him a command, saying, “Do not take a wife from the daughters of Kena’an,”

Gen 28:7 and that Ya’aqoḅ had obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Paddan Aram.

Gen 28:8 **So Ėsaw saw that the daughters of Kena’an did not please his father Yitshaq,**

Gen 28:9 **and Ėsaw went to Yishma’ël and took Maḅalath the daughter of Yishma’ël, Aḅraham’s son, the sister of Neḅayoth, to be his wife, besides the wives he had.**

Ellicott’s Commentary Gen 28:6 When Esau.—The solemn transfer of the birthright to Jacob, and Isaac’s complete assent thereto, must have been the cause of no little grief to Esau, and evidently it made him feel that he had greatly contributed to this result by his own illegitimate marriages. When, then, he sees Jacob sent away to obtain a wife, in accordance with the rule established by Abraham, he determines also to conform to it, and marries a daughter of Ishmael. She is called Bashe-math in chap 36:3, and described in both places as “the sister of Nebajoth,” in order to show that as Nebajoth “the firstborn” ([Genesis 25:13](#)) was undoubtedly the son of Ishmael by his first wife, “whom Hagar took for him out of the land of Egypt” ([Genesis 21:21](#)), so also Mahalath shared in this precedence, and was not the daughter of any of Ishmael’s subsequent wives, or of a concubine.

Jacob’s Dream

Gen 28:10 And Ya’aqoḅ went out from Be’ërsheḅa and went toward Ḥaran.

Gen 28:11 And he came upon a place and stopped over for the night, for the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep.

Gen 28:12 And he dreamed and saw a ladder set up on the earth, and its top reached to the heavens, and saw messengers of Elohim going up and coming down on it.

Gen 28:13 **And see, יהוה stood above it and said,**

✚ “I am יהוה Elohim of Aḅraham your father and the Elohim of Yitshaq. The land on which you are lying, I give it to you and your seed.

✚ **Gen 28:14** “And your seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and you shall break forth to the west and to the east, to the north and the south. And all the clans of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your seed.

✚ Gen 28:15 “And see, **I am with you and shall guard you wherever you go**, and shall bring you back to this land. For I am not going to leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”

Gen 28:16 And Ya'agob awoke from his sleep and said, “Truly, יהוה is in this place, and I did not know it.”

Gen 28:17 And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of Elohim, and this is the gate of the heavens!”

As His Melchizedek kingdom of priests, we may enter his throne room with thanksgiving; praise; worship; intercession; bear gifts; and offerings. Though we live in our three-dimensional reality; our prayers catapult us into His very presence. Our prayers and other offerings ascend before His throne.

We also have access to the Angel of YHWH and his angelic messengers with their various duties. We do not ‘worship’ angels, but we can request their assistance. There are guardian angels, messaging angels, ministering angels, and warrior angels. The spiritual realm in the heavenlies is very active and it appears that Jacob can see this activity.

This encounter with YHWH also shows a pattern of the one new man; sometimes referred to as ‘temple man.’ For we are one body and Yahusha HaMashiach is the head. Jacob would become the father of the 12 Patriarchs through which the promise of Abraham would come; by forming the one new man, Israel. Jacob’s name is changed to Israel, by YHWH. Israel is YHWH’s firstborn. Israel is the body of believers in Yahusha.

Exo 4:22 “And you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus said יהוה, “**Yisra’el is My son, My first-born,**

Exo 4:23 so I say to you, let My son go to serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, see, I am killing your son, your first-born.” ’ ”

