

## Kadima! Into the Times of Restitution

*<sup>19</sup>Repent, therefore, and return (be converted) – so your sins might be blotted out, <sup>20</sup>so times of relief (refreshing) might come from the presence of Adonai and He might (shall) send Yeshua, the Messiah appointed (preached) for you. <sup>21</sup>Heaven must receive Him, until the time of the restoration (times of restitution) of all the things that God spoke about long ago (since the world began) through the mouth of His holy prophets (Acts 3:19-21, KJV words)*

Kadima (Hebrew: קדימה) is a Hebrew word that means literally **forward**. Evidently, when it is time for Yeshua to return, we must Kadima into times of restitution. This is a far-reaching concept in Scripture: *the restitution of all things God spoke through the mouth of His Holy prophets since the world began*. I asked Dr. Jeffrey Feinberg (Professor at the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics (GIAL) in Dallas, PhD, MDiv, MBA, and MA), the Head Theologian and Translator of the TLV New Testament for any insights on the word *restitution/restoration* ('*apokatastasis*' in Greek) used in Acts 3:21. Dr. Feinberg wrote: "*The second coming of Yeshua is not represented as an occasion for judgment here. Rather, 'Heaven must receive him (hon dei ouranon men dexasthai, 'whom heaven must receive') until the time comes for God to restore everything'. The word must (dei) indicates that Yeshua's present withdrawal from the earthly scene is an important stage in the divine plan of salvation. His withdrawal will continue (lit.) 'until the times of restoration of all things' (achri chronōn apokatastaseōs pantōn). Some have argued that the translation 'establishment of all things' is more appropriate here (RSV 'establishing'). But 'restoration' is quite suitable (NRSV, ESV, TNIV; KJV, NKJV, 'restitution'), reflecting the conviction that the end will be as the beginning: 'God, through Messiah, will restore his fallen world to the purity and integrity of its initial creation.' TNIV implies that this will take place when Messiah returns. But the Greek could just as easily mean that a process of restoration is already underway and that Yeshua's return will mark its climax and dramatic conclusion.*"

Restitution is a very interesting word. TheFreeDictionary.com web site renders restitution as: **1. The act of restoring to the rightful owner something that has been taken away, lost, or surrendered; and 2. The act of making good or compensating for loss, damage, or injury; indemnification and 3. A return to or restoration of a previous state or position.** Roger Campbell writes in his book *Justice Through Restitution*, that in each of the *Torah* cases in *Parashat Mishpatim*, the "result was that the victim was restored to a better position than before his loss and the lawbreaker was punished by having to make right his wrongs in a manner that cost more than his potential gain." It seems that restitution implies some sort of *better-ing*, i.e., restoring to better than the original. Using this approach, Acts 3:21 implies a *better outcome* to that "*which was spoken by the mouth of His Holy Prophets since the world began*" and not just a resetting to the original. Granted, since all things were perfect to begin with, restoration and restitution achieve the same end. But restitution implies going above and beyond (better than the original) if possible (which is certainly not something casual). Mrs. Pat Feinberg (MA in Bilingual Bicultural Ed and MST in Elementary Ed. UC Berkeley, Univ. of Chicago, Stanford, and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School) wrote: "*The Greek understanding talks about putting the stars back in their original orbit. It harkens back to Eden, a pristine image of what God is restoring. Sounds like it's much "better"!*"

*Adonai* (and by implication deity) never changes! An astute Scripture reader can discern that if *Yeshua* is "*the same yesterday, today and forever*" (*Heb. 13:8*) (and He is for sure), then if we observe His behavior, habits, likes, dislikes, demeanor, etc., in the Gospels, for instance, we can be assured that He would do the same today. We also know that whatever the Father set forth in the Hebrew Scriptures as details He wanted us to do to worship Him, He still wants the same today. And the *Ruach Elohim* (Holy Spirit) is also consistent and non-changing (*Mal. 3:6*). Further, if everything is discernible by looking at the past (*Eccl. 3:15*) then we can know the future and be confident that unless we find the principle or shadow in the past, it is not useful for the future. Some sample questions come to mind: (1) If *Yeshua* came to Orlando, FL today, what congregation would He visit and on what day of the week? (2) What *Holy Days* would He keep and honor? (3) How would *Yeshua* dress? (4) What would *Yeshua* eat? (i.e., would He eat a ham sandwich or a shrimp cocktail?); (5) What would *Yeshua* call Himself, i.e., a Jew, a Gentile, a Christian? (6) Would *Yeshua* agree with the teaching that the church has replaced Israel? Therefore, restoring the *Torah* Roots of our faith is certainly part of the Acts 3:21 restitution.

