

Ki Tetse When You Go Out His purpose is Redemption for all Mankind

Summary: Throughout the book of Deuteronomy, Moses is making applications of the Ten Commandments for the generation which came out of the wilderness wandering so that they might understand both how the L-rd wanted them to live once they entered the land and also have enough jurisprudence (case history applications) so that future generations might also be able to apply the Word of G-d into their lives even in situations which are radically different than those which our people first encountered when they entered the Holy Land.

In a very real sense, the success of our spiritual lives will depend on how successful we are at applying the Word of G-d into our lives, no matter what circumstances we encounter in our lives. We are nearing the end of this book as we prepare to celebrate another new year in the L-rd. We need to look at the content of the Torah and ask three sets of questions: what does it say? What does it mean? How does it apply to my situation in today's world? The verses which I have selected have these three questions in mind.

Torah: Deut. 21:10-25:19

(1) **23:14: For the L-rd your G-d walks in the midst of your camp to protect you and deliver your enemies into your hands; your camp should therefore be holy, so that the L-rd does not see anything among you which is impure in order that He does not turn away from you.** Good spiritual hygiene is needed so that the wave we live does not defeat us before we encounter our enemies and the challenges which we have to face as we live our lives.

(2) **24:16: You shall not put to death the fathers for their children a you shall not put to death the children for their fathers. Each on shall be put to death for their own sins.** Sin is a personal decision to violate the commands of G-d and punishment for the violations of these commands should not be passed on to those who did not commit them.

(3) **24:4 (b): You shall not bring guilt upon the land which the L-RD your G-d gives you as an inheritance.** The land of Canaan was the site of the original Garden of Eden, and G-d gave its inhabitants the opportunity of coming to know Him and over many generations, He patiently waited for them to repent but they did not heed His words and they filled the land with blood guilt by their criminal behaviour. Israel was not to follow suit. Our morality is the practical side of our spirituality and is often the most effective testimony we can have.

(4) **24:18: You shall remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the L-RD your G-d redeemed you; that is the reason why I give you these commandments to put into practice.** We are redeemed (saved) by His undeserved grace in order that we might learn to practice obedience. He did not deliver His people from slavery so that He might become their slaver or their divine sugar daddy, but in order that He might teach them to shine as lights in a dark world. Both our faith and our obedience equally define us as believers and our testimony depends on both of them functioning in harmony.

Haftarah: Is. 52:13-54:10 (The case of the missing Arm)

The haftarahs of consolation were selected from comforting passages of the prophet Isaiah and chapters 49 to 54 form the bulk of these passages. However, in the midst of these

passages is the most comforting passage of them all and it is passed over and ignored by the reading cycle. It is not something which the church came up with and imposed on the writings of the prophet Isaiah, but it gives us one of the keys to understanding how G-d works with His people Israel so that they can both be a great nation and be a blessing to all nations.

The chapter reads like it could be part of the New testament because as a Jewish document the New Testament is based on the Old Testament and explains its message, both to Jews and Gentiles. Verse 53:6 says that all we (Jews) have gone astray and that the L-RD laid upon the Messiah all of our iniquity (Jew and Gentile). The chapter also asks who has believed our report and that our Messiah was despised and rejected, but that His death and resurrection gives Him and eternal victory (which we can share).

It was passed over both because it speaks of the hardness of heart and betrayal of the people of G-d towards His Messiah and also because it reveals so clearly the power of the Gospel (Good News) which is for all people). His sacrifice and the power of eternal life are our greatest comfort beyond any of the disasters which life can throw at us in every generation and nation of mankind.

Never let the world or anyone in the world cause you to pass over the good news of His redemption, because it is the central story of the entire Scriptures and remains the central hope of Judaism, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile.

Brit Chadashah: I Cor. 5:1-5

This passage deals with a kind of gross incest which is not even practised among the pagans of Corinth, who were some of the worst in the Roman Empire. It both inaccurate and naive to suppose that our faith by itself is some kind of protection against the sin which we have been delivered from.

