

Greetings, today our manna is from Num. 25; Psalm 68; Isaiah 15; 1Peter 3.

May 16 – Melchizedek Devotional Perspective

[Note: **For teaching purposes only**, underlines, bold font, and highlight emphasis have been used in PDFs.]

Scripture Source: e-Sword TS2009 unless otherwise noted: <https://www.e-sword.net/>

Numbers 25

Numbers 25 opens with the children of Israel encamping at Shittim.

BDB Definition: Shittim = “the acacias”

- 1) **place of Israel’s encampment between the conquest of the Transjordan region and crossing the Jordan into Canaan**
- 2) a place west of Jerusalem

In Numbers 25, we are about to witness how the enemy truly works. We saw that King Balak of Moab, failed to curse Israel through Balaam’s use of divination; and slaughterings done to his gods on the high places. Balak had promised Balaam great esteem and other ‘perks’ which were meant to appeal to his ‘pride of life’.

Before we go any further, there is a point screaming to be made. **YHWH had protected the** children of Israel from being cursed by Balak and Balaam. Question: Were the children of Israel even aware of YHWH’s protection and intervention? Did they know they were being stalked and divination was being done against them on the surrounding ‘high places?’ Did they hear the blessings spoken over them from those ‘high places’ and let their guard down thinking it was the surrounding nations blessings them, rather than YHWH? What do you surmise?

In Numbers 25, we see the enemy change his strategies by slithering enticements into the encampment of the Israelites another way - lust. This time the enemy would use the temptation categories of the ‘lust of the flesh’ and the ‘lust of the eyes.’ Sadly, the children of Israel succumb. We read:

Num 25:1 And Yisra’el dwelt in Shittim, and **the people began to whore with the daughters of Mo’ab,**

Num 25:2 and they invited the people to the slaughterings of their mighty ones, and the people ate and bowed down to their mighty ones.

Num 25:3 **Thus Yisra’el was joined to Ba’al Pe’or, and the displeasure of יהוה burned against Yisra’el.**

Recall that the last ‘high place’ Balak moved Balaam to was Peor. Peor was defined as follows:

Peor = “cleft”

1) a mountain peak in Moab belonging to the Abarim range and near Pisgah (noun proper locative)

2) **a false god worshipped in Moab; corresponds to Baal** (noun proper deity)

The scripture specifically states, the people ‘began to whore with the daughters of Moab.’ However, it doesn’t specifically say only the men whored, but **the people** began to whore with the daughters. These enticements were probably not only sexual enticements but the enticements of the physical appetites of meats and drinks etc.

Under the Book of the Law, there was no barrier for disobedience between the children of Israel and the wrath of YHWH. Moses could only intercede to a certain point. The consequence to their lustful sins results in the plague **killing 24,000!**

Also, in Numbers 25 we are introduced to **the zeal of Phinehas (Pinehas)**. Phinehas is the son of Elazar. Elazar, we recall took the high priest position after the death of his father, Aaron. We read:

Num 25:4 And יהוה said to Mosheh, “Take all the leaders of the people and hang them up before יהוה, before the sun, so that **the burning displeasure** of יהוה turns away from Yisra’el.”

Num 25:5 And Mosheh said to the judges of Yisra’el, “**Each one of you kill his men who were joined to Ba’al Pe’or.**”

Num 25:6 And see, one of the children of Yisra’el came and brought to his brothers a Midyanite woman before the eyes of Mosheh and before the eyes of all the congregation of the children of Yisra’el, who were weeping at the door of the Tent of Appointment.