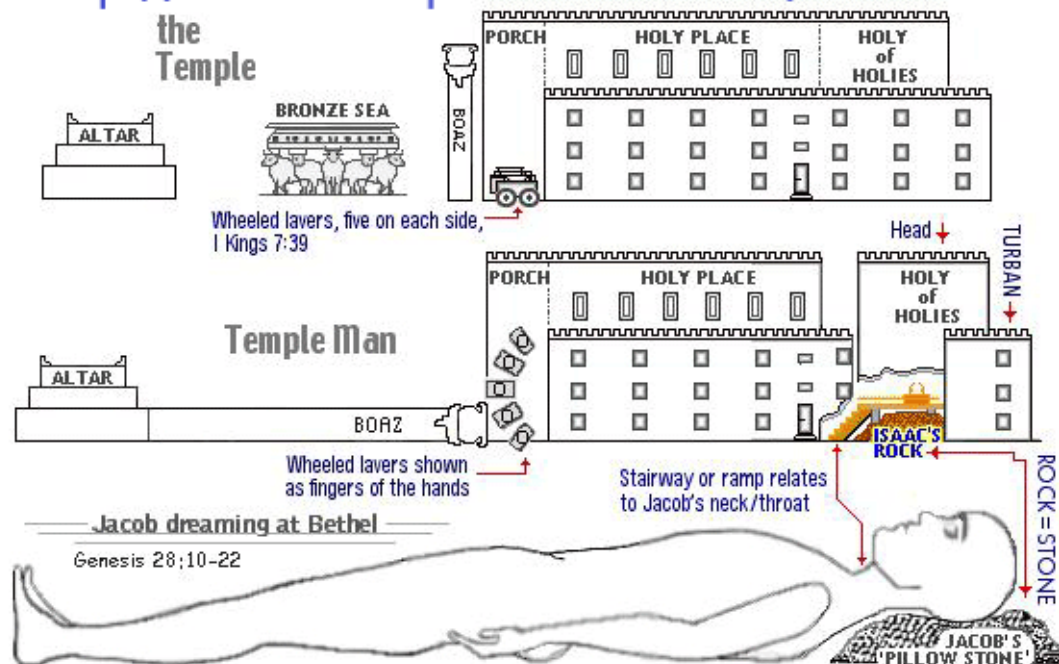
The following graphic shows a pictorial concept of spiritual ‘Israel’; born from above.

Resource link is: <http://www.templesecrets.info/index.html>

Jacob Builds the Temple?

Why was Jacob given the dream at this time? Not solely because he was fleeing the wrath of his brother Esau, but also because he was on his way to Mesopotamia to find a wife and create a *family*, i.e., a “house”. Isaac practically ordered him to leave and start his own family (Genesis. 28: 1, 2), that he might multiply and become an “company of peoples,” v. 3; and later it is said his two wives are the “builders” of the House of Israel, Ruth. 4:11. Jacob, therefore, constructed a *human* temple, a house of twelve tribes (plus the Levites) and centuries later these twelve, with hired Phoenician craftsmen, raised Solomon’s stone temple, the ‘House of God’. Therefore, the dream concerns the building of two houses, Israel’s (Jacob’s) and God’s.

<http://www.templesecrets.info/index.html>



Gen 28:18 And Ya'aqob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a standing column, and poured oil on top of it.

Gen 28:19 And he **called the name of that place Bēyth Ĕl**, however, the name of that city had been Luz previously.

BDB Definition:

Bethel = “house of God”

- 1) ancient place and seat of worship in Ephraim on border of Benjamin, identified with Luz (former name)
- 2) a place in south country of Judah, not far from Beersheba and Ziklag

Gen 28:20 And **Ya'agob made a vow, saying**, “Seeing Elohim is with me, and has kept me in this way that I am going, and has given me bread to eat and a garment to put on –

Gen 28:21 when I have returned to my father’s house in peace, and יהוה has been my Elohim,

Gen 28:22 then this **stone which I have set as a standing column** shall be Elohim’s house, and of all that You give me, **I shall certainly give a tenth to You.**”

Gen. 28:22 connects us back to Abraham paying a tenth to the Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of the Most High El.

Gen 14:18 And Malkitsedeq sovereign of Shalēm brought out bread and wine. Now he was the priest of the Most High Ĕl.

Gen 14:19 And he blessed him and said, “Blessed be Aḅram of the Most High Ĕl, Possessor of the heavens and earth.

Gen 14:20 “And blessed be the Most High Ĕl who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” And he gave him a tenth of all.

Beyth El also connects us back to the time of YHWH’s promise to Abraham.

Gen 12:6 And Aḅram passed through the land to the place of Sheḱem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. At that time the Kena’anites were in the land.

Gen 12:7 **And יהוה appeared to Aḅram and said**, “To your seed I give this land.” And he built there a slaughter-place to יהוה, who had appeared to him.

Gen 12:8 And from there he **moved to the mountain east of Běyth Ĕl**, and he pitched his tent, **with Běyth Ĕl on the west** and **Ai on the east**. And he built there a slaughter-place to יהוה, and called on the Name of יהוה.

Gen 12:9 And Aḅram set out, continuing toward the South.

Additional information about the tithe is given in Deuteronomy.

Tithes

Deu 14:22 “You shall tithe without fail all the yield of your grain that the field brings forth year by year.

Deu 14:23 “And you shall eat before יהוה your Elohim, in the place where He chooses to make His Name dwell, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, and of the firstlings of your herds and your sheep, so that you learn to fear יהוה your Elohim always.

Deu 14:24 “But when the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to bring the tithe, or when the place where יהוה your Elohim chooses to put His Name is too far from you, when יהוה your Elohim is blessing you,

Deu 14:25 then you shall give it in silver, and shall take the silver in your hand and go to the place which יהוה your Elohim chooses.

