

Greetings, today our manna is from Genesis 9 & 10; Matthew 9; Ezra 9; Acts 9

January 9 – Melchizedek Devotional Perspective

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

Genesis 9

Gen 9:1 And Elohim blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase, and fill the earth.

Gen 9:2 “And the fear of you and the dread of you is on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the heavens, on all that creeps on the ground, and on all the fish of the sea – into your hand they have been given.

Prior to the fall, Adam and Eve lived in harmony with the rest of creation. Now, in the fallen state, dread would be between man and the beasts, birds; insects, and fish, of the earth and waters.

Gen 9:3 “Every creeping *creature* that lives is food for you. I have given you all, as I gave the green plants.

Gen 9:4 “But do not eat flesh with its life, its blood.

Gen 9:5 “But only your blood for your lives I require, from the hand of every beast I require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man’s brother I require the life of man.

Gen 9:6 “Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood is shed, for in the image of Elohim has He made man.

Gen 9:7 “As for you, be fruitful and increase, bring forth teeming in the earth and increase in it.”

YHWH instructs that no flesh of animals is eaten with its life’s blood. No cruelty and abuse towards YHWH’s creatures should take place. Neither should life be intentionally taken from another human being. The earth was a place where the knowledge of good and evil now dwelt; for this reason, YHWH had brought the flood because the abominations had been so great.

Now, Noah is instructed to be fruitful and multiply; as well as, the creatures that were spared on the ark. These were given an opportunity to begin again; just as we have been given the opportunity to begin again through Yahusha. Believers in Yahusha, have had our sins washed away by His Living Waters; our garments have been made white by the blood of the Lamb.

Gen 9:8 And Elohim spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying,

Gen 9:9 “And I, see, I establish My covenant with you and with your seed after you,

Gen 9:10 and with every living being that is with you: of the birds, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth.

Gen 9:11 “And I shall establish My covenant with you, and never again is all flesh cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again is there a flood to destroy the earth.”

Gen 9:12 And Elohim said, “This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living being that is with you, for all generations to come:

Gen 9:13 “I shall set **My rainbow** in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.

Gen 9:14 “And it shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud,

Gen 9:15 and I shall remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living being of all flesh, **and never again let the waters become a flood to destroy all flesh.**

Gen 9:16 “And the rainbow shall be in the cloud, **and I shall see it, to remember the everlasting covenant between Elohim and every living being of all flesh that is on the earth.**”

Gen 9:17 And Elohim said to Noah, “**This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.**”

Like most names, dates, and symbols, the enemy perverts the things of YHWH and re-defines their meanings. For instance, the rainbow belongs to YHWH, He calls it ‘My rainbow.’ It should not be flaunted as a symbol to promote abominations done in the flesh. The rainbow is a symbol of the covenant between YHWH and man that He would never let the waters become a flood to destroy all flesh. It was the practices of fleshly abominations that He brought the flood to cleanse the prolific wickedness in the first place. Flaunting the sign of the rainbow in an abominable way is like a person snubbing their nose at YHWH Himself. Have no part of it.

Noah's Descendants

Gen 9:18 And the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shēm and Ḥam and Yapheth. And Ḥam was the father of Kena’an.

Gen 9:19 These three were the sons of Noah, and all the earth was overspread from

them.

Gen 9:20 And Noah, a man of the soil, began and planted a vineyard.

Gen 9:21 And he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent.

Gen 9:22 And **Ham, the father of Kena'an**, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside.

Gen 9:23 So **Shēm and Yapheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father, but their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness.**

Gen 9:24 **And Noah awoke from his wine, and he knew what his younger son had done to him,**

Gen 9:25 and he said, **“Cursed is Kena'an, let him become a servant of servants to his brothers.”**

Abuse and cruelty to man or beast had been prohibited. Ham violated the boundaries of his father Noah; and consequences followed. Sin always comes with consequences that affects the person and those around them.

Gen 9:26 And he said, **“Blessed be יהוה', the Elohim of Shēm, and let Kena'an become his servant.**

Gen 9:27 **“Let Elohim enlarge Yapheth, and let him dwell in the tents of Shēm. And let Kena'an become his servant.”**

Eph 2:13 But now in Messiah יהושע you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of the Messiah.

