

HE IS COMING AGAIN!

A message for DAY 40 of our count to Shabuoth

30th of the 2nd month 2021/2022

Shalom all,

Ma'asei/Acts 1:9-11 “**And having said this, while they were looking on, He was taken up, and a cloud hid Him from their sight. 10 And as they were gazing into the heaven as He went up, see, two men stood by them dressed in white, 11 who also said, “Men of Galil, why do you stand looking up into the heaven? This same יְהוֹשֻׁעַ, who was taken up from you into the heaven, shall come in the same way as you saw Him go into the heaven.”**”

These words record for us what took place on DAY 40 of the count to Shabuoth, when our Master had ascended into the heavens, before the eyes of His taught ones.

After having risen from the dead at the end of the Sabbath during Matzot, our Master offered up the wave offering of the sheaf of the first, the omer rěshiyth, on the morrow after that Shabbat and for 40 days He was seen by His taught ones, where He spoke about His coming reign.

On this Day 40 of the count to Shabuoth, He commanded them to wait until the Set-Apart Spirit had come upon them, as the sure promise of the Father would be fulfilled 10 days later on Shabuoth, when the renewal of the Covenant took place, being written upon their hearts, as they were gathered for Shabuoth.

After having seen יְהוֹשֻׁעַ Messiah resurrected and His Kingdom being made abundantly clear to His taught ones, they witnessed Him going up into the heavens, with a cloud hiding Him from their site.

Can you picture the scene?

Our resurrected Messiah had now presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, having been seen for 40 days by His chosen taught ones and then was taken up before their eyes, after having been told to wait for the promise of the Set-Apart Spirit.

They were given the firm assurance that יְהוֹשֻׁעַ Messiah would return in the same way in which they saw Him go! This was the firm reassurance that they needed to hear, in order for them to hold fast to the promise and these account bear witness for us too, giving us the sure hope that we have in our Master, who has sealed us in His Spirit, giving us all we need for life and reverence.

We have been fully equipped to work and walk out our deliverance with fear and trembling and hold firm to our calling and expectation in our Master, firm to the end.

This day 40 of our count to Shabuoth, should cause us to be reminded that our Master is coming again! And being reminded of this fact, we do not forget, but simply continually remember, so that we can be diligent in guarding the good deposit of His Spirit, with much joy and possess the life that we have in Him, with endurance!

The expectation of His soon return was reaffirmed on this Day 40, when his taught ones looked up and saw our Master depart into the heavens.

Reaffirmed by the strengthening words of the 2 men who stood by them in white and told them that He was coming back in the same way.

These words were a sure confirmation of the words of prophecy of יהוה, who will come and put His feet on the Mount of Olives.

Why I say that, is because of what we see happening, after the taught ones were told that יהושע Messiah would be coming back in the same way as they saw Him leave!

The next verse tells us the following:

Ma'asei/Acts 1:12 "Then they went back to Yerushalayim from the Mount of Olives, which is near Yerushalayim, a Sabbath day's journey."

These taught ones, who saw יהושע Messiah being taken up into the heavens, went back to Yerushalayim, **from** the Mount of Olives!

This verse helps us have the wonderful confirmation of prophecy, as we take note that all of this took place on the Mount of Olives – the place where our Master was taken up on Day 40 of the count to Shabuoth.

His feet left the Mount of Olives on this day, as He ascended in to the heavens and a cloud hid Him from their site. This text confirms for us the witness of יהושע Messiah being יהוה our Saviour and King, who is coming on the clouds and will set His feet upon the Mount of Olives!

As we consider this magnificent event, we are reminded that the prophecy of the return of יהוה is made clear, in describing His day when He shall return and fight against the nations, and where He will put His feet:

Zekaryah/Zechariah 14:4 "And in that day His feet shall stand upon the Mount of Olives, which faces Yerushalayim on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, a very great valley, and half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south."

The feet of יהוה shall stand upon the Mount of Olives, in that day!

The term or phrase "**That day**", is a clear reference to '**The Day of יהוה**', which is a reference to the day of His wrath and The Day where He destroys the nations and sets up His reign.

As one understands the prophecies that we are given in Scripture, in terms of us being able to understand the revelation of Messiah, we take note of the words that Kěpha tells us, in:

Kěpha Bět/2 Peter 3:8 "But, beloved ones, let not this one matter be hidden from you: that with יהוה one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."

Let not this one matter be hidden from you!

This is of vital importance for us to understand, as we recognise a clear lesson in being able to count and number as we should!

When we understand this matter that must not be hidden from us, we are able to understand the clear work and redemption of our Master, as we can see this being firmly declared in Creation Week, which gives us a clear prophetic shadow picture and pattern for the 7 Millennium (7000 years) of this age, before the renewed heavens and earth shall come.

As previously discussed, we must learn and see how Creation Week tells us a wonderful story of the full work of our Master, and the work that He shall complete when He comes in the 7th Millennium, where we will be able to enter into His rest!

In Creation Week, we see how it was on the 4th day that He separated the light from the darkness and this pictures for us the clear working of our Master and Redeemer, יהושע Messiah, The Light of the world and The Word made flesh, who came into the world, as of a son brought forth from a father and pitched His tent among us and called us out of darkness into His marvellous light!

This He did on the 4th day, so to speak, or... better understood as the 4th Millennium, and it is on the 7th day that He completed His work and rested, which shows us again that it is on the 7th day – that is – in the 7th Millennium, where He will complete His work and rest.

We have the weekly Sabbath, that was set-apart from Creation Week, to remind us each and every week that there remains a proper Sabbath keeping for the people of Elohim, as this is the sure sign that יהוה is our Elohim, and in the Day of His wrath, when He shall come to complete His work, we who have guarded the Sabbaths and commands of Elohim may be found to be hidden in Him, on His Day – which is – the 7th Millennium!

In prophecy we see the phrase, 'In that day', being used in reference to the Day of the wrath of יהוה and it is This Day that the Book of **Hazon/Revelation** speaks very clearly about, as it is The Day of the revelation of יהושע Messiah, where every eye shall see and every tongue confess that יהושע Messiah is יהוה our Saviour and Elohim!