Unless we learn obedience to His Word, we can be worse than the sinners of the world. Our forgiveness does not give us the ability to sin just because we know that we shall be forgiven. It gives us the opportunity to seek for His forgiveness that by learning obedience, we might learn not to sin.

(Bernie, p. 141) **Ps. 32 Jewish Hero:** Today, we remember Ze'ev Friedman, Eliezer Halfin, Amitzur Shapira, Kehat Shorr, Mark Slavin, Andrei Spitzer, Yakov Springer, Yossef Romano, Yossef Gutfreund, Moshe Weinberg, and David Mark Berger. They were Israeli athletes kidnapped at the Munich Olympics by PLO terrorists and murdered on **September 5, 1972**. May their memories be blessed. We will never forget you.

Sermon.

In this miniseries just before the High Holy days and Sukkoth, I want to deal with a popular topic which is greatly misunderstood, especially among believers. This morning, I want to deal with two of the major signs of the end of the world: The manifestation of the final antichrist and the spread of the Gospel to the ends of the earth. These represent opposite, competing spiritual operations which will be operating in our world simultaneously in direct opposition to each other. So our world we both be getting much better and much worse at the

same time.

I have already talked about both worldwide apostasy and worldview iniquity – which describe what is happening around the world as people forsake any form of traditional spiritual authority and challenge traditional spiritual morality. People have come to question a supernatural explanation for the origin of the universe and do not accept any form of spiritual morality as the purpose for life.

These two tendencies have appeared at various times throughout human history, but today, for the first time since the time of Noah, they are again taking on a worldwide, universal scope and this slide into darkness appears to be unstoppable as it builds up momentum.

People believe that our world came into being as the result of a random “accident” and that life has been evolving into increasingly complex forms that will one day understand the meaning of life, conquer death and allow mankind to ascend to a new level of semi divine existence. This is worse nonsense than you will find in any comic book!

Against this background of spiritual corruption and moral decay, we are told that there will be a final antichrist who will seize control of our entire world and only be defeated by the return of our Lord to establish His eternal kingdom over all the nations and generations of mankind. Just a couple of things before we move on to a discussion of the worldwide spread of the Gospel.

I have said that I believe that the Bible teaches that when any leader or people believe that it is their right to dominate over any other people, this is the spirit of antichrist. There is only one person who has the right to set up His dominion over all the nations and peoples of our planet and He is our Messiah – called Christ (anointed one) in Greek. This means that all empires are manifestations of the spirit of antichrist – including the British empire and the nearly successful attempt by the European powers to take charge of the entire planet at the beginning of the 20th century – until they self destructed in WWI.

The Bible says that there have been many antichrists who falsely claim right to reign over more than just their own people, but the Bible also says that there will be one final antichrist who will succeed where all others have failed. Before this can occur, the conditions which allowed darkness to completely take over the world in the times of Noah must be reproduced in our world on a global scale.

The continued globalization of our planet economically, socially and politically is setting the stage for the arrival of this final satanic adversary as is the rising global apostasy and the rising global iniquity. That which holds back the manifestation of this final adversary is our faith and our righteousness, once this double spiritual imperative is defeated on a global scale (and in the popular mind of the average citizen of our planet), then there is nothing else holding him (or her back).

Global conditions must be in place before a global antichrist can fully and finally seize control of our entire world. Hitler nearly succeeded, but he was only the devil practising and testing the waters and many of the moral and spiritual safeguards which united to defeat Hitler, are no longer available to stop the arrival of the last great adversary and to allow him to take charge of our world before the arrival of the blessed kingdom of our resurrected Messiah.

When he does finally rise up to take control of the world, there will be no uncertainty as to his identity, not just because of all the conditions being in place, but because of the lying signs and wonders which he will use to usurp control of the world. Lets look at 2 Thess. 2:1-12.

