



“MARRIED TO THE LAND”

The past few days have been extremely hard for me. I knew that as I've been faithful to preach this series on Spiritual Warfare the Spirit showed me that the enemy would try to discourage me. And especially since the message this Shabbat concerning “The Revenge of the Sitre Ahurah.” This week has been extremely hard.

All of this brings to mind the sacrifices one must give to help establish the Kingdom. I remember my Grandmother, who as an Assembly of God minister, during the Great Depression and World War II went about building congregation throughout South Texas. It did not matter to her whether people did or did not believe in women preachers or not she had been called to the mission field to build. This was in a time that the Pentecostal message was unpopular and the KKK was sovereign.

In one particular city, Orangefield, Texas, on one particular night during one particular service a band of hooded riders stormed the brush arbor meeting. My Grandmother leaped from the makeshift platform and grabbed the hood off the lead rider – it was the local sheriff. Once evil had been unmasked that ended the death threats and harassment. She was on a mission.

During my father's ministry in the dusty country Texas town of Killeen my mother left my father. She was tired of the sacrifices of the ministry. My father cried out to Yahweh to relieve him of his calling. But the Heavenly Father said no it was time to make a stand against the wiles of the Devil. This my father did even while his whole world was crumbling around about him. He never left his post and he pastored the congregation for 50 years growing it to one of the largest in Central Texas. I asked him why he never went to another city to escape the memories? He said, “I am married to the land.”

“Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken (‘azab {aw-zab'}); neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate (shimamah {shee-mam-aw'}): but thou shalt be called Chephtziyahh {khef-tzee'baw -darling}, and thy land Ba'al ulah (Land of your husband); for Yahweh delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married. (Isaiah 62:4)”

Most cultures in the Middle East were matriarchal in structure; Israel's was not one of them. The husband governed Israel's family life. When a marriage occurred the husband “...[left] his father and mother and [was] united to his wife, and they [became] one flesh. (Genesis 2:24)” and “ruled” over his family, following the pattern of **Genesis 3:16**: To the wife Yahweh said, “... your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” Interestingly enough because the husband was the governor of the family, he was given the title of Ba'al which meant “leader”, “leader of the home and family.” Isn't it unusual that it did not say, “master,” that would have been “Adon.”

Do you ever wonder whether your fellow Believer is married to the Commonwealth of Israel or merely living together with us? It's not the kind of question one is likely to ask, yet it's one that lies just beneath the surface in a culture that seems terrified of commitment. I just talked to a person that said she was Baptist but had gone to various churches like Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Pentecostal and Charismatic. She said that she usually went to wherever she could get what she wanted. She said that once

she went to a Church when she was having problems with her son. The pastor there helped them so very much so they started attending there. I asked are you still attending there. She said, no. I ask, why? And she said because she didn't think she was getting what she needed anymore.

For most people, living together appears much easier than marriage. They want all the benefits of marriage without the cost of commitment. Can someone really give away the most intimate part of themselves without a lifetime commitment? Is it possible to really be "echad - one" on a part-time basis, or do roles and identities of relationship fall apart in the confusion of unkept promises?

What happens when sickness, sorrow, death or more importantly, the Great Tribulation strikes? Where or what is the anchor of your soul? "Are you married or just living together?" is the pertinent question for our generation.

In Romans 10:9 it says: **"...if you confess with your mouth, "YahShua is Sovereign," and believe in your heart that Yahweh raised him from the dead, you will be saved."** And uniquely Psalm 91:14-16 says: **"Because he loves me," says Yahweh, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation. "**

Marriage vows are designed to do something in us which merely living together can never accomplish. Marriage vows are to ratify and confirm all that has occurred during the courtship. Lovers are called upon to solidify private promises in the form of public vows, in the presence of Yahweh and a multitude of witnesses. It raises the value of each other in the relationship. It is the sealing of their integrity. There is the ritual of exchanging the tokens of relationship in the form of rings, which is the permanent symbols of fidelity, the name change, the public kiss, and the signing and witnessing of the marriage license legalizes their religious practice with their community. **"And you (Gentiles) He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.**

But Yahweh, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Messiah ...and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Messiah YahShua, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Messiah YahShua. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of Yahweh, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Messiah YahShua for good works, which Yahweh prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands--that at that time you were without Messiah, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without Yahweh in the world. But now in Messiah YahShua you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Messiah. (Ephesians 2:1-13)"

Only then, within the context of covenantal vows, can an intimate relationship thrive. Only then can true oneness can be enjoyed and offspring occur.

