
BREAD OF LIFE

“I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.” Fourth Month of 2008

GOT MILK? GET MEAT!

A Letter and Spirit Commentary by Y. Meadows

*Opportunity Knocks Once; Trusting God to the Very End;
Reaching Our Sabbath Rest*

The Exodus Example: Part I

It's sad to think that many of the Hebrew children and others who made it out of Egypt alive and well missed the opportunity of trusting Yah fully and so fell short of receiving all of His promises. First they had applied the blood to their doorposts and saved their firstborns from certain and sure death in Egypt (Passover), next they were released by Pharaoh to serve Yah and so began the journey out of Egypt (Days of Unleavened Bread), then they were completely saved from Pharaoh and their old way of life in Egypt after crossing the Sea (First Fruits), and if that wasn't enough they received instructions at Mt. Sinai on how to live a blessed life (Pentecost). After all of this most were denied entrance into the physical place of rest in the Promised Land (the final destination). As a corporate body the children of Israel were given one final opportunity to trust Yah and most chose not to trust Yah and receive the faithful account of the two witnesses.

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BREAKING THE BREAD

Cutting up the Bread of Life for Daily Living

Larry Meadows

Beit-Lechem Congregation

As we enter the Passover Season, the of Joy and Liberty, we will be studying the Exodus account. To understand the Exodus account is to understand the story of Yahweh's Redemption and His purpose for our lives.

Let My People Go, That They May Serve Me

Pharaoh is repeatedly told by God through Moses to “Let my people go, that they may serve me.” The redemption of the children of Jacob from the cruel bondage of the Egyptians was for the primary purpose of placing them into Yahweh's service.

Paul, throughout his writings, refers to himself and others as “bondservants.” In particular, Paul saw believers as “bondservants of Messiah.”



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Recall that Joshua and Caleb (the two faithful witnesses) had to wait for the death of the faithless (40 yrs) before they themselves could enter the Land. All elements of unbelief/fear (doubting Yah) needed to physically die (i.e. all those who mistakenly thought that it was with their own strength and hard work and not by the strong arm of Yah mercy and grace that they were to conquer the Promised Land).

The Land was to be the place for permanent structures and permanent living during temporal life on earth and everyone except the Levites were to receive an inheritance in the Land (own tribal territory). This meant no more temporary shelter living, no more vulnerability to weather, wild animals or continual questions regarding food and water—a place to settle down. Joshua and Caleb were probably frustrated with having to wait for the death of their brethren before they could move forward as a united body. It's hard to believe after seeing all the miracles performed in Egypt that the children of Israel failed to continue their faith in Yah.

The natural picture above precedes the spiritual and the natural type above is only a shadow of the spiritual reality. The consequence of failing to trust Yah in the natural things is a whole lot less severe than trusting Him with our very souls. That is, entering the physical land of rest may have meant a great deal to the Hebrew children at that time but to us today we know that entering the land of Israel is not nearly as important as entering the real spiritual kingdom of Yah. Stay tuned for the remainder of this study of the Exodus in the next newsletter.

Until next time, read and mediate on the following Scripture passages:

“I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, ‘The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.’ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and

twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” (1Cor. 10:1-13)

“Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, ‘Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, “They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.” As I swore in my wrath, “They shall not enter my rest.”’

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today,’ that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

As it is said, ‘Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.’

For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.” (Heb. 3:5-19)

CONGREGATION LOCATION

BEIT-LECHEM CONGREGATION MEETS AT 2501 W SOUTHLAKE BLVD, SOUTHLAKE, TX 76092 (SOUTHLAKE BLVD. CHURCH, IN AN ANNEX BUILDING ADJACENT TO MAIN SANCTUARY BUILDING) AND IN HOMES THROUGHOUT THE DALLAS-FORT WORTH METROPLEX. CONTACT YVONNE TO FIND A LOCAL "HOUSE" CONGREGATION NEAR YOU OR ABOUT OUR "WILDERNESS" FACILITY.