Our Master and Elohim is coming again! And he is the one who is coming on the clouds, for He is the cloud rider who is coming to establish His reign here on earth!

Hazon/Revelation 1:7 "See, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye shall see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth shall mourn because of Him. Yes, Amēn."

In a clear declaration, in the revelation of יהושע Messiah that Yoḥanan was given, we see the powerful truth that awaits all mankind!

Our Creator and Saviour is coming on the clouds and every eye will see Him!

Hazon/Revelation 1 makes a powerful introduction to this extremely powerful book, declaring who **יהושע** Messiah is!
He is the Aleph and the Taw; He is the beginning and the end!
He is the One who is coming on the clouds and in saying that, we can boldly say that:
He is **יהוה** our Saviour!!!

The first part of this **verse 7** from **Hazon/Revelation 1** is a quote from:

Dani'el/Daniel 7:13 **“I was looking in the night visions and saw One like the Son of Enosh, coming with the clouds of the heavens! And He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him.”**

As a part of the visions that Dani'el saw, we are able to see that He was given a revelation of the One who is coming with the clouds!

The Aramaic word that is translated here as ‘visions’ comes from the noun **הַזוּן** **hezun** –

Strong's H2736 which means, **‘vision, appearance’** and comes from the root verb **הָזַן**

hazah – **Strong's H2370** which corresponds to the Hebrew primitive root verb **הָזַן** **hazah** – **Strong's H2372** which means, **‘to see, behold, have a vision, prophesy, perceive, to see by experience’**.

It is from this root verb that we get the Hebrew word **הַזוֹן** **hazon** – **Strong's H2377** which means, **‘revelation, vision’**, and this is the word that is used for the Book of the Revelation of Messiah – a clear book of prophesy that reveals to us very clearly who our Saviour, Master and Elohim is!

Dani'el saw, in a vision, the revelation of **יהושע** Messiah, and in the Aramaic phrase He is described as being One like the Son of Mankind, which prophetically was clearly understood as being The Saviour who would come to be born in the flesh and redeem mankind!

Messiah told His taught ones, when teaching of the end days and the time of His coming again, the following:

Mattithyahu/Matthew 24:30 **“And then the sign of the Son of Adam shall appear in the heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth shall mourn, and they shall see the Son of Adam coming on the clouds of the heaven with power and much esteem.”**

On this **DAY 40**, on the Mount of Olives, His taught ones were clearly told, by the 2 witnesses that were dressed in white, as they were looking up into the clouds, that He was coming again in the same way!

I know that it may sound like I am repeating myself a bit, but we must understand the significance of what took place on the Mount of Olives, 10 days before the Feast of Shabuoth, where the promise of the Set-Apart Spirit was poured out on the believers, in a complete renewal of the Covenant!

This confirmation of our Master's return, would give the taught ones the strength to hold firm, and in saying that, we too, as taught ones of the Master, need to have the same courage and strength, in the Master, as we hold firm to the sure expectation of His return!

This Day 40 of our count to Shabuoth should be a wonderful reminder of the confidence that we have in our Master, Saviour and Elohim, and therefore we are to be encouraged to keep our eyes fixed on Him, as we lift our eyes to Him who is our Help, our refuge, our strength and our song!

This imagery of our Creator and Saviour coming on the clouds, is one that was understood by Yisra'el, and one that gave a confident expectation of deliverance to come, yet when Messiah came in the flesh and made the clear declaration that He would be seen coming on the clouds, it was seen as blasphemy, when He made this statement before the high priest: **Mattithyahu/Matthew 26:62-65** **“And the high priest stood up and said to Him, “Have You no answer to make? What do these witness against You?”** ⁶³ **But יהושע** remained silent. **So the high priest said to Him, “I put You to oath, by the living Elohim that You say to us if You are the Messiah, the Son of Elohim.”** ⁶⁴ **יהושע** said to him, **“You have said it. Besides I say to you, from now on you shall see the Son of Adam sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of the heaven.”** ⁶⁵ **Then the high priest tore his garments, saying, “He has blasphemed! Why do we need any more witnesses? See, now you have heard His blasphemy!”**

With Messiah quoting from **Tehillah/Psalm 110** and **Dani'el/Daniel 7**, He was making it clear that He is the High Priest and King that is coming again, when He shall be clearly seen as The One who is coming on the clouds!

By this statement, He was basically telling them that He is the Master and Elohim and Saviour of Man, and by this declaration, He was making it clear that, at the revelation of His coming on the clouds, every eye would see and know that He is יהוה our Saviour!

Think about it for a moment!

At these words, the high priest tore his garments and said that יהושע has blasphemed! It was considered blasphemy to be saying that He was the One who is coming on the clouds, for it was understood, very clearly, that it is יהוה who is the One who shall come on the clouds!

In order for us to understand this more, we can take a look at a couple of key Scriptures that highlight this clear concept and imagery of יהוה being the One who is coming on the clouds!

Deharim/Deuteronomy 33:26 **“O Yeshurun, there is no one like El, riding the heavens to help you, and on the clouds, in His excellency.”**

The poetic term 'Yeshurun', which means 'upright one', is used as a symbolic term in Scripture, when speaking of all 12 Tribes of Yisra'el that are serving together in unity!

The name יֵשׁוּרֻן Yeshurun – Strong's H3484 comes from the word יָשָׁר yashar – Strong's H3474 which means, 'to be straight, right, pleasing, be level, upright, just and lawful'.

The Book of Yasher, commonly known to us as 'Jasher', means the book of the 'upright/straight' or the Book of the 'Righteous'.

This is what יְהוָה has chosen Yisra'el (His called-out Bride) for - **to be straight and upright and walk in His Torah**, shining the Light of His Besorah (Good News) amidst a crooked world. יְהוָה – He is Ėl and Sovereign of the upright ones, and He is coming, as the Righteous King, riding on the clouds, to gather the tribes of Yisra'el.