Deu 14:26 “And you shall use the silver for whatever your being desires: for cattle or sheep, for wine or strong drink, for whatever your being desires. And you shall eat there before יהוה your Elohim, and you shall rejoice, you and your household.

Matthew 27

Yahusha Delivered to Pilate

Mat 27:1 And morning having come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against יהושע, so as to put Him to death.

Mat 27:2 And having bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

We must always remember, no one took Yahusha's life; He chose to lay down His life and take it back up! He held the 'Greater Plan.' His ways are not our ways!

Joh 10:18 "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to receive it again. This command I have received from My Father."

Isa 55:8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares יהוה.

Isa 55:9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."

Judas Hangs Himself

Mat 27:3 Then Yehudah – he who delivered Him up – **having seen that He had been condemned, repented, returned the thirty pieces of silver** to the chief priests and to the elders,

Mat 27:4 saying, "I have sinned in delivering up innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!"

Mat 27:5 And throwing down the pieces of silver in the Dwelling Place he left, and went and hanged himself.

Mat 27:6 And the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not right to put them into the treasury, seeing they are the price of blood."

Mat 27:7 So they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field, for the burial of strangers.

Mat 27:8 Therefore that field has been called the **Field of Blood**, until today.

Mat 27:9 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Yirmeyahu the prophet, saying, **"And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of Him who was pierced, on whom they of the children of Yisra'el set a price,**

Mat 27:10 **and gave them for the potter's field, as יהוה had ordered me."**

[Zec 11:12-13.](#)

Judas of Iscariot repented and returned the thirty pieces of silver; he acknowledges he had sinned delivering up innocent blood before the chief priests; but his repentance fell on deaf and uncaring ears. If they were TRUE chief priests, they would have had compassion and instructions for Judas, but they were not.

The corruption of the temple system under the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood was very evident; our only hope is through Yahusha who accomplishes His finished work on the crucifixion timber. At this point, Yahusha had been condemned, but had not yet been crucified. Therefore, the transition between the priesthoods and the laws had not fully been accomplished.

The chief priests were corrupt and spiritually blind. They worked diligently seeking the death of Yahusha; and once they felt things were aligned in their favor; they pretended to act 'righteous' by not adding the blood money into their treasury, that they themselves had provided to Judas! Utter hypocrisy.

Yahusha Before Pilate – Yahusha knew exactly what He was doing; and He knew the heart of each one present!

Mat 27:11 And יהושע stood before the governor, and the governor asked Him, saying, **“Are You the Sovereign of the Yehudim?”** And יהושע said to him, **“You say it.”**

Mat 27:12 And as He was accused by the chief priests and the elders, He answered not.

Mat 27:13 Then Pilate said to Him, **“Do You not hear how much they witness against You?”**

Mat 27:14 And He did not answer him, not one word, so that the governor wondered much.

The Crowd Chooses Barabbas

Mat 27:15 And at the festival the governor used to release to the crowd one prisoner whom they wished.

Mat 27:16 And they had then a well-known prisoner called Barabba.

Mat 27:17 So when they were assembled, **Pilate said to them, “Whom do you wish I release to you? Barabba, or יהושע who is called Messiah?”**

Mat 27:18 For **he knew that because of envy** they had delivered Him up.

Mat 27:19 And as he was sitting on the judgment seat, **his wife sent to him, saying, “Have none at all to do with that righteous Man, for I have suffered much today in a dream because of Him.”**

Mat 27:20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the crowds that they should ask for Barabba and to destroy יהושע.

Mat 27:21 And the governor answering, said to them, “Which of the two do you wish I release to you?” They said, “Barabba!”

Mat 27:22 Pilate said to them, “What then shall I do with יהושע who is called Messiah?” They all said to him, “Let Him be impaled!”

Mat 27:23 And the governor said, “Indeed, what evil has He done?” And they were crying out all the more, saying, “Let Him be impaled!”

The Anti-messiah spirit was no doubt present causing a feeding frenzy for innocent blood. Yahusha already knew what they would say and who they would choose. Yahusha was fulfilling all that had been prophesied about Him; He had come to seek and to save that which was lost. He is the One who would ask His Father, ‘Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.’

Pilate Delivers Yahusha to Be Crucified

Mat 27:24 And when **Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but rather an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of the blood of this Righteous One. You shall see to it.”**

Mat 27:25 And **all the people answering, said, “His blood be on us and on our children.”**

Mat 27:26 Then he released Barabba to them, but having יהושע whipped, he delivered Him over to be impaled.

