

## Close Encounters of the First Kind

“Then Adonai appeared to him (a close encounter of the first kind)...<sup>17</sup> when Adonai said, “Should I keep secret from Abraham what I am about to do,<sup>18</sup> seeing that Abraham will most certainly become a great and mighty nation and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed?<sup>19</sup> For I have made myself known to him so that he will command his sons and his household after him to keep the way of Adonai by doing righteousness and justice, so that Adonai may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him” (Gen 18:1, 17-19) (Play Re-Mi-Do-Do-Sol).



Have you ever had a close encounter with Adonai? Have you seen Him with your own eyes? Have you seen Him in your spirit as a vision? Well, if you have either heard Him or seen Him, you undoubtedly have an indelible image of either the voice or vision imprinted on your mind. In the movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, Roy Neary, an electrical lineman in Indiana encounters and forms an obsession with UFOs. If you have such an encounter the Holy One of Israel communicating personally with you, it will change your life forever. You will become passionate and driven to communicate with Him! Everyone who met Adonai personally in Scripture was changed forever. These experiences are recorded for us in the Word. So it was with Moses and the rest of the inspired authors who had the challenge of penning the *Torah* and the *TNK*. When we have a close encounter with His *Torah* we will be asked how much do we want these instructions to apply to our life? How much do we want to hear (*sh'ma*) His voice and how much do we want to see His face?

<sup>6</sup> Yeshua said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life! No one comes to the Father except through Me. <sup>7</sup> If you have come to know Me, you will know My Father also. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him.”

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to Him, “Master, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” <sup>9</sup> Yeshua said to him, “Have I been with you for so long a time, and you haven’t come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words I say to you, I do not speak on My own; but the Father dwelling in Me does His works. <sup>11</sup> Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me—or at least believe because of the works themselves” (John 14:6-11).

What then compelled Adonai to give the revelation of His plans to our father Abraham? “*Ki Yeda-ativ*” means literally because (*Ki*) ‘I (the Almighty) intimately know (this means that intimacy already exists) him – that he will command his children and his household after him.’ This clearly states that Abraham will demonstrate and lead-by-example his family in the way of Adonai (Yeshua is **THE WAY OF THE ALMIGHTY**) and Abraham will do righteousness and judgment (*tzedakah u’mishpat*)! Adonai is still obliged today since He is not a respecter of persons. You and I, fathers and parents (which are heads of households), will receive great revelation directly from the Almighty if we make it the number one priority in our lives to follow Him and do His works.

The Hebrew word translated *command* in the KJV version is the root word *VUM* (*Tzevah*), which Strong’s translates as to give a charge, or command (-ment). We recognize the word when we put a *mem* in front of it, obtaining *VUMN*, i.e., *mitzvah*. The *yod* in front makes it a future tense – Abraham will lead in doing *mitzvah* in front of his family. Using the translations above we can also obtain that Abraham will set in order his children and family after him. Abraham will intensively constitute his children and family with the *mitzvot* of *Torah*! The result is *vešmru derech Adonai la-asot tzedakah u-mishpat* that they will keep (from *shomer*, guard) The WAY of Adonai (Yeshua) to do righteousness (Hebrew *tzedakah* which also means works of charity, love) and justice (exercise good judgment so they will judge righteously).

I love this emphasis early in Scripture about the important role of proper spiritual leadership. It is the one thing that brings revelation about the future. It causes The Almighty to come on the scene and reveal His plans.

### Results of the Close Encounter

<sup>20</sup> Then Adonai said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great indeed, and their sin is very grievous indeed. <sup>21</sup> I want to go down now, and see if they deserve destruction, as its outcry has come to Me. And if not, I will know.” <sup>22</sup> Then the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham was still standing

before Adonai.<sup>23</sup> Abraham drew near and said, “Will you really sweep away the righteous with the wicked?”<sup>24</sup> Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you really sweep away and not spare the place for the sake of fifty righteous who are in it?<sup>25</sup> Far be it from You to do such a thing—to cause the righteous to die with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked share the same fate! Far be it from You! Shall the Judge of the whole world not exercise justice?”<sup>26</sup> Then Adonai said, “If I find in Sodom fifty righteous people within the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”<sup>27</sup> Then Abraham answered and said, “Look, pray, I have decided to speak to my Lord, though I am dust and ashes.”<sup>28</sup> Suppose the fifty righteous people are lacking five. Will You destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And He said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.”<sup>29</sup> So he spoke to Him yet again and said, “Perhaps forty will be found there?” And He said, “I will not do it for the sake of the forty.”<sup>30</sup> Then he said, “Please, let my Lord not be angry, so I may speak. Perhaps thirty will be found there?” And He said, “I will not do it if I find thirty there.”<sup>31</sup> Then he said, “Look, pray, I have decided to speak to my Lord: Perhaps twenty will be found there?” And He said, “I will not destroy it for the sake of the twenty.”<sup>32</sup> Then he said, “Please, let not my Lord be angry, so I may speak once more. Perhaps ten will be found there?” And He said, “I will not destroy it for the sake of the ten.”<sup>33</sup> Now when He had finished speaking to Abraham, Adonai left, and Abraham returned to his place” (Gen 18:20-33).

Notice at the conclusion of chapter 18 how Abraham interceded face to face with *Adonai* (thus, he had a personal relationship) about the fate and upcoming judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham spoke face-to-face with the Word Made Flesh (*Yeshua*, who the only visible Revelation of *Adonai*). Abraham was concerned with his own family (his cousin Lot lived in Sodom) and this was nothing new. While he may have cared for the people of Sodom in general, he quit the intercession when the number finally reached ten. How big was Lot's family? It was 10! That is, *Adonai* would not have destroyed Sodom for those 10 relatives of Abraham, had they embraced the things of God! This is an awesome realization – our children and their families count!

### **Father, Please Give Us Spiritual Men!**

Many years ago it was true that the strongest motivation of a man was his protective instinct. If someone threatened to invade his home and ravage his wife or children, he would defend them with his life. Is this true today? Is it true in *Kol Simcha*? I still believe this to be true today, but something is tragically wrong in our day. Walls that were protecting our families are being broken down in ways that fathers have not foreseen, and families are being plundered at will. There is no question that attacks against bright, wholesome, committed young people are increasing especially in Believer families. Satan knows that they have the potential to do great damage to his kingdom, and that as a result, they have unprecedented opportunities to advance God's kingdom.

Our great need today is for fathers and husbands who have the heart of David who developed skills to protect his flock, so that not even a lion or a bear could rob him of one of his sheep. We also need fathers and husbands that have conquered the spirit of anger. Many fathers pride themselves in the fact that they 'blow up' only once in a while. But how would you like to live next to a volcano that erupted only once in a while? More than any other cause, anger destroys marriages and families!

We have always assumed that the word *time* in Ephesians 5:16 referred to the hours of the day {“*Redeeming the time, because the days are evil*” (KJV); “*Use your time well, for these are evil days*” (NASB); “*making the most of your time, because the days are evil*” (CJB); “<sup>16</sup>*Make the most of your time because the days are evil*” (TLV)}, but it does not. It refers to opportunities. A better paraphrase would be, “*Do not let opportunities go to waste, or the forces of evil will overcome you.*” Romans 12:21 states: “*Be not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*” Let this year and the words of His *Torah* make a significant difference for us and for our families. It is time to strengthen ourselves in the Almighty and “*not let opportunities go to waste*” and for us to say unequivocally: “<sup>68</sup>*Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life!” (John 6:68)*