The Hebrew word that is translated as 'clouds' comes from the root word שָׁחַק shaḥaq – Strong's H7834 which means, 'cloud, dust, sky, heavens' and this word is used 21 times in Scripture and is frequently used to describe the power and strength of Elohim who is above the clouds and who rides on the clouds!

Tehillah/Psalm 68:4 "Sing to Elohim, sing praises to His Name. Raise up a highway for Him who rides through the deserts, By His Name Yah, and exult before Him."

Tehillah/Psalm 68:33-35 "To Him who rides on the ancient highest heavens! See, He sends out His voice, a mighty voice. ³⁴ Ascribe strength to Elohim; His excellence is over Yisra'el, and His strength is in the clouds. ³⁵ O Elohim, awesome from Your set-apart places, The Ėl of Yisra'el is He who gives strength and power to His people. Blessed be Elohim!"

This Tehillah is a great song of Dawid and expresses the clear call for us to praise Him who rides the clouds and deserts!!!

Tehillah/Psalm 18 is a song of Dawid which carries the words that he spoke to יְהוָה in the day that יְהוָה delivered him from his enemies and from the hand of Sha'ul.

And in this song of praise, יְהוָה is described as the One who came riding on the storm cloud, into battle against His enemies, in order to deliver His Beloved!

Tehillah/Psalm 18:9-15 "And He bowed the heavens and came down, and thick darkness was under His feet. ¹⁰ And He rode upon a kerub, and flew; He flew upon the wings of the wind. ¹¹ He made darkness His covering; around Him His booth, darkness of waters, thick clouds of the skies. ¹² From the brightness before Him, His thick clouds passed, hail and coals of fire. ¹³ And יְהוָה thundered in the heavens, and the Most High sent forth His voice, hail and coals of fire. ¹⁴ And He sent out His arrows and scattered them, and much lightning, and confused them. ¹⁵ And the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were uncovered at Your rebuke, O יְהוָה, at the blast of the breath of Your nostrils."

This is some very powerful imagery that is being used here in this great song of praise for our Deliverer, who comes riding on the storm clouds and destroys our enemies with the lightning fire of His wrath!

This very strong imagery is also seen in another psalm, which is ascribed to Dawid in the LXX and Syriac texts:

Tehillah/Psalm 104:1-4 “Bless יהוה, O my being! O יהוה my Elohim, You have been very great: You have put on excellency and splendour, ² covering Yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a curtain, ³ who is laying the beams of His upper rooms in the waters, who is making thick clouds His chariot, who is walking on the wings of the wind, ⁴ making His messengers the winds, His servants a flame of fire.”

Making thick clouds His chariot!

The Hebrew word that is translated here as ‘chariot’ is רֶכֶב *rekeb* – Strong’s H7393 which means, ‘*chariot, chariot horses, charioteers*’ and comes from the primitive root verb רָכַב *raḵab* – Strong’s H7392 which means, ‘*to mount and ride, ride in a chariot, to cause to ride, to cause to draw or plough*’.

This highlights the clear imagery of our Master and Elohim who is coming, riding on the clouds, coming to reap the harvest and destroy His enemies and deliver His chosen!

The Hebrew word that is translated as ‘cloud’ is עָב *ab* - Strong’s H5645 which means, ‘*cloud, dark cloud, cloud mass, thick clouds*’, and this word comes from the primitive root verb עָבַד *ub* – Strong’s H5743 which means, ‘*cover with a cloud, to becloud*’.

The first time we see the word עָב *ab* - Strong’s H5645 being used is in:

Shemoth/Exodus 19:9 “And יהוה said to Mosheh, “See, I am coming to you in the thick cloud, so that the people hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever.” And Mosheh reported the words of the people to יהוה.”

Here, the word עָב *ab* - Strong’s H5645 it is translated as ‘thick’, and the Hebrew root word for ‘cloud’ is עָנָן *anan* – Strong’s H6051 which means, ‘*a cloud, cloud mass, heavy mist*’.

The word עָב *ab* - Strong’s H5645 is typically used to designate a particular cloud, which is generally a dark cloud, in the sense of a rain cloud.

The ‘thick cloud’ can be both something very encouraging as well as something very frightening!

For those who are guided under the protection of the presence of יהוה, it is a good image, while those who refuse to walk in the Torah, it is a daunting image indeed, as it highlights the raging wrath of the storm of יהוה that is coming upon the sons of disobedience, while giving strength and courage to those who walk in the light of His Face and guard His Torah and commands, for then... The Cloud Rider becomes their refuge!

As Yisra'el went through the Wilderness they were guided by the presence of יהוה, and Shelomoh uses the clear imagery of the goodness of a king's favour being like that of a cloud that brings the much-needed springs rains.

Mishlê/Proverbs 16:15 **“In the light of a sovereign's face is life, and his delight is like a cloud of the latter rain.”**

In a clear contrast from **verse 14**, where we see the picture of the anger of a king that brings death, here in this **verse 15**, we see how the light of a king's face is life!

To be in the light of someone's face, is a picture of acceptance and approval, and the light of a king's face is often an expression that is commonly used in regards to יהוה.

Tehillah/Psalm 4:6 **“Many are saying, “Who would show us good?” יהוה, lift up the light of Your face upon us.”**

Tehillah/Psalm 44:3 **“For not by their own sword did they possess the land, neither did their own arm save them; but it was Your right hand and Your arm, and the light of Your face, because You delighted in them.”**

Tehillah/Psalm 89:15 **“Blessed are the people who know the *festal* trumpet-call! They walk, O יהוה, in the light of Your face.”**

The 'light of the face of יהוה' also speaks of His esteem and was made clearly visible in the form of our great Husband and King, יהושע Messiah!

Qorintiyim Bet/2 Corinthians 4:6 **“For Elohim, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts for the enlightening of the knowledge of the esteem of Elohim in the face of יהושע Messiah.”**

His delight is like the cloud of the latter rain!

In continuing to give us the clear image of the blessing of life we also see Shelomoh teaching us the delight of our Sovereign is likened to His great protection and provision!