Eph 2:14 For He is our peace, who has made both one, and having broken down the partition of the barrier,

Eph 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens of the set-apart ones and members of the household of Elohim,^e Footnote: ^eSee [Rom 11:17-24](#), [Isa 14:1](#).

Eph 3:6 The nations to be co-heirs, united in the same body, and partakers together^a in the promise in Messiah through the Good News, Footnote: ^aSee [Rom 11:17-24](#), [Isa 14:1](#).

Heb 11:9 By belief, he sojourned in the land of promise as a stranger, dwelling in tents with Yitshaq and Ya'aqob, the heirs with him of the same promise,

Heb 11:10 for **he was looking for the city having foundations, whose builder and maker is Elohim.**

Gen 9:28 And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years.

Gen 9:29 **So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years, and he died.**

Genesis 10

Through Noah's sixteen grandsons and their children, the world continued to be populated.

Nations Descended from Noah

Gen 10:1 And this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shēm, Ham, and Yapheth. And sons were born to them after the flood.

Sons of Yapheth or Japheth [7]:

Gen 10:2 The sons of Yapheth: **Gomer, and Maḡoḡ, and Maḡai, and Yawan, and Tuḡal, and Mesheḡ, and Tiras.**

Gen 10:3 And the sons of Gomer: Ashkenaz, and Riphath, and Toḡarmah.

Gen 10:4 And the sons of Yawan: Elishah and Tarshish, Kittim and Doḡanim.

Gen 10:5 **From these the coastland peoples of the nations were separated into their lands, everyone according to his language, according to their clans, into their nations.**

Sons of Ham [4]:

Gen 10:6 **And the sons of Ḥam: Kush, and Mitsrayim, and Put, and Kena'an.**

Gen 10:7 And the sons of Kush: Seḡa, and Ḥawilah, and Saḡtah, and Ra'mah, and Saḡteḡa. And the sons of Ra'mah: Sheḡa and Deḡan.

Gen 10:8 And **Kush brought forth Nimrod**, he **began to be a mighty one** on the earth.

Gen 10:9 He was a mighty hunter before יהוה, therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before יהוה."

✚ **Gen 10:10** And **the beginning of his reign was Babel, and Ereḡ, and Akkad, and Kalneh, in the land of Shin'ar.**

✚ **Gen 10:11** From that land **he went to Ashshur and built Nineweh, and Rehoboth Ir, and Kelah,**

○ **Gen 10:12** **and Resen between Nineweh and Kelah, the great city.**

Gen 10:13 And **Mitsrayim brought forth** Luḡim, and Anamim, and Leḡaḡim, and Naphtuḡim,

Gen 10:14 and Pathrusim, and Kasluḡim, from whom came the Philistines and Kaphtorim. [6]

Gen 10:15 And **Kena'an brought forth** Tsidon his first-born, and Ḥeth,

Gen 10:16 and the Yeḡusite, and the Amorite, and the Girgashite,

Gen 10:17 and the Ḥiwvite, and the Arḡite, and the Sinite,

Gen 10:18 and the Arwadite, and the Tsemarite, and the Ḥamathite. And afterward the clans of the Kena'anites were spread abroad.

Gen 10:19 And the border of the Kena'anites was from Tsidon as you go toward Gerar, as far as Azzah, as you go toward Sedom, and Amorah, and Admah, and Tseboyim, as far as Lasha.

Gen 10:20 These were the sons of Ḥam, according to their clans, according to their languages, in their lands, in their nations.

Sons of Shem: [5]

Gen 10:21 And also to Shēm, the father of all the children of Ĕber, the brother of Yapheth the elder, *children* were born.

Gen 10:22 The sons of Shēm: Ĕylam, and Asshur, and Arpaḵshad, and Luḡ, and Aram.

Gen 10:23 And the sons of Aram: Uts, and Ḥul, and Gether, and Mash.

Gen 10:24 And Arpaḵshad brought forth Shelaḥ, and Shelaḥ brought forth Ĕber.

Gen 10:25 And to Ĕber were born two sons, the name of one was **Peleḡ**, for in his days the earth was divided, and his brother's name was Yoqtan.