Num 25:7 And when **Pinehas, son of El’azar, son of Aharon the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation and took a spear in his hand,**

Num 25:8 and **he went after the man of Yisra’el into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Yisra’el, and the woman through her belly. Thus the plague among the children of Yisra’el came to a stop.**

Num 25:9 And those who died in the plague were **twenty-four thousand.**

Because of Phinehas’s love for YHWH, his zeal causes him to act swiftly when he searches out this man and woman and thrusts them both with either a sword or spear. Because of Phinehas’s quick action, YHWH stops the plague of death. We read:

The Zeal of Phinehas

Num 25:10 And יהוה spoke to Mosheh, saying,

Num 25:11 “Pinehas, son of El'azar, son of Aharon the priest, **has turned back My wrath from the children of Yisra'ël, because he was ardent with My ardour in their midst, so that I did not consume the children of Yisra'ël in My ardour.**

Num 25:12 “Therefore say, ‘See, I am giving him **My covenant of peace,**

Num 25:13 and **it shall be to him and to his seed after him** a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was ardent for his Elohim, and made atonement for the children of Yisra'ël.’ ”

Here we read about ‘My covenant of peace’ which was to be to Phinehas and his seed after him, a covenant of an ‘everlasting’ priesthood; some believe ‘everlasting’ here meant without end or eternal. However, the term everlasting, ‘olam’, must be kept in context to quantify its usage. Case in point, Exodus 40:15.

Exo 40:15 and shall anoint them, as you anointed their father, and they shall serve as priests to Me. And their anointing shall be for them an everlasting [olam] priesthood throughout their generations.”

Keep in mind, the tribe of Levi, like all the other tribes are welcome to enter through the Door, Yahusha HaMashiach, of the Melchizedek priesthood by accepting the eternally everlasting new covenant. Those entering the new covenant of the Melchizedek Priesthood, are made into His kingdom of priests, inclusive of every tongue, TRIBE, people and nation!

The earthly Aaronic Levitical Priesthood was a type and shadow of a better priesthood to come based on ‘BETTER’ promises. The Aaronic Levitical Priesthood along with the Tabernacle/Temple earthly system, served as a living parable pointing to Yahusha, the Tent made without hands.

In Yahusha HaMashiach, we have been made into a kingdom of priests that ACTIVELY serve Him on earth and ultimately in eternity. We are under His Kingly and High Priestly authority, the One who sits at the right hand of YHWH! There can only be one reigning priesthood and one reigning High Priest! A last will and testament usurp previous testaments (brits/covenants) though it may keep many of the same elements.

We need to take pause here to see priestly transferences within the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood. This will show that Phinehas’ “everlasting priesthood” was for his ‘definite period’ as represented below.

We see that Phinehas’ priestly office of his Elazar lineage was transferred to the Ithamar line; then, when Abiathar conspires against Solomon, the priestly office transfers to Zadok, the descendant of Uzzi, placing the priestly office once again under the Elazar line. The Wikipedia excerpt walks this out in the below timeline.

(Excerpt from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_High_Priests_of_Israel)

“From the Exodus to Solomon's Temple

The following section is based on information found in the various books of the Bible, including the genealogies given in First Book of Chronicles and the Book of Ezra, the works of Josephus^[1] and the early-medieval Seder Olam Zutta.

- Aaron
- Eleazar, son of Aaron (Numbers 20:28)
- Phinehas, son of Eleazar
- Abishua, son of Phinehas
- The Samaritans insert Shesha as the son of Abishua and father of Bukki.^[citation needed]
- Bukki, son of Abishua
- Uzzi, son of Bukki

Though Phinehas and his descendants are not directly attested as high priests, this portion of the genealogy given in 1 Chronicles 6:3-15 is assumed by other sources (including Josephus^[2] and Seder Olam Zutta), to give the succession of the office from father to son. At some time, the office was transferred from descendants of Eleazar to those of his brother Ithamar.^[3] The first known and most notable high priest of Ithamar's line was Eli, a contemporary of Samuel.

- Eli, descendant of Ithamar, son of Aaron
- Ahitub, son of Phinehas and grandson of Eli
- Ahijah, son of Ahitub
- Ahimelech, son of Ahijah (or brother of Ahijah and son of Ahitub)
- Abiathar, son of Ahimelech

Abiathar was removed from the high priesthood for conspiring against King Solomon, and was replaced by Zadok, son of Ahitub, who oversaw the construction of the First Temple. According to the genealogies given in 1 Chronicles 6:3-15, Zadok was a descendant of Uzzi (through Zerahiah, Meraioth, Amariah and Ahitub) and thus belonged to the line of Eleazar.”