The covenantal vows of marriage are a mirror of our love relationship with Yahweh. **"This is a profound mystery" but I am talking about Messiah and the Assembly. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. (Ephesians 5:32,33)"** So, I ask you are you actually married to Yahweh or just living in a casual relationship with him? Do you regard Yahweh as your covenant partner or merely your "significant other"? Do you view the land of Israel as merely the Holy Land or your honeymoon home? Are you married to the Land?

YAHWEH'S INVITATION TO THE WEDDING

"The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when


the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are invited, but few are chosen. (Matthew 22:2-14)"

Yahweh had been faithfully courting Abram. Three times Yahweh renewed, expanded and strengthened His commitment to him. Now Abram is ninety-nine years old. It's been thirteen years since Ishmael's birth. Upon Ishmael reaching the age of covenant, Yahweh makes Abram take responsibility for the consequences of his past choice, poor as it was, before Yahweh will continue with the intimacy of their relationship. For thirteen years Yahweh waits in silence while Abram takes care of business at home. Pouring his affections and hopes into his son Ishmael (17:18; 21:11). Now Yahweh breaks the deafening silence.

“And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, Yahweh appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am El Shaddai; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. And Abram fell on his face: and Elohim talked with him, saying, As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be the father of a multitude of nations. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for the father of a multitude of nations have I made thee. (Genesis 17:1-5)”

The courtship is over. It's time for the wedding. The intimate promises will not only be renewed, they will be expanded and ratified into a formal covenant. Abram must now take his wedding vows and publicly identify with his Elohim. The covenant that Yahweh had unconditionally promised in chapter 15 must to be confirmed by Abram now.

Yahweh begins the ceremony. He opens with the announcement of a new title for himself, "*El Shaddai*," the All Sufficient One. He had formally been known as "*El*," the Mighty. The implication is that whatever Yahweh asks *from* us, He promises to do *in* us. Even today, the three Hebrew letters for

Shaddai  can still be found engraved on our *mezuzahs*.

Like Enoch of old (Genesis 5:22, 24) Yahweh tells Abram, "*Walk before Me and be blameless.*" Abram is to take every step of his life with a keen awareness of Yahweh's Holy Presence and week His direction.

“The steps of a righteous man are ordered by Yahweh, and He delights in his way. (Psalm 37:23)”

There must be no double mindedness in Abram's commitment, no divided loyalties, no infidelity. The Scriptures says that Noah "*walked blameless*" before Yahweh (Genesis 6:9), a man of strong integrity that his whole family could count on. Even when he was told to build a boat, something that was totally abstract for him, he did it because he believed totally in Yahweh.

With this commitment Yahweh's covenant will be ratified, and Abram will find himself blessed with fertility to have his promised son. Choked with awe, Abram collapses face down before his Creator-King – Elohim – the only human response to such a holy experience.

THE HOLY VOWS

“As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be the father of a multitude (majority) of nations. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for the father of a majority of nations have I made thee. And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be an Elohim unto thee and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land of thy sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their Elohim. (Genesis 17:3-8)”

Listen to the legal promise: **“As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be the father of a majority of nations.”** To strengthen the point, just as Yahweh revealed another layer of Who He was and revealed this by taking a new title, El Shaddai, so now He bestows on Abram a new title to signify what He will do for him. Abram ("*exalted father*") now becomes Abraham ("*father of the majority*").

When Yahweh first spoke to Abram he promised He would make him "*a great nation*" (12:2). Later, He expanded this to "*as numerous as the dust of the earth*" (13:16); and then "*as many as the stars*" (15:5). Now Yahweh further expands the promise, promising to make Abraham's line so fertile that

he will bear a majority of nations, even kings. This answers why Yahweh dispersed Israel all over the world. According to this vow, the majority of people on this planet are descendants of Abraham and uniquely Israelites whether they realize it or not. Not only is the promise expanded, its guaranteed.

