

Receive Lev Tahor

“³But to this day Adonai has not given you a heart to know, or eyes to see, or ears to hear... ^{5b}in order that you may know that I am Adonai your Elohim (God)... ⁸So keep the words of this covenant and do them, so that you may prosper in all that you do” (Deut. 29:4, 5b, 8)

At the end of this week’s *Parashat (Ki Tavo)* and just before next week’s *Parasha (Nitzavim)* we have a beautiful and sobering statement: *Until Today Adonai Has Not Given Us a Heart for Intimacy*. Why? Scripture answers the question: *that you may know (yodea) that I am Adonai your Elohim*. So, what do we do? We are to: *keep (shomer) the words of this covenant and do (Naase) them*. Before we stand (*Nitzavim*) we must (1) receive a pure heart (*Lev Tahor*), (2) know Him (*know (yodea) that I am*) and (3) *keep (shomer) His Word and do (Naase) them*. Before we can stand before Him, we have to make a determination (*teshuva*) that we are lacking, receive a new heart, get intimate with Him the I AM and commit to keep His Word and do what He has said.

There are no shortcuts and we do not have a new formula to stand before *Adonai* during His High Holidays. The Hebrew words are familiar to me, so I did not need a dictionary to translate them. *Lev (לב)* means *heart* and *Lada-at (לדעת)* is the infinitive of the verb *yodea (ידע)*, which means *to know intimately*. *Ve-einaim (ועינים)* means *and eyes* and *lirot (לראות)* is the infinitive of the verb *roeh (ראה)* *to see*. *Ve-oznaim (ואזניים)* means *and ears* and *lishmoa (לשמע)* is the infinitive of the verb *sh'ma (שמע)* which means *to hear and obey*. *Ad hayom haze (עד היום הזה)* means *until this day*. *Ve-lo natan Adonai (ולא נתן יהוה)* means *Adonai has not given*. But what does *lachim (לכם)* mean? That one is easy. It means literally *to you all (to us)*. The TLV correctly translates verse 3 (see above).

In the KJV days *to know* implied intimacy, precisely what the Hebrew verb *yodea* means. *Yodea* is the word translated *knew* in the KJV when it says that Adam had intimate relations with Eve and Cain (Abel, Seth) were conceived (*"And Adam knew Eve his wife" Gen. 4:1, KJV*). In fact, in Modern Hebrew, you cannot use the verb *yodea* to say: *I know you (or so and so person)* because it still means *intimate relations*. Instead, Modern Hebrew uses the verb *machir (מכיר)*. To say *Ani yodea Miryam* has a completely and totally different connotation: I am *acquainted and cognizant* of Marilyn but as her husband I also *know Marilyn intimately* (and I alone know her that way). When it comes to *Adonai*, we are supposed to *yodea* Him and not just *machir* Him.

We desperately need a heart that knows *Adonai* intimately, not a heart that is only acquainted and cognizant of Him. We need a *soft and pure heart* and *not a hard and corrupted heart*. We need a heart that is able to hear (*sh'ma*) with compassion and with humility; a heart that sees the benefits of living through Him, for Him, and in Him. A heart like this equips a person with the resolve to *obey* all the things *Adonai* has said. A heart that does not know Him intimately is incapable to guide wisely because wisdom is viewing life from God’s perspective: *“In Him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28)*. This kind of heart operates beyond natural dimensions – it operates in a *supernatural dimension*. The number one killer in America is heart disease and for sure, the natural reveals the spiritual (*Romans 1:20*). If *Adonai* has not given to you (to us) this kind of heart, eyes, and ears until today, then it is time to ask! Yes, it is time to ask. Today is the day to ask *Adonai* 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 relate and 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 have that kind of heart. Let us ask Him in prayer: *Adonai, today we ask for a heart to know, or eyes to see, or ears to hear!*

What has been keeping us from having such a heart? Sin, of course. Some leaders in the Body of Messiah understand that their flock needs to go through the washing of repentance often. This is why many schedule times of revival and bring in guests to motivate them to do so. But not every Christian leader does so. Some Believers are not familiar with revival services and never seem to want to go to one.

But we who are involved in Messianic Judaism have already scheduled *annual times of repentance*, which lead to *times of revival*. In His calendar, the Lord has already scheduled such times and because it is His idea, He is attentive to hearing from His people. Are you aware that we are in the last half of that annual time? Today is the 21st of the 6th month (*Elul*) in the Hebrew calendar and we have exactly eight days before the seventh month (*Tishri*) arrives. You see, once you are truly immersed in Messianic Judaism, you are not allowed to wait for a minister to schedule some future time to seek and obtain *Repentance*; that time is now. Today we are in a position to ask *Adonai* for “*A Heart to know Him intimately, for eyes to see Him for who He really is, and ears to sh'ma.*” Who is *Adonai*, (literally, *My Lord*)? Well, He is none other than the Savior of the World, the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the Priest forever after the order of *Malki-Tzedek*, the Lion of Judah, Messiah *Yeshua*. ♪ *His name is higher, than any other, His name is Yeshua, His name is Lord ♪*” We can call on Him, we can trust Him, we can love Him, we can be forgiven because of Him, we can be healed because of His sacrifice, we ask and be filled with His Spirit, and we can activate by asking, even now, a heart that is intimate with Him. While most people in the Body of Messiah are not listening and their heart is neither intimate nor attentive (no *heart to know, or eyes to see, or ears to hear*), the moon, the sun and the firmament are speaking loudly. Few are paying attention. Do you hear their voice (*kol*) or sound? Listen! {Have Stephen blow the shofar}

I said last Shabbat that *Adonai our Elohim* has always warned His people before He proclaims judgment. He even warned Gentiles before judgment. He does not ever want anyone to receive the wrath of His judgment, so He pre-warns us. That means YOU who are listening to me today! “♪ *I hear a sound coming from the mountain, it's getting loud every day... ♪ (Paul Wilbur – I Hear a Sound).*” We need another awakening *shofar* blast from the sleep induced by sin, so the power of the Holy Spirit can be allowed to work in the heart of a believer who trusts in God's Salvation (the person of *Messiah Yeshua*). *Lord, give me a Lev Tahor! Shabbat Shalom!*

♪ *Jesus (Yeshua) Be The Lord of All (Lanny Wolfe)*

C: Yeshua be the Lord of all, Yeshua be the Lord of all, Yeshua be the Lord of all the kingdoms of my heart.

V₁: In my heart are kingdoms of a world that's all my own. Kingdoms that are only seen by myself and God alone. In the past when I tried to rule my world, it just seemed to fall apart. So (please) Yeshua be the Lord of all the kingdoms of my heart

V₂: I guess I only fooled myself for I said I'd yielded all. But in a secret corner of my heart was a kingdom that did not fall. But, I surrender now, make my heart Your throne, rule its kingdoms, both great and small. For if You're not Lord of everything then You're not Lord at all

T: For if you're not Lord of everything then You're not Lord at All. ♪