Numbers 25 then identifies those slain by Phinehas. We see it was a Midianite woman. The Moabites and Midianites were allies and probably worshipped the same gods. Not only did the children of Israel suffer a great loss; YHWH, goes after the source of their vexation. We read:

Num 25:14 And the name of the man of Yisra'el who was struck, who was struck with the Midyanite woman, was **Zimri, son of Salu, a leader of a father's house among the Shim'onites.**

Num 25:15 And the name of the Midyanite woman who was struck was **Kozbi the daughter of Tsur. He was head of the people of a father's house in Midyan.**

Num 25:16 And יהוה spoke to Mosheh, saying,

Num 25:17 “Distress the Midyanites! And you shall strike them,

Num 25:18 for they distressed you with their tricks with which they deceived you in the matter of Pe'or and in the matter of Kozbi, the daughter of a leader of Midyan, their sister, who was struck in the day of the plague because of Pe'or.”

Psalm 68

YHWH Shall Scatter His Enemies

Psa 68:1 Elohim arises, His enemies are scattered. And those who hate Him flee before Him!

Psa 68:2 As smoke is driven away, You drive *them* away; As wax melts before the fire, **The wrong perish before Elohim.**

Hos 13:3 Therefore they shall be like a morning cloud, and like dew that goes away early, like chaff blown off from a threshing-floor, and like smoke from a window.

Portraying prideful foolishness is being an enemy to YHWH. YHWH is ALWAYS triumphant. Those thinking otherwise are under a strong delusion.

2Th 1:8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know Elohim, and on those who do not obey the Good News of our Master יהושע Messiah,

2Th 1:9 who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Master and from the esteem of His strength,

Psa 68:3 But the righteous are glad, They exult before Elohim. And they rejoice with gladness.

Rev 19:7 “Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him praise, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife prepared herself.”

Psa 68:4 Sing to Elohim, sing praises to His Name. Raise up a highway for Him Who rides through the deserts, By His Name Yah, And exult before Him.

We have witnessed His protection over His people and His strength against the enemy repeatedly. What more does one need? Prepare the way for His return.

Isa 12:4 And in that day you shall say, "Praise יהוה, call upon His Name; make known His deeds among the peoples, make mention that His Name is exalted.

Isa 12:5 "Sing to יהוה, For He has done excellently; this is known in all the earth.

Isa 12:6 "Cry aloud and shout, O inhabitant of Tsiyon, for great is the Set-apart One of Yisra'el in your midst!"

Psa 68:5 Father of the fatherless, And Right-ruler of widows, Is Elohim in His set-apart dwelling.

Psa 68:6 Elohim makes a home for the lonely; He brings out into prosperity Those who are bound with chains; Only the rebellious shall dwell in a dry land.

Jer 49:11 "Leave your fatherless children, let Me keep them alive. And let your widows trust in Me."

Psa 68:7 O Elohim, when You went out before Your people, When You stepped through the wilderness, Selah.

Psa 68:8 The earth shook and the heavens dropped before Elohim, This Sinai, shook before Elohim, the Elohim of Yisra'el.

Psa 68:9 You, O Elohim, sent a shower of plenty, You confirmed Your inheritance, When it was weary.

Psa 68:10 Your flock dwelt in it; You provided from Your goodness for the poor, O Elohim.

Psa 68:11 יהוה gave the word; The women who proclaimed it was a great company:

Psa 68:12 "Sovereigns of armies flee in haste! And she who remains at home divides the spoil."

Heb 12:25 Take heed not to refuse the One speaking. For if those did not escape who refused the warning on earth, much less we who turn away from Him from heaven,

Heb 12:26 whose voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "**Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also the heaven.**" [Hag 2:6](#).

Heb 12:27 And this, "Yet once more," makes clear the removal of what is shaken – as having been made – so that the unshaken *matters* might remain.

