

NOW HEAR – YOU CHOSEN SERVANTS OF YAHWEH!

Yeshayahu/Isaiah 44

4th of the 4th month 2020/2021

Shalom family,

Praise and bless the Name of יהוה!

Tehillah/Psalm 145:1-3 “I exalt You, my Elohim, O Sovereign; and bless Your Name forever and ever. 2 All day long I bless You, and praise Your Name forever and ever. 3 Great is יהוה, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable.”

How is your praise of the Name of יהוה going?

Are you able to confidently say that you bless and praise His Name all day long?

Or are there some things that are distracting your praise?

In a time where we are all certainly facing some very real battles and struggles, the ability to keep a pure and devoted heart of praise, becomes harder than what most would have anticipated – yet, should we allow the troubles of our day to numb our praise?

The answer is certainly a very BIG NO!

Often, amidst the chaos of our daily travels as sojourners, it can become very easy to slip into a mode of grumbling and complaining due to a little, or a lot, discomfort; and when this happens, we can often find ourselves forgetting the Plain Truth of what we have heard, through the Words of our Creator, Redeemer and King.

We are to be a people who are ‘a hearing people’ – and not just a hearing of mere words – but a hearing people that hear, guard and do His Word!

For then our praise would most certainly be forthcoming and continuous, regardless of the terrain that we find our journey, in the Wilderness, on!

In this message, I want you all to be encouraged, to be a people who continually bless and praise the Name of our Elohim and Sovereign and Redeemer: יהוה of Hosts!!!

I was struck by a passage in **Yeshayahu** this week, and I would like us to look at, and be reminded once again, just who it is that we are to be bringing our praise to and whose Name we are to continually bless.

Please read **Yeshayahu/Isaiah 44**

This is a great word of encouragement that we find in this chapter, as a clear message of hope that reaffirms us as His chosen people.

The setting of this chapter is very much alive for us today, as we can relate to some of the fears that the remnant of Yisra’el were facing, and the challenges that lay ahead for them, in a long journey home and the difficult task of rebuilding what had been destroyed, under immense pressure from those in the world, who were running after their own idols and worshipping things that are not!

There were certainly plenty of things that could have caused this remnant to fear – yet, the One major reason that they had, to not be afraid, and the only reason needed, was that יהוה was with them!

We see the phrase ‘do not fear’ being used 7 times, from **chapter 41** to **44**, and it is used twice in this **chapter 44**. And this urgent appeal to not fear, was to remind this remnant of Ya’aqob, that יהוה is greater than our fears!

What happens when you are facing constant struggles and battles and are even facing the strong possibility of failure, in some areas of your life?

Often, the result is that a crippling fear slowly sets in, which may go unnoticed at first, until it grips you and then you realise that your joy and strength is being robbed and your ability to be in the Word and be focused on the truth, seems to become less and less, to the point of even becoming non-existent. And this was where the remnant of Ya'aqob was at.

They had been scattered and sent into captivity, due to their disobedience and rebellion, as they fell prey under the influence of the world and its pressure, which caused them to neglect to do what was required.

Toward the end of the previous chapter, we see that true worship and service unto יהוה was non-existent and their sins and crookednesses had burdened and wearied יהוה, and He declared to them, that it is He who blots out transgressions, for His Name's sake, and here, this chapter begins with the call to hear and not be afraid!

This was a call to return to the Torah and serve the True and Only Creator, Redeemer and King. A clear call that has gone out today, to a people who ought to be serving and being trustworthy witnesses of the Truth, yet are sadly mixed up and entangled in foreign forms of worship.

I want us to look at some key elements, of what is being declared here, as we remember that we are His servants, and learn how we must not forget that, for a moment!

The phrase 'but now hear', is written in the Hebrew text as follows:

וְעַתָּה שְׁמַע – v'attah shama

The Hebrew root word עִתָּה attah – Strong's H6258 means '*now, at this time*' and with the conjunction of the letter - ׀ 'vav,waw', it renders it as '*and now*' or '*but now*', and here, the emphasis on the call to '*hear now*', is very clear and Hebrew word for '*hear*', is the root word שָׁמַע shama – Strong's H8085, which carries the meaning to not just simply hear, but rather, to '*listen with attention, comprehend and discern, give heed to what is being spoken*'.

Understanding our need to be a people who are listening attentively, and giving heed to His Word, in a time when most are not, let us recognise that this is certainly the time to **now** be a hearing and discerning and obeying people!

The call 'to hear', is being given to His called-out and chosen servants.

