



A Higher Level

“Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber. (Joel 2:15, 16)

“When Shavu’ot (the Day of Pentecost) had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues (Il Sof), as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4)”

Shavu’ot, or the Day of Pentecost, is thought to commemorate basically two things: (1) the giving of the Torah & (2) the out pouring of the Spirit; but I would like to share with you the most important aspect of Shavu’ot – the accepting of the Sacrifice of YahShua.

Since animal sacrifice for the most part is no longer practiced there are aspects of the sacrifices mentioned in Scripture that are virtually lost to our understanding. For instance, the very meaning of the word "sacrifice" has been lost. Most people living today consider זבח zebach "to sacrifice" means "to kill". But in the Sacred Scripture, "to sacrifice" never meant simply "to kill". The killing of the animal was only a part of the preparation for the sacrifice. It was not the sacrifice itself. "To sacrifice" meant to give to Yahweh the offering that has been chosen, slain, and prepared for sacrifice.

This may seem like a minor point, but the understanding of the word "sacrifice" is extremely important to the understanding of the ministry of Messiah.

In the Tanach (so-called Old Testament) the worshipper chose the appropriate offering according to Torah, brought it at the appointed time to the appointed place specified by Yahweh, presented it to the priest anointed with the holy oil and killed it before him, and followed every other precept required by Torah, still there would be no sacrifice unless and until the offering was accepted by Yahweh. The giving of the offering on the altar was the offering; it still had to be accepted by Yahweh. Everything that preceded that act, including the slaying of the offering, was only part of the preparation for the sacrifice. This principle holds true with the offering of Messiah. His death at Gilgullet was not itself the sacrifice. The crucifixion was the last, gruesome bit of preparation for His sacrifice, which took place after he arose from the dead and ascended into Heaven, where he offered himself to Yahweh for the sins of the world upon Yahweh's altar.

"For Messiah has not entered the Holy Places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into Heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of Yahweh for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the High Priest enters the Holy of Holies every year with blood of another— He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the End of the Ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Messiah was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation." (Hebrews.9:24-28).

If YahShua had ascended into heaven prematurely, before his death, He would have had nothing to offer to Yahweh for the sins of the world. The sacrificial Lamb had to first be slain and then offered to Yahweh for sin.

“Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the Heavens, a Minister of the Sanctuary and of the true Tabernacle which Adonai erected, and not man.

For every High Priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer. For if He were on earth, He would not be a Priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to Torah; who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the Tabernacle. For He said, ‘See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain. (Exodus 25:40)’ But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises. (Hebrews 8:1-6)”

If Messiah YahShua’s ministry had ended in crucifixion no atonement for sin would have been accomplished.

“And if Messiah is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of Yahweh, because we have testified of Yahweh that He raised up Messiah, Whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Messiah is not risen. And if Messiah is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! (1 Corinthians 15:14-17)”

Only the Father's acceptance of Messiah YahShua’s sacrificial offering could accomplished at-one-ment. Messiah YahShua’s death was made effective for the forgiveness of sin only after He resurrected from the dead and ascended into heaven to offer himself to Yahweh as His slain Lamb.

“But now Messiah is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Messiah all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Messiah the firstfruits, afterward those who are Messiah’s at His coming. Then comes the end, when He delivers the Kingdom to Yahweh the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For ‘He has put all things under His feet. (Psalm 8:6)’ But when He says ‘all things are put under Him,’ it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that Yahweh may be all in all. (1 Corinthians 15:20-28)”

Messiah YahShua ascended as our High Priest to finish His atoning ministry. There, in the Holy of Holies of the True Tabernacle, Messiah YahShua **“appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself” (Hebrews 9:26)**. It was this offering of Messiah accepted by Yahweh as sacrifice, not simply his wonderful earthly life or his horrible death, which purchased our redemption.

“Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Messiah, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through Him you believe in Yahweh, Who raised Him from the dead and glorified Him, and so your faith and hope are in Yahweh. (1 Peter 1:17-21)”

“This is how Yahweh showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved Yahweh, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:9-10)”

If the “finished work” is done in Heaven, how will we on earth know that it is accomplished? We know by the “testimony.”

