

**VA'ET'CHANAN AND I PLEADED THE CASE FOR
COVENANT SPIRITUALITY
TORAH:** Deut. 3:23-7:11

- (1) 4:2: do not add nor dilute – only full strength is effective (avoid toxic spirituality).
- (2) 4:6: (covenant observing) spirituality source of generational superiority.
- (3) 4:13: The Ten Commandments are the essence of covenant observance.
- (4) 5:6-21: (please stand) spiritual/moral imperative [5:22 and 6:18 repeat 4:2, 6, 13].
- (5) 5:29: The heart of G-d is to bless covenant observance.
- (6) 6:4-9: (please stand) spiritual/ritual [liturgical] imperative of Israel.
- (7) 7:6-11: Holiness separates us from darkness and allows G-d's love to take generational root in our midst.

HAFTARAH: Is. 40:1-26

(8) 40:1 console (comfort) (prophetic imperative of the Gospel) – but who? Those who read and understand the prophecy receive the generational mandate to comfort Israel. The nations are also part of our mandate, but they are not the subject of this passage, nor of this Sabbath. When the church lost its primary imperative of comforting Israel, she began to become spiritually bankrupt and prophetically sterile. G-d wants His people to be comforted first (Rom. 1:16).

(9) 40:2 Threefold message of comfort: **(A) slavery is finished** - The second Diaspora was a greater disaster than the first because it was not necessary for the purposes of G-d to be accomplished in Israel and in the generational spread of the Gospel. , **(B) her iniquity is atoned** (paid for) - Atonement is the heart of the covenant and the only reason why holiness is possible – you can only walk in the light when your darkness is dissipated. The cross of Calvary is the cosmic, eternal atonement which Israel cried out for and which is still being unwittingly invoked in shuls around the world and the Jewish people have survived because of the prayer intervention of their beloved Messiah – and should be reflected in the prayers and the love of every generation of believers, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile. And **(C) that she has indeed received the double for her sins** (as she was promised). Three things: First the wrath of G-d for the causes of both Diasporas is finished. Second she does indeed suffer for her sins more than regular sinners because she should know better. Third she never will, nor never has lost her generational covenant mandate to be a light to the nations and to be bearers of the Gospel of Messiah to the ends of the earth, generation by generation, until the Kingdom of David's Greater Son is finally established on earth and we can sing:

For then shall the words be fulfilled, "The L-rd shall be King forever" (*YHVH yimloch l'olam va'ed*) and "The L-rd shall be King over all the earth" (*v'yih-yeh YHVH le Melech al kol ha' erez*) for on that day the L-rd shall be One and His name One (*b'yom hahoo, b'yom hahoo, yihyeh Adonai [YHVH] echad, ooshmoo, ooshmoo, ooshmoo echad*).

BRIT CHADASHAH: Matt. 23:31-39

(10) **Part One: 31-36:** This is a graphic prophecy of 70 C.E. and of the wrath which was poured out and is finished, over, done with. There is no divine wrath left for the generations of Israel which survive in the Diaspora and who are starting to come home. They are no more responsible for the sin which caused Yerushalayim shel Zahav to burn than the nations of the world today are responsible for the atrocities committed against Israel during this horrific catastrophe. **Part Two: 37-39:** G-d is the celestial mother hen whose love for His people has never diminished and if we collected all the tears which are wept at the Western wall and in every synagogue and Ghetto where our people have suffered, they would not even equal a drop in the bucket next to the tears our Blessed Messiah still weeps for His people. Those who do not have this heart for G-d's People Israel do not have a heart which is right for G-d.

On this Shabbat, as we climb up to Rosh Hashanah, may we give heed to our triple spiritual mandate: (1) the Ten, (2) the Shema and (3) the stubborn enduring love for Israel – which funnily enough will empower our love for the nations and give our message passion and teeth – passion because G-d's love is forever and teeth because our call is not just to His love and mercy, but to obedience , which is faith in action empowered, enriched and perfected by BOTH kinds of repentance – Koine Greek (change of attitude) and Hebrew (a returning – Jer. 6:16). Saved from sin, not in sin. Let's pray.