The Hebrew word that is used here for servant is עֶבֶד ebed – Strong's H5650 which means, '*servant, slave, bondservant*'.

The word עֶבֶד ebed – Strong's H5650 is used 800 times in the Tanak (O.T.) and is used as a noun and comes from the primitive root verb עָבַד abad – Strong's H5647 which means, '*to work, serve, become slaves, cultivate, perform, serve, worship*', and carries the understanding of '*expending considerable energy and intensity in performing a task or function*' – in other words – '*giving it your all*'!

What we must remember, is that as a child of Yisra'el, which we have become by the Blood of Messiah, we are servants of יהוה:

Wayyiqra/Leviticus 25:55 “Because the children of Yisra’el are **servants** to Me, they are My **servants** whom I brought out of the land of Mitsrayim. I am יהוה your Elohim.”

In the ancient pictographic script, the words עִבְדָּךְ ebed – Strong’s H5650 and אֲבָדָךְ abad – Strong’s H5647 are pictured as follows:



Ayin - ע:



The original pictograph for this letter is and is pictured as ‘**an eye**’ and represents the idea of ‘**seeing and watching**’, as well as ‘**knowledge**’, as the eye is the window of knowledge

Beyt - ב:



The ancient script has this letter as , which is a picture of ‘**a tent floor plan**’ and carries the meaning of, ‘**house**’ or ‘**tent**’. It represents family and the importance of those who are inside the tent as opposed to the tent structure itself.

Dalet - ד:



The ancient script has this letter as and is pictured as a ‘**tent door**’.

It can also have the meaning of ‘**a back and forth movement**’ as one goes back and forth through a tent door and so speaks of an access point.

It can also carry the meaning of ‘**dangle**’ or ‘**hanging**’ as the tent door would hang from the roof pole of the tent. It speaks a great deal in terms of understanding the door of the tent of appointment as the only means of access.

When we look at this word, in the ancient script for a servant, or one who serves, we can see that it speaks of:

ONE WHO WATCHES AT THE DOOR OF THE HOUSE!

This is what our Master calls us to do; and when we consider that יהושע Messiah is The Door, then we further see our need to continually be looking at Him, guarding to do all His commands – and this is how we keep watch over the House/Body of Messiah!

The equivalent Greek word for servant is δούλος *doulos* – Strong’s G1401 and is translated as, ‘**slave, servant, bondservant, bondslaves – both men and women**’, and is used repeatedly throughout the Renewed Writings.

So, here we are seeing that this call to 'hear', is being given to a people who ought to be giving it their all!

Let me ask you today: are you giving your all, in worship and praise of יהוה?

The Hebrew root word for 'chosen' is בָּחַר *baḥar* – Strong's H977 which means, '**to choose, choicest, selected, preferred**', and this word is used to express that choosing which has ultimate and eternal significance.

We see in Scripture, how יהוה chooses a people, certain tribes, specific individuals, and a place for His Name; and in all these cases, service and obedience is at the heart of the choosing.

Thus, יהוה chose Yisra'el to be set-apart and thereby, were chosen to serve as His witnesses, among the nations.

His choosing us has eternal significance!!! His choice is forever!!!

The expected response of the chosen, is loving obedience and complete commitment, in uncompromised service, to the One who has chosen us!

Yoḥanan/John 15:16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in My Name He might give you."

יהושע makes it very clear to us here, in **Yoḥanan/John 15**, that we did not choose Him, but He chose us – and our acceptance to His choosing, implies that we understand and acknowledge our needed response, which is to obey, and in doing so, we relinquish, and forfeit, all '**choice for self**' – simply because we accept our choosing and realise that we are no longer our own, but rather, that we belong to Him who has purchased us with His own Blood – hence, we are called **The Chosen!**

While this may seem fairly obvious at first glance, and it should; what we do find is that many do not recognise the consequence of their acceptance of the great choosing of Elohim upon their lives, for they simply continue to make 'bad choices' that render their garments defiled before the One who has chosen us and clothed us with His righteousness!

The '**choice**' to serve who you want to, is given to those who have not fully accepted the '**choosing**' of Elohim!

For those who have fully accepted and responded to the clear '**choosing**' of Elohim, are called to fear Him and serve Him in perfection and truth, and in that acceptance the responsibility is clear – put away all falsehood and idolatry, that leads to death!

What I am trying to make clear here is that when we have understood the clear '**choosing**' of Elohim, there is actually no more '**choosing**' that we get to do, when it comes to fearing and serving in perfection and truth!

