

Greetings, today our manna is from Genesis 6; Matthew 6; Ezra 6; Acts 6

January 6 – Melchizedek Devotional Perspective

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

Genesis 6

Increasing Corruption on Earth

Gen 6:1 And it came to be, when men began to increase on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,

Gen 6:2 that the sons of Elohim saw the daughters of men, that they were good. And they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

The sons of Elohim mentioned in Gen. 6:2 are those that left their own estate; left their own boundaries; and mixed with females on earth. The book of Jude records such violations of YHWH's boundaries.

Angelic messengers are given their own principalities, their own boundaries. We read about such in Ephesians. Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Jud 1:6 And the messengers who did not keep their own principality, but left their own dwelling, He has kept in everlasting shackles under darkness for the judgment of the great day.

Jud 1:7 Even as Sodom and Amarah and the cities around them in a similar way to these, having given themselves over to whoring and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, undergoing judicial punishment of everlasting fire.

Jud 1:8 In the same way, indeed, these dreamers defile the flesh, and reject authority, and speak evil of esteemed ones.

YHWH is not an Elohim of mixing. Every created species, including humans, were to multiply according to its kind.

Gen 1:11 And Elohim said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the plant that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth." And it came to be so.

Gen 1:24 And Elohim said, "Let the earth bring forth the living being according to its kind: livestock and creeping *creatures* and beasts of the earth, according to its kind." And it came to be so.

Gen 6:3 And יהוה said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever **in his going astray. He is flesh, and his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.**”

Gen 6:4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of Elohim came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, the men of name.

Genesis 6:4 records the Nephilim or giants were on the earth before the flood in Noah’s day. They seemingly were produced by the comingling of the sons of Elohim and the daughters of men. There may be different viewpoints on this verse but the main take away is that the comingling produced corrupted seed and strange flesh. We see similar activities today with genetic modification; gene splicing; cloning; and petri dish experimentations.

Some define Nephilim as the ‘fallen angels’ and Rephaim as the giants produced from those unholy unions. Other researchers have found no connection between the Rephaim to the Nephilim of whom they identify as the giants. For our purposes in this devotional, Nephilim will be defined as giants.

The acts being committed on the earth were wicked. These types of abominable acts quickly fill up the cup of iniquity that affects the whole earth. Once there is a mixing of seed, one cannot stop the process from continuing from the corrupted genetically modified pool. In the days of Noah, the solution chosen was to flood the earth and essentially start over. Keep in mind, these verses are also giving us fair warnings and reminding us that YHWH is not an Elohim of mixing; and He deals with such situations accordingly. Disobedience to YHWH is never overlooked.

Gen 6:5 **And יהוה saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**

Gen 6:6 And יהוה was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

Gen 6:7 And יהוה said, “I am going to wipe off man whom I have created from the face of the ground, both man and beast, creeping *creature* and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.”

Gen 6:8 **But Noah found favour in the eyes of יהוה.**

Noah and the Flood

Gen 6:9 This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with Elohim.

Gen 6:10 And Noah brought forth three sons: Shēm, Ḥam, and Yapheth.

Gen 6:11 **And the earth was corrupt before Elohim, and the earth was filled with**

violence.

Gen 6:12 And Elohim looked upon the earth and saw that **it was corrupt** – **for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth** –

Gen 6:13 and Elohim said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them. **And see, I am going to destroy them from the earth.**”

Gen 6:14 “Make yourself an ark of gopherwood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with a **covering**.^a Footnote: ^aPitch, tar or other.

Gen 6:15 “And this is how you are to make it: The length of the ark is three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits.

Gen 6:16 “Make a window for the ark, and complete it to a cubit from above. And set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks.

Gen 6:17 “**And see, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life from under the heavens – all that is on the earth is to die.**”

Gen 6:18 “**And I shall establish My covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you and your sons and your wife and your sons’ wives with you.**”

Those that have received Yahusha HaMashiach have also entered covenant with Him. He is our refuge; our very present help in time of trouble. He is our covering. He is the Door we have entered through. He is our Good Shepherd. If we choose to go outside the boundaries of His Covenant protection; we reap what we sow.