“And (Messiah) being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, ‘which,’ He said, ‘you have heard from Me; for Rav Yochannan truly immersed with water, but you shall be immersed with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, ‘Sovereign, will You at this time restore the Kingdom to Israel?’ And He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive

power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.’ (Acts 1:4-8)”

What is Yahweh's "testimony"? **"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth Who goes out from the Father, He will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with Me from the beginning. (John 15:26, 27)"**

"This is the One who came by water and blood—Messiah YahShua. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. We accept man's testimony, but Yahweh's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of Yahweh, which He has given about his Son. Anyone who believes in the Son of Yahweh has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe Yahweh has made Him out to be a liar, because He has not believed the testimony Yahweh has given about His Son. And this is the testimony: Yahweh has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of Yahweh does not have life. (1 John 5:6-12)"

Man needed a "testimony" that Messiah YahShua's offering was accepted by the Heavenly Father as a sacrifice because the event took place in Heaven, where no man could see. The disciples, obediently waiting in Jerusalem, learned that Messiah YahShua had made his sacrifice and that it had been accepted by the Father only when His "testimony" was sent on Shavu'ot morning,

"...suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues (Il Sof), as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:2-4)"

So much attention has been focused upon the crucifixion that the importance of His ascension is often overlooked.

Every time the Spirit was poured out it lifted the Believer to a higher level of efficiency. The very first time was upon the 70 elders of Israel.

"Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the Tabernacle of Meeting, that they may stand there with you. Then I will come down and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone. Then you shall say to the people, "Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept in the hearing of Yahweh, saying, "Who will give us meat to eat? For it was well with us in Egypt." Therefore Yahweh will give you meat, and you shall eat...And Yahweh came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the Spirit rested upon them, they began to Il Sof (Incomprehensible Speech), and did not cease... (Moses said,) would Yahweh that all Yahweh's people were prophets, and that Yahweh would put his Spirit upon them! (Numbers 11:16-18, 25, 29)"

Notice, Moses prayed **"that all Yahweh's people were prophets, and that Yahweh would put his Spirit upon them."** Moses knew how important it was that the Spirit be poured out on all flesh.

Joel saw through the Spirit of Prophecy that Moses' prayer would one day be answered: **"I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. (Joel 2:28, 29)"**

Then, the answered prayer occurred: **"When Shavu'ot (the Day of Pentecost) had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues (Il Sof), as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4)"**

The very first thing that happened was Rabbi Kepha who had denied Messiah YahShua three times and had been beating himself up about it rose to his feet: **"Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'In the last days, Yahweh says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be**

turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of Yahweh. And everyone who calls on the name of Yahweh will be saved. (Joel 2:28-32)'

Men of Israel, listen to this: YahShua of Nazareth was a man accredited by Yahweh to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which Yahweh did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by Yahweh's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put Him to death by nailing him to the tree. But Yahweh raised Him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. David said about him: 'I saw the Lord always before me. Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence. (Psalm 16:8-11)'

Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that Yahweh had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of Messiah, that He was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. Yahweh has raised this YahShua to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. Exalted to the right hand of Yahweh, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, 'Yahweh said to my Adonai: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."' (Psalm 110:1)'

Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: Yahweh has made this YahShua, whom you crucified, both King and Messiah.

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Rabbi Kepha and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?'

Rabbi Kepha replied, 'Teshuvah and be immersed, every one of you, in the name of Messiah YahShua for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom Yahweh our Elohim will call.

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' Those who accepted his message were immersed, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. (Acts 2:14-41)''

Interestingly enough, why does Messiah YahShua say we need this immersion of the Spirit?: "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)''

We receive the immersion of the Spirit so that we can go "to the ends of the earth" to sift Israel from the nations. "Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: but go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, 'The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.' (Matthew 10:5-7)''

"For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the House of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth. (Amos 9:9)''

"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the full message! (Isaiah 52:7)" (Romans 10:14, 15)''

"...this full Messianic message of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. (Matthew 24:14)''

We will need this influx of the Spirit from within and without to get through the Time of the End.

"I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of Yahweh. And everyone who calls on the name of Yahweh will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as Yahweh has said, among the survivors whom Yahweh calls. (Joel 2:30-32)''

"Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order. (1 Corinthians 14:39, 40)''