Kēpha Aleph/1 Peter 2:9 "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a set-apart nation, a people for a possession, that you should proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light"

These are words that we need to continually be reminded of – For the One who made us and formed us has said so!

And the call is simple: serve as a chosen people and be faithful witnesses of His Light.

And to do this right – Do not fear – because the One who has chosen you, is the One who helps you, and in **verse 2**, we see this call being spoken to ‘Yeshurun’ – which means ‘**upright one**’ and is used as a symbolic term of all 12 Tribes of Yisra’el, serving together in unity!

The term/name יֵשׁוּרֻן Yeshurun – Strong’s H3484 comes from the word יָשָׁר yashar – Strong’s H3474 which means, ‘**straight, right, pleasing, be level, upright, just and lawfull**’.

This is what he has chosen Yisra’el for: to be straight and upright and walk in His Torah, shining the Light of His Besorah (Good News) amidst a crooked world.

His promises are sure and secure, for His called upright ones, as it is יְהוָה who satisfies the thirsty and with the washing of His Word, there is a great harvest that will spring forth.

He declares a blessing upon the seed of the upright and **verse 3-4** echoes the result of the upright ones who meditate and walk in His Torah:

Tehillah/Psalm 1:3 “For he shall be as a tree planted by the rivers of water, that yields its fruit in its season, and whose leaf does not wither, and whatever he does prospers.”

As the remnant returns from all the 4 corners of the earth, it is made abundantly clear to all, that the True Redeemer of Yisra’el is none other than יְהוָה Himself and The Redeemer of Yisra’el is Elohim and besides Him there is no one else!

And here, in **verses 7-8**, יְהוָה asks the rhetorical question: “**Who is like Me?**”

The answer is obvious and He says that if anyone thinks that there is, then go ahead and declare it and prove it, for it is only He, and He alone, that has appointed an everlasting people.

And again, He encourages His chosen to not be afraid nor fear, because there is no Eloah besides Him and there is no other Rock – not one!!!

In **verses 9-20**, He emphasises the depravity of idolatry, which is nothing more than empty and vain worship that leads to nothing and will ultimately bring death!

This section, between **verse 6-20**, is possibly the most powerful and effective condemnation of idolatry to be found anywhere, and what we see, in this exposing of what idolatry really is, as it is clearly exposed as being formless and lifeless, יְהוָה is reminding His chosen, that all attempts at trying to formulate a worship, around what the hands of men can create or form, is worthless.

We take note, that this is exactly what Christianity has done – it has formed and shaped images of who they present the Creator to be, which runs contrary to the very Living Word that we have been given.

Anyone who makes an idol, simply makes that which is emptiness.

The Hebrew word that is used here for ‘emptiness’ comes from the root word תֹּהוּ tohu – Strong’s H8414 which means, ‘**formlessness, confusion, unreality, emptiness, meaningless, formless**’.

Now, what is interesting to note, is that this word תֹּהוּ tohu – Strong’s H8414 is used way back in: **Bereshith/Genesis 1:2 “And the earth came to be formless and empty, and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of Elohim was moving on the face of the waters.”**

What is being told to us, in Yeshayahu/Isaiah, is simply that any form, or shape, of worship that has been constructed, or manufactured, by man and has rendered the Torah of Elohim null and void and of no effect, is nothing more than empty idolatry.

It was by the Word of Elohim that form and order was brought forth to that which was formless; and any worship without His Word, that brings any other man-driven form and order, is idolatry and formless.

The Hebrew word that is translated as 'make' in **verse 9** comes from the root word **יָצַר** *yatsar* – **Strong's H3335** which means, *'to form, fashion, create, devise, ordain, plan, frame'*.

Any worship that is formed, fashioned, devised or created, without the very Living Word of Elohim, is empty idolatry!

I think that we get that now – well then, we need to understand that any worship that claims that the Torah is no longer valid, is idolatry and those who worship in such idolatrous ways, are their own witnesses!!!

Verse 9 tells us this: they are their own witnesses and they do not see or know and are put to shame. In other words, they are seeing but not seeing, hearing but not perceiving –and those who have their ears and eyes closed to the Torah, are simply engaging in empty idolatry.

The question is raised, as to who would actually form a mighty one or idol that has no value? Now, we would all think that this is a very simple answer, yet why is it then, that we see so many differing denominations and religions today?

They are simply all idols of no value, having been shaped by man-made traditions and dogmas, that have been fashioned and hammered into the hearts and minds of society at large.