Yahusha Is Mocked

Mat 27:27 Then the soldiers of the governor took יהושע into the court and gathered the entire company *of soldiers* around Him.

Mat 27:28 And **having stripped Him, they put a scarlet robe on Him.**

Mat 27:29 And **plaiting a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand.** And **they kneeled down before Him and mocked Him,** saying, “Greetings, Sovereign of the Yehudim!”

Mat 27:30 And **spitting on Him they took the reed and struck Him on the head.**

Mat 27:31 And **when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, then put His own garments on Him,** and led Him away to be impaled.

The Crucifixion

Mat 27:32 And as they were going out, they found a man of **Cyrene, Shim'on** by name – they compelled him to bear His stake.

Mat 27:33 And when they came to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull,

Mat 27:34 they **gave Him wine mixed with bile to drink. And after tasting, He would not drink it.**

Mat 27:35 And having impaled Him, they divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be filled what was spoken by the prophet, “**They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.**” [Psa 22:18](#).

They did not divide His seamless garment, this was His priestly garment; therefore, they did not ‘disqualify’ Him from being ‘High Priest’ of the Melchizedek Order over His own crucifixion.

Mat 27:36 And sitting down, they guarded Him there.

Mat 27:37 And they put up over His head the written charge against Him: **THIS IS יהושי, THE SOVEREIGN OF THE YEHUDIM.**

This sign annoyed the chief priests and elders; they had wanted it to say, **He said,** He was the Sovereign of the Yehudim. YHWH speaks in many ways.

Mat 27:38 **Then two robbers** were impaled with Him, one on the right and another on the left.

Mat 27:39 And those passing by were blaspheming Him, **shaking their heads,** [Psa 22:7](#).

Mat 27:40 and saying, “You who destroy the Dwelling Place and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of Elohim, come down from the stake.”

Mat 27:41 And likewise the **chief priests, with the scribes and elders,** mocking, said,

Mat 27:42 “He saved others – He is unable to save Himself. If He is the Sovereign of Yisra’el, let Him now come down from the stake, and we shall believe Him.

Mat 27:43 “**He trusted in Elohim, let Him rescue Him now if He desires Him,** [Psa 22:8](#) for He said, ‘I am the Son of Elohim.’ ”

Mat 27:44 And also the **robbers who were impaled with Him reviled Him,** saying the same.

Line upon line we see prophesy after prophesy about Yahusha being fulfilled in Psalms and other Scripture.

The Death of Yahusha

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

During Passover, there is normally a full moon. However, at this time, there was no longer a set 30-day month. If there was a full moon, the only way for a total solar eclipse to occur for 3 hours; would have possibly been by another planetary body moving between the earth and the sun. The accompanying earthquake would fall right in line with the agitation occurring in the heavenly bodies by such an event.

Alternatively, YHWH can do anything He desires but most often YHWH uses His creation to bring about His will.

Mat 27:46 And about the **ninth hour** יהושע cried out with a loud voice, saying, "**Ĕli, Ĕli, lemah shebaqtani?**" that is, "**My ĔI, My ĔI, why have You forsaken Me?**" [Psa 22:1](#).

Mat 27:47 Some of those standing there, having heard, said, "This One calls Ĕliyahu!"

Mat 27:48 And immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, and filled it with **sour wine** and put it on a reed, and gave it to Him **to drink**. [Psa 69:21](#).

Mat 27:49 But the rest said, "Leave it, let us see if Ĕliyahu comes to save Him."

Mat 27:50 **And יהושע cried out again with a loud voice, and gave up His spirit.**

Mat 27:51 And see,

- **the veil of the Dwelling Place was torn in two from top to bottom, and**
- **the earth was shaken, and**
- **the rocks were split,**
- **Mat 27:52** and the **tombs were opened, and**
- **many bodies of the set-apart ones who had fallen asleep were raised,**
- **Mat 27:53** and **coming out of the tombs after His resurrection,**
- **they went into the set-apart city and appeared to many.**

Mat 27:54 And when the captain and those with him, who were guarding יהושע, **saw the earthquake and all that took place, they feared exceedingly**, saying, "Truly this was the Son of Elohim!"

Mat 27:55 And **many women who followed יהושע from Galil, attending Him, were there, watching from a distance,**

Mat 27:56 among whom were **Miryam from Maḡdala, and Miryam the mother of Ya'aqob and Yosēph, and the mother of Zabdai's sons.**

Yahusha Is Buried

Mat 27:57 And when evening came, there came a rich man from **Ramathayim, named Yosēph**, who himself had also become a taught one of יהושע.

Mat 27:58 He went to Pilate and asked for the body of יהושע. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given.

