

Greetings, today our manna is from Genesis 15; Matthew 14; Nehemiah 4; Acts 14.

January 14 – Melchizedek Devotional Perspective

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

Genesis 15

YHWH's Covenant with Abram

Gen 15:1 After these events the word of יהוה came to Abram **in a vision**, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abram. **I am your shield, your reward is exceedingly great.**”

Gen 15:2 And Abram said, “Master יהוה, what would You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eli'ezer of Dammeseq?”

Gen 15:3 And Abram said, “See, You have given me no seed, and see, one born in my house is my heir!”

Gen 15:4 And see, the word of יהוה came to him, saying,

- ✚ **“This one is not your heir,**
- ✚ **but he who comes from your own body is your heir.”**

Gen 15:5 And He brought him outside and said, **“Look now toward the heavens, and count the stars if you are able to count them.”** And He said to him, **“So are your seed.”**

Gen 15:6 **And he believed in יהוה, and He reckoned it to him for righteousness.**

Gen 15:7 And He said to him, **“I am יהוה, who brought you out of Ur-kasdim, to give you this land to inherit it.”**

YHWH answers Abraham ‘I am YHWH...’

Heb 6:13 For Elohim, having promised Abraham, since **He could swear by no one greater, swore by Himself,**^c Footnote: ^c [Gen 22:16](#).

Heb 6:14 saying, **“Truly, blessing I shall bless you, and increasing I shall increase you.”**
[Gen 22:18](#).

Heb 6:15 And so, after being patient, he obtained the promise.

Heb 6:16 For men do indeed swear by the one greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute.

Heb 6:17 **In this way Elohim, resolving to show even more clearly to the heirs of promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, confirmed it by an oath,**

Heb 6:18 **so that by two unchangeable matters in which it is impossible for Elohim to lie, we might have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the expectation set**

before us,

Heb 6:19 which we have as an anchor of the life, both safe and firm, and entering into that within the veil,

Heb 6:20 where יהושע has entered as a forerunner for us, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Malkitsedeq. Psa 110:4.

Psa 110:4 יהוה has sworn and does not relent, “You are a priest forever According to the order of Malkitsedeq.”

Gen 15:8 And he said, “Master יהוה, whereby do I know that I possess it?”

Here, the ‘conditional’ arm of YHWH’s ‘unconditional’ promise of Gen. 12:1-3 enters the picture when Abram asks for a guarantee.

Gen 15:9 And He said to him,

- ✚ “Bring Me a three-year-old heifer,
- ✚ and a three-year-old female goat,
- ✚ and a three-year-old ram,
- ✚ and a turtledove,
- ✚ and a young pigeon.”

Gen 15:10 And he took all these to Him and cut them in the middle, and placed each half opposite the other, **but he did not cut the birds.**

Gen 15:11 And the birds of prey came down on the carcasses, and Abram drove them away.

Gen 15:12 And it came to be, when the sun was going down, and a deep sleep fell upon Abram, that see, a frightening great darkness fell upon him.

Brenton Septuagint Gen 15:12 : (Brenton) And about sunset a trance fell upon Abram, and lo! a great gloomy terror falls upon him.

The flaying of the animals was YHWH’s ‘signature guarantee’ if you will, affirming what He had promised would come to fruition. This was done to assure Abram, at Abram’s request. Now, with this blood ratified guarantee; a death penalty arm was added to the promise. If broken, someone would have to die.

This agreement was binding, and Abram was cognizant to understand the terms. Though in a trance, we see in the following verse that YHWH is still speaking to Abram, so we know Abram was able to hear and comprehend.

Gen 15:13 And He said to Abram,

- + “Know for certain that your seed are to be sojourners in a land that is not theirs,
- + and shall serve them,
- + and they shall afflict **them four hundred years**.
- + **Gen 15:14** “But the nation whom they serve I am going to judge,
- + and afterward let them come out with great possessions.