Although the idols are worthless, the craftsmen and carpenter has used many skills to produce something that has a shape and figure; and we see this today, through the carefully crafted programmes that are offered to keep the masses busy, in an assumed attempt at worship.

When it speaks of the man who cuts down a tree and uses half of it to make fire and roast his food on, while the rest he makes into an image and bows down and worships it, even prays to it for deliverance, is surely a picture of stupidity, yet, how different is it today, when we see how many try to firstly be satisfied in the flesh and then, in the flesh, try to manufacture a form of worship, with what is 'metaphorically' left over.

Businesses will fund churches, charity events, social outreaches and missions, after they have secured their own fleshly securities of course, and they will feel good about themselves, thinking that they have performed a great sense of service and worship unto Elohim, when, in essence, this is nothing more than falling before a piece of wood!

How about those who claim to be true worshippers, and will attend a weekly hour service, while their lives are being consumed by the chasing of wealth and fleshly desires.

They come with what is left over (on a wrong day) to bow down to what has been shaped and fashioned, through vain and empty traditions!

And their 'feeding' on their own manufactured form of man-driven traditions of worship, is nothing more than a feeding on ashes, having a deceived heart in the process.

The Hebrew word that is used in **verse 20** for ‘ashes’ – אֶפֶר epher – Strong’s H665 is used as a metaphor for something that is worthless, as opposed to real food, as the ‘food’ they are eating, so to speak, is empty and lifeless, as it has nullified the life-giving power of the Truth, by casting aside the heart and spirit behind the Torah.

Those with a deceived heart, are those who are feeding on ashes and do not even think to test what they are eating!

The Hebrew word that is translated as ‘deceived’ comes from the root word הָתַל hathal – Strong’s H2048 which means, ‘to deceive, mock’.

A deceived heart turns one aside to falsehood and the feeding on ashes!

So many today show a clear mockery toward the truth, as their actions, of a taught falsehood, show that they are under the power of a destructive deception, that has twisted and falsified the truth – so much so, that most do not even ask if what they are doing is a lie or not!

The Torah is to be in our heart and in our mouths – to do it:

Debarim/Deuteronomy 30:14 “For the Word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart – to do it.”

Many people today are rendering a vain lip service, in their falsified confession of faith, while their actions reveal otherwise, as their lack of walking in the Torah reveals that the Torah is not in their mouth, nor in their heart; and if the Torah is not laid up in one’s heart then what is?

The deceit of lawlessness!!!

The image of feeding on ashes, highlights for us a feeding on that which is dead and worthless, which is what the lawless are doing!

Mishlê/Proverbs 15:14 “The heart of the understanding one seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on folly.”

Understanding comes in the doing of the Word, and the simple reason that you will find wisdom on the lips of one who has understanding, is because they have earnestly sought after the wisdom of Elohim, in order to know how to walk, and live, in complete obedience to His Word.

And when walks in obedience and does not scoff at the Word, then knowledge is easy to him who has understanding.

The idea or image of feeding on falsehood, is one that we see being repeatedly used throughout Scripture, giving us reference to the folly of fools and the depravity of the lawless, despite their claim of knowing Elohim!

Those who cast aside the need to walk in the Torah, reject the idea of meditating upon the Torah day and night and therefore, reject the proper feeding on the lawful bread of Elohim, which causes their desire to satisfy a hunger within, to be led astray to the feeding on that which is futile and worthless and that which lacks the ability to fill, nourish and satisfy!

This Hebrew root word הָתַל hathal – Strong’s H2048 is translated as ‘deceives’, in:

Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 9:5-6 “And everyone deceives his neighbour, and no one speaks the truth. They have taught their tongue to speak falsehood, and have wearied themselves to crook. 6 You live in the midst of deceit; through deceit they have refused to know Me,” declares יהוה.”

The Hebrew root word that is translated as ‘deceit’ in **verse 6** of Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 9 is מִרְמָה mirmah – Strong’s H4820 which means, ‘deceit, treachery, dishonesty, falsehood’.

This root word מִרְמָה **mirmah** – Strong’s H4820 used in **Amos 8:5** with reference to those who couldn’t wait for the Sabbath to be over so that they could trade and falsify their scales by deceit, and this word is also used in:

Mishlĕ/Proverbs 26:24-26 “**He who hates, pretends with his lips, and lays up deceit within him; 25 though he speaks kindly, do not believe him, for there are seven abominations in his heart. 26 Hatred is covered by deceit. His evil is disclosed in the assembly.**”

What **verse 24** here in **Mishlĕ/Proverbs 26** is saying, is that the one who hates, gives a vain lip service and his heart is filled with deceit; which is the total opposite as to what should be in the heart!