Heb 12:28 Therefore, receiving an unshakeable reign, let us hold the favour, through which we serve Elohim pleasingly with reverence and awe,

Heb 12:29 for indeed, our **Elohim is a consuming fire.** [Deu 4:24](#).

Psa 68:13 If you lie down among the sheepfolds, The wings of a dove are covered with silver, And her feathers with yellow gold.

Rev 1:5 and from יהושע Messiah, the trustworthy witness, the first-born from the dead, and the ruler of the sovereigns of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

Rev 1:6 and has made us sovereigns and priests to His Elohim and Father, to Him be esteem and rule forever and ever. Aměn.

Psa 68:14 When the Almighty scattered sovereigns in it, It did snow in Tsalmon.

Psa 68:15 A mountain of Elohim is the mountain of Bashan; A mountain of peaks is the mountain of Bashan.

Psa 68:16 O mountain of peaks, why do you gaze in envy At the mountain which Elohim desired to dwell in; יהוה even dwells *there* forever.

Psa 68:17 The chariots of Elohim are twenty thousand, Thousands of thousands; יהוה came from Sinai Into the Set-apart Place.

Rev 5:11 And I looked, and I heard the voice of many messengers around the throne, and the living creatures, and the elders. And the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands,

Rev 5:12 saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb having been slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and respect and esteem and blessing!”

Psa 68:18 You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive, You have received gifts among men, And even the rebellious, That Yah Elohim might dwell *there*.

Psa 68:19 Blessed be יהוה, Day by day He bears our burden, **The Ęl of our deliverance!** Selah.

Psa 68:20 Our Ęl is the Ęl of deliverance; And to יהוה, the Master, **belong escapes from death.**

Rev 1:18 and the living One. And I became dead, and see, I am living forever and ever. Aměn. And I possess the keys of She'ol^C and of Death. Footnote: ^CSee Explanatory Notes - She'ol.

Psa 68:21 Indeed, Elohim smites the head of His enemies, The hairy scalp of him who walks about in His guilt.

Psa 68:22 יהוה said, “I bring back from Bashan, I bring back from the depths of the sea,

Isa 51:10 **Was it not You who dried up the sea,** the waters of the great deep, who made the depths of the sea a way **for the redeemed to pass over?**

Isa 51:11 And **let the ransomed of יהוה return.** And **they shall come to Tsiyon with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. Let them attain joy and gladness; sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

Eze 36:24 “And I shall take you from among the nations, and I shall gather you out of all lands, and I shall bring you into your own land.

Psa 68:23 “So that you plunge your foot in blood; That the tongues of your dogs Have their portion from the enemies.”

Psa 68:24 They have seen Your goings, O Elohim, The goings of my Ĕl, my Sovereign, Into the set-apart place.

Psa 68:25 The singers went in front, The players on instruments after them; Among them were the **young women^a** playing tambourines. **Footnote: ^aSee Explanatory Notes: Maiden.**

Psa 68:26 Bless Elohim in the assemblies, יהוה, from the fountain of Yisra’el.

Psa 68:27 There is Binyamin, the smallest, their ruler, The leaders of Yehudah, their company, The leader of Zebulun, the leader of Naphtali.

Psa 68:28 Your Elohim has commanded your strength, be strong! O Elohim, this You have worked out for us!

Psa 68:29 Because of Your Hēḵal at Yerushalayim, Sovereigns bring presents to You.

Isa 60:6 “A stream of camels cover your land, the dromedaries of Midyan and Ĕphah; all those from Sheba come, bearing gold and incense, and proclaiming the praises of יהוה.

Isa 60:7 “All the flocks of Qēḏar are gathered to you, the rams of Neḅayoth serve you; they come up for acceptance on My slaughter-place, and I embellish My esteemed House.

Isa 60:8 “Who are these who fly like a cloud, and like doves to their windows?

Isa 60:9 “Because the coastlands wait for Me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring your sons from afar, their silver and their gold with them, to the Name of יהוה your Elohim, and to the Set-apart One of Yisra’el, because He has adorned you.