Gen 10:26 And Yoqtan brought forth Almoḡad, and Sheleph, and Ḥatsarmaweth, and Yeraḥ,

Gen 10:27 and Haḡoram, and Uzal, and Diqlah,

Gen 10:28 and Oḡal, and Aḡima'ēl, and Sheḡa,

Gen 10:29 and Ophir, and Ḥawilah, and Yoḡab. All these were sons of Yoqtan.

Gen 10:30 And their dwelling place was from Mēysha as you go toward Sephar, a mountain of the east.

Gen 10:31 These were the sons of Shēm, according to their clans, according to their languages, in their lands, according to their nations.

Gen 10:32 These were the clans of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations. And from these the nations were divided on the earth after the flood.

Genesis 10 is where most have coined the chapter as the 'table of nations.'

Matthew 9

Yahusha Heals a Paralytic

Mat 9:1 And entering into a boat, He passed over, and came to His own city.

Mat 9:2 And see, they were bringing to Him **a paralytic lying on a bed**. And יהושע, seeing their belief, said to the paralytic, "**Take courage, son, your sins have been forgiven.**"

Mat 9:3 And see, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This One blasphemes!"

Mat 9:4 And יהושע, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think wicked thoughts

in your hearts?

Mat 9:5 “For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins have been forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk’?”

Mat 9:6 “But in order for you to know that the Son of Adam possesses authority on earth to forgive sins...” He then said to the paralytic, “Rise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”

Mat 9:7 And he rose and went to his house.

Mat 9:8 And when the crowds saw it, they marveled and praised Elohim who had given such authority to men.

Yahusha can forgive sins; however, the ‘forgiveness of sins’ **cannot be seen** with the eye. But to demonstrate for the ‘doubting and accusatory scribes’ that He could forgive sins and do much more; He completely heals the paralytic and has him rise, take up his bed, and go to his house. This could most definitely be seen. Nothing is too great for YHWH.

Yahusha Calls Matthew

Mat 9:9 And as יהושע passed on from there, He saw a man called Mattithyahu sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow Me.” And he rose and followed Him.

Mat 9:10 And it came to be, as יהושע sat at the table in the house, that see, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His taught ones.

Mat 9:11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His taught ones, “Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

Mat 9:12 And יהושע hearing this, said to them, “Those who are strong have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.”

Mat 9:13 “But go and learn what this means, **‘I desire compassion and not offering.’**

Hos 6:6. For I did not come to call the righteous to repentance, but sinners.”

Yahusha came to seek and save that which is lost to repentance. The Pharisees were very judgmental and hypocritical. They looked down on others and flaunted themselves as more righteous and better than others. They were blind guides. Yahusha gives them food for thought. He tells them to learn what is meant by ‘I desire compassion and not offering.’

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

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

A Question About Fasting

Mat 9:14 Then the taught ones of Yoḥanan came to Him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your taught ones do not fast?”

Mat 9:15 And יהושע said to them, **“Are the friends of the bridegroom able to mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days shall come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they shall fast.”**

Mat 9:16 “And no one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse.

Mat 9:17 “Neither do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. **But they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.”**

Yahusha, our bridegroom, was ushering in the New Covenant and restoring the Melchizedek Priesthood to its reigning position. The people would no longer be a nation with an Aaronic Levitical Priest. Now, they would become a kingdom of priests; a holy nation; a peculiar people; a mixed multitude of every tribe, tongue, people, and nation with Yahusha as our High Priest of the Melchizedek Order!

It would be impossible to place **this new wine, of the Covenant Confirming Gospel being administered through Yahusha HaMashiach;** into old wineskins of the Book of the Law administered by the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood.

Afterall, for this reason Yahusha came! As we just read, He came to set the captives free! This is explained through the allegory of Hagar [the bond woman] and Sarah [the free woman] in Galatians.

Example of Hagar and Sarah

Gal 4:21 Say to me, you who wish to be under Torah, do you not hear the Torah?

Gal 4:22 For it has been written that Aḇraham had two sons, one by a female servant, the other by a free woman.

Gal 4:23 But he who was of the female servant was born according to the flesh, and he of the free woman through promise.

Gal 4:24 **This is allegorical, for these are the two covenants: one indeed from Mount Sinai which brings forth slavery, which is Haḡar.**

Gal 4:25 for this Haḡar is Mount Sinai in Araḇia, and corresponds to Yerushalayim which now is, and is in slavery with her children.