We need to be careful not to only take part of what it says and think that if some of the signs are in place, that we can start identifying who this person is going to be – we need to see that he must be in charge globally and rise up against all that can be called G-d. The temple was destroyed, but it does not mean that the temple has to be rebuilt – only that he will require worship as if he were the G-d in whose honour the temple was built.

Now many evangelical believers have constructed a weird and intricate plan of the ages which requires a rapture before or during a literal seven year tribulation, to be followed by a literal thousand year millennium, along with a whole host of other supposed events which are taken out of their context and given a meaning which the Bible never intended them to have.

This means that these unfortunate false teachings may be part of the deception the enemy is working hard to cast upon the whole world, so that both believers and non believers will be so confused and vulnerable that they will embrace this final satanic deceiver with the same degree of fervour that the German people embraced Hitler. Believers suffered and many were martyred under Nazi domination, but they were never abandoned by the L-rd and many amazing stories of their courage and faith continue to inspire believers around the globe.

We are definitely seeing the days of Noah returning and worldwide iniquity and the great apostasy are steadily growing and taking over the popular mind of our planet at all levels of the many societies which inhabit our world, but there is one positive feature of globalization which is also taking over our planet – the global spread of the Gospel.

In Paul's day there were any number of false religions growing rapidly and securing many converts in every part of the Roman empire, but none of them were as successful as the two most successful religions of the day – first Judaism and then Christianity. But none of them yet had truly a global impact.

Our L-rd and His apostles said that the Gospel must be taken to the ends of the earth before the end could come. And despite a growing competition from other religions like Islam, Buddhism and any number of global cults (Mormonism, Baha'i and any number of new age cults and those based on eastern mysticism) the Gospel is being spread faster and with greater success than at any time in human history. I will be sharing two signs which affect us as a Messianic Movement over the next two weeks, but I want to close this morning with a reminder that we are frequently warned not to be deceived as the end draws near.

Whenever what is preached or claimed runs counter to the clear teachings of Scripture, it becomes a source of deception. Whenever anyone claims to have received special revelation which gives greater clarity to difficult passages of the Bible, this is also a source of deception.

You see we have to fight a double battle with deception. There is deception we will encounter in the world around us which attacks both our faith and our spiritual morality and which wants to describe all serious believers in the inspiration of the Bible as dangerous, unstable fanatics.

And they are doing an increasingly efficient job of wining the propaganda war against us. Elections are won and lost on your position on gay rights and abortion and creationism is seen as a primitive belief which needs to be eradicated and fewer and fewer people see the Bible as the literal word of G-d.

Within our ranks, liberal theology has gutted the ranks of most of the mainline churches and the sexual abuse practised against residential schools and altar boys has destroyed much of the diminishing credibility churches (and synagogues) once enjoyed. We are seen by the world as intellectually and morally bankrupt people who need to be delivered from what they perceive as our spiritual prison. And one of the biggest attacks on our prison is in the realm of sexuality and the sanctity of life – followed by crass materialism and evolutionary nonsense.

There are also those fanatical “fundamentalist” groups with such weird theology that all theology is becoming increasingly suspect as we wait for extraterrestrial life to finally show up and reveal the secrets of the universe to us (or eat our brains and enslave us if they turn out to be hostile). More people today believe in life on other planets than believe in the truth of the Bible and we continue to lose ground. Such nonsense!

Three things as I close.

- (1) we were warned and should not be surprised.
- (2) Under incredible opposition and with much competition, the Gospel continues to be spread worldwide among all the nations and peoples of the earth.
- (3) We need to stand firm in our faith and in our morality – on the rock of His Word and not be withered or choked or alarmed or discouraged and we need to remain Bible scholars who pay attention to three verses: I Cor. 10:13, I Peter 3:15 and Matt 13:52 – how about you?

Lets pray.