The point that I am trying to bring across, is that the feeding on ashes reveals a deceived heart! While we recognise that we cannot see what is in the heart of man, as man looks at the eyes, while יְהוָה looks at the heart, what we are able to do, is determine what is on the hearts of others, by seeing what they are feeding on!

The sad reality, with fools that feed on folly, is that they do not know that they have been deceived, nor can they for they cannot perceive the true knowledge of Elohim as they cast His Word behind them and fail to have proper understanding as they disregard the need to walk in obedience to the commands!

When Dawid asked the question of who may go up into the mountain of יְהוָה, he tells us in:

Tehillah/Psalm 24:4 “**He who has innocent hands and a clean heart, who did not bring his life to naught, and did not swear deceitfully.**”

Obedient hands, an undefiled heart and no deceitful words – that is who may ascend the mountain of יְהוָה!

So many today will swear that they follow the Master and walk in His Torah, while their actions show a clear breaking of obedience when they compromise in the smallest things – and that is deceit!

In these last days, when deceit is all around, we recognise how small the true remnant of Elohim’s Bride is, and as יְהוָה restores a clean lip unto the remnant few, they will call on the Name of יְהוָה and serve Him with one shoulder, and we are told in:

Tsephanyah/Zephaniah 3:12-13 “**But I shall leave in your midst an oppressed and poor people, and they shall trust in the Name of יְהוָה. 13 “The remnant of Yisra’el shall do no unrighteousness and speak no falsehood, nor is a tongue of **deceit** found in their mouth. For they shall feed their flocks and lie down, with none to frighten them.**”

No tongue of deceit found in their mouths!!!

Let no deceit be found in you, is a clear message we all need to hear in these last days – for the ‘**deceitful danger of deceit**’ can cause us to be slain with the wrongdoers and workers of wickedness, the treacherous and adulterers, who do know יְהוָה, nor love Him, as they do not guard His commands!

Deceit causes one to refuse to know Elohim, and deceit is a very dangerous and poisonous thing – for it will cloud your judgement and weaken your ability to think straight!

Kěpha Aleph/1 Peter 3:10-11 “For “He who wishes to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking **deceit**, ¹¹ let him turn away from evil and do good, let him seek peace and pursue it.”

The Greek word that is used here for ‘deceit’ is δόλος **dolos** –Strong’s **G1388** which means, ‘**a bait, craft, deceit**’.

יהושע Messiah tells us in **Marqos/Mark 7:22** that deceit is one of the defiling things that comes out of a man’s heart!

What is for taking note of is that Greek word for ‘servant’ is δοῦλος **doulos** – **Strong’s G1401**, as I have already mentioned, and is a very similar sounding word to the word that is used to describe ‘deceit’ – δόλος **dolos** –**Strong’s G1388** – with the Greek word for ‘servant’ having only one additional letter – ὰ – which is the letter ‘**upsilon**’, and seeing this can certainly help us realise how fine a line it is, between being a true faithful servant of the Most-High, in which there is found no deceit, and being one in which there is deceit!

In **Yoḥanan/John 1:47**, when יהושע saw Nethaně’l coming toward Him, He said of Nethaně’l:

“See, truly a Yisra’elite, in whom is no deceit!”

What a powerful compliment to receive, yet what we can learn from this is very clear:

The name נתנאל Nethaně’l – **Strong’s H5417** means, ‘**given of Ėl**’, and here was a faithful servant who knew the Scriptures and when he heard the voice of Messiah, he knew the voice of the True Vine and Master and King:

Yoḥanan/John 10:27 “**My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.**”

The time was ‘ripe’ and while most did not recognise Messiah, this ‘**given one of Ėl**’ did!

Messiah found a faithful servant, in whom there was no deceit!

This is encouraging for us, in showing us that it does not matter how blind the masses are, we whose eyes have been opened, can still guard His commands, and sit and learn under the hand of our Master and have no deceit in us... the question is, when He does come again... shall He find you walking in faith or in deceit?

Back to Yeshayahu/Isaiah 44:

Verse 20 tells us that they (that is the deceived) cannot even say:

“Is there not a lie in my right hand?”

Now, in Hebrew, the understanding of the use of the term of one’s ‘right hand’, often speaks of that which works or that which one does.

We know that it is by the Right Hand of Elohim – that is: the working power of Elohim, that He worked deliverance and salvation for Yisra’el – His chosen Bride – with the Right Hand of Elohim being יהושע Messiah.