The Hebrew word used for 'latter rain' is the word מלקוש malqosh – Strong's H4456 and comes from the same as the word לקש leqesh - Strong's H3954 which means, *'the after growth'* and the denominative verb of this is לקש laqash – Strong's H3953 which means, *'to take the second crop, to take everything, to glean the harvest'*.

The latter rain is also a promise of provision and blessing that is given for obedience:

Debarim/Deuteronomy 11:13-14 **“And it shall be that if you diligently obey My commands which I command you today, to love יהוה your Elohim and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your being, ¹⁴ then I shall give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, and you shall gather in your grain, and your new wine, and your oil.”**

If His commands were guarded, then יהודה would send both the EARLY rain and the LATTER rain!

The former and latter rains are related to the two comings of Messiah. The Hebrew word for 'early rain' is the word יורה yoreh – Strong's H3138 and is the active participle of the word ירה yarah – Strong's H3384 which means, 'to throw or shoot, direct, instruct, teach, teacher'.

What we recognise from the early and latter rain, is that with the first coming of Messiah we can recognise that He came to 'teach and instruct' us and with His second coming, as the latter rain, He is coming to take up a harvest of souls – He is coming to reap, and He is coming on the clouds!!!

These words are used, both as references to these two events, in Hoshëa and Yo'ël:

Hoshëa/Hosea 6:3 "So let us know, let us pursue to know יהודה. His going forth is as certain as the morning. And He comes to us like the rain, like the latter rain watering the earth."

The word translated as 'latter rain' is מלקוש malqosh – Strong's H4456 and the word translated as 'watering' is יורה yoreh – Strong's H3138.

Yo'ël/Joel 2:23 "And you children of Tsiyon, be glad and rejoice in יהודה your Elohim, for He shall give you the Teacher of Righteousness, and cause the rain to come down for you, the former rain and the latter rain, as before."

The Hebrew word that is used for both 'teacher' and 'former rain' is the root word מורה moreh – Strong's H4175 which means both, 'teacher' and 'rain' and comes from the root word ירה yarah – Strong's H3384 from which we get the term 'early rain'.

The word that used in Yo'ël/Joel 2:23 for 'latter rain' is מלקוש malqosh – Strong's H4456. יהושע Messiah is both our Teacher of righteousness and He is the 'gatherer of the after crop' – He has come and shown us the way and taught us through His life, death and resurrection how we are to walk in Him and guard the Torah – when He comes again will He find faith – active faith that is seen in the diligent guarding and doing of His commands???

And it is this Cloud Rider that is coming again!

The day of יהודה is a dark day, a day of thick clouds, and the question that we must readily be able to answer positively, is that, when He comes again will we be found to be doing that in which He delights!

The Rider of the thick clouds is coming – are you ready with oil in your lamp and ready to be taken up, as His ready Bride or will you be found to be one who has blasphemed His Name and walked in stubbornness and pride and will tremble at His appearance in the cloud!!!

Yeshayahu/Isaiah 19:1 “The message concerning Mitsrayim. See, יהוה is riding on a swift cloud, and He shall come into Mitsrayim. And the idols of Mitsrayim shall tremble at His presence, and the heart of Mitsrayim melt in its midst.”

This message concerning Mitsrayim, is a clear prophecy against that which is of the world and walking according to the lusts of the flesh and walking in idolatry!

יהוה is coming, **riding on a swift cloud!**

The Hebrew word that is translated as ‘riding’ is רָכַב *raḵab* – Strong’s H7392 which means, **‘to mount and ride, ride in a chariot, to cause to ride, to cause to draw or plough’**.

The Hebrew word that is translated as ‘on’ is עַל *al* – Strong’s H5921 – and is a word that is translated as **‘in, on, upon, over, by’** and is used as a preposition (in the singular or plural, often with prefix, or as conjunction with a particle following).

The Hebrew word that is translated as ‘swift’ is קָלַק *qal* – Strong’s H7031 which means, **‘light, swift, one who is swift’**.

The Hebrew word that is translated as ‘cloud’ is עָב *ab* - Strong’s H5645 which means, **‘cloud, dark cloud, cloud mass, thick clouds’**

When our Master comes, riding on the clouds, He will be coming swiftly and there will be nowhere to hide for His enemies!

In another image of יהוה riding on the clouds in vengeance, we are able to see this being clearly declared in the message concerning Ninewěh:

Nahum/Nahum 1:2-3 “יהוה is a jealous and revenging Ėl, יהוה is a revenger and a possessor of wrath. יהוה takes vengeance on His adversaries, and He watches for His enemies. יהוה is patient and great in power, but by no means leaves unpunished. יהוה has His way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet.”

While we are definitely able to see the clear theme of the image of the One who rides the clouds, being made abundantly clear, we must take note that in the ancient pagan Kena`anite religion, Ba`al was believed to be the one who rides the clouds!

In Ugaritic texts, which are the ancient texts that deal a lot with the ancient Kena`anite religion, Ba`al was repeatedly referred to as being the one who rides on the clouds and sends rain. In fact, in the Ugaritic texts, one of the titles that is repeatedly attributed to Ba`al is **‘The Cloud Rider’!**

Why is this important for us to know?

Well, when we look at the history of Yisra`el and their falling away to the corruption of Ba`al worship, we are able to understand why the clear description of יהוה being the Only One who rides the clouds and sends rain, being significantly important in declaring who one serves and follows!

As we consider this clear battle for worship, we can be reminded of the events that took place when the House of Yisra'el was under the reign of a wicked Aḥab and his corrupt wife Izebel, who had caused Yisra'el to follow the wicked worship of Ba'al, the Kena'anite deity of fertility, who they believed to ride the clouds and send rain!

It was during this time, that the prophet of יהוה, Ēliyahu, had called for the rain to stop for 3 ½ years and then confronted the corrupt Ba'al worship, in a heated showdown on Mount Karmel, where the True Cloud Rider was revealed and the prophets of Ba'al were put to death!

After this event, the rain came as the True Cloud Rider, יהוה Elohim, had now sent his rain at the voice of His prophet!

