

Israel's Redemption

According to most scholars we are living in the last days.

The rabbis see the physical restoration of Israel as the beginning of our redemption. This is a fulfillment of many prophecies especially Ezekiel 12:16-22, and his vision of the valley of the dry bones, Ezekiel 37. God first restores his people Israel physically, followed by a spiritual revival.

Yeshua also prophesized that after their dispersion, YHWH will restore Israel in the last generation.

We are also told that Yeshua ministry is to reunite his two flocks. When he was addressing his Jewish followers Yeshua said in John 10:16-17 'I have other sheep that are not part of this flock, them also, I must bring. They too will listen to my voice, and there should be one flock, and one shepherd.

What is the identity of the other sheep? And how will the reunification happen? This is a major issue that I will elaborate on in this article.

Yeshua himself told us that Moses in the Torah testifies of him (John 5:45-47). He also explained to the disciples on the way to Emmaus how he fulfilled the Tanach (Luke 24:44).

So the Torah message is relevant to us today, and essential to our understanding of Yeshua ministry and teaching.

The Torah teaches us that there is only one law for Israel and the sojourner in her midst. Rav Shaul (Paul) reiterates this saying (Eph 4:4-7) 'There is one body, and one spirit. Just as you were called to the one hope that belong to your call. One master, one belief, one messiah, One God and father of all who is above and through all, and in you all.

Also in Rom 12:5 Rav Shaul says 'So we are many are one body in the Messiah, and members of one another.

Yeshua put down the wall of partition. Lets make sure we don't erect it again. Both Jews and gentiles in their distinction are part of the one body of the messiah. If so what are the uniting and distinct factors?

Yeshua came first for the house of Israel. His encounter with the Canaanite woman demonstrates that. In Math 15:21-28 Yeshua says 'I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel'. Some of the northern Israeli kingdom are to this day lost and scattered among the nations. Yeshua also commanded his disciples to follow suite Math 10:5-6 'Yeshua having sent the twelve out commanded them saying 'do not go into the way of the gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans, rather go to the lost sheep of Israel'.

However after the resurrection Yeshua ordered his disciples that the good news have to be told to all (Luke 24:48). 'Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations beginning from Jerusalem'. And in Mark 16:15 we read 'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to every creature'.

Rav Shaul echoes the teaching of our Lord and savior in Rom 1:16 'For I am not ashamed of the good news, for it is the power of god's deliverance to everyone who believes to the Jew first, and then to the Greek'.

Yeshua message is the same as the Torah's. Moses taught us that the purpose of the Torah was to bring all the nations unto God, using Israel, and it's land as an example. Deut 4:6-8 They should say (the nations) 'only a wise and understanding people is that great...' We are told by our tradition that on the third day of his circumcision Abraham was sitting in the heat of the day, at the entrance of his tent, looking for people to convert.

Also the prophet Isaiah in Is 2:1-6 'For the law will come out of Zion, and the word of God from Jerusalem...'

The Torah will be God's toll to draw men unto him. Yeshua is the living Torah.

In Is 56:3-7 we read 'Let not the foreigner who has bound himself to the Lord say 'the Lord will surely exclude me from his people'... And the foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord, and worship him, all who keep my Sabbaths without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant, these I will bring to my holy mountain, and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offering and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayers for all the nations. The sovereign Lord will gather the exiles of Israel. I will gather still others to them beside those already gathered'.

By accepting God's law the foreigner will be accepted into Israel as Isaiah say to the nations Is 66:20-22

'They (the nations) will bring their grain offerings to the temple of the Lord in clean vessels, and I will select some of them also to be Priests and Levites says the Lord'. The prophet Zechariah prophesized (Zech 8:13) that in the end time gentiles will take hold of the Tzitzit of the Jew asking him to bring them to the Lord. They will realize that their fathers taught them lies (Jer 16:19). Only the nations who will keep the east of the Lord will be blessed (Zech 14:16-21).

Caleb the Kenezite representing Judah exemplified this, and together with Joshua (Ephraim) was the only one from the generation that came out of Egypt to inherit the land.

A most important mission for the gentiles is to bring the Jews to jealousy (Rom 11:14).

However the main obstacle the Jew have regarding the good news is that those who proclaim it, debase the Torah, and therefore cannot be of God as Moses foretold in Deut 13:1-6.

Teaching an keeping the God's commandments, are evidence of our love for God as Yeshua taught us 'If you love me keep my commandments', and also in Math 5:17-20 'Anyone who break one of the least of these commandments, and teaches other to do so, the same will be called least in the kingdom of God'. The way to Yeshua is trough Torah.

God through His Torah shows Israel the need of Yeshua sacrifice and atonement, and the gentiles have Torah written on their heart and conscious Rom 2:11-16 'For not the hearer of Torah are righteous in the sight of God, but the doers of the law shall be declared right.' And in Rom 3:22-25 we read 'this righteousness from God comes through faith in the messiah to all who believe. There is no difference for all have sinned...and are justified by grace through the redemption of Yeshua the messiah'.

So both Jews and gentiles need Yeshua's grace, and the Torah lead us to him the living Torah. As he taught us in John 5:46 'for if you believed Moses you would also believe in me since he wrote about me'.

When a Jew do not believe in the Messiah, he is cut of from the olive tree of God. John 5:24 'Amen Amen I say to you, he who hears my word, and believes in him who sent me posses everlasting life, and

does not come into judgment, but passes from death to life’.

The gentiles who believe are grafted into the original tree of God. If we do not bring fruits we shall be cut off, and burned as taught in John 15: 1-31. The Lord will cut off every branch that does not bear fruit regardless if they are natural or grafted branches. The Jew should not rely on their birth rights, nor should the gentiles despise the natural branches, nor lay on their laurels. We are all part of the tree of God, and are nourished by its root Yeshua. Only when we abide in him, and him in us shall we receive God’s blessing. Both Jews and gentiles are united in him. There is no gentile’s gate in Jerusalem. Every gentile will have to join a tribe of Israel. God will reclaim his people from among the nations, and will restore his identity. Only the redeemed will enter its gates.

The Jew has to keep the Torah as Yeshua taught, and by the work of God have his righteousness exceed those of the Scribes and the Pharisees.

The gentile is required to keep the minimum given to mankind through Noah, and thus allowing him, to have fellowship with his Jewish brethren (Acts 15: 9-21) . He is then encouraged to go to the synagogues on the Sabbaths, and learn from Moses. Then the Holy Spirit will instruct them, and change their heart through the Torah. Rav Shaul exhorts the gentiles to keep Passover without the leaven of the Pharisees, which required circumcision (1Cor 5:18).

Rav Shaul also expects them to identify with Israel crossing the sea (1Cor 10:1-6).

In conclusion, God calls us to be one in Yeshua as his people through His Torah.
May the Lord work out his salvation within us.