Gen 15:15 “Now as for you,

- + you are to go to your fathers in peace,
- + you are to be buried at a good old age.
- + **Gen 15:16** “Then, in the fourth generation they shall return here,
- + for the crookedness of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

Gen 15:17 And it came to be, when the sun went down and it was dark, that see,

- + a smoking oven and
- + a burning torch passing between those pieces.

Gen 15:18 On the same day יהוה **made a covenant with Abram**, saying,

- + “I have given this land to your seed, from the river of Mitsrayim to the great river, the River Euphrates,
 - o **Gen 15:19** with the Qěynite, and the Qenizzite, and the Qađmonite,
 - o **Gen 15:20** and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Repha'im,
 - o **Gen 15:21** and the Amorite, and the Kena'anite, and the Girgashite, and the Yebusite.”

Matthew 14

The Death of John the Baptist

John faced his death with shalom because he had entered into **the rest** of Yahusha knowing that Yahusha was the Messiah. **John the Immerser entered through the narrow gate that leads to life and peace.**

Herod on the other hand was haunted by his deed. There is no peace; and no rest; apart from Yahusha. The account of John's death is recorded as follows:

Mat 14:1 At that time Herodes the district ruler heard the report about יהושע,

Mat 14:2 and said to his servants, “This is Yoħanan the Immerser. He has risen from the dead, and that is why these mighty powers are at work in him.”

Mat 14:3 For Herodes had arrested Yoḥanan, bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife,

Mat 14:4 for Yoḥanan had said to him, “It is not right for you to have her.”

Mat 14:5 And wishing to kill him, he feared the crowd, because they held him as a prophet.

Mat 14:6 But as Herodes’ birthday was being held, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herodes,

Mat 14:7 so he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked.

Mat 14:8 And she, being urged on by her mother, said, “Give me here the head of Yoḥanan the Immerser on a dish.”

Mat 14:9 And the sovereign was sad, but because of the oaths and the guests he commanded it to be given,

Mat 14:10 and sent and beheaded Yoḥanan in prison.

Mat 14:11 And his head was brought on a dish and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother.

Mat 14:12 And his taught ones came and took away the body and buried it, and went and reported to יהושע.

Yahusha Feeds the Five Thousand

Yahusha feeds the five thousand in a deserted place as the hour drew late. In other words, they all appeared to be in an impossible location and the time of day was late; as far as, being able to feed such a large gathering. Yahusha tells his disciples to feed them.

The disciples report they only had five loaves and two fish. Yahusha took both the fish and the bread and blessed the food. The five loaves represent the first five books of the Torah. Yahusha is the Word and we feed on the bread of life. The two fish represent the houses; Israel and Judah. The 12 baskets of leftovers represent the final remnant to be gathered of all the 12 tribes. None that the Father has given Yahusha will be lost. The two houses and those grafted in will become the ‘one new man’ born from above; Israel.

Mat 14:13 Now when יהושע heard it, He withdrew from there by boat to a deserted place, by Himself. And when the crowds heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities.

Mat 14:14 And when יהושע came out, He saw a large crowd and was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.

Mat 14:15 And when evening came, His taught ones came to Him, saying, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Dismiss the crowds, so that they might go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”

Mat 14:16 But יהושע said to them, “They do not need to go away, give them to eat yourselves.”

Mat 14:17 And they said to Him, **“We have here only five loaves and two fish.”**

Mat 14:18 And He said, “Bring them here to Me.”

Mat 14:19 And commanding the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to the heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the taught ones. And the taught ones gave to the crowds,

Mat 14:20 and all ate and were satisfied. And they picked up the pieces left over – twelve baskets, filled.

Mat 14:21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Yahusha Walks on the Water

At times, it is difficult not to be afraid in the midst of a storm as the wind, waves, thunder, and lightening seem to never cease. Storms in life, when the sun only breaks through the darkness on occasion, can make strength wane and weariness set in as all of one’s energy goes toward staying the course and not capsizing.

These are the times we do not need to look to the right or to the left; but keep our eyes intentionally focused on YHWH knowing He will see us through the storms and the valleys of life. We speak His Word, and we walk by faith. We call things that are not; as if they were so. We replace fear with faith.