Now, the one who is doing empty and vain idolatrous worship, does not even stop to ask:

“Is that which I am doing wrong?”

Ḥazon/Revelation 13:16 speaks about the beast causing many to be given a ‘mark’ on their right hand or on their forehead.

This is a mark of worship – that which you do in your worship.

We are told in **Shemoth/Exodus 13** that **Pěsah/Passover** and **Matzot/Unleavened Bread**, will be a sign/mark on our hand and forehead, and we also are told in **Yeḥezqěl/Ezekiel 20** that His Shabbat is a sign /mark between us and Him forever.

So, what mark/sign we have, is all about who and how we worship.

Sunday worship and the keeping of pagan rooted feasts, is a taking on of the mark of the beast on one's right hand and they do not even question what they are doing, nor are they testing the validity of their work of worship, against the plumb line of the Torah!

Tehillah/Psalm 115 is very fitting, in light of this condemnation of idolatry, that is found in **verses 6-20** and highlights our need to makes sure that we worship the One who has made us:

Tehillah/Psalm 115:1-17 "Not to us, O יהוה, not to us, but to Your Name give esteem, for Your loving-commitment, for Your truth. 2 Why should the nations say, "Where now is their Elohim?" 3 But our Elohim is in the heavens; whatever pleased Him, He has done. 4 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. 5 they have mouths, but they do not speak; they have eyes, but they do not see; 6 they have ears, but they do not hear; they have noses, but they do not smell; 7 they have hands, but they do not handle; they have feet, but they do not walk; they make no sound through their throat. 8 The ones who make them, shall become like them – all who trust in them. 9 O Yisra'el, trust in יהוה; He is their help and their shield. 10 O house of Aharon, trust in יהוה; He is their help and their shield. 11 You who fear יהוה, trust in יהוה; He is their help and their shield. 12 יהוה has remembered us; He blesses us; He blesses the house of Yisra'el; He blesses the house of Aharon. 13 He blesses those who fear יהוה, the small and the great. 14 יהוה gives you increase more and more, You and your children. 15 You are blessed by יהוה, who made the heavens and earth. 16 The heavens are the heavens of יהוה; but He has given the earth to the children of men. 17 The dead do not praise Yah, nor any going down to silence. 18 But we, we bless Yah now and forever. Praise Yah!"

Today we find how so many people are deceived, to the point where they are unable to even ask the simple question of whether their actions and beliefs are based on truth or twisted traditions!

In **verse 21**, we are told to remember these matters and do not forget who has formed us, and since we are His, let us have nothing to do with any forms of empty and dead idolatry!

We are chosen to serve and proclaim the Witness of the Good News.

We need not fear the many forms of idolatrous worship that surrounds us each day, for we know the One who has formed us and called us.

While many of the forms of idolatry may increase, in their various shapes and sizes and be fashioned to appeal to the masses who want their ears tickled, let us hold firm to the Truth, as יהוה Himself will frustrate the babblers and diviners and turn the wise of the world backwards, making their knowledge foolish:

Qorintiyim Aleph/1 Corinthians 1:20 "Where is the wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not Elohim made foolish the wisdom of this world?"

Qorintiyim Aleph/1 Corinthians 3:18-19 "Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become foolish, so that he might become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with Elohim. For it has been written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness,"

The call to return, is given to a people who were facing great struggles and the sure promises of יהוה are yes and amēn in Messiah.

The One who stretched out the heavens, is the true Deliverer and Redeemer, whom we are to be continually praising all day, as we recognise that we are called to serve and proclaim, as witnesses His Great Love, as we walk in obedience and turn from all the is formless and empty.

At the end of this chapter, we see the name of Koresh being mentioned, decades before he would be the king that יהוה would use, to not only release Yisra'el from captivity, but also issue the decree that Yerushalayim was to be rebuilt.

It is an interesting play on words, as we see that כּוֹרֶשׁ Koresh – Strong's H3566 means, '*possess thou the furnace*', and while Koresh was physically used of יהוה, we see how this application is very applicable to us today, as יהוה is rebuilding His Bride.

יהוה is the '**possessor of the furnace**' and we know that the reference to furnace, in Scripture, speaks of a refining process, which has a dual purpose – it consumes the wicked and brings forth the righteous.

Tehillah/Psalm 12:6 "The Words of יהוה are clean Words, silver tried in a furnace of earth, refined seven times."

It is through the consuming fire of His refined Word, that He will establish and build His Bride and only those who worship in Spirit and in Truth, and have put away all idol worship, shall come through the fire unharmed!

