

29 Cheshvan 5772 (28/11/11) *In The Fullness of Time, Right on Schedule* J. M. Terrett  
*Recognizing His Hand in our Lives*

Toldot                      Generations                      He is L-rd of all the World

Torah:                      Gen. 25:19-28:9

(1) 25:26 (twenty years of marriage before kids – he was sixty, Abraham was 160. Some things take time)

(2) 25:34 (Jacob traded places with his twin, he did not steal everything or anything)

(3) 26:3-5 (some apparent detours are just pauses – obedience can have a generational effect)

(4) 28: 3, 4 (Isaac realized Jacob was his heir and sent him away with his blessing)

Haftarah:                      Mal. 1:1-2:7

(5) 1:11 (G-d is at work beyond our personal and cultural worlds)

(6) 2:6 (we are called to Levitical priestly functions in the world)

Brit Chadashah:                      Rom. 9:1-13

(7) 9:8 (not all Jews are included, not all Gentiles are excluded – those who accept the promise join the redeemed community)

### **Ps. 36**

I believe that the Bible teaches that everybody who has ever lived will have an experience with G-d, at some time during their lives and in some shape or form. This does not mean that everybody on the planet knows G-d, or that all people who have ever lived are destined to receive life everlasting, but it does mean at least three things.

### **G-d is in final control over all the affairs of all the lives of all the nations and generations of all mankind**

Ps. 46:10[11]: Be still and know that I am G-d. I am exalted among the nations [goyim], I am exalted in the earth. And Ps. 24:1: The earth is the L-rd's and the fullness thereof, the world and all those who live in it.

Human history is a complicated interplay between many forces, which keeps stumbling and bumping along generation by generation and will continue to do so until all the purposes of G-d are fulfilled – and not a moment longer nor a moment sooner.

We are not called to be aware of that goes into His final control or even into His hand in the lives of all mankind, but we are called to trust in Him and allow this trust to give us both the confidence to face the ups and downs and uncertainties of life and also the perseverance to keep on believing and to keep on walking with Him in faithful obedience, no matter what happens in our lives (or no matter what does not happen in our lives).

## How people respond to Him will determine how G-d moves in their lives

Prov. 1:20-23:

Wisdom cries out in the streets and raises her voice in the public squares – she even cries out at the entrance to the noisy places and at the gates of the city, she makes these words to be heard: How long, of foolish ones will you take pleasure in foolishness? How long o mockers will you take pleasure in mockery and how long will the fools continue to hate wisdom? Turn towards me and listen to my reprimands and I will pour forth my Spirit upon you and make you to know my words.

Acts 17:24-31:

The G-d who has made the world and all that is found therein, being the L-rd of the Heavens And the earth, does not dwell in temples made by the hand of men. He is also not served by human hands as if He had need of anything, He who gives to all things life and breath and all things. He has made all mankind from a single ancestor and has caused them to live over all the surface of the earth, having determined the times and the limits of their dwelling. He has desired that all mankind seek the L-rd and people are groping around, looking for Him, even though He is not far from each of us – for in Him alone, we live and move and have our being and even some of your own poets have said that we too are His offspring.

Being therefore His offspring, we should not believe that He resembles gold or silver or stone which is sculpted by the art and the imagination of mortals. G-d, without taking into account the former times of your ignorance, declares now to all men kin every place that they need to repent, because He has established a day when He will judge the world according to righteousness by the Man He has designated and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead.”

Even John 3:17-21 – those who love the light come to the light because their works are of the light and accomplished in G-d. Those who hate the light, flee so that their works would not be uncovered.

I believe in sharing my faith whenever the opportunity presents itself and I pray for missionaries and evangelists to have great wisdom to recognize the divine appointments which I believe G-d brings to every believer. But I do not get impatient and realize that when someone is fighting against G-d and against His image in their lives, they may not want to hear what we have to say, but it is hard for them to ignore how we live and how we act.

It is important for us to keep our eyes on G-d's hand in our lives so that we recognize opportunities and know when it is time to be silent

(Prov. 22:3 – a wise man sees trouble and hides, a foolish man passes on and is punished).

I want to maintain a vital dialogue with G-d and I want to allow Him to build one with the people He brings into my life. It is this dialogue with Him, personally and with others about Him that I pray for when I think of those who share their faith and when I share my own.

**It is up to us to choose, it is up to G-d to intervene** (man proposes, G-d disposes). We should not be either fatalistic or overly optimistic, because of something I call multiple factor determination.

There are so many factors that are involved in both how and what people choose and how and why things turn out the way they do – and none of us can ever be aware of all of these factors, except, to an extent in retrospect – so we are called to act with courage, faith and integrity, knowing that even the best or the worst intentions may still come to naught.

G-d wants to bring kingdom order into our lives and into the world through us as part of the preparation He is making as He brings all the nations and generations of mankind closer to the day when His kingdom shall dawn forever over all the kingdoms, nations and generations of mankind.

So it is up to us to work for His kingdom order in our personal affairs, in our community affairs and also in the society where we live (Matt. 6:33 and Matt. 5:13-16) as the basis upon which we construct responses to life at every stage of our lives and in every circumstance of our lives.

How do you recognize His hand? Three ways and we will conclude the service.

First by faith (we understand that He is in final control and that what He allows into our lives has both a strategy for us to adopt and a job for us to do).

Second by His Word (If we know how He has intervened in people's lives through the ages, we know how He is working and how He wants us to respond).

Last with perseverance and wisdom (when we are in trouble, we don't just lie down and accept it, we try to make a difference, to heal, to help and to fix when troubles happen – when we encounter success, we also try not to let it go to our heads and we exercised humility, generosity and realize that both troubles and success are only temporary conditions we encounter on our journey to our Father's home in glory).

We know that G-d's hand is with us daily and also that the world, the flesh and the adversary are also on the prowl, but we can choose the way we look at what happens to us and we can be in charge of how we respond to what happens to us and we can encourage others to find similar spiritual freedom.

How good are you at recognizing His hand? How good are you at taking His hand? How good are you at recognizing His hand in the lives of others around you? How good are you at recognizing His hand in the world as a whole? How good are you at understanding how He wants you to respond?

Let's pray.