Isa 60:10 “And the sons of foreigners shall build your walls, and their sovereigns serve you. For in My wrath I have stricken you, but in My delight I shall have compassion on you.

Isa 60:11 “And your gates shall be open continually, they are not shut day or night, to bring to you the wealth of the nations, and their sovereigns in procession.

Psa 68:30 Rebuke the wild beasts of the reeds, The herd of bulls, with the calves of the peoples, Each one humbling himself with pieces of silver. Scatter the peoples who delight in conflicts!

Psa 68:31 Ambassadors come out of Mitsrayim; Kush stretches out her hands to Elohim.

Psa 68:32 Sing to Elohim, you reigns of the earth, Praises to יהוה, Selah.

Rev 15:4 “Who shall not fear You, O יהוה, and esteem Your Name? Because You alone are kind. Because all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your righteousnesses have been made manifest.”^b **Footnote: ^bSee [Jer 10:6-7](#), [Psa 86:9](#).**

Psa 68:33 To Him who rides on the ancient highest heavens! See, He sends out His voice, a mighty voice.

Psa 68:34 Ascribe strength to Elohim; His excellence is over Yisra'ël, And His strength is in the clouds.

2Pe 1:17 For when He received respect and esteem from Elohim the Father, such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Esteem, "This is My Son, the Beloved in whom I did delight."

Psa 68:35 O Elohim, awesome from Your set-apart places, The Ėl of Yisra'ël is He Who gives strength and power to His people. Blessed be Elohim!

Php 4:13 I have strength to do all, through Messiah^a who empowers me. Footnote: ^a [Joh 15:5](#), [2Co 3:5-6](#), [2Co 12:9](#), [Eph 3:20](#), [Php 2:13](#), [Heb 13:20-21](#), [1Jn 4:4](#).

Isaiah 15

Numbers 21 & Balaam in Numbers 24 gives word of Moab's future destruction. Now the destruction of Moab and associated regions are recorded in Isaiah.

An Oracle Concerning Moab

Isa 15:1 The message concerning Mo'ab. Because in the night Ar of Mo'ab was laid waste, was silenced! Because in the night Qir of Mo'ab was laid waste, was silenced!

Isa 15:2 He has gone up to the house and Dibon, to the high places to weep. Mo'ab is wailing over Nebo and over Měydeba; on all their heads is baldness, and every beard is cut off.

Isa 15:3 In their streets they shall put on sackcloth; on the tops of their houses and in their streets everyone wails, weeping bitterly.

Isa 15:4 And Heshbon and El'alēh cry out, their voice shall be heard as far as Yahats. Therefore the armed ones of Mo'ab shout; his being shall tremble within him.

Isa 15:5 My own heart is toward Mo'ab; her fugitives cry unto Tso'ar, like a three-year-old heifer. For by the ascent of Luḥith they go up with weeping; for in the way of Horonayim they raise a cry of destruction.

Note: "her fugitives cry unto Tso'ar, like a three-year-old heifer"

H6820 **BDB Definition:** **Zoar** = "insignificance"

1) a city at the southeast end of the Dead Sea grouped with Sodom and Gomorrah as being one of the 5 cities slated for destruction by God; spared at Lot's plea as his place of refuge

Isa 15:6 For the waters of Nimrim are wastes, for the green grass has withered away; the grass fails, there is no greenness.

Isa 15:7 Therefore the wealth, acquired and stored up, they take away to the wadi of the Willows.

Isa 15:8 For the cry has gone all around the borders of Mo'ab, its wailing to Eglayim and its wailing to Be'ēr Ēlim.

Isa 15:9 “For the waters of Dimon shall be filled with blood; for I shall bring more upon Dimon, lions upon him who escapes from Mo'ab, and on the remnant of the land.”

The Story of Norman [just a personal side story]:

Have you ever heard a cry of a three-year-old heifer? I have. Well, I can't remember exactly how old the heifer was that we once owned, but I will never forget the heifer's guttural cry!