Mat 27:59 And having taken the body, **Yosēph wrapped it in clean linen,**

Mat 27:60 and **laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock.** And he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and went away.

Mat 27:61 And **Miryam from Maḡdala** was there, and **the other Miryam**, sitting opposite the tomb.

The Guard at the Tomb

Mat 27:62 **On the next day**, which was after the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate,

Mat 27:63 saying, “Master, we remember, **while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, ‘After three days I am raised.’**”

Mat 27:64 **“Command, then, that the tomb be safeguarded until the third day**, lest His taught ones come by night and steal Him away, and should say to the people, ‘He was raised from the dead.’ And the last deception shall be worse than the first.”

Mat 27:65 So Pilate said to them, “You have a watch, go, safeguard it as you know how.”

Mat 27:66 And **they went and safeguarded the tomb, sealing the stone and setting the watch.**

The chief priests and Pharisees had ‘no rest’; they themselves were highly tormented in their minds.

We see many of the prophecies that Yahusha was fulfilling in Isaiah. The chief priests and the Pharisees would have known of these and many more.

Isa 53:2 For He grew up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or splendor that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should desire Him –

Isa 53:3 despised and rejected by men, a man of pains and knowing sickness. And as one from whom the face is hidden, being despised, and we did not consider Him.

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

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

Isa 53:6 We all, like sheep, went astray, each one of us has turned to his own way. And יהוה has laid on Him the crookedness of us all.

Isa 53:7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, but He did not open His mouth. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, but He did not open His mouth.

Isa 53:8 He was taken from prison and from judgment. And as for His generation, who considered that He shall be cut off from the land of the living? For the transgression of My people He was stricken.

Isa 53:9 And He was appointed a burial-site with the wrong, and with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was deceit in His mouth.^a Footnote: ^a [1Pe 2:22](#).

Isa 53:10 But יהוה was pleased to crush Him, He laid sickness on Him, that when He made Himself an offering for guilt, He would see a seed, He would prolong His days and the pleasure of יהוה prosper in His hand.

Isa 53:11 He would see the result of the suffering of His life and be satisfied. Through His knowledge My righteous Servant makes many righteous, and He bears their crookednesses.

Isa 53:12 Therefore I give Him a portion among the great, and He divides the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His being unto death, and He was counted with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Esther 4

Before we proceed further in the Book of Esther, we need to discuss the term ‘Jew.’ In our current day the term ‘Jew’ is misleading. The term would most closely apply to those from the tribe of Judah, one of the 12 tribes, or those of the Jewish faith. ‘Israel’ was the name given to YHWH’s people that he led out of Egypt. ‘Israel’, YHWH’s people were ruled by King Saul, King David, and King Solomon before the kingdom split; with 10 tribes going to the north and 2 tribes to the south. The northern tribes were referred to as the ‘House of Israel’; and the southern tribes were referred to as the ‘House of Judah’.

In Esther, we are reading about a remnant of exiles after the Babylonian exile that chose not to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and the wall. The Medes and Persians presently ruled the region. The people of the House of Judah were made up of the tribe of Judah and Benjamin; Levites; and remnants of the northern House of Israel. Also, by this time, there was a mixed multitude from the intermarriages with the nation people.

The word ‘Jew’ has been highly misused and can be a misleading term. The term ‘Jew’ more closely describes a religion and not a nation; even though some presently claim the state of Israel ‘a nation of the Jews.’ The current state of ‘Israel’ was man ordained. True Israel is born from above and is made up of believers from every tribe, tongue, people and nation.

Merriam-Webster defines Jew as follows:

Jew [noun](#) \ ˈjü \ **Definition of Jew**

- 1 : a person belonging to a continuation through descent or conversion of the ancient Jewish people
 - 2 : one whose religion is Judaism
 - 3a : a member of the tribe of Judah
 - b : [israelite](#)
 - 4 : a member of a nation existing in Palestine from the sixth century b.c. to the first century a.d.
- [First Known Use of Jew](#)

13th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 3a](#)

[History and Etymology for Jew](#)

Middle English, from Anglo-French *ju, jeu*, from Latin *Judaeus*, from Greek *Ioudaios*, from Hebrew *Yēhūdī*, from *Yēhūdāh* Judah, Jewish kingdom

Many of those that did return to rebuild Jerusalem from Babylon, could no longer prove their genealogy. It is no different today and DNA tests are inconsequential. A more proper descriptive term would be Hebrew Israelites. But know this, all people must come by faith through Yahusha to be part of **spiritual Israel**; which is compiled of believers from both the natural branches and those grafted in through Yahusha HaMashiach, our Melchizedek High Priest.