Come on you servants, who have been chosen to witness: listen to your Redeemer and Creator and walk in His ways.

There is much idol worship out there, that has many shapes and forms and many that even claim to be worshipping the Creator in Truth, while they are empty and formless, for they are without His Torah.

Let us not be found to be making ash heaps, out of vain attempts at compromised worship but rather, let us be reminded to remember the "I AM", who has formed us and in doing so, let us be caused, by His Spirit, to stand and witness His Truth!

And since we are His chosen, let us turn away from all empty idolatry!

This is a call to remember who we are and what we have been called to!

And in light of that, let us not be found to be without praise. Let there be no deceit of grumbling be found on our lips, but let us make sure that our speech is seasoned with salt!

No grumbling and deceit – only praise and thanksgiving!!!

In **Bemidbar/Numbers** we see the effects of rebellion and grumbling.

When Mosheh confronted the rebels in **Bemidbar/Numbers 16:9**, he was, in effect, saying to them, words that we need to take heed of today too and, in a nutshell, this is what he said,

"Is it a small matter to you that you have been chosen to serve יהוה – what more do you want?"

NOW HEAR – YOU CHOSEN SERVANTS OF YAHWEH

Be faithful witnesses of His Truth, as you guard to do all He commands and walk in His Torah, meditating on it day and night, as you walk in and stay in Him, walking as יהושע Messiah did. He who has ears, let him hear what the Spirit says!

The Hebrew word that is translated as 'return', in **verse 22**, comes from the root word שׁוּב **shub** – **Strong's H7725** which means, '**to turn back, return, repent, recover**'.

In **Tehillah/Psalm 19:7** we are told that The Torah of יהוה is perfect, **bringing back** the being. It is by His Word and His instructions that He '**causes us**' to turn back to Him, after turning away from sin and wickedness!

In the ancient pictographic script, the Hebrew word שׁוּב **shub** – **Strong's H7725** is written as follows:



Shin - שׁ:

As already discussed, this is the letter 'shin' which in the ancient script is pictured as , which is '**two front teeth**' and carries the meaning of '**sharp or press, chew or devour**'; which is what the teeth do, and also speaks of the sharpened word that comes forth from the mouth as the teeth '**chew**' or '**meditate**' on the Truth, making what comes forth pure and sharp! It also carries the understanding of **consuming** or **destroying** – as teeth do to food.

Waw/Vav – װ:

This is the Hebrew letter 'waw' or 'vav' which in the ancient script is pictured as , which is a peg or '**tent peg**', which was used for securing or tying the tent or other items. The possibility of it having a Y-shape is to show that it prevents the rope from slipping off. The root meaning of this letter is '**to add, secure or hook**'.

Beyt – בׁ:

The ancient script has this letter as , which pictures a tent floor plan and means, '**house**' or '**tent**'. It represents family and the importance of those who are inside the tent as opposed to the tent structure itself.

When we understand the combination of these pictures, as rendering '**a returning or repentance**', we are able to recognise that the teeth, which speaks of a 'pressing', and the picture of the peg that 'secures', and the house, which speaks of 'dwelling', we are able to understand this representing the following:

THE SECURE DWELLING PLACE THAT IS TO BE RETURNED TO

This word, שׁוּב shub – Strong’s H7725, in the ancient form, represents for us a:

RETURNING TO THE SECURE HOUSE WHERE WE ARE FED, AS WE MEDITATE ON THE WORD OF THE HOUSE

While this certainly represents for us a clear understanding of true repentance, which entails a proper return, by diligently meditating upon the Word of Elohim and being washed through His Word, we certainly recognise how many may claim to return, or repent, yet their disobedience and inability to submit, and obey, reveals that their repentance is merely a lip service, that is given in the hope of getting something favourable back in return.

יְהוָה calls His chosen servants to return, for He has redeemed us!

The Hebrew word that is translated as ‘redeem’ comes from the root word גָּאֵל ga’al – Strong’s H1350 which means, *‘to redeem, act as kinsman, avenge, buy back, claim, redeemer, avenger of blood, rescue’*.

This word is also used to refer to our Redeemer, in the form גֹּאֲלִי ga’ali which means, *‘my Redeemer’*, as in:

Iyob/Job 19:25 “For I know that my Redeemer lives, and as the Last shall rise over the dust”

We need not fear for He has redeemed us!

Yeshayahu/Isaiah 47:4 “Our Redeemer, יְהוָה of hosts is His Name, the Set-apart One of Yisra’el.”