She was my first cow to own and she had had a calf, and we named him 'Norman'. We moved the heifer and Norman, who was about a month old at the time, to an area that had a fence on one side, and the rest of the land was bordered by a lake; it was like a small peninsular.

Well one morning, momma cow was crying and crying and frantically running back and forth along the water's edge. Her distressing cry was loud and disturbing, and she was in a panic! Then I noticed, Norman was missing! Did Norman drown? What happened to Norman? We were leaving for a family get-together, so we had no time to figure out this mystery. The gate to the fenced area appeared closed.

We return several hours later to a very happy scene. Norman was back! The property on the other side of the fence was free range for cattle; and what apparently happened was that a herd had passed by earlier along the fence. Norman had followed them on the enclosed side of the fence, but as he reached the gate, the bottom of the gate had been bent inward, so Norman just slipped out and kept on trucking.

It was not until later that day, that this same herd came back, and mother and Norman were reunited. Norman was on the other side of the fence, but since he was probably hungry, he stayed with his momma. It wasn't long before we got him back with mom inside the fence.

I shared all that to say, **the guttural cry of a heifer, is a distress signal that can be understood in any language.** That is the type of cry that went out from this region of Moab. It was a piercing soul shaking cry of distress that mimics the cry from those not under the protection of the one true living Elohim, YHWH.

1Peter 3

We become one with YHWH, just as a husband and wife become one. There should be mutual respect in a marriage, and if one's spouse does not know Yahusha as their Savior; the other one should be a living example that may win the other spouse over to Truth. Peter goes on to give instructions to wives that may have husbands that are disobedient to His Word. We read:

Wives and Husbands

1Pe 3:1 In the same way, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that if any are disobedient to the Word, they, **without a word, might be won by the behavior of their wives,**

1Pe 3:2 having seen your blameless behavior in fear.

1Pe 3:3 Your adornment should not be outward – arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on dresses –

1Pe 3:4 but **the hidden man of the heart, with the incorruptible ornament of a meek and peaceable spirit, which is of great value before Elohim.**

1Pe 3:5 For in this way, in former times, the set-apart women who trusted in Elohim also adorned themselves, being subject to their own husbands,

1Pe 3:6 **as Sarah obeyed Abraham**, calling him master, of whom you became children, doing good, and not frightened by any fear.

1Pe 3:7 **In the same way, husbands, live understandingly together**, giving respect to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the favor of life, so that your prayers are not hindered.

Suffering for Righteousness' Sake

1Pe 3:8 To sum up, let all of you be **like-minded, sympathetic, loving as brothers, tenderhearted, humble-minded,**

1Pe 3:9 **not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing**, knowing that you were called to this, in order to inherit a blessing.

A word about like-mindedness. We have all been in situations when we have said, 'I was thinking the same thing!' or 'I was just about to call you when my phone rang, and it was you!' or the closeness of relationships are such that we finish each other's words. These are examples of becoming like-minded.

For believers, that like mindedness, should be manifested by His Word. Our thoughts should become more and more like His thoughts and ultimately, the thoughts of believers will become more and more alike.

This happened recently when a brother in one of our bible studies asked for prayer over a situation. The more he shared, the more it seemed like he may have needed more than prayers. Then another brother spoke up and questioned if he needed more than prayer? Later, others shared they were having the same thought, which brought to mind the following verses:

Jas 2:15 And if a brother or sister is naked and in need of daily food,

Jas 2:16 but one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," but you do not give them the bodily needs, what use is it?

-----Or -----

Pro 3:28 Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, and tomorrow I give it," When you have it with you.

He shared he did not need further assistance for that situation, however, the kindness of the offer touched and blessed him; and in turn blessed the one that had voiced the offer... as well as all who heard the exchange. Shalom, peace, comes when believers are gathered with like mindedness. This peace brings in more trust and more freedom to share needs and ask for prayers.

This was a perfect example of being like-minded. Having the mind of Yahusha and doing the will of the Father.