CONGREGATION WEBSITE

www.beit-lechem.org

Checkout Beit-Lechem's website for more information about our beliefs and activities. At www.beit-lechem.org, you may download articles and audio teachings on the Torah Portions and other topics of interest and much more.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SABBATH EVENING

SPEND THE SABBATH EVENING WITH YOUR FAMILY.
EVERY SEVENTH DAY AT 7:00 P.M.
Breaking of bread and fellowship.

SABBATH MORNING

2501 W SOUTHLAKE BLVD, SOUTHLAKE, TX 76092
EVERY SEVENTH DAY AT 10:30 A.M.
Reading and studying of Torah Portion and Oneg.

HEBREW LESSONS

TO BE ANNOUNCED
EVERY THIRD DAY AT 7:30 P.M.
BEGINNING AND INTERMEDIATE HEBREW LESSONS

NEW MOON

TO BE ANNOUNCED
MONTHLY AT 7:30 P.M.
New Moon assembly and fellowship.

FEAST DAY

Pesach Seder (Passover) 04/18/2008 at 10:30 am. At:
2501 W SOUTHLAKE BLVD, SOUTHLAKE, TX 76092
If you can't make it to Jerusalem celebrate with us.

CALL YVONNE FOR MORE INFORMATION: (817) 729-3378.

In Scripture, Egypt is referred to as "the house of bondage" from which God redeemed Israel by great signs and wonders. (Exod. 20.1) Thereafter, the story of God's emancipation of Israel from Egypt sets the standard and paradigm by which all future acts of salvation are compared. (Isa. 11.11; Jer. 23.7,8; Hos. 11.11; Zech. 10.10; Acts 7; 13.17; Rev. 5.12-13,19.6-9) The lure of Egypt was its wealth, power and luxury. (Isa. 19.11; Prov. 7.16; Ezek 27.7; 1 Ki. 10.28,29) However, God's Servant Moses recognized the bait and refused to be trapped: "By trusting Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Messiah greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward." (Hebrews 11:24-26)

We too should not be deceived or co-opted by earthly pursuits over against God's will and purposes, and hence ensnared by them. We too should not be deceived or co-opted by people or activities that don't know or aren't centered on the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Jesus warned against serving the wrong master and the bondage of materialism: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.... No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money." (Matt. 6:19-24) Who or What do you serve?

Jesus warned against serving the wrong master and the bondage of materialism.



CONTRIBUTIONS

The Tabernacle in the wilderness was constructed through the free-will contributions of the people of Israel. *“The LORD said to Moses, ‘Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me.’”* (Exo. 25:1-2). Beit-Lechem’s ministries and activities are no different. The free-will offerings and tithes of cheerful contributors help Beit-Lechem Congregation fulfill its anointed work. So if your heart is so moved, please contribute to support and further Beit-Lechem’s ministries. Shalom, Shalom.

Bread of Life is a publication of Beit-Lechem Congregation published (at least) monthly for all interested at no cost. To be placed on the mailing list, e-mail your name and mailing address to: info@beit-lechem.org.

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New Testament Nugget

Often Overlooked, But Profound N.T. Scripture

In Acts 26, Paul is before King Agrippa defending himself against the wrongful accusations leveled against him. In his appeal speech to the King, Paul states: “And now I stand here on trial because of my hope in the promise made by God to our fathers, to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship night and day. And for this hope I am accused by Jews, O king!” (Act 26:4-7).

...my hope in the promise made by God to our fathers, to which our twelve tribes hope to attain,....

Here Paul acknowledges there still exists twelve tribes of Israel who are hoping for the restoration of the Kingdom of Israel as promised by God—and then links this hope with the resurrection of the dead and the resurrection of Messiah in particular (read his entire defense). Paul, as instructed by Scripture and Jesus himself, knew that if God raised Messiah from the dead, He would also restore the twelve tribes of Israel to their ordained role. “Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Mat 19:28).

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