Rom 4:17 as it has been written, **“I have made you a father of many nations”**

Gen 17:5 – in the presence of Him whom he believed, even Elohim, who gives life to the dead and calls that which does not exist as existing,

Rom 4:18 who against all expectation did believe, in expectation, so that he should become father of many nations, according to what was said, **“So shall your seed be.”**

Gen 15:5.

Rom 4:19 And not having grown weak in belief, he did not consider his own body, already dead, being **about a hundred years old**, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb,

Rom 4:20 he did not hesitate about the promise of Elohim through unbelief, but was strengthened in belief, giving esteem to Elohim,

Rom 4:21 and **being completely persuaded that what He had promised He was also able to do.**

Mat 14:22 And immediately יהושע made His taught ones enter into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds.

Mat 14:23 And having dismissed the crowds, He went up to the mountain by Himself to pray. And when evening had come, He was alone there.

Mat 14:24 But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, agitated by the waves, for the wind was against it.

Mat 14:25 **And in the fourth watch of the night יהושע went to them, walking on the sea.**

Mat 14:26 And when the taught ones saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a phantom!” And from fear they cried.

Mat 14:27 But immediately יהושע spoke to them, saying, “Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid.”

Mat 14:28 And Kěpha answered Him and said, “Master, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.”

Mat 14:29 And He said, “Come.” And when Kěpha had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to יהושע.

Mat 14:30 But when he saw that the wind was strong, he was afraid. And beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, “Master, save me!”

Mat 14:31 And immediately יהושע stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, “O you of little belief, why did you doubt?”

Mat 14:32 And when they came into the boat, the wind ceased.

Mat 14:33 And those in the boat came and did bow to Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of Elohim.”

Yahusha Heals the Sick in Gennesaret

Reach out and touch Him and believe.

Mat 14:34 And having passed over, they came to the land of Gennēsar.

Mat 14:35 And when the men of that place recognised Him, they sent out into all that surrounding country, and brought to Him all who were sick,

Mat 14:36 and begged Him to let them only touch the [tzitzit^a](#) of His garment. And as many as touched it were completely healed. [Footnote: ^aSee Explanatory Notes - Tzitzit.](#)

Nehemiah 4

Opposition to the Work

Neh 4:1 **And it came to be, when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was wroth and highly offended, and mocked the Yehudim.**

Neh 4:2 And he spoke before his brothers and the army of Shomeron, and said, “What are these feeble Yehudim doing? Are they going to restore, slaughter, complete it in a day? Are they going to bring to life the stones from the heaps of rubbish which are burned?”

Neh 4:3 And **Tobiyah the Ammonite was beside** him, and he said, “Whatever they build, if a fox should climb on it, he shall break down their stone wall.”

Neh 4:4 **“Hear, O our Elohim, for we have become despised. And turn back their reproach on their own heads, and give them as a prey in a land of captivity!**

Neh 4:5 **“And do not cover over their crookedness, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before You, for they have provoked You before the builders.”**

Neh 4:6 So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to the half of it, for the people had a heart to work.

Neh 4:7 And it came to be, when Sanballat and Tobiyah, and the Arabs, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Yerushalayim were being repaired and the broken places began to be filled, that they became very wroth,

Neh 4:8 and all of them conspired together to come to fight against Yerushalayim and to do harm to it.

Neh 4:9 **But we prayed to our Elohim, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.**

Neh 4:10 And Yehudah said, “The strength of the burden bearers is weakening, and there is so much rubbish that we are unable to build the wall.”

Neh 4:11 And our adversaries said, “Let them not know or see it until we come into their midst and shall kill them, and cause the work to cease.”

Neh 4:12 And it came to be, when the Yehudim who dwelt near them came, **that they said to us ten times, “From whatever place you turn, they are, against us.”**

Neh 4:13 So I set *men* behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings – **I set the people according to their clans**, with their swords, their spears, and their bows.

Neh 4:14 And I looked, and rose up and said to the nobles, and to the deputy rulers, and to the rest of the people, **“Do not be afraid of them. Remember the great and awesome, יהוה, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your houses.”**

When the enemy comes against YHWH’s people, we are to be covered with His full armor and stand and pray. And when we have done all we can do to stand; we continue to stand, therefore. We know greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world. One person with YHWH is the majority against all other odds.