1Pe 3:10 **For “He who wishes to love life and see good days,**

- ✚ **let him keep his tongue from evil,**
- ✚ **and his lips from speaking deceit,**
- ✚ 1Pe 3:11 **let him turn away from evil and do good,**
- ✚ **let him seek peace and pursue it.**
- ✚ 1Pe 3:12 **“Because the eyes of יהוה are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayers, but the face of יהוה is against those who do evil.”**
Psa 34:12-16.

1Pe 3:13 And who is the one doing evil to you, if you become imitators of the good?

1Pe 3:14 But even if you suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed.^a **“And do not fear their threats, neither be troubled.”** Isa 8:12. Footnote: ^aMat 5:10.

1Pe 3:15 But set apart יהוה Elohim in your hearts, and always be ready to give an answer to everyone asking you a reason concerning the expectation that is in you, with meekness and fear,

1Pe 3:16 having a good conscience, so that when they speak against you as doers of evil, those who falsely accuse your good behavior in Messiah, shall be ashamed.

1Pe 3:17 For it is better, if it is the desire of Elohim, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

1Pe 3:18 **Because even Messiah once suffered for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to Elohim,**^b **having been put to death indeed in flesh but made alive in the Spirit,** Footnote: ^b Rom 5:18.

1Pe 3:19 **in which also He went and proclaimed unto the spirits in prison,**

1Pe 3:20 who were disobedient at one time when the patience of Elohim waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight beings, were saved through water,

1Pe 3:21 which figure now also saves us: immersion – not a putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward Elohim – through the resurrection of יהושע Messiah,

1Pe 3:22 who, having gone into heaven, **is at the right hand of Elohim,** Psa 110:1 messengers and authorities and powers having been subjected to Him.

In 1 Peter 4, we will be given more insights associated with 1Peter 3:19. Where are the 'spirits in prison?' Where are the dead where the good news was brought?

1Pe 4:3 For we *have spent* enough of our past lifetime in doing the desire of the nations, having walked in indecencies, lusts, drunkenness, orgies, wild parties, and abominable idolatries,

1Pe 4:4 in which they are surprised that you do not run with them in the same flood of loose behavior, blaspheming,

1Pe 4:5 who shall give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

1Pe 4:6 For this reason the **Good News was also brought to those who are dead, so that, whereas they are judged according to men in the flesh,** they might live according to Elohim in the spirit.

We also have the account of Lazarus and the rich man – whether a parable or an actual account, that serves the purpose of teaching us about **those things beyond this life**. Even the tabernacle system under the Book of the Law, that was implemented by the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood; **served as a parable [Heb 9:9]** to teach us greater truths.

Heb 9:9 **which was a parable for the present time** in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which are unable to perfect the one serving, as to his conscience, **Heb 9:10** only as to foods and drinks, and different washings, and fleshly regulations imposed until a time of setting *matters* straight.

No one that died could enter heaven **before** Yahusha HaMashiach made atonement for our sins with His blood on the heavenly altar. **Then**, the door that had been shut after the sin of Adam and Eve; is found opened in Revelation 4:1; After this I looked and saw **a door having been opened in the heaven**. Yahusha, the Door, has now been opened to receive those that are His. So, where did the saints go that died before Yahusha's atonement?

The thief on the cross was told he would be with Yahusha in Paradise. I will leave the word 'today' out of the equation since some suppose the comma was misplaced. Otherwise, why wouldn't Yahusha just say to the thief that he would be in heaven with Him instead of Paradise? The reason I see, is because Yahusha had not yet been buried; He had not yet arisen on the third day; and **He had not yet made atonement on the heavenly altar for our sins**. The thief would go to the same place all the other dead saints went, Abraham's bosom; UNTIL Yahusha would open the door of separation to the heavenlies.

Luk 16:22 "And it came to be that the beggar died, and was carried by the messengers to the bosom of Abraham. And the rich man also died and was buried.

Luk 16:23 "And while suffering tortures in She'ol, having lifted up his eyes, he saw Abraham far away, and El'azar in his bosom.

Luk 16:24 “And crying out he said, ‘Father Abraham, have compassion on me, and send El’azar to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, **for I am suffering in this flame.**’

Luk 16:25 “But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your life you received your good, and likewise El’azar the evil, but now he is comforted and you are suffering.’