For the Scriptures tell us:

Gal 3:28 There is not **Yehudi nor Greek**, there is not **slave nor free**, there is not **male and female**, for you are all one in Messiah יהושע.

Gal 3:29 **And if you are of Messiah, then you are seed of Abraham, and heirs according to promise.**

And Paul defines a ‘Jew’ or ‘Yehudi’ as follows:

Rom 2:28 For he is not a Yehudi who is so outwardly, neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh.

Rom 2:29 **But a Yehudi is he who is so inwardly, and circumcision is that of the heart,⁹ in Spirit, not literally, whose praise is not from men but from Elohim.** Footnote: ⁹ 1Co 7:19, Exo 19:5, Deu 10:12-16, Deu 30:6-8.

As far back as in Yahusha’s day and further, the term ‘Jew’ was being misused; therefore, Yahusha told us that the ‘Synagogue of Satan’ were those that ‘said they were Jews and were not.’

Paul further explains in Romans.

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

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

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

Therefore, do not be deceived by those elevating themselves with ‘claims’ of being ‘Jews’ or by Bible translations loose use of the term ‘Jew’; for in YHWH’s kingdom, there is neither Jew nor Greek; slave nor free; male nor female. The ONLY WAY a person can be set-apart to YHWH is through Yahusha HaMashiach, the Door. Yahusha is the only one that can identify the original tribes. The 12 tribes made up the natural branches and others were grafted in. The promise to Abraham was fulfilled through Yahusha. He is our Melchizedek High Priest from the tribe of Judah. The Melchizedek Priesthood was restored to its reigning position through the New Covenant ratified by the blood of the Lamb.

We each must work out our own salvation with fear and trembling; stay in Covenant Torah; love YHWH with all our hearts; and love our neighbor as ourselves.

Mat 22:37 And יהושע said to him, “ ‘**You shall love יהוה your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your being, and with all your mind.**’ [Deu 6:5](#).

Mat 22:38 “This is the first and great command.

Mat 22:39 “And the second is like it, ‘**You shall love your neighbour as yourself.**’ [Lev 19:18](#).

Esther Agrees to Help the Jews

Est 4:1 And Mordeḳai learned of all that had been done, and Mordeḳai tore his garments and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried out with a loud and bitter cry.

Est 4:2 And he went up to the front of the sovereign’s gate, for no one might enter the sovereign’s gate wearing sackcloth.

Est 4:3 And in every province where the sovereign’s command and decree came, there was great mourning among the Yehuḏim, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing. And many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

Est 4:4 And Estĕr’s young women and eunuchs came and told her, and the sovereigness was deeply pained, and sent garments to Mordeḳai to wear, and to take away his sackcloth from him, but he refused.

Est 4:5 And Estĕr called Hathak, one of the sovereign’s eunuchs whom he had appointed to attend her, and she gave him a command concerning Mordeḳai, to learn what and why this was.

Est 4:6 And Hathak went out to Mordeḳai, to an open space of the city, in front of the sovereign’s gate.

Est 4:7 And Mordeḳai told him all that befell him, and all about the silver that Haman promised to pay into the sovereign’s treasuries to destroy the Yehuḏim.

Here again we have another example of the enemy ‘selling the righteous for silver.’

Est 4:8 And he gave him a copy of the written decree to destroy them, which was

given at Shushan,

- ✚ to show it to Estĕr and explain it to her,
- ✚ and to command her to go in to the sovereign to make supplication to him, and plead before him for her people.

Est 4:9 And Hathak came and told Estĕr the words of Mordekai.

Est 4:10 **And Estĕr spoke to Hathak, and gave him a command for Mordekai,**

- ✚ Est 4:11 “All the sovereign’s servants and the people of the sovereign’s provinces know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the sovereign, who has not been called, **he has but one law: to be put to death, except the one to whom the sovereign holds out the golden sceptre, who then shall live.** But I have not been called to come in to the sovereign these thirty days.”

Est 4:12 And they declared to Mordekai the words of Estĕr.

Est 4:13 **And Mordekai commanded them to answer Estĕr,**

- ✚ “Do not think within yourself to escape in the sovereign’s palace any more than all the other Yehudim.
- ✚ Est 4:14 “For if you keep entirely silent at this time, relief and deliverance shall arise for the Yehudim from another place, while you and your father’s house perish.
- ✚ And who knows **whether you have come to the reign for such a time as this?**”

Est 4:15 **And Estĕr commanded to reply to Mordekai,**

- ✚ Est 4:16 “Go, gather all the Yehudim who are present in Shushan, and fast for me,
- ✚ and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day.
- ✚ I too, and my young women shall fast in the same way, then I shall go to the sovereign, which is against the law.
- ✚ And if I shall perish, I shall perish!”