It is in **Melaḳim Aleph/1 Kings 18** that we are able to read and study the events of the showdown on Mount Karmel and from verse 2 we are told that the famine was severe in the land:

Melaḳim Aleph/1 Kings 18:1-2 “**And after many days it came to be that the word of יהוה came to Ēliyahu, in the third year, saying, “Go, present yourself to Aḥab, and I give rain on the earth.” 2 Thereupon Ēliyahu went to present himself to Aḥab. And the scarcity of food in Shomeron was severe.**”

Yisra'el had fallen prey to the false worship of Ba'al and after 3 ½ years of there being no rain, the time to show a corrupt people who the True Cloud Rider is came about. Under a corrupt worship system, Ba'al was worshiped for being the cloud rider and sender of rain and was believed to be the one to bring fertility. Well, after 3 ½ years of drought, the famine had become so severe that the time to now choose who they serve had come about, as Ēliyahu set up a clear challenge that would identify who the True Cloud Rider and Sender or Rain was.

Despite concerted efforts of the Ba'al prophets, their assumed deity did not answer them!

Then Ēliyahu repaired the slaughter-place of Yisra'el and called on יהוה to send fire.

יהוה answered with fire and consumed the ascending offering, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

After this, we see the following response of the people of Yisra'el who were called to choose that day whom they would serve:

Melaḳim Aleph/1 Kings 18:39 “**And all the people saw, and fell on their faces, and said, “יהוה, He is the Elohim! יהוה, He is the Elohim!”**”

The people acknowledged that יהוה is Elohim and by this declaration of acknowledgement, they acknowledged that יהוה is the True Cloud Rider and not Ba'al!

The Ba'al prophets were then killed at the wadi Qishon and then Ēliyahu told Aḥab to go up and eat, because of the sound of rain! Rain was coming!!!

The Cloud Rider and Sender of Rain was coming!

At this event on Mount Karmel, when יהוה answered with fire, we are able to recognise the image of Him answering with lightning from His dark cloud, striking with lightning the ascending offering that was prepared by Ēliyahu!

There was thunder, lightning and then the rain!!!

This was a huge day as it identified who the True and Only Cloud Rider is!

Ba'al worship was destroyed and יהוה was once again revealed as Elohim and the One who rides on the clouds!!!

The heavy rain that followed would have ended the drought and so, we are able to see the powerful prophetic shadow picture of the second coming of our Master.

In the Book of Amos, we are told that the days are coming when יהוה will send a famine for the Word:

Amos 8:11 “See, days are coming,” declares the Master יהוה, “that I shall send a hunger in the land, not a hunger for bread, nor a thirst for water, but for hearing the Words of יהוה.”

A famine for the hearing of the Word!

I think that we are certainly in these days, as we take note that many are, as Sha'ul said, listening to those who tickle the ear and are refusing to listen to the proper sound teaching of the Word of Elohim!

This is a time when the choice of who one serves must be made!

Sadly, many are deceived as they simply follow what they are told and are unable to rightly divide the truth and discern against deceit, for they know not the right-rulings of Elohim because the false prophets and false teachers and false shepherds have muddied the waters and taught deceit, treachery and falsehood!

Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 23:26-27 “Till when shall it be in the heart of the prophets? – the prophets of falsehood and prophets of the deceit of their own heart, 27 who try to make My people forget My Name by their dreams which everyone relates to his neighbour, as their fathers forgot My Name for Ba'al.”

The deceit that is coming forth from the hearts of false prophets and false teachers, continues to cause people to forget the Name of יהוה – for Ba'al!!!

The Hebrew word בעל ba'al – Strong's H1167 means, *'owner, lord, master, land owner'*, and at its root form it means, *'to marry, rule over, husband'*.

We also take note that the name בעל Ba'al – Strong's H1168, as it is used in this verse from **Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 23:27**, was the name of a Phoenician deity and as a name it can be rendered from the Hebrew into English as **'The Lord'**!!!

Melakim Aleph/1 Kings 18:21 “And Ēliyahu came to all the people, and said, “How long would you keep hopping between two opinions? If יהוה is Elohim, follow Him; and if Ba`al, follow him.” But the people answered him not a word.”

If we translate the Hebrew of the highlighted text correctly into English, we would have the following being a more sobering and accurate choice being presented:

If יהוה is Elohim, follow Him; and if The Lord, follow him.

For many this may seem offensive, yet to the true hearer and doer of the Truth this is a sobering reality of what the false and deceitful traditions of man has done in causing many to not know Elohim and in doing so they have forgotten the Name of יהוה, which highlights how the deceived have forgotten who it is who causes them to be!

Choose the True Cloud Rider or choose the cloud deceiver!

As we consider the clear revelation of יהוה being the One who rides the clouds and the One who is coming on the clouds, as prophesied, we are able to understand the clear choice that many were given when Messiah came in the flesh!

Many rejected Him and His words that revealed that He is the One who is coming on the clouds, as blasphemy, and it is with this imagery that we are able to once again recognise how it is the spirit of Ēliyahu that must come first, before Him who rides on the clouds comes, for the spirit of Ēliyahu calls for a choice to be made, in a time of a famine for the Word!!!

Only those who truly hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled and be taken up to be with him who rides on the clouds, while those who reject Him and shall be destroyed by the fire of His wrath when He comes on the dark cloud!

Every eye will see Him who rides on the clouds!

The question is... who are you serving?

Choose the True Cloud Rider today - יהושע Messiah – for He is יהוה our Elohim!!!

In choosing Him you choose life and choose to hear, guard and do His Word as you throw off all that entangles and destroy all form of ‘Ba`al’ worship, in order to serve the True Living Elohim, who rides the clouds!

The revelation of יהושע Messiah identifies for us that He is יהוה our Elohim and Saviour, and beside Him there is no one else. Our acknowledgment of this is another confession of confidence we have in our only One True Saviour who is coming swiftly for us:

SEE, HE IS COMING ON THE CLOUDS!