Luk 16:26 And besides all this, between us and you **a great chasm has been set, so that those who wish to pass from here to you are unable, nor do those from there pass to us.**’

Here is another account for us to reason together with in 1Sam 8. Where do we suppose Samuel came up from? Wherever Samuel was, which I believe was in the bosom of Abraham, the ‘comfort’ side of Sheol; we later read that Saul and his sons would be joining him.

1Sa 28:15 And Shemu’el said to Sha’ul, “**Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?**” And Sha’ul answered, “I am deeply distressed, for the Philistines are fighting against me, and Elohim has turned aside from me and does not answer me any more, neither by prophets nor by dreams. So I have called you, to reveal to me what I should do.”

1Sa 28:16 Then Shemu’el said, “And why do you ask me, seeing **יהוה** has turned aside from you and has become your enemy?”

1Sa 28:17 “And **יהוה** has done for Himself as He spoke by me. For **יהוה** has torn the reign out of your hand and given it to your neighbour, to Dawid.

1Sa 28:18 “Because you did not obey the voice of **יהוה** nor execute His burning wrath upon Amalēq, therefore **יהוה** has done this matter to you today.

1Sa 28:19 “Further, **יהוה** also gives Yisra’el with you into the hand of the Philistines. **And tomorrow you and your sons are with me.** **יהוה** also gives the army of Yisra’el into the hand of the Philistines.”

As we all know, there are several sincere points of view on this topic and much more could be said. I will wrap up my understanding with the following points:

1. There is a torment side of Sheol.
2. There was a great chasm separating that area of torment and the bosom of Abraham, paradise; UNTIL, Yahusha would open the door that had been shut in heaven.
3. **Presently**, Yahusha has opened the door in heaven and now, those that pass on in Him, are absent from the body and present [2Cor. 5:8] with YHWH [their soul & His Spirit]. The dead body that is unclean and corruptible; awaits on earth for its glorification on the last day.
4. What do the souls look like in heaven? The answer I was led to is found in Revelation 5:6-11. What we see is the ‘mirror’ of the encampments around the Dwelling Place in the wilderness. The four living creatures are the lead banners of 12 tribe encampments; the Lion, the Man, the Ox, and the Eagle. They are covered with ‘eyes’, which I see as representing the souls awaiting their glorified

bodies. They have six wings each, representing the two tribe behind each of the lead banner tribes: a pair of wings per tribe. They, and the 24 elders, are praising the Lamb because He had redeemed them! Who is them? Us, believers. They are from every tongue, tribe, people, and nation!

Rev 5:6 And I looked and saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing, as having been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of Elohim sent out into all the earth.

Rev 5:7 And He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him sitting on the throne.

Rev 5:8 And when He took the scroll, **the four living creatures** and **the twenty-four elders** fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the set-apart ones.

Rev 5:9 And they sang a renewed song, saying, “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals, because You were slain, and **have redeemed us to Elohim by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation**,^c Footnote: ^cThis fact is given in 6 other texts in the Book of Revelation.

Rev 5:10 and **made us** sovereigns and priests to our Elohim, and we shall reign upon the earth.”^d Footnote: ^d [Dan 7:18-27](#).

Rev 5:11 And I looked, and I heard the voice of many messengers around the throne, and the living creatures, and the elders. And the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands,

The ‘Us’ refers back to the subjects of these verses, the four living creatures and the 24 elders. They had been redeemed; they had been made sovereigns and priest to our Elohim from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation.

5. Yahusha is the Resurrection **AND** the Life. Yahusha explains the difference in John 11 when speaking to Martha.

Joh 11:23 יהושע said to her, “Your brother shall rise again.”

Joh 11:24 Martha said to Him, “I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

Joh 11:25 יהושע said to her, **“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he dies, he shall live.**

Joh 11:26 “And **everyone that is living and believing in Me shall never die at all. Do you believe this?”**

Shalom ~ Libby

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