Mankind has been commanded, "**be fruitful**" but with Abraham the command becomes, "***I shall make you fruitful.***"

THE ETERNAL LOVE RELATIONSHIP

"And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be an Elohim unto thee and to thy seed after thee. (Genesis 17:7)"

All that Yahweh is to Abraham is now promised in full to all of Abraham's family down through the ages. Hopes, dreams and desires become covenantal promises, covenantal promises become universal blessings, and universal blessings become land-locked into eternity.

Following down through time, with every patriarch and the covenant made with that family one becomes awestruck at how Yahweh's grace keeps expanding in breadth and depth over time. The fire of Yahweh's love never grows cold. It is white hot with passion and it intensifies with the years. But there is still more. Yahweh promises Abraham a land to call home.

THE ETERNAL LAND COVENANT

"...I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land of thy sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their Elohim. (Genesis 17:8)"

Yahweh now reaffirms and strengthens the promise of "*land*." First, Yahweh mentioned it as, "*this land*" (12:7), then it became "*all the land which you see*" (13:15), and finally, natural borders were delineated, "*from the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates*" (15:18). To that expansive promise Yahweh now adds, "*I shall give to you...the whole land of Canaan as a permanent holding*" (17:8). In other words, the land where Abraham has been wandering as an alien is now the Promise Land and will be his one-day in its entirety, and forever.

"By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed to go out unto a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he became a sojourner in the land of promise, as in a *land* not his own, dwelling in tents, with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: for he looked for the city which hath the foundations, whose builder and maker is Elohim. (Hebrews 11:8-10)"

Yahweh is so passionate to love us and give us everything; He will not rest until His promises are sealed in a formal covenant of "marriage." Notice in this marriage covenant there is no out clause that says, "until death do us part." Yahweh's vows continue for eternity.

THE ANSWER: "AS FOR YOU"

Yahweh has said what He will give in this marriage now it is time for Abraham to reciprocate. **"And Elohim said unto Abraham, And as for thee, thou shalt keep my covenant, thou, and thy seed after thee throughout their generations. This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee: every male among you shall be circumcised. And ye shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of a covenant betwixt me and you... And the uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant. (Genesis 17:9-14)"**

Yahweh writes all the vows in this wedding. There is no pre-nuptial agreement. There is no negotiating different levels of commitment nor reinterpretation of marriage nor talk of just a civil union. It is a marriage or nothing! Abraham is asked to wear a *sign* of fidelity, the wedding ring rite of circumcision. He must undergo a bloody mark on his flesh, one that cuts deep into his identity as a man and deeply into his sexuality.

When Yahweh first inaugurated the covenant, Abraham cut animals in two (15:10), but only Yahweh, represented by a burning torch, passed between the animals, indicating that the fulfillment of the covenant depended solely on him. Now, however, Yahweh asks Abraham to reciprocate with his own blood to *ratify* what Yahweh had already started.

"In fact, the Torah requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. (Hebrews 9:22)"

Circumcision is a penetrating token of covenant signifying that the blessings which Yahweh promised arise out of the weakness ("*cutting off*") of ones own flesh.

“...the real Jew is one inwardly; and true circumcision is of the heart: spiritual rather than literal; so his praise comes not from other people; but from Elohim. (Romans 2:29-30)” In other words, before Abraham could circumcise his flesh he had to circumcise his heart. If you give a wedding ring to someone who doesn't love you your marriage is a divorce waiting to happen. Circumcision is a sign from which no Israelite male could escape from at any point in his life, it is there to prod us to *"walk blameless"* before their Yahweh.

When Elijah the prophet needed an answer from Yahweh he approached the heavenly Father by the token of the covenant: **“Eliyahu went up to the top of Carmel; and he bowed himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees. (1 Kings 18:42)”** Israel needed rain so Elijah pulled out all the stops and directed Yahweh's attention to the token of the covenant. **“And it came to pass in a little while, that the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. (1 Kings 18:45)”**

Having the mantle of spiritual leadership for his home, Abraham cannot keep his faith merely personal and privatized for the love of his soul alone.