Gal 4:26 **But the Yerushalayim above is free, which is the mother of us all.**

Gal 4:27 For it has been written, **“Rejoice, O barren, you who do not bear! Break forth and shout, you who do not have birth pains! For the deserted one has many more children than she who has a husband.”** Isa 54:1.

Gal 4:28 And we, brothers, as Yitshaq was, are children of promise.

Gal 4:29 But, as he who was *born* according to the flesh then persecuted him born according to

the Spirit, so also now.

Gal 4:30 **But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the female servant and her son, for the son of the female servant shall by no means be heir with the son of the free woman.”**
[Gen 21:10](#).

Gal 4:31 **Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the female servant but of the free woman.**

A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

Mat 9:18 While He was saying all this to them, see, a ruler came and bowed down to Him, saying, “My daughter is dead by now, but come and lay Your hand on her and she shall live.”

Mat 9:19 And יהושע rose and followed him, His taught ones too.

Mat 9:20 And see, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the tzitzit^a of His garment. **Footnote:** ^aSee “Tzitzit” - Explanatory Notes and [Num 15:37-41](#), [Deu 22:12](#).

Mat 9:21 For she said to herself, “If I only touch His garment, I shall be healed.”

Mat 9:22 But יהושע turned, and when He saw her He said, “Take courage, daughter, your belief has healed you.” And the woman was healed from that hour.

Mat 9:23 And when יהושע came into the ruler’s house, and saw the flute players and the crowd making a noise,

Mat 9:24 He said to them, “Go back, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping.” And they laughed at Him.

Mat 9:25 But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose.

Mat 9:26 And this report went out into all that land.

By faith we are healed and restored. We are all in need of Yahusha. He is calling us to Himself. The naysayers will be put outside where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Much like the woman hemorrhaging for 12 years; the twelve tribes of Israel and those grafted in are being healed and brought to life by grace through faith in Yahusha, the Great Physician. The two sticks of Israel and Judah will become one, with Yahusha as the head [Col. 1:18].

Yahusha Heals Two Blind Men

Mat 9:27 And as יהושע passed on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, “Son of Dawid, have compassion on us!”

Mat 9:28 And when He came into the house, the blind men came to Him. And יהושע said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to Him, “Yes, Master.”

Mat 9:29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According to your belief let it be to you.”

Mat 9:30 And their eyes were opened. And יהושע strictly ordered them, saying, “See, let no one know.”

Mat 9:31 But when they went out, they made Him known in all that land.

Yahusha Heals a Man Unable to Speak

Mat 9:32 And as they were going out, see, they brought to Him a man, dumb and demon-possessed.

Mat 9:33 And when the demon was cast out, the dumb one spoke. And the crowds marvelled, saying, “It was never seen like this in Yisra’ël!”

Mat 9:34 But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons.”

To this very day the blind see and the deaf hear! The dead are risen to life. There is still true physical healing by YHWH; and most importantly daily there are people receiving their spiritual eyesight; spiritual hearing; and being born a new. In Him, we become a new creation [2Cor. 5:17]; behold all things are made new. And yes, afterwards there is much rejoicing and sharing of what YHWH has done!

The Harvest Is Plentiful, the Laborers Few

Mat 9:35 And יהושע went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their congregations, and proclaiming the Good News of the reign, and healing every disease and every bodily weakness among the people.

Mat 9:36 And having seen the crowds, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, as sheep having no shepherd.

Mat 9:37 Then He said to His taught ones, **“The harvest truly is great, but the workers are few.”**

Mat 9:38 **“Pray then that the Master of the harvest would send out workers to His harvest.”**

The time is short, and the fields are ready for harvest. Pray that we come together for the harvest. Pray that the Master sends out more workers and that more enter the Promised Land.

Ezra 9

Ezra Prays About Intermarriage

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

and the Amorites,

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

Ezr 9:3 **And when I heard this word, I tore my garment and my robe, and plucked out some of the hair of my head and beard, and sat down astonished.**

There were those among the exiles that were already squandering this divine opportunity to be set-apart to YHWH as they returned from Babylon to Jerusalem to rebuild the House of Eloah. Ezra, a scribe, was intimately aware of YHWH's Word; he tears his garment and his robe; plucks out hairs on his head and beard; and sits in astonishment. All of us who reverence YHWH; can relate to Ezra and his soul being downcast.