This **Day 40** of our count to Shabuoth, must be a reminder to us that we are to be a people who are counting, as commanded, and are counting the cost of following our Master, as we are strengthened in the need to keep our eyes fixed on Him.

As His Day draws near, we need His Spirit to help us, as we walk in the Spirit by guarding His Torah and commands and making sure that we have the sure sign and mark of a proper Sabbath keeping, being that which identifies us as the Bride who is waiting for the True Cloud Rider!

As the days grows darker and the depravity and lawlessness of man increases, we must do our utmost in guarding righteousness and not lose heart, but possess our lives by endurance!

As we continue to count to Shabuoth, which takes place in another 10 days, we are reminded of the 10 days of pressure that the assembly in Smurna were told to not be afraid of. They were told about that which they were about suffer and how some of them would be thrown into prison by the devil, in order to try them and that they would have pressure for ten days.

They were then told to be trustworthy until death, for then The Master would give them the crown of life. (**Hazon/Revelation 2:10**)

The Greek word that is translated as ‘pressure’ in **Hazon/Revelation 2:10** is θλίψις *thlipsis* – **Strong’s G2347** which means, ‘*tribulation, pressure, affliction, distress, persecution, trouble*’, and this word comes from the primitive verb θλίβω *thlibō* – **Strong’s G2346** which means, ‘*to press or afflict, to distress, suffer affliction*’, and in the literal sense can mean, ‘*to squash, press, hem in, rub, harassed*’, and can also be understood as being ‘*narrow or hard pressed*’.

Our Master tells us clearly that we will have pressures:

Yohanan/John 16:33 “**These words I have spoken to you, that in Me you might have peace. In the world you have pressure, but take courage, I have overcome the world.**”

The Greek word that is translated as ‘take courage’ comes from the verb θαρσέω *tharseō* – **Strong’s G2293** which means, ‘*be of good courage, be of good comfort, be of good cheer*’ and a word that is derived from this verb is the noun θαρρέω *tharreō* – **Strong’s G2292** which means, ‘*to be of good courage, be bold, have confidence*’, which is translated as ‘good courage’, in:

Qorintiyim Bět/2 Corinthians 5:6-9 “**Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Master – 7 for we walk by belief, not by sight – 8 we are of good courage, and are well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Master. 9 So we also make it our aim to be well-pleasing to Him, whether being at home, or being away from home.**”

The encouragement that our Master gave His taught ones, was that they were to take courage amidst the pressure that they would have in the world, for in Him they would have peace, for He has overcome the world.

These words are still very much alive and just as applicable to us today, as it was for the taught ones back then!

It is written in the 'imperative mood', which could also be expressed as '**take heart**' or '**cheer up**' and is a word that is spoken by way of encouragement!

When facing intense pressures, we need to be reminded to be of good courage and cheer up and not let pressures get us down!

And so, may this **Day 40**, be a day that reminds you to be of good cheer and not lose heart!

The number 40, in Scripture, is a significant number, which highlights times of testing and refining.

יְהוֹשֻׁעַ was tried for 40 days and 40 nights in the Wilderness and, as a result, He faced great trials and temptations and overcame and is able to faithfully intercede for us, giving us a bold access to the Set-Apart Place that we may receive compassion and find favour:

Ib'rim/Hebrews 4:14-16 "Therefore, since we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, יְהוֹשֻׁעַ the Son of Elohim, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who was tried in all respects as we are, apart from sin. ¹⁶ Therefore, let us come boldly to the throne of favour, in order to receive compassion, and find favour for timely help."

Mosheh had spent 2 periods of '40 days and 40 nights', without food and water, on the Mountain!!!

We are also able to see, as mentioned, that Messiah suffered 40 days and nights, in the Wilderness, and overcame.

The 'second' period of 40 days, that we can see in Scripture, in relation to Messiah, is after His resurrection, when He walked 40 days with His taught ones.

During these 40 days, unlike Mosheh, He ate with His taught ones, which is a very important picture of the fulfillment of His Work on the stake, which had dealt with sin and rebellion, and now, in Messiah, we are able to 'move on' and take possession of His sure promises, as we guard His clear commands.

The picture of Messiah eating, during this 'second' 40-day period, gives us the full assurance that He has made perfect the access that we have, in being able to fellowship with Elohim and eat of the Bread of Life and be satisfied, having His Word inscribed on the tablets of our hearts, by His Set-Apart Spirit!!!

We have no excuse to not take courage in the Master!

This **Day 40** should be a reminder that we are to have our eyes fixed upon Him and not lose heart, despite the world getting darker.

In Speaking of the last days, we see these words that our Master spoke, encouraging us to look up:

Luqas/Luke 21:25-28 “**And there shall be signs in the sun, and moon, and stars, and on the earth anxiety of nations, in bewilderment at the roaring of the sea, and agitation, 26 men fainting from fear and the expectation of what is coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. 27 And then they shall see the Son of Adam coming in a cloud with power and much esteem. 28 And when these matters begin to take place, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.**”

These signs are certainly being made evident in our days, especially as we have taken note of the various ‘blood moons’ that have taken place in recent years.

We also see the anxiety of the nations growing at a rapid rate, especially as we see the pandemic of wasting diseases causing great bewilderment and distress about what is to come.

Our Master makes it clear what we should be doing, when we see these matters beginning to take place:

**lookup and lift up your heads...
because our redemption draws near!!!**

As one reads through **Luqas/Luke 21**, **Mattithyahu/Matthew 24** and **Marqos/Mark 13**, in regards to what will take place before our Master returns, we can certainly see how much of what our Master describes, in these chapters, is already clearly evident in these last days, and He tells us that when we see these things, that we are to see to it that we are not troubled by these things that have to take place and that we must possess our lives by endurance.

Here in the account of **Luqas/Luke**, we take note that our Master tells us that when these matters begin to take place, that we are to ‘**look up**’ and lift up our heads!

While I have made mention of these words, in recent messages, I am once again making these clear, for it is something that must be heard and understood, especially as we see the anxiety and chaos of people increasing.