The Work Resumes

Neh 4:15 And it came to be, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that **Elohim had brought their counsel to naught**, that all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work.

Neh 4:16 **And it came to be, from that time on,**

- ✚ that half of my servants were working in the work,
- ✚ while the other half were holding the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the breastplates.
- ✚ And the rulers were behind all the house of Yehudah,
 - **Neh 4:17** who were building on the wall, and those bearing burdens, those loading, working with one hand in the work, and with the other holding a weapon.
- ✚ **Neh 4:18** As for the builders, each one had his sword girded at his side as he built.

✚ And the one who sounded with the shophar was beside me.

A unified strategy devised.

Neh 4:19 And I said to the nobles, and to the deputy rulers, and to the rest of the people, "The work is great and large, and we are separated far from one another on the wall.

✚ Neh 4:20 "In whatever place you hear the voice of the shophar, join us there. **Our Elohim fights for us.**"

✚ Neh 4:21 So we laboured in the work, and half of them held the spears from the break of day until the stars appeared.

Neh 4:22 At that time I also said to the people,

✚ "Let each man and his servant spend the night in Yerushalayim, and they shall be our guard by night, and for the work by day."

✚ Neh 4:23 So neither I, nor my brothers, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us took off our garments, each one his weapon even at the water.

They stayed vigilant 24/7 and they knew that Elohim was fighting on their behalf.

Acts 14

Paul and Barnabas at Iconium

Act 14:1 And it came to be in **Iconion that they went together into the congregation of the Yehudim, and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Yehudim and Greeks believed.**

Act 14:2 But the Yehudim who would not obey stirred up the nations and evilly influenced their beings against the brothers.

Act 14:3 So **they remained a long time,**

- speaking boldly in the Master,
- who was bearing witness to the word of His favour,
- giving signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

Act 14:4 And **the crowd of the city was divided**, and some sided with the Yehudim, and some with the emissaries.

Act 14:5 But when a move took place by both the nations and Yehudim, with their rulers, to mistreat and stone them,

Act 14:6 they became aware of it and fled to Lustra and Derbe, cities of Lukaonia, and the country round about.

Act 14:7 And they were bringing the Good News there.

Though many of the Yehudim and Greeks believed; others acted in hatred and jealousy. The rebellious Yehudim once again stirred up the crowd against Paul and Barnabas. When Paul and Barnabas heard of a plan to mistreat them and stone them, they flee to Lustra and Derbe.

Paul and Barnabas at Lystra

Act 14:8 And in Lustra there was sitting a certain man, disabled in his feet, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked.

Act 14:9 This one heard Sha'ul speaking, who, looking intently at him and **seeing that he had belief to be healed,**

Act 14:10 said with a loud voice, **"Stand upright on your feet!" And he sprang up and began to walk.**

The crowds credit their 'mighty ones' for the miracle of healing the crippled man instead of the One true living Eloah. They associate Barnabas to Zeus [Jupiter] and Paul to Hermes [Mercury]! Paul and Barnabas tear their garments in dismay and unbelief at such abominable declarations.

Act 14:11 And when the crowds saw what Sha'ul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lukaonian, "The mighty ones have become like men and come down to us!"

Act 14:12 And they **called Barnaba Zeus**, and **Sha'ul Hermes**, since he was the chief speaker.

Act 14:13 And the priest of Zeus, being in front of their city, brought oxen and wreaths to the gates, and wished to offer with the crowds.

Adam Clarke Excerpt:

Then the priest of Jupiter [Zeus], which was before their city - There is a meaning here, which ordinary readers will not readily apprehend. Many cities were put under the protection of a particular deity; and the image of that deity placed at the entrance, to signify that he was the guardian and protector.

