

In the Day of Trouble

בְּיוֹם צָרָה (BeYom Tzaráh)

♪ *May יהוה answer you in the day of trouble!* (יַעֲנֶךָ יְהוָה בְּיוֹם צָרָה) *May The Name of Elohei Ya'akov protect you (set you securely on high)* ♪ (Psalm 20:1)

Just a few hours before *His Passion Yeshua* gave His *talmidim* a poignant headline: “For then there will be a great trouble, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will (Matt. 24:21)” He called this period *Yom Tzarah G’dolah*, i.e., *The Days of Great Trouble*. The word rendered *great trouble* (KJV, *tribulation*) means grievous affliction or distress, pressure or burden upon the spirit. As we move closer toward the end of this age, catastrophic distresses and pressures upon mankind shall increase. Some of us are experiencing this already. The instructions in Scripture are very clear: we *MUST find Him* in the days of trouble and we must be ready for *His Answers* (instructions). Compare this thought with “I will *set him securely on high* (e.g., *protect him*), *because he knows My Name* (Psalm 91:14b).” In both *Psalm 20* and *Psalm 91 knowing His Name* (not *His Title*) is critical followed being ready to *sh’ma His Word*, which being in a purposeful state of *hineni*.

Yeshua immediately began giving instructions after the epic warning: “⁴⁵Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master put in charge of his household to give them food at the proper time? ⁴⁶Blessed is that servant whose master finds him so doing when he comes. ⁴⁷Amen, I tell you, his master will put him in charge of all his possessions” (Matt. 24:45-47). Clearly we need *faithfulness* and *wisdom* in order to be found *doing so* at His Return. By *faithfulness* we mean the core attribute of *The Almighty*, who is *eternally reliable and true to His character and promises*. *Faithfulness* is a *Fruit of the Spirit* (Galatians 5:22-23) and a virtue that requires trusting in *The Almighty*, *following His Commandments*, and maintaining *loyalty* in *relationships* with *Him* and others. *Being wise* is best defined as *one who sees (interprets) life from His (heavenly, a Kingdom) perspective*. Scripture is replete with several books and sections of *His Wisdom* (e.g., *Proverbs, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Job, the Gospels...*). Being *Hineni* requires a healthy amount of study and saturation with His Written Wisdom, so we can be *found doing His Wise* instructions (commands, statutes, *mitzvot, chukim*, guidance, etc.)

The days of decreasing desire of government, school systems, and law enforcement to restrain moral decadence are here. We live in a time when a significant portion of our society is in *open and defiant rebellion* toward *The Almighty*. The prophetic words of *Psalm 2* are being fulfilled before our eyes as world and local leaders rehearse: “¹Why are the nations in an uproar (KJV, *rage*), the peoples grumbling in vain? ²The earth's kings are taking positions, leaders conspiring together, against יהוה and His Anointed One (His Messiah, *Yeshua*) (Psalm 2:1)” Their militant cry is: *They cry, let's break their handcuffs and shackles! Let's throw off their chains!* – “³Let's rip their chains apart, and throw their ropes off us! (Psalm 2:3)”

Yeshua warned of this day saying: “¹²Because lawlessness will multiply, the love of many will grow cold. (Matt. 24:12)”. The word translated lawlessness is the Greek word *anomia* which means *distance from Torah*. We can safely say *many people's love will grow cold because of increased distance from Torah*. This is distance from His Biblical lifestyle, His commandments, His *moadim*, His priorities. If you are one who has stood unyieldingly against the increasing darkness, you know how intense and multifaceted the battle is. Whether you are fighting to heal your city's wounds or warring against abortion, pornography, and child abuse barely do you make headway against one evil before it seems that ten others storm in.

In spite of breakthroughs occurring worldwide many Believers are weary. I also do get weary. Unfortunately a number are just going through the motions – *lifeless*, so to speak. Others have stopped fighting altogether. Daniel warned of a time when the enemy would: *“²⁵He will speak words against the Most High, and will continually harass the kedoshim of the Most High (cf. Rev. 16:6-7) and will try to change the appointed times (moadim) and law (Torah). The kedoshim will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time” (Dan. 7:25)*. In order to emerge victorious from this day in which we live, we must discover how to dwell in *“the secret place of the Most High also called the shelter of Elyon” (Psalm 91:1)* that He has prepared for us.

The Torah portions *Acharei Mot & Kedoshim* are usually read together in non-leap years. *Acharei Mot* starts out by reminding us of the death of *Aharon's* (Aaron's) two sons. It appears from the explanation that they died just prior to *Yom Teruah*. The month prior to the seventh month (*Tishri*) is the month of *Elul* which is the month of *repentance* and *reflection on one's heart condition*. Evidently, they were neither repentant nor did they reflect on what they were doing before they did it. This *Parashah* also gives us a glimpse of things that are specified in black and white for the people of *יהוה* that are routinely ignored by our society. (See *Lev. 18:1–20:27*) It culminates with: *“²⁵Also you are to make a distinction between the clean animal and the unclean, and between the unclean bird and the clean. And you are not to make your souls detestable by an animal or by a bird, or by anything with which the ground teems, which I have set apart as unclean for you. ²⁶You are to be holy to Me, for I, Adonai, am holy, and have set you apart from the peoples, so that you would be Mine.” (Lev. 20:25-26)*

Scripture then continues to list all the things man should not do, warning that anyone who did them would be *cut off from among his people*. This terminology refers to *death*, *excommunication* or *expulsion* from the community. Whatever the case, it is serious! It does us good to observe the *national consequences* of disobedience. Upon reading, it is evident that our country is in trouble! We also see *יהוה* telling us that the nation of Israel was going to possess a land that He was going bring them into; a prosperous land, a spacious land, where they would benefit from another people's efforts and live in houses they did not have to build, etc. All this happened because the inhabitants of Canaan did those the things He was warning His People not to do! What should we do instead? I, for one, am *strengthening myself in the Lord and in His Ruach*, which *Yeshua* sent for that very purpose. He did not leave us without an inheritance nor abandoned us. He sent His Holy Spirit.

After *Matthew 24, Post Resurrection*, *Yeshua* instructed His disciples on the *Holy Spirit*. We are to *Become Mighty in (His) Spirit*. To be *Mighty in Spirit* is to know *Him* intimately and to experience the power of *Messiah Yeshua* in daily victory over the power of sin and the flesh and the stress in the world. We are to keep keeping on in our spiritual life: *“¹⁸Instead, keep growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Yeshua the Messiah” (1 Peter 3:18a)*. Allowing *more* of the *Ruach Elohim* to dwell and influence us is essential in becoming mighty in spirit. *We have not because we ask not*. We lack effectiveness because we are unaware of the spiritual tools available to us by empowering ourselves with more of *Him and His Spirit*. How do we grow in *the Spirit*? Is it not by letting *The Almighty* be *Sovereign* in everything we endeavor to do? He is a Gentleman. He does not overrule our will. He gave us free moral agency. We will get more of Him only if we allow Him to (by asking!) *His Holy Spirit festival* is coming! Let us begin getting ourselves ready for *His Outpouring*. Through His Spirit I am an overcomer and will be found in *Revelation 12:11-12*. *Shabbat Shalom!*