Ezr 9:4 **Then all those who trembled at the words of the Elohim of Yisra'el gathered to me, because of the trespass of the exiles, and I sat astonished until the evening offering.**

Ezr 9:5 And at the evening offering I rose from my affliction. And having torn my garment and my robe, I fell on my knees and spread out my hands to יהוה my Elohim,

Ezr 9:6 and said, **O my Elohim, I am too ashamed and wounded to lift up my face to You, my Elohim, for our crookednesses have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has grown up to the heavens.**

Ezr 9:7 "Since the days of our fathers to this day we have been very guilty, and for our crookednesses we, our sovereigns, and our priests have been given into the hand of the sovereigns of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to plunder, and to shame of faces, as it is this day.

Ezr 9:8 **But now, for a short while**, favour has been shown from יהוה our Elohim, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a peg in His set-apart place, that our Elohim might enlighten our eyes and give us a little reviving in our bondage.

Ezr 9:9 "For we were slaves, but in our bondage our Elohim did not forsake us, and extended loving-commitment to us in the presence of the sovereigns of Persia, to revive us, to raise up the House of our Elohim, to restore its ruins, and to give us a wall in Yehudah and Yerushalayim.

Ezr 9:10 "And now, O our Elohim, what do we say after this? For we have forsaken Your commands,

Ezr 9:11 which You have commanded by Your servants the prophets, saying, 'The land which you are going in to possess is a land unclean through the uncleanness of the peoples of the lands, by their abominations with which they have filled it, from one end to another, by their uncleanness.

Ezr 9:12 **And now, do not give your daughters as wives for their sons, nor take their daughters to your sons. And do not seek their peace or wealth ever, so that you are strong, and shall eat the good of the land, and leave it as an inheritance to your children forever.'**

Ezr 9:13 “And after all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and for our great guilt, since You our Elohim have held back the rod upon our crookednesses, and have given us such deliverance as this,

Ezr 9:14 should we turn back, to break Your commands, and join in marriage with the people of these abominations? Would You not be enraged with us until You had consumed us, so that there would be no remnant or survivor?

Ezr 9:15 **“ו יהוה Elohim of Yisra’ël, You are righteous, for we are left as a remnant, as it is this day. See, we are before You, in our guilt, for there is no one to stand before You concerning this!”**

Ezra’s plea and confession before YHWH says it all. There was a remnant of faithful returning exiles; but there were others still disobedient among them, as unbelievable as it is to comprehend. And even worse, the leaders and rulers were foremost in this trespass!

Acts 9

The Conversion of Saul

Sha’ul [Paul] was very learned in the Tanakh, the Old Testament. He had been schooled by the best of the best and he greatly exceeded. Paul was diligent in knowing and obeying the Book of the Law; yet, he initially missed recognizing the Messiah Yahusha.

The worst deception is when a person holds on so tightly to what they believe is truth; that they become closed minded to the actual truth. YHWH is the One that reveals Truth, and He does so in numerous ways.

The believers are now being referred to as those of the ‘Way.’

Act 9:1 But Sha’ul, **still breathing threats and murder** against the taught ones of the Master, **having come to the high priest,**

Act 9:2 asked **from him letters to the congregations of Dammeseq**, so that if he found any who were of **the Way**, whether men or women, to bring them bound to Yerushalayim.

Paul sets out to Damascus

Act 9:3 And it came to be, that as he journeyed, he came near Dammeseq, and **suddenly a light flashed around him from the heaven.**

Act 9:4 And **he fell to the ground**, and **heard a voice** saying to him, “Sha’ul, Sha’ul, why do you persecute Me?”

Act 9:5 And he said, “Who are You, Master?” And the Master said, “I am יהושע, whom you persecute. It is hard for you to kick against the prods.”

Any device or instrument to keep man or animal under control could be referred to as a prod. A ‘prod’ would only hurt the man or the animal if either would kick against the device. YHWH uses His Word, people, places, and things in our environment to draw us into obedience to Him and into His covenant boundaries. When we kick against those boundaries, pain and regret follows.