"And every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised throughout your generations, a servant who is born in the house or who is bought with money from any foreigner, who is not of your descendants. A servant who is born in your house or who is bought with your money shall surely be circumcised; thus shall My covenant be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. (Genesis 17:12,13)"

Every Covenant keeping Israelite parent, especially the father is commanded to bring the covenant rule upon every child immediately after birth (eight days). If a covenant keeping Israelite father truly belongs to Yahweh, will not be lax or casual in the spiritual instruction of his children.

“Hear, O Israel: Yahweh our Elohim is one Yahweh: and thou shalt love Yahweh thy Elohim with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be upon thy heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. (Deuteronomy 6:4-7)”

The word *"diligently"* comes from the Hebrew word *"shanan {shaw-nan}'"* that comes from the root word *"shen {shane}"* for "tooth." The cutting teeth are called incisors, so the usage of shanan for diligently means to do something *"incisively,"* or *"with a bite."* No one is exempt whether born, adopted or redeemed is to be given the spiritual education that dignifies their souls and makes them a full member of the covenant community of the Commonwealth of Israel. This is a powerful promise, if the covenant keeper is faithful to his covenantal vows, then his home will be thoroughly infected with the love of Yahweh. No one will be left out.

This is what the Book of Philemon is all about. Bro. Philemon has not treated his servant Onesimus in the Deuteronomy 6:4-7 mode. Rabbi Sha'ul converts Onesimus, and teaches him the Covenant then sends him home no longer a slave, but a beloved fellow brother of the Commonwealth of Israel (Philemon 16).

Bringing this up to date in our times, this commandment has grave implications for the employer today. Do you give your employees the dignity of knowing the blessed Covenant, or are they mere tools in your service?

THE PENALTY OF REFUSAL

“And the uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant. (Genesis 17:14)”

When a person refuses to wear his wedding band we question his fidelity. Likewise, if the covenant keeper refuses the token of their wedding vow Yahweh separates them from the community as though they are dead. The “judgment of the flesh” is inevitable, the only question is whether we submit to it now or later. It is like a doctor telling someone with cancer they must submit to the knife or you will die.

Thus the seriousness of the covenant is sealed with a severe warning, just as with the end of the wedding ceremony, *"What therefore Yahweh has joined together, let no man separate"* (Mark 10:9).

A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN

“For you are a holy people to Yahweh your Elohim; Yahweh your Elohim has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. Yahweh did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples (Deuteronomy 7:5-7).”

“You did not choose me, but I chose you” (John 15:16).

Yahweh has chosen you to be a part of His bride. The bride will be taken out from His body (of Believers), just as Chavah (Eve) was taken from Adam. However, Believers who continue to live a worldly, or carnal lifestyle not living the vows will not be ready to meet the Bridegroom (the Adam Kadmon – the Express Image of Yahweh – King Messiah YahShua) because they lack the purity (holiness) and the commitment of a spotless bride. Come away with the lover of your soul now and make yourself ready for His return!

“...you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light who once were not a people but are now the people of Yahweh, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. (1 Peter 2:9,10)”

THE DOWRY RANSOM IS PAID

“...ye were bought with a price: glorify Elohim therefore in your body. (1 Corinthians 6:20)”

The Bridegroom values and cherishes his bride by paying a ‘mohar,’ or price, for his bride to her father. As His beloved bride, we have been **“bought with a price”** and no longer belong to ourselves. We are His – totally.

“For Elohim so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life. For Elohim sent not the Son into the world to judge the world; but that the world should be saved through him. He that believeth on him is not judged: he that believeth not hath been judged already, because he hath not believed on the name of the only begotten Son of Elohim. (John 3:16-18)”

THE BRIDES ANOINTING

During the Messiah’s final agonizing hours in Gethsemane, the weight of the world’s sins crushed our Savior like an olive press, causing Him to sweat great tears of blood. Bruised under the weight of agony, Messiah YahShua earnestly prays. Beads of sweat like huge drops of blood fall upon the earth. Alone, while he prays, **“If Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me. (Luke 22:42,44)”** His bitter suffering can be compared to myrrh, a highly-prized spice used for perfumes and incense, extracted by piercing the tree’s heartwood and allowing the gum to trickle out and harden into bitter, aromatic red droplets called ‘tears’. His heart aches with a dying love for His bride. The Express Image of Yahweh knows the deep intimacy He once enjoyed with mankind in the Garden of Eden can only be recaptured if He lays down His life for them. With unconditional acceptance, Messiah YahShua trusts His Father’s decision and says, **“Nevertheless, not My will but Thine, be done.”**

THE WEDDING CUP

“Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you” (Luke 22:20).