Gen 6:19 “**And of all the living of all flesh, two of each, you are to bring into the ark, to keep them alive with you – a male and a female.**”

Gen 6:20 “Of the birds after their kind, and of the cattle after their kind, and of all creeping *creatures* of the ground after their kind, **two of each are to come to you, to keep them alive.**”

Gen 6:21 “As for you, take of all food that is eaten and gather it to yourself. And it shall be food for you and for them.”

Gen 6:22 **And Noah did according to all that Elohim commanded him, so he did.**

Minimally there were to be at least two of each kind of bird, cattle, insects etc. The Scripture says that they would come to Noah; therefore, one concludes YHWH divinely directed their path to Noah. In Genesis 7, we will see additional numbers of creatures gathered based on whether they were clean or unclean. YHWH made the clean creatures for our consumption; and the unclean creatures as scavengers to keep the earthly environment healthy. YHWH was preparing Noah, his family, and the creatures for survival during and after the flood; and to have enough creatures to start replenishing the earth.

Matthew 6

Giving to the Needy

Out of the overflow of our grateful hearts, we do kind deeds for others because that is pleasing to YHWH. We do not do kind deeds in order to receive esteem from man. We are His royal ambassadors, His kingdom of priests, and we do our reasonable priestly duties in order to intercede for and reach the lost. We are to bring esteem to YHWH and to Him only. We carry out His Great Commission by proclaiming His Covenant Confirming Gospel message. Deeds done in secret will be openly rewarded by Him.

Mat 6:1 “Beware of doing your kind deeds before men, in order to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in the heavens.

Mat 6:2 “Thus, when you do a kind deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do, in the congregations and in the streets, to be praised by men. Truly, I say to you, they have their reward.

Mat 6:3 “But when you do a kind deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

Mat 6:4 so that your kind deed shall be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret shall Himself reward you openly.

The Lord's Prayer

Pray without ceasing throughout the day; have devoted times of prayer in a quiet room; offer up prayers that ascend before His throne as a sweet incense that is pleasing to YHWH. Again, this too is a priestly privilege to be able to enter His courts with thanksgiving, praise, and prayers.

He knows what we need before we even ask but He loves us and wants us to come to Him. He wants that relationship with us, and He wants us to reflect His love for others thereby drawing more people toward Him. We are not to be religious repellants.

When we don't know how to pray, He hears the moaning of our hearts; and He has also given us a model prayer that follows.

Mat 6:5 “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the congregations and on the corners of the streets, to be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have their reward.

Mat 6:6 “But you, when you pray, go into your room, and having shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place. And your Father who sees in secret shall reward you openly.

Mat 6:7 “And when praying, do not keep on babbling like the nations. For they think that they shall be heard for their many words.

Mat 6:8 “Therefore do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

Mat 6:9 “**This, then, is the way you should pray:** ‘Our Father who is in the heavens, let Your Name be set-apart,

Mat 6:10 let Your reign come, let Your desire be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Mat 6:11 Give us today our daily bread.

Mat 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Mat 6:13 ‘**And do not lead us into trial,^a** but deliver us from the wicked one – because Yours is the reign and the power and the esteem, forever. Aměn.’ **Footnote: ^aSee [Mat 26:41](#).**

Forgiveness is essential! Always be forgiving. Guard against taking offense. This does not mean that a person should tolerate mental or physical abusive relationships. At times, some toxic people must be loved and prayed for ‘long distance.’

Mat 6:14 “**For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father shall also forgive you.**

Mat 6:15 “**But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither shall your Father forgive your trespasses.**

Fasting

When we fast and pray, this too should be done in secret, and not be flaunted before men to be viewed by them as a display of being ‘holy.’ [There is power in prayer and fasting when done in the right way and for the right reasons.](#) Fasting also has many health benefits.

Mat 6:16 “And when you fast, do not be sad-faced like the hypocrites. For they disfigure their faces so that they appear to be fasting to men. Truly, I say to you, they have their reward.

Mat 6:17 “But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,

Mat 6:18 so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place. And your Father who sees in secret shall reward you openly.

