

Adonai Scheduled Repentance

Ministerial leaders often understand that their flock needs to go through the washing of repentance. This is why many schedule times of revival and bring in guests to motivate them to do so. Others in the Body of Messiah never seem to go those kinds of services. But we in Messianic Judaism (MJ) have scheduled times where the Lord has already written in His *Torah* that He is attentive to hearing from His people who want to make things right. We are in the second week of that special time because today is the 9th Day of *Elul* (the sixth Hebrew month) and we have exactly twenty days before the seventh month arrives (on *Yom Teruah* which is also in Israel *Rosh Hashanah* the start of the new civil year on the first day of *Tishri*). In MJ we are reminded that this is the time to obtain repentance and re-soften our heart towards the Almighty. During this season of Repentance (*Teshuvah*) we Messianic Jews evaluate (introspectively) our lives and, hopefully, we all come to a realization that we in desperate need of forgiveness so we can fully return (*Teshuvah*) to Him.

I believe that when it comes to the Lord, we desperately need a soft heart and not a hard heart. We need a soft heart that is able to hear with compassion and with humility. We need a soft heart that is able to see the benefits of living through Him, for Him, and in Him. A soft heart equips a person with the resolve to obey the Lord with joy. A hard heart does not understand this way of living and results in an unwise individual because wisdom is *viewing life from God's perspective*. Today is the day to ask the Lord to give us, by His Spirit, a heart (and a soul, which is our mind, will, and emotions) that is ready, willing and able to respond to Him this way. If as a congregation we want to soar (*mount up with wings as eagles*) to the next level, we must collectively have this kind of heart. What has kept us from having this type of heart? The answer, of course, is sin.

In today's *Torah* Portion (*Ki Tetzei*) Scripture states: *"...for anyone hanged is a curse of God..."* (*Deut. 21:23*) Having a dead body placed on public display, even if only during daylight hours, was the highest form of disgrace in the days of the Bible. This is true because the person who sinned was made a public spectacle. In addition, they were cursed of God because their sin could no longer be hidden – they died in sin.

The Roman form of crucifixion was not for the same purpose. The Roman form of capital punishment, involved the criminal being hung while still alive. This more cruel method resulted in a slow and very painful death, which could take days. Passers-by could hear and see the victim squirming and gasping in agony.

The New (or Renewed) Covenant reminds us what *Yeshua* our Messiah did for us when it states: *"¹³ Messiah liberated us from Torah's curse, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree" (Galatians 3:13)).* Therefore we can unequivocally say *Yeshua* is our curse bearer. We too were once sinners and our sin separated us from God. But God cannot look upon sin as Isaiah stated: *"Rather, your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God. Your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear" (Isaiah 59:2).* As sinners we were deserving of death and we deserved to be accursed of God. But God did not want to leave us that way: *"But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he has committed, and keep all My statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die" (Ez. 18:21).* *Yeshua* bore the curse of our sin upon Himself. He became accursed for us that we might live.

People often think that they are righteous because they attend church services. You may think that you are not a sinner because of your good works. After all you may be saying to yourself, *"I never killed anyone, I do not sell drugs, and I am basically a good person."* However, *Adonai* tells us: *"For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteousness is like a filthy garment, and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities carry us away, like the wind" (Isaiah 64:6) & "²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).*

There is nothing you can do to save yourself or to remove your sins from yourself. Because of your sin you are worthy of death and destined to be accursed. There is only one way for your sins to be paid for: *"³He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief, One from whom people hide their faces. He was*

despised, and we did not esteem Him. ⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our pains. Yet we esteemed Him stricken, struck by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was pierced because of our transgressions, crushed because of our iniquities. The chastisement for our shalom was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ We all like sheep have gone astray. Each of us turned to his own way. So Adonai has laid on Him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:3-6).

God has always warned His people before He proclaims judgment. He warned the people before the flood and He warned Nineveh before it was ruined. He does not ever want anyone to receive the wrath of His judgment so He pre-warns us. “*♪ Can you hear it thunder in the distance ♪ (Paul Wilbur - The Shout of el Shaddai).*” We need an awakening from the sleep induced by sin so the power of the Holy Spirit is allowed to work in the heart of a believer who trusts in God’s Salvation (*Messiah Yeshua*). This is the kind of believer *who asks for forgiveness both from God and man*. *Teshuvah* is God’s gift. Do you want it? Receive *Yeshua* as your personal savior. Invite Him into your life today. He is *The Redeemer of Israel* and also He is your redeemer!