

In His Favour

"⁵²And Yeshua kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52)

I believe that the *Lord Yeshua* by *His Spirit* has been urging us to *function in His favor* (*favour* in the KJV). The Greek word translated favor in Luke 2:52 in the TLV is none other than *charis*, which means literally favor or gift or joy. The choice of *favor* incorporates the greater meaning of *charis*: *"the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude."* It is interesting to note that Miriam (e.g., Mary the mother of *Yeshua*) also functioned in His favor: *"²⁸And coming to her, the angel said, 'Shalom, favored one! Adonai is with you.'* *²⁹But at the message, she was perplexed and kept wondering what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel spoke to her, 'Do not be afraid, Miriam, for you have found favor with God'" (Luke 1:28-30). She was not conscious of her state of favor with Him at the time of *Yeshua's* conception, but from this time forward, she would be very well aware and cognizant of her continual state of favor with *Adonai*. There will come a time when His favor alone will be her comfort and her strength: *"¹⁹But Miriam treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Luke 2:19). We therefore see that Miriam functioned in "the divine influence upon her heart, and its reflection in her life; including gratitude."* What a beautiful picture of what we could be privileged to walk in! Can we really grasp the magnitude of this gift from *Adonai*?*

The corresponding Hebrew word for favor is *chen* (חן) and *chanan* (חנן). My son's name Ian is the Scottish version of John, which comes from the Hebrew *Yochanan* meaning *Adonai is chanan*, e.g., *Adonai is gracious or a gift from Adonai*.

The appointed time (set time) has come for *Adonai* to rise up and show favor to Zion: *"You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her, for the appointed time has come" (Psalm 102:14). But I also believe this is true for us in Kol Simcha. Both in Parashat Shemot two weeks ago and in this week's Parashat Bo, the Children of Israel also functioned in favor: "²¹Then I shall grant these people favor (chen) in the eyes of the Egyptians. So it will happen that when you go, you will not leave empty-handed" ... "³Adonai gave the people favor (chen) in the eyes of the Egyptians... "³⁶Adonai gave the people favor (chen) in the eyes of the Egyptians and let them have what they asked for. So they plundered the Egyptians" (Ex. 3:21, 11:3, 12:36)*

There is an appointed time to receive and accept His favor (*chen*) and the set time is now, in 2022. We are to gain favor with Him and favor with the people around us. Our future depends on this. Our success depends on this. How do we gain and exercise this favor? Fortunately, Scripture elucidates for us: *"¹My son, do not forget my teaching (Torah), but let your heart keep my mitzvot. ²For length of days and years of life, and shalom they will add to you. ³Let kindness and truth never leave you—bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴Then you will gain favor (chen) and a good name in the eyes of God and man. ⁵Trust in Adonai with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight" (Prov. 3:1-6).*

Let's be excited and love His favor. It is more important than money and fame. It is more important than hardly anything I know and especially at this time. Scripture states: *"A good name is to be chosen rather than great wealth, and grace (chen) rather than silver or gold" (Prov. 22:1) Favor saved our people in Persia. The one thing Esther claimed gave her power to accomplish her destiny ("for such a time as this") was favor (chen): "³So Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favor (chen) in the eyes of the king, and if it pleases the king, grant me my life—this is my petition. And spare the life of my people—this is my request!" (Esther 7:3)*

Treasure his favor. It is what we need in *Kol Simcha*. It is not to be taken for granted. This is part of the *last days* revival. It is His pleasure to give it to us. It WILL take us to the next level. It will cause us to delight in Him. It will keep us in the center of His Will. It will result in our joyful salvation. It will help us live up to our name: *Kol Simcha*—the voice of joy and gladness. We will not only call the Shabbat a *delight* but we ourselves will be *His delight*. *Kol Simcha*, a delightful congregation... Sing with me: ♪ *Sim shalom tovah u'b'racha, chen vachessed v'rachamim, aleinu ve-al kol Yisrael amecha* ♪. *Shabbat Shalom!*