Lay Up Treasures in Heaven

There is a saying that goes, ‘the only thing you can take with you, is that which you have given away!’ We should store up our treasures in heaven. It is giving of oneself and letting Yahusha live in us and through us that accomplishes His will. We freely give Him control of our time, our hands, our feet, our mouths etc. and let His will be done. These are the treasures that are stored up in heaven. Give away love; do acts of kindnesses that touch hearts; pray for those in need and for those in prison. Giving requires **time, energy, risks, and love. Be doers of His Word and not hearers only.**

Do not major in the minor things of life by focusing on the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. Yes, enjoy YHWH’s provisions but do not elevate or serve any ‘person, place or thing’ before Him.

Mat 6:19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,

Mat 6:20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Mat 6:21 “For where your treasure is, there your heart shall be also.

Mat 6:22 “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, all your body shall be enlightened.

Mat 6:23 “But if your **eye is evil,^b** all your body shall be darkened. If, then, the light that is within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! **Footnote: ^bThis is a Hebrew idiom – a good eye means to be generous, while an evil eye means to be stingy.**

Mat 6:24 “**No one is able to serve two masters, for either he shall hate the one and love the other, or else he shall cleave to the one and despise the other. You are not able to serve Elohim and mammon.^c** **Footnote: ^cPersonification of wealth.**

Do Not Be Anxious

Seek Him first. **Never forget Him as your first love** and He will never forget or forsake you. Rest and trust in Him. Enter His rest.

Mat 6:25 “Because of this I say to you, **do not worry about your life, what you shall eat or drink, or about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than the food and the body more than the clothing?**

Mat 6:26 “Look at the birds of the heaven, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into storehouses, yet your heavenly Father does feed them. Are you not worth more than they?

Mat 6:27 “And which of you by worrying is able to add one cubit to his life’s span?

Mat 6:28 “So why do you worry about clothing? Note well the lilies of the field, how they grow. They neither toil nor spin,

Mat 6:29 and I say to you that even Shelomoh in all his esteem was not dressed like one of these.

Mat 6:30 “But if Elohim so clothes the grass of the field, which exists today, and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more you, O you of little belief?

Mat 6:31 “Do not worry then, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

Mat 6:32 “For all these the nations seek for. **And your heavenly Father knows that you need all these.**

Mat 6:33 “But seek first the reign of Elohim, and His righteousness, and all these shall be added to you.

Mat 6:34 “Do not, then, worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow shall have its own worries. Each day has enough evil of itself.

Ezra 6

King Cyrus had most certainly decreed that the House of Eloah be rebuilt, and the records reflected the same. The response Tattenai and his cohorts receive from Darius is not the same kind of response received by the first reply by Artaxerxes.

The Decree of Darius

Ezr 6:1 Then Dareyawesh the sovereign made a decree, and a search was made in the house of the books wherein also the treasures of Babel were kept.

Ezr 6:2 And at Ahmetha, in the palace which is in the province of Media, a scroll was found, and this was written in it:

BDB Definition: Achmetha = “Ecbatana”

1) capital of Media, captured by Cyrus in 550 BC and then summer residence of Persian kings

Ecbatana was the region where Ezekiel would prophesy to the exiles from Judah in Babylon and meet with Israeli exiles in Assyria. Ecbatana was geographically located close to the Assyrian border. The scroll with the decree from King Cyrus was found in the palace at Ahmetha [Ecbatana]. The scroll read as follows:

Ezr 6:3 **In the first year of Sovereign Koresh, Sovereign Koresh made a decree concerning the House of Elah at Yerushalayim,** “Let the house be built in the place where they brought offerings, and its foundations strongly laid, its height sixty cubits, its width sixty cubits,

Ezr 6:4 three rows of heavy stones and one row of new timber. Let the expenses be paid from the sovereign’s house.

Ezr 6:5 “And let the gold and silver utensils of the House of Elah, which Neḅuḳadnetstsar took from the Hēḵal which is in Yerushalayim and brought to Babel, be returned and go to the Hēḵal which is in Yerushalayim, to its place, and deposit them in the House of Elah,”

Ezr 6:6 Now, Tattenai, governor beyond the River, and Shethar-Bozenai, and your companions the officials beyond the River, stay away from there.

The adversarial coven of companions of Tattenai and Shethar-Bozenai were told to stand down by Darius and leave the Yehudim and the elders alone in their building process.

Ezr 6:7 **Leave the work of this House of Elah alone.** Let the governor of the Yehudim and the elders of the Yehudim build this House of Elah on its place.