Act 9:6 Both trembling, and being astonished, he said, “Master, what do You wish me to do?” And the Master *said* to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you shall be told what you have to do.”

Act 9:7 And the men journeying with him stood speechless, hearing indeed the voice but seeing no one.

Paul arises from the ground but is blind.

Act 9:8 And Sha’ul arose from the ground, but when his eyes were opened he saw no one. And leading him by the hand they brought him into Dammeseq.

Act 9:9 And **he was three days without sight**, and did not eat nor drink.

Ḥananyah [Ananias] is called by YHWH through a vision; and Paul had seen in a vision that a man named Ananias would come to him and lay hands on him to receive his sight. So far, Paul had been undeniably awakened by a voice and a great light on the road to Damascus; and he was communicated to through a vision. One can only ponder what milder promptings and calls he may have rejected prior.

Act 9:10 And there was at Dammeseq a certain taught one, by name Ḥananyah.^a And the Master said unto him in a vision, “Ḥananyah!” And he said, “Here I am, Master.”

Footnote: ^aSee Act 22:12.

Act 9:11 And the Master *said* to him, “Arise and go to the street **called Straight**, and seek in the house of Yehudah for one called Sha’ul of Tarsos, for look, he is praying,

Act 9:12 and has seen in a vision a man named Ḥananyah coming in and laying his hand on him, so as to see again.”

Act 9:13 And Ḥananyah answered, “Master, I have heard from many about this man, how many evils he did to Your set-apart ones in Yerushalayim,

Act 9:14 and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all those calling on Your Name.”

Paul was a chosen vessel of YHWH. YHWH had a major assignment for Paul. YHWH had prepared Paul all his life for this role. Paul would be instrumental in explaining the transference between priesthoods and laws; in which, to this very day, we reap understanding from Paul's words inspired by the Ruach HaKodesh.

We now know that we are Israel born from above. We know we are His kingdom of priests. We know our High Priest is Yahusha HaMashiach that lives and is reigning at the right hand of YHWH. We know we ARE the temple. We know we are a set-apart people; a holy nation of every tongue, tribe, people, and nation. We know we are His royal ambassadors. We know who we are in Him by FAITH.

What was this shift or transference? It was the shift back to Covenant Torah, once and for all. The Melchizedek Priesthood was back in its reigning position with Yahusha HaMashiach as our High Priest ~ The Melchizedek. It was a shift away from life under the curse of the Book of the Law [Gal. 3:10], administered by the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood. The Book of the Law spared the lives of the Israelites; it was imposed as a tutor; and it stood as a witness against them. Under the Book of the Law, a person was blessed if they obeyed; and cursed if they did not. The Book of the Law was an ungracious schoolmaster assigned to correct their course away from their ingrained paganistic lifestyles. The Book of the Law administered by the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood was a 3-dimensional living parable [Heb. 9:9] that would point to the Messiah.

Act 9:15 But the Master said to him, "Go, for he **is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My Name** before nations, sovereigns, and the children of Yisra'ël.

Act 9:16 **"For I shall show him how much he has to suffer for My Name."**

Act 9:17 And **Hananyah went away and went into the house. And laying his hands** on him he said, "Brother Sha'ul, the Master יהושע, who appeared to you on the way as you came, has sent me, so that you might see again and be filled with the Set-apart Spirit."

Act 9:18 And immediately there fell from his eyes, as it were scales, and **he received his sight. And rising up, he was immersed.**

Paul Proclaims Yahusha in Synagogues

Paul proves to the Yehudim that Yahusha is the Messiah. No doubt, he used the very Scriptures he had memorized all his life.

Act 9:19 And having received food, he was strengthened. And **Sha'ul was with the taught ones at Dammeseq** some days.

Act 9:20 And **immediately he proclaimed the Messiah in the congregations, that He is**

the Son of Elohim.

Act 9:21 And **all who heard were amazed, and said, “Is this not he who destroyed those calling on this Name in Yerushalayim, and has come here for this, to take them bound to the chief priests?”**

Act 9:22 But Sha’ul kept increasing in strength, and was confounding the Yehudim who dwelt in Dammeseq, **proving** that this is the Messiah.