About the Hebrew Scriptures (the *TNK*), Paul writes in 2 Timothy (noting that at the time of that letter's writing, the only Scriptures that existed was the *TNK* and none of the New(er) Covenant existed or if it did, it

was not canonized until some 300 years later!): *“<sup>16</sup>All scripture (that is the TNK) is inspired by God, and useful for teaching, for reproof, for restoration, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the person belonging to God may be capable, fully equipped for every good deed” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)* All of what is called the Early Church adhered to the teachings of the *Torah* and the *TNK* and the deep teachings of *Yeshua*. Even the *Apostle of the Gentiles*, adhered strictly to the *TNK*. Here is what he said before Felix and Agrippa **AFTER** his missionary journeys and after writing the bulk of the letters (Epistles) which we today consider part of the New(er) Covenant: *“<sup>14</sup>But this I confess to you, that according to the Way (which they call a sect, heresy, KJV), I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything written in the Torah and the Prophets” (Acts 24:14)*

The concept of the unchangeable nature of *Adonai* could best be described as *Divine Methodology*, the one set of rules and procedure which *Adonai*, established to govern his own actions. It is, quite simply, the governing element of all that pertains to or proceeds from the nature of *Adonai*. It is foundational to all that *Adonai* does, for he is eternally consistent, unchanging, and irrevocable. *Adonai* never changes in two senses: he always remains consistent in the principles by which he operates, and he is forever constant in the fulfillment of his promises and decrees. We can have perfect confidence that the promises of *Adonai* are sure to the believer because they are founded on the same principle of immutability on which the very existence of *Adonai* is based. He cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18). He cannot fail (Deuteronomy 31:6). *Adonai* is forever the same: the immutable one, and his Word is ever the same: incontrovertible.

*Adonai* does not change because he cannot change. If he were ever to change, either what he was or what he would be must, of necessity, be imperfect. And, if he ever were or ever should be imperfect, then He would not be *Elohei Abraham, Yitzchak and Ya'akov*. There was never a time when he was not perfect, and there will never be a time when he will not be perfect; therefore, there was never a time when he changed, nor will there ever be a time when he will change.

Romans 1:20 tells us that we can understand *Adonai*, even his eternal power and deity, by observing the things that he has made. We can know, therefore, that we are serving an unchanging *Adonai* by looking at the universe which he created. One of the surest indications that *Adonai* never changes is found in the nation of Israel. Also, *History Repeats Itself* is a common, well-known saying very accurately states the over-riding application of the immutability of *Adonai* in the affairs of men. World history is replete with examples of the repetition of circumstances and events governed by the same laws. The birth, rise, decline, and fall of empires in succeeding generations have followed a strikingly similar pattern as though a given set of circumstances applied to the frailties of human nature always produces the same results. Just as *Adonai* is immutable, sin remains unchanged, so that there is no such thing as a new morality just the same old immorality in the society of man (see J. Cahn's new book *The Return of the Gods*).

What is the point of all this discussion? If you become thoroughly convinced that *Adonai* functions in a Divine Methodology (a *Divine Torah* or *Divine Law*, so to speak), an immutable procedure that although not completely understandable by man is nevertheless immensely valuable and reliable, then you will Kadima. You will not become distracted by circumstances and modern ideas but will stick to His blueprint and will be able to not only explain but inspire confidence in everything you do. I told my two graduate students in Auburn in 1983 on the first day of our Bible Study that if they accepted and understood *Eccl. 3:15.16; Mal. 3:6, Heb. 13:8 and James 1:17* they were *caught* and would never distance themselves from Messianic Judaism, the *Methodology of Adonai*. Everything will become clear, and your *modus operandi* will always be supported by Scripture. For example, if you know what *Yeshua* liked or did as illustrated in the Gospels, you now know what He would do, like, not do, approve of today. It is that simple! As an engineer I learned the Laws of Physics and Electricity and as long as I stayed within their boundaries then all my designs succeeded and did not waste time or money. It is awesome to think that when you Kadima into the future you are merely navigating an already established path, His path! Hindsight is 20-20! The secret of Kadima is to have an accurate GPS and map. *Adonai's* GPS is better than Google Maps, Tom-Toms or anything man can design. Let us move with confidence into our destiny and prepare the world for His Return! *Shabbat Shalom!*