Est 4:17 **Mordekai then went away and did according to all that Estĕr commanded him.**

Acts 27 – Acts 27 tentative timeline. [next page]

YEAR AD	CHURCH EVENT	N.T. BOOK WRITTEN	WORLD EVENT
59	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paul in prison in Caesarea - Paul appears before Festus and King Herod Agrippa II (Acts 25,26) - Paul appeals to Caesar in Rome (25:11) so Paul is sent to Rome by Festus (25:12) and Agrippa (26:32) - In an attempt to beat the coming winter a ship of prisoners leaves for Rome (Acts 27) - Paul advised the commanding centurion, Julius, to harbor at Fair Havens on Crete but they decided to go onto Phoenix. The ship was blown off course out into the Mediterranean Sea and crashed near Malta. (Acts 27:9-28:10) 		
60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paul arrives in Rome and is allowed to live by himself with a Roman soldier to guard him (Acts 28:16) 	<p>Paul writes Ephesians from Roman imprisonment</p>	
61	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paul continues in Rome under house arrest. 	<p>Paul writes Philippians from Roman imprisonment</p>	
62	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paul continues in Rome under house arrest - Peter comes to Rome and writes First Peter - Paul is released from Roman imprisonment. - Paul either leaves for Spain or first visits Philippi and Corinth along with other churches in Achaia and Macedonia. - Paul writes Timothy a letter. Timothy is in Ephesus and Paul may have written it from Macedonia. - Paul leaves for Spain 	<p>Paul writes Colossians and Philemon from Roman imprisonment</p> <p>Peter writes First Peter from Rome</p> <p>Paul writes First Timothy from Macedonia</p>	

5 years in prison
this go around

Paul Sails for Rome

Act 27:1 And when it was decided that we should sail to Italy, they delivered Sha’ul and some other prisoners to one named Julius, a captain of the Augustan regiment.

Act 27:2 And having embarked in a ship from Adramyttium, about to sail along the coasts of Asia, did set sail. Aristarchos, a Makedonian of Thessalonike, was with us.

Act 27:3 And on the next day we landed at Tsidon. And Julius treated Sha’ul kindly and allowed him to go to his friends to receive attention.

Luke is recording all these events. We see Aristarchos is with them. We read about Aristarchos in Acts 19:29, as he was one in Paul’s circle of set-apart ones that nearly got entangled in the riot in Ephesus. He was also with Paul on his return route on the 3rd missionary journey in Acts. 20:4.

I would imagine that the plight of Paul was well known among the Roman commanders and captains. Especially, since Lysias had become so involved in Paul’s case. Either way, this captain, Julius, treated Paul and his friends kindly. YHWH always seems to provide.

Act 27:4 And from there we put out to sea and sailed close to Cyprus, because the winds were against us.

Act 27:5 And having sailed over the sea along Kilikia and Pamphulia, we came to Mura, of Lukia.

Act 27:6 And there the captain, having found an Alexandrian ship sailing to Italy, did put us on board.

Act 27:7 And having sailed slowly many days, and arriving with difficulty off Knidos,

the wind not allowing us to proceed, we sailed close to **Crete, off Salmone**.

Act 27:8 And passing it with difficulty, we came to a place called **Fair Havens**, near the city of **Lasea**.

Act 27:9 And much time having passed, and the sailing now being dangerous, because **the Fast** was already over, Sha'ul advised them,

TSK Cross-reference states: **the fast:** "The fast was on the tenth day of the seventh month." [Lev 16:29](#), [Lev 23:27-29](#); [Num 29:7](#) [Yom Kippur]

[Lev 23:27](#) "On the tenth day of this seventh new moon is [Yom haKippurim](#).^d It shall be a set-apart gathering for you. And you shall afflict your beings, and shall bring an offering made by fire to יהוה.

Foonote: ^d[Day of Atonement](#) or [Day of the Coverings](#).

[Lev 23:28](#) "And you do no work on that same day, for it is Yom Kippurim, to make atonement for you before יהוה your Elohim.

[Lev 23:29](#) "For any being who is not afflicted on that same day, he shall be cut off from his people.

Paul tries to warn of impending danger.

Act 27:10 saying, "Men, I see that this voyage is going to end with damage and great loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives."

Act 27:11 But the captain was persuaded by the pilot and the owner of the ship, rather than what Sha'ul said.