Saul Escapes from Damascus

YHWH’s Word is sharper than any two-edged sword. For this reason, Paul would now be on the ‘receiving end’ of the great persecution of believers.

Act 9:23 And after **many days** had elapsed, **the Yehudim plotted to kill him.**

Act 9:24 But their plot became known to Sha’ul. And they were watching the gates day and night, to kill him.

Act 9:25 But **taking him by night, the taught ones let him down through the wall,** lowering him in a basket.

Saul in Jerusalem

Having escaped the plot to kill him in Damascus, he arrives in Jerusalem feeling as if he was in ‘no-man’s land.’ The Yehudim were out to kill him, and the local taught ones didn’t trust him.

YHWH provided Paul an advocate, Barnabas, to bridge the gap. There are times, that people need to step up to the plate and be an advocate for believers that have been mislabeled or misunderstood. Like Gamaliel taught, we do not want to come against YHWH’s anointed.

Act 9:26 And having arrived at Yerushalayim, **Sha’ul tried to join the taught ones, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a taught one.**

Act 9:27 **But Barnaba** took him and brought him to the emissaries, and told them how he had seen the Master on the way, and that He had spoken to him, and how he was speaking boldly at Dammeseq in the Name of יהושע.

Act 9:28 And **he was with them at Yerushalayim, coming in and going out,**

Act 9:29 and **speaking boldly in the Name of the Master יהושע and disputed with the Hellenists, but they undertook to kill him.**

Once YHWH raises up a ‘voice’ among the taught ones, such as Paul’s; the taught ones need to help protect that ‘voice of witness’ for His kingdom work. Satan doesn’t throw stones at dead birds! If someone is constantly being attack with accusations rather than proof; then the attacking person’s fruit needs to be examined. Satan is the accuser of the brethren. The fruit test reveals if a believer is a true witness of Yahusha. By Paul’s fruit, the taught ones saw he was for real, so they protected him and send him to Tarsus.

Act 9:30 And when the brothers learned of this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him out to Tarsos.

Act 9:31 Then indeed the assemblies throughout all Yehudah, and Galil, and Shomeron had peace and were built up, and walking in the fear of יהוה and in the encouragement of the Set-apart Spirit, they were being increased.

The Healing of Aeneas

Act 9:32 And it came to be, as Kěpha was passing through all *places*, that he also came down to the set-apart ones who were dwelling at Lod.

Act 9:33 And there he found a certain man **named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years, being paralytic.**

Act 9:34 And Kěpha said to him, “Aeneas, יהושע the Messiah heals you! Rise up and make your bed.” And immediately he rose up.

Act 9:35 And all those dwelling at Lod and Sharon saw him and did turn to the Master.

Eight is the number of new beginnings such as the 8th great day following Sukkot. This parallels to the new beginning of the 8th millennium when a new heaven and a new earth are created with YHWH Yahusha dwelling among us.

Dorcas Restored to Life

Act 9:36 And in Yapho there was a certain taught one named Tabitha, which means Dorkas. **This woman was filled with good works and kind deeds which she did.**

Act 9:37 And it came to be in those days that **she became sick and died.** And **having washed her, they laid her in an upper room.**

Act 9:38 And Lod being near to Yapho, and the taught ones having heard that Kěpha was there, they sent two men to him, urging him not to delay in coming to them.

Act 9:39 And **having risen up, Kěpha went with them.** And when he arrived, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood beside him weeping, **showing the inner garments and outer garments which Dorkas had made while she was with them.**

YHWH brings Tabitha [Dorcas] back to life through the power of the Ruach HaKodesh working through Peter. She was greatly beloved and was a very compassionate faithful woman. She cared for many widows. Her life being restored would be a powerful witness to the Good News of Yahusha HaMashiach.

Act 9:40 **But Kěpha sent them all out, and knelt down and prayed.** And turning to the body he said, **"Tabitha, arise."** And she opened her eyes, and seeing Kěpha, she sat up.

Act 9:41 And giving her his hand, he lifted her up. And calling the set-apart ones and widows, he presented her alive.

Act 9:42 **And it became known throughout all Yapho, and many believed on the Master.**

Act 9:43 And it came to be that he stayed for many days in Yapho with Shim'on, a leather-tanner.

~ Shalom ~ Libby

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