He is our Redeemer, and the Hebrew word that is translated as ‘our Redeemer’ is גֹּאֲלֵנוּ go’alenu which comes from the root word for ‘redeem’, which is גָּאֵל ga’al – Strong’s H1350.

He has ransomed us and bought us at a price with His own Blood, and called us by name!

We are now His and must remain in Him and walk in the Covenants of promise, that we have been grafted in to by His Blood!

It is for this reason that we are commanded by Him, to not fear nor be afraid!

While we are to have reverence and the proper fear of Elohim, we are not to be afraid of the enemy and the frightening circumstances we may face, for our Master is with us!

He is called, ‘יְהוָה of Hosts’, which is written in Hebrew as: יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת – ‘YAHWEH tsebaoth’ which is a title that is used for our Master well over 240 times in Scripture, coming from the root word צָבָא tsaba – Strong’s H6635 which means, *‘army, war, warfare, battle, conflict, host (of organised army)’*.

He is not only our Commander and Chief who fights for us, He is also the one under whom we march and are equipped to fight the good fight of belief; and the call given to us is very clear:

Timotiyos Aleph/1 Timothy 6:12 “Fight the good fight of the belief, lay hold on everlasting life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession before many witnesses.”

NOW HEAR – YOU CHOSEN SERVANTS OF YAHWEH

Are there any forms of idolatry in your life that needs to be destroyed?
Are there some things that you have fashioned, with your thoughts, and find, when looking intently into the mirror of the Word, that who have been chasing after that which is revealed as the feeding on ashes and is worthless and empty?
Hear then the urgent call to hear the One who formed you and follow Him and serve, as a chosen one should!

This is now time for the true servants of יהוה to hear, guard and do!
It is now time for true servants to stand up and fight the good fight of the belief and break forth into singing, for יהוה of Hosts is with us!!!
Sing, shout and break forth into singing!

In **verse 23** we see the clear call for the heavens and the earth to break forth into singing, and as we consider the image of singing and shouting and praising Elohim, we are able to recognise, from these words, our need to be the chosen, upright and redeemed servants that are offering up the proper praise and esteem unto our Great Redeemer and King!

The Hebrew word that is translated as ‘sing’, in **verse 23**, is רָנָנוּ *rannu*, which comes from the primitive root verb רָנָן *ranan* – **Strong’s H7442** which means, ‘*to overcome, cry out, shout for joy, give a ringing cry, sing aloud*’.
It is from this root verb, that we get the noun that is translated as ‘singing’, in this verse, which is the word רִנָּה *rinnah* – **Strong’s H7440** which means, ‘*a ringing cry, joyful shout, joyful singing*’.

The Hebrew word that is translated as ‘shout’ comes from the root verb רוּעַ *rua* – **Strong’s H7321** which means, ‘*to raise a shout, give a blast, sound the alarm, shout for joy*’

The Hebrew word that is translated as ‘break forth’ is פִּצְחוּ *pits’hu* which comes from the root word פָּצַח *patsah* – **Strong’s H6476** which means, ‘*break forth, break out, make a loud noise*’, and is used 8 times in Scripture, one of which we see, in:

Tehillah/Psalm 98:4 “**Raise a shout to יהוה, all the earth; break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.**”

This is a very ‘**explosive word**’, so to speak, and expresses a huge flow of great praise that cannot be contained, and bursts forth with a resounding noise of jubilant praise!

This pictures for us ‘great excitement’!

Are you excited to praise יהוה in all you do, so much so, that it just bursts out of you and causes you to sing?

Sing, shout and break forth into singing – I hope you get the picture here!

This is what the true upright servants of יהוה are to be doing!

True worshippers, worship in Spirit and Truth, as they guard the Torah of Elohim and do not give way to falsehood and the folly of worthlessness, but shine as true servants of יהוה, that have ears to hear!

NOW HEAR – YOU CHOSEN SERVANTS OF YAHWEH

I started this message with a passage from **Tehillah/Psalm 145**, and I would like to close this message with it too, reminding us, that we as true servants of **יהוה**, have heard the call to uprightness and are greatly praising Our Redeemer and King:

Tehillah/Psalm 145:1-3 **“I exalt You, my Elohim, O Sovereign; and bless Your Name forever and ever. 2 All day long I bless You, and praise Your Name forever and ever. 3 Great is יהוה, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable.”**

יהוה bless you and guard you; **יהוה** make His face shine upon you and show favour to you;
יהוה lift up His face upon you and give you shalom!