Ezr 6:8 **And I make a decree as to what you should do for the elders of these Yehudim, for the building of this House of Elah:** Let the exact expense be paid to these men from the sovereign’s resources, out of the taxes beyond the River, so that they are not stopped.

Ezr 6:9 **And whatever they need** – both young bulls and rams, and lambs for the ascending offerings of the Elah of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the request of the priests who are in Yerushalayim – let it be given them day by day without fail,

Ezr 6:10 so that they bring pleasing offerings to the Elah of heaven, and pray for the life of the sovereign and his sons.

Darius not only decreed any further interference with the rebuilding of the House of Eloah, but also decreed taxes gathered for funding the project and other provisions to be given accordingly.

Ezr 6:11 **And I make a decree that whoever changes this word, let a timber be pulled from his house, and let him be impaled, hanged on it. And let his house be made a dunghill because of this.**

Ezr 6:12 And Elah, who has caused His Name to dwell there does overthrow any sovereign or people who put their hand to change, to destroy this House of Elah which is in Yerushalayim! **I Dareyawesh make the decree – let it be done promptly.**

The Temple Finished and Dedicated

Ezr 6:13 Then Tattenai, governor beyond the River, Shethar-Bozenai, and their companions promptly did according to what Dareyawesh the sovereign had sent.

Ezr 6:14 And the elders of the Yehudim were building, and they were blessed through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zeḵaryah son of Iddo. **And they built and finished it, according to the decree of the Elah of Yisra’el, and according to the decree of Koresh, and Dareyawesh, and Artahshashta sovereign of Persia.**

Ezr 6:15 And this House was completed on the third day of the month of Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Sovereign Dareyawesh.

Ezr 6:16 Then the children of Yisra'ël, the priests and the Lëwites and the rest of the sons of the exile, **did the dedication of this House of Elah with joy,**

Ezr 6:17 and offered at the dedication of this House of Elah one hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs, and as a sin offering for all Yisra'ël twelve male goats, according to the number of the tribes of Yisra'ël.

Ezr 6:18 And they appointed the priests to their divisions and the Lëwites to their divisions, over the service of Elah in Yerushalayim, as it is written in the Book of Mosheh.

Passover Celebrated

The House of Eloah was completed and now the sons of the exile perform the Passover / Unleavened Bread for seven days. It was a glorious time of rejoicing.

Ezr 6:19 And the sons of the exile performed the Pěsaḥ on the fourteenth day of the first new moon,

Ezr 6:20 for the priests and the Lëwites had cleansed themselves – all of them were clean. And they slew the Pěsaḥ for all the sons of the exile, and for their brothers the priests, and for themselves.

Ezr 6:21 And the children of Yisra'ël who had returned from the exile ate together with all who had separated themselves from the uncleanness of the nations of the land in order to seek יהוה Elohim of Yisra'ël.

Ezr 6:22 And they performed the Festival of Matzot^a seven days with joy, for יהוה caused them to rejoice, and turned the heart of the sovereign of Ashshur [Assyria] toward them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the House of Elohim, the Elohim of Yisra'ël. **Footnote:** ^aUnleavened Bread.

Adam Clarke Commentary Notes: **Ezra 6:22 Turned the heart of the king of Assyria** - I am of Calmet's mind, that king of Assyria is here put for king of Persia. Cyrus and his successors possessed all the rights and estates of the ancient kings of Assyria, and therefore the same monarch may be styled king of Assyria as well as king of Persia.

Darius had a very high character, as a wise, just, and merciful prince. To strengthen his title to the crown, he married two of the daughters of Cyrus, and, no doubt, to show his affection to this family, he the more cheerfully confirmed the edict which Cyrus had made in favor of the Jews.

Acts 6

Acts 6 reveals a **'good problem'** that arises among the believers. The 'body' of believers **was growing** and now they were experiencing **'growing pains.'** More servants were needed to care for the flock. But CAUTION HERE - not just 'any' warm body will do! The people were to choose among them seven men **known to be filled with the Ruach HaKodesh and wisdom.**

Notice in **Acts 6:7** it states a **'great many of the priests'** were obedient to the belief. What priests are these? These are the priests that had been serving under the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood. Now, by faith they believed in Yahusha HaMashiach. Let us review a **few questions and answers** at this point.