Act 27:12 And because the harbor was unsuitable to winter in, the greater part advised to set sail from there too, if somehow they were able to reach **Phoenix**, a harbor of **Crete** facing southwest and northwest, to pass the winter.

Numerically labeled sailing path



The Storm at Sea

Act 27:13 And a south wind blowing softly, thinking they had obtained their purpose, having lifted *anchor*, they sailed along Crete, close *inshore*.

Act 27:14 And not long after, a stormy head wind rushed down from it, **called Northeaster.**

Act 27:15 And when the ship was caught *in it*, and unable to head against the wind, we let her go and were driven.

Act 27:16 And having run under a small island **called Klauda**, we were hardly able to control the small boat.

Act 27:17 And having hoisted it, they used helps to undergird the ship. And fearing lest they should run aground on **Surtis**, they lowered the tackle and so were driven.

Act 27:18 And because we were exceedingly storm-tossed, the next day they began to throw overboard.

Act 27:19 And **on the third day** we threw out the ship's tackle with our own hands.

Act 27:20 When, now, neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small storm beat on us, **all expectancy that we would be saved was taken away.**

Act 27:21 And when there had been a long abstinence from food, then Sha'ul, standing in the midst of them, said, **Truly, men, you should have listened to me not to have sailed from Crete and sustained this damage and loss.**

Act 27:22 **And now I urge you to take courage, for there shall be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.**

Act 27:23 **For tonight a messenger of the Elohim** to whom I belong and whom I serve, **stood by me,**

Act 27:24 **saying, 'Do not be afraid, Sha'ul, you have to be brought before Caesar. And look, Elohim has favorably given you all those who sail with you.'**

When Paul needed a word of knowledge, YHWH provided! He does the same for us.
Praise Yah!

Act 27:25 **Therefore take courage, men, for I believe Elohim that it shall be according to the way it was spoken to me.**

Act 27:26 **However, we need to run aground on some island."**

Act 27:27 And **when the fourteenth night came**, as we were driven up and down in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors suspected that they were drawing near some land.

Act 27:28 So, **taking soundings, they found it to be twenty fathoms.** And a little farther on they took soundings again and found it to **be fifteen fathoms.**

Act 27:29 And, **fearing lest we should run aground on the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern, and were praying for day to come.**

Act 27:30 But **when the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship**, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under pretense of going to cast out anchors from the

prow,

Act 27:31 **Sha'ul said to the captain and the soldiers, "If these do not remain in the ship, it is impossible for you to be saved."**

Act 27:32 Then the soldiers did cut the ropes of the boat and let it fall off.

Act 27:33 And when day was about to come, Sha'ul urged them all to take food, saying, "**Today is the fourteenth day** you have continued without food, and eaten none at all.

Act 27:34 "So I urge you to take food, for this concerns your safety, since not a hair shall fall from the head of any of you."

Take Courage - When the 'storm' of tribulation comes, the 'set-apart ones' will be those that others come to for answers. Elohim has spoken to us and told us of these things to come. However, we too must be led to a place of refuge by His Ruach HaKodesh.

Act 27:35 And having said this, he took bread and gave thanks to Elohim in the presence of them all. And when he had broken it he began to eat.

Act 27:36 And they were all encouraged, and also took food themselves.

Act 27:37 **And all of us were two hundred and seventy-six beings in the ship.**

Act 27:38 **And being satisfied with food, they were lightening the ship, throwing out the wheat into the sea.**

They were throwing out the wheat to lighten the ship; therefore, we may deduce that this was possibly sometime after the fall wheat harvest since the 'Fast' spoken of was associated with Yom Kippur, Day of Atonement. That being the case, they would have spent the whole Feast of Ingathering or Sukkot in the storm-tossed sea.

The Shipwreck

Act 27:39 And when day came, they did not recognize the land, but they noted a certain bay with a beach, onto which they planned to run the ship if possible.

Act 27:40 And having cast off the anchors, they left them in the sea, meanwhile untying the rudder ropes. And they hoisted the foresail to the wind and made for the beach.

Act 27:41 But coming upon a place where two seas met, they grounded the ship, and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern was broken by the pounding of the surf.

Act 27:42 And the soldiers intended to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim away and escape.

Captain Julius prevents the soldiers from killing the prisoners. Divinely, this captain made sure Paul was not harmed.

Act 27:43 **But the captain, intending to save Sha'ul, kept them from their intention,** and commanded those able to swim to jump first and get to land,

Act 27:44 and the rest, some indeed on boards, and some on *items* of the ship. And so it came to be **that all reached the land in safety**.

Just like in this account, when believers are amid stormy waters, we may be separated from one another for a time, but we will arrive safely.

~ Shalom ~ Libby

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