The Greek word that is used here in **Luqas/Luke 21:28** and translated as ‘**look up**’, is the root word ἀνακύπτω anakuptō – **Strong’s G352** which means, ‘**straighten up, stand upright, lift oneself up, look up (as a person in hope)**’.

The call of our Master here is clear:

**Straighten up and hold fast to the hope that we have in Him
and stand upright and be firm in the belief!**

This is also a kind of a military type instruction, that is given by our Commander to us, His troops, with the call to lift ourselves up from any despair and stand upright, being ready and armed in His Truth.

We can only do this if our eyes are fixed on Him!

Ib'rim/Hebrews 12:1-2 “**We too, then, having so great a cloud of witnesses all around us, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race set before us, ² looking to the Princely Leader and Perfecter of our belief, יהושע, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the stake, having despised the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of Elohim.**”

The Greek word that is translated here as ‘**looking**’ is ἀφοράω – aphorao - Strong’s G872 which means ‘**to look/ to turn eyes away from all other things and fix them on something**’. Metaphorically speaking, it means ‘**to fix the mind upon/ give full attention/ looking intently upon/ to take heed**’, and it can also carry the meaning, ‘**to consider carefully, attentively look at**’.

This word ἀφοράω – aphorao - Strong’s G872 comes from the two Greek words:

- 1) ἀπό apo – Strong’s G575 which is a preposition and participle that means, ‘**from, away from, at, in, to**’ and
- 2) the word ὁράω horaō – Strong’s G3708 which means, ‘**to see, perceive, attend to, take heed, see with the mind, beware, to see – as in becoming acquainted with by experience**’.

The two words that are used here for our Messiah, are the following:

- 1) **PRINCE** – this is from the Greek word ἀρχηγός - archēgos – Strong’s G747 which means, ‘**prince, captain, chief leader and author**’ and describes ‘**one that takes the lead in anything and thus affords an example, a predecessor in a matter, pioneer**’.
- 2) **PERFECTER** – this is from the Greek word τελειωτής - teleiōtēs – Strong’s G5051 – this is the only place in Scripture that this Greek word is found and denotes a ‘**finisher, completer, perfecter**’ and describes ‘**one who has in his own person raised faith to its perfection and so set before us the highest example of faith**’.

This is a description given only to יהושע Messiah who has become the supreme model for us to follow.

We are told to be ‘**looking**’ to Messiah – and what we can see from the verse before this one, is that in order to be able to properly ‘**look**’ at Messiah, we need to throw off, and lay aside, every weight and sin that easily entangles us and run with endurance, by looking intently at our King, as we run faithfully as servants of the Most-High Elohim!

Many are trying to run, yet find themselves getting tired and unable to endure the hardships and persecutions that come as a result of trying to be set-apart amidst a crooked generation!

The questions that you need to ask yourself, as you take an eye test, so to speak, are: “What are you looking at?” and “Are you looking at Messiah?”

We are to look to Messiah and careful consider our ways; and we are, at the same time, to make sure that our eyes are not looking elsewhere, as we **'take heed'** of the dangers of the corrupt teachings of man-made dogmas and traditions that lead people astray.

If we are not looking to our Master, Saviour, Elohim and King then our eyes may be dangerously looking at that which cannot save us!

Yeshayahu/Isaiah 31:1 **“Woe to those who go down to Mitsrayim for help, and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many, and in horsemen because they are very strong, but who do not look to the Set-apart One of Yisra’el, nor seek יהוה!”**

This is a severe woe that is given to those who are not looking to יהוה, the Set-Apart One of Yisra’el!

The prophet Miḵah/Micah prophesied about 20 years prior to the House of Yisra’el’s divorce and he prophesied from the southern kingdom of Yehuḏah, in the face of the northern kingdom’s impending dispersion.

Despite the clear depravity and corrupt worship practices that were taking place this prophet made it clear who he looked to:

Miḵah/Micah 7:7 **“As for me, I look to יהוה, I wait for the Elohim of my deliverance, my Elohim does hear me.”**

The Hebrew word that is translated here, in **Miḵah/Micah 7:7**, as **'look'** is the primitive root verb **צָפַח** **tsaphah** – **Strong’s H6822** which means, **‘to look out, watchman, keep watch’**.

This prophet made it clear where His eyes were looking and in doing so recognises his need to be a true watchman of יהוה, hence his urgency in speaking the Truth!

Yehuḏah/Jude 1:20-21 **“But you, beloved ones, building yourselves up on your most set-apart belief, praying in the Set-apart Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of Elohim, looking for the compassion of our Master יהושע Messiah unto everlasting life.”**

The Greek word that is translated here as **'looking'** is **προσδέχομαι** **prosdechomai** – **Strong’s G4327** which means, **‘look for, wait for, expect: the fulfilment of promises’** and is constructed from two words:

- 1) - **πρός** **pros** – **Strong’s G4314** which is a primary preposition meaning, **‘advantageous for, at (denotes local proximity), toward (denotes motion toward a place)’**, and
- 2) - **δέχομαι** **dechomai** – **Strong’s G1209** which means, **‘to receive, accept, welcomed’**.

This word **προσδέχομαι** **prosdechomai** can be understood as **‘going toward that which is to be received and welcomed’**, and is used in:

Titos/Titus 2:11-14 “For the saving Gift of Elohim has appeared to all men, 12 instructing us to renounce wickedness and worldly lusts, and to live sensibly, righteously, and reverently in the present age, 13 **looking for** the blessed expectation and esteemed appearance of the great Elohim and our Saviour יְהוֹשֻׁעַ Messiah, 14 who gave Himself for us, to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for Himself a people, His own possession, ardent for good works.”

How do we ‘wait expectantly’?

By renouncing wickedness and worldly lusts and live set-apart lives in complete reverence of Elohim, for we recognise that Messiah has redeemed us from all lawlessness!

We wait expectantly by guarding His laws!!!

As we consider our need to be looking to our Master’s esteemed appearance and His compassion, we must recognise the urgency in our need to be diligent in keeping our eyes on Him and not be led astray by things that can cause us to lose sight or focus of walking in and staying in Him and living set-apart lives in complete reverence before our Mighty Elohim and King!