Act 14:14 **And when the emissaries Barnaba and Sha'ul heard this, they tore their garments and ran in among the crowd, crying out**

Act 14:15 **and saying,**

"Men, why are you doing this? We also are men with the same nature as you, bringing to you the Good News: to turn from these worthless matters to the living Elohim, who made the heaven, and the earth, and the sea, and all that is in them, Exo 20:11, Psa 146:6.

Act 14:16 who in past generations allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways,^a **Footnote: ^aSee Act 17:30.**

Act 14:17 though, indeed, He did not leave Himself without witness, doing good – giving us rain from heaven and fruit-bearing seasons, filling our hearts with

[food and gladness.](#)^b Footnote: ^bSee [Mat 5:45](#).

Act 14:18 Even with these words they still had difficulty in stopping the crowds from offering to them.

Zeus was Jupiter and Hermes was Mercury. We see the many gods that the nations were involved with. Keep in mind, Paul and Barnabas had recently left the island of Cyprus where Venus had been worshipped.

Mercury
 God of financial gain, commerce, messages/communication, travelers, boundaries, luck, trickery, merchants, thieves



Consecration relief with the god Mercury (right).
 A man is offering a goat at an altar

Symbol Caduceus, winged sandals, winged hat, tortoise, ram and rooster

The caduceus is the traditional symbol of Hermes and features two snakes winding around an often **winged** staff. It is often mistakenly used as a symbol of medicine instead of the **Rod of Asclepius**, especially in the United States.



[Caduceus as a symbol of medicine - Wikipedia](#)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caduceus_as_a_symbol_of_medicine

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercury_\(mythology\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercury_(mythology))

Mercury, Latin *Mercurius*, in *Roman religion*, god of shopkeepers and merchants, travelers and transporters of goods, and thieves and tricksters. He is commonly identified with the Greek *Hermes*, the fleet-footed messenger of the gods.

Jupiter
 God of the sky and **Lightning**
 Member of the Archaic and Capitoline Triads



A marble statue of Jupiter from c. 100 AD^[a]

Other names Jove
Abode Rome
Symbol Lightning bolt, eagle, oak tree

Jupiter was the chief deity of Roman state religion throughout the Republican and Imperial eras, until Christianity became the dominant religion of the Empire. In Roman mythology, he negotiates with Numa Pompilius, the second king of Rome, to establish principles of Roman religion such as offering, or sacrifice. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jupiter_\(mythology\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jupiter_(mythology))

Paul Stoned at Lystra

Act 14:19 But Yehudim arrived from Antioch and Ikonion, and having won over the crowds, they stoned Sha'ul, dragged him out of the city, thinking he was dead.

Act 14:20 **But while the taught ones gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And on the next day he went away with Barnaba to Derbe.**

Act 14:21 And having brought the Good News to that city, and having made many taught ones, they returned to **Lustra**, and **Ikonia**, and **Antioch**,

Act 14:22 strengthening the beings of the taught ones, encouraging them to continue in the belief, and that through many pressures we have to enter the reign of Elohim.

Act 14:23 And **having appointed elders in every assembly**, having prayed with fasting, they committed them to the Master in whom they had believed.

The rebellious Yehudim followed Paul and Barnabas to Lustra and stirred up the crowd so that they end up stoning Paul and drag him out of the city and leave him for dead. The taught ones gathered around him and Paul gets up; that was a miracle!

It states they stayed in the city and departed for Derbe the next day. Afterwards, having spread the Good News and strengthening the brethren they return through Lustra, Iconium, and Antioch in Pisidia in which they came. The people in Lustra had to have been shocked by seeing the face of the one that had been stoned and left for dead!

Paul and Barnabas Return to Antioch in Syria

Act 14:24 And having passed through Pisidia, they came to Pamphulia.

Act 14:25 And having spoken the word in Perge, they went down to Attaleia,

Act 14:26 and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been committed to the favour of Elohim for the work which they had completed.

Paul and Barnabas give their mission report on their 1st Journey to the assembly in Antioch Syria.

Act 14:27 **And having arrived, and having gathered together the assembly, they related all that Elohim had done with them, and that He had opened the door of belief to the nations.**

Act 14:28 And they remained there a long time with the taught ones.

~ Shalom ~ Libby

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