What priesthood and law reigned **during the time** of Yahusha on earth?

The Aaronic Levitical Priesthood and the Book of the Law

What priesthood and law are reigning during the Book of Acts as His disciples are spreading the Covenant Confirming Gospel message?

Melchizedek Priesthood and Covenant Torah – Yahusha had once again elevated the Melchizedek Priesthood to its reigning position through the New Covenant Confirming Gospel message **ratified by His blood.** Yahusha reigns forevermore as our High Priest.

Yahusha, our Savior, King, & High Priest, belonged to what tribe and what priestly order?

Yahusha belonged to the tribe of Judah (not Levi).

Yahusha reigns after the order of Melchizedek; not Aaronic Levitical (Psalm 110:4).

Therefore, believers are **His kingdom of priests**; His holy nation; a set-apart people of every tribe, tongue, people, and nation. (1Pet 2:9; Rev. 1:5-6; Rev. 5:9-11; Ex. 19:4-6)

Act 6:1 And in those days, when the taught ones were increasing, there arose a grumbling against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were overlooked in the daily serving.

Act 6:2 So **the twelve summoned the group of the taught ones** and said, "It is not pleasing for us to leave the Word of Elohim and serve tables.

Act 6:3 "Therefore, **brothers, seek out from among you seven men who are known**

to be filled with the Set-apart Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint for this duty,

Act 6:4 but **we shall give ourselves continually to prayer and to serving the Word.”**

Act 6:5 And the word pleased the entire group. And they chose Stephanos, a man filled with belief and the Set-apart Spirit, and Philip, and Prochoros, and Nikanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nikolaos, a convert from Antioch,

Act 6:6 whom they set before the emissaries. And when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

Act 6:7 **And the Word of Elohim spread, and the number of the taught ones increased greatly in Yerushalayim, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the belief.**

1Ti 3:8 Likewise attendants are to be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for filthy gain,

1Ti 3:9 holding to the secret of the belief with a clean conscience.

1Ti 3:10 And let these also be proved first, then let them serve, if they are unreprouvable.

Note about Nikolaos: Some falsely associate Nicolas as being connected to the Nicolaitans. Other commentators state Nicolas was of good character and not associated with the Nicolaitans. Nicolas was a Greek proselyte that converted to Yahusha through the Gospel message.

The 'clergy' of the Nicolaitans had a reputation of lording over the 'laity' and their doctrine was hated by Yahusha. (Rev. 2:6 and Rev 2:15.)

Stephen Is Seized – Satan doesn't throw stones at dead birds. Sadly, for Stephen, he was literally stoned to death for proclaiming the Melchizedek Covenant Confirming Gospel to the Sanhedrin council. The Gospel message encompassed a major transference in priesthood and law, bringing great joy to many; but also great tensions, disputes, and martyrdom to others. This understanding would usurp the power and oppressive grasp held by the corrupted 'temple system.' Those in 'prestigious' sects with their long flowing robes did not want this change in priesthood and change in law; therefore, they resisted this 'life-giving' message of Yahusha the Messiah at any length.

We see the adversary using the flesh of mankind to stir up the people, the elders, and the scribes to seize Stephen and bring him to be interrogated before the council. Notice that the mob mentality against such a righteous believer was spawned by gossip and hearsay.

Attacks on the righteous are very well known by YHWH. YHWH is the 'Avenger of Blood' of His people. Stephen was the first martyr of the New Covenant Message.

Act 6:8 And Stephanos, filled with belief and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.

Act 6:9 But some of those of the so-called Congregation of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Kilikia and Asia), rose up, disputing with Stephanos,

Act 6:10 but they were unable to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.

Act 6:11 Then **they instigated men to say**, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Mosheh and Elohim.”

Act 6:12 And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, so they came upon him, seized him, and brought him to the council.

Act 6:13 And **they set up false witnesses who said**, “This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this set-apart place and the Torah,

Act 6:14 for we have heard him saying that this יהושע of Natsareth shall overthrow this place and change the institutes which Mosheh delivered unto us.”

Act 6:15 And all who sat in the council, looking steadily at him, saw his face was like the face of a heavenly messenger.

Stephen was so close and dear to YHWH, his face shone. Being in His presence, reflects on our faces and within our whole being!

~ Shalom ~ Libby

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