As we consider how ‘dark’ the days are becoming and that the dark Day of our Master is therefore fast approaching, we must do our utmost to lift up our eyes to our Master, The Light of the world.

This imagery that I am presenting here, reminds me of the passage that we see in:

Yeshayahu/Isaiah 60:1-2 “Arise, shine, for your light has come! And the esteem of יְהוָה has risen upon you. 2 For look, darkness covers the earth, and thick darkness the peoples. But יְהוָה arises over you, and His esteem is seen upon you.”

Just as the early taught ones would face intense persecution after our Master’s ascension into the heavens, and were reassured that He is coming again, so too do we need to hear the same witness of reassurance, of His return, that we have been given in His Word, encouraging us to keep our eyes looking intently into His perfect Torah of Truth, which is a light for our path and lamp for our feet, in these darkened days.

It is with this thought in mind, that I am once again sending this message of encouragement out today, on this **DAY 40** of our count to Shabuoth.

As you consider this day, and the events that took place on the Mount of Olives, when the early taught ones ‘looked up’ and saw יְהוֹשֻׁעַ Messiah being taken up and covered in the clouds, may you be strengthened in the sure knowledge of His imminent return, for...:

HE IS COMING AGAIN!!!

Do you believe it or not?

Let your belief be seen in your works of obedience, done with confident joy, with eyes looking up and heads held high, so that we can proclaim the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness in to His marvellous light.

Do not let the darkness of anxieties and the despair of the lawless cause you to lose heart, but rather, be of good cheer and look up, for:

HE IS COMING AGAIN!!!

What are you looking at?

What are you looking for?

Who are you looking at?

I mentioned the text from Kěpha that highlights that the one matter that should not be hidden from us, is that with יהוה one day is as 1000 years.

When one continues on, we see Kěpha making it clear, that in light of this fact, we need to looking for and hastening the day of our Master:

Kěpha Bět/2 Peter 3:9-14 “יהוה is not slow in regard to the promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward us, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of יהוה shall come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with intense heat, and the earth and the works that are in it shall be burned up. 11 Seeing all these are to be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be in set-apart behaviour and reverence, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of Elohim, through which the heavens shall be destroyed, being set on fire, and the elements melt with intense heat! 13 But according to His promise we wait for a renewed heavens and a renewed earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 So then, beloved ones, looking forward to this, do your utmost to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, ”

The Greek words that are translated in this passage as ‘looking for, wait for and looking forward to’ comes from the root word προσδοκάω prosdokaō – Strong’s G4328 which means, ‘to watch, wait, expect’ and carries the idea of ‘a state of expectation’, and is constructed from two words:

- 1) πρός pros – Strong’s G4314 which is a primary preposition meaning, ‘advantageous for, at (denotes local proximity), toward (denotes motion toward a place)’, and
- 2) δοκεύω dokeuō, which means, ‘to watch’.

What this is highlighting for us, is that it would be to our advantage to be watching as we should, and by that, I mean that we are to be people that have their eyes looking to the Master, which we can only do correctly if we are meditating upon His Torah, day and night, and delighting ourselves, in diligently obeying His Word, with joy, and not being distracted from doing so, by the anxieties and chaos of a darkened world that surrounds us.

The Greek word that is translated as ‘**hastening**’, comes from the root word **σπεύδω** **speudō** – **Strong’s G4692** which means, ‘**to hasten, urge on, hurrying**’.

With this word being used here for ‘**hastening**’ the coming of the day of Elohim, we recognise that our obedience is the way that we are able to do this, even under the heaviest of persecutions, so that His Word brings us to a set-apart perfect place, of living without compromise, guarding His commands with great faithfulness, and being trustworthy with the Good deposit of His Word in us, making sure that we are never being sluggish or lazy!

After issuing a clear warning against falling away from the Truth, the writer of the letter to the Hebrews, encourages the readers to be steadfast in showing a true eagerness for the Truth and be on guard against the dangers of becoming sluggish:

Ih’rim/Hebrews 6:11-12 “**And we desire that each one of you show the same eagerness, to the entire confirmation of expectation until the end, 12 in order that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through belief and patience inherit the promises.**”

The Greek word that is translated as ‘**eagerness**’ in **Ih’rim/Hebrews 6:11** is **σπουδή** **spoudē** – **Strong’s G4710** which means, ‘**haste, diligence, earnestness, effort, hurry, striving after**’ and comes from the root word **σπεύδω** **speudō** – **Strong’s G4692**, which we have just looked at in Kěpha’s letter.

What the writer of **Ih’rim/Hebrews** is telling us is that we are to hold on or keep the same diligence of complete obedience unto Elohim, firm unto the end, for then our confirmation of our hope will be complete at the end, when our Master returns!

And remember, that this Day 40, is a sure reminder that:

HE IS COMING AGAIN!!!

In a time when the pressures of this world are increasing at an alarming rate, we need to be constantly reminded that we do have a clear calling and duty to hold fast to the end and not become sluggish.

Let your eagerness be shown in what you do and let love be without hypocrisy!!!

As we consider the pressures that we shall face for living reverently in Messiah, let us be trustworthy until death and never let go of our steadfast duty of manifesting the fragrance of our King!

Hear this call for endurance, as you hear what the Spirit is saying to us, as an assembly/body of Messiah, that seeks to manifest the powerful fragrance of our Master and Elohim!

Let this **Day 40** of our count to Shaḅuoth, remind you to not lose heart and to take courage, in keeping watch and guarding righteousness, knowing that we have all that we need, as long as we stay in Messiah.

We have this certainty that should cause us to endure and overcome:

HE IS COMING AGAIN!!!

Our redemption draws near!

Hold fast fervent soldier of Messiah!

May you be blessed in your continued count to Shabuoth and may you be strengthened in your ability to lift up hands that are set-apart, in joy filled praise and esteem of our coming Master and King, as you lift your eyes up to Him and look for His coming, as a trustworthy ambassador of His reign!

יהוה bless your 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