"Behold, the days are coming, says Yahweh, when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and with the House of YaHudah "not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says Yahweh. "But this is the covenant that I will make with the House of Israel after those days, says Yahweh: I will put My Torah in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their El, and they shall be My people. "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know Yahweh,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says Yahweh. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." (Jeremiah 31:31-34 & Hebrews 8:8-10).

For the Bride to accept the vow she must drink from the ‘Kiddush’ (sanctification) cup, she shows her willingness to enter this union of covenant. Their shared cup of wine at a betrothal ceremony called ‘B’rit’ (covenant) symbolizes the sealing of their marriage covenant.

AHAVAH: A LOVE TO DIE FOR

“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his lover. You are My lovers if you do whatever I command you. (John 15:12-14)”

So when Rebbe YahShua had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit’ (John 19:30).

In Hebrew, the root word for finish is ka'lal, (complete, make perfect). It also shares the same root for 'kallah' (bride). With Rebbe YahShua's final and dying words, He sealed the marriage covenant to His beloved with His blood.

THE KETUBAH

"Therefore I will allure her and bring her into the WILDERNESS, and speak comfortably unto her ...and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she shall sing there as in the days of her youth and AS IN THE DAY WHEN SHE CAME UP OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT. (Hosea 2:1,15)"

"I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. (Hosea 2:19)"

In the betrothal, the loving couple enters into a covenant with the signing of the Ketubah. The Ketubah spells out provisions the bridegroom agrees to make for the bride (including food, clothing and conjugal rights), and also names the wife as joint heir to the estate. The Ketubah is read aloud for all to hear of their mutual devotion toward one another.

"[Moses] took the Book of the Covenant, and read in the audience of the people (of Israel): and they said, 'All that Yahweh hath spoken will we do, and hear.' (Deuteronomy 24:7)"

Properly signed and witnessed, the Ketubah is given to the bride, and she is instructed to keep it with her at all times, since there can be no marital relations nor inheritance if it is lost or destroyed.

THE VOW OF LAND

"These are the words of the covenant which Yahweh commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which he made with them in Horeb...when ye came unto this place, Sihon the king of Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, came out against us unto battle, and we smote them: and we took their land, and gave it for an inheritance unto the Reubenites, and to the Gadites, and to the half-tribe of the Manassites. Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do. Ye stand this day all of you before Yahweh your Elohim; your heads, your tribes, your elders, and your officers, even all the men of Israel, your little ones, your wives, and thy sojourner that is in the midst of thy camps, from the hewer of thy wood unto the drawer of thy water; that thou mayest enter into the covenant of Yahweh thy Elohim, and into his oath, which Yahweh thy Elohim maketh with thee this day; that he may establish thee this day unto himself for a people, and that he may be unto thee an Elohim, as he spake unto thee, and as he swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. Neither with you only do I make this covenant and this oath, but with him that standeth here with us this day before Yahweh our Elohim, and also with him that is not here with us this day; (Deuteronomy 29:1,7-15)"

This is the first mention of the New Covenant and it comes 40 years after the Sinai Covenant and after Israel had wandered in the wilderness until the generation that had refused to enter the Promised Land had passed away. That generation had not been married to the land. They were constantly looking over their shoulder, like Lot's wife, at what the world had to offer.

Besides the promises that Yahweh would bless them if they obeyed His commandments and curse them if they disobeyed, the New Covenant also contains some special promises to Israel. Yahweh promises to gather the scattered Israelites from all over the world and to bring them back into the land He had promised to our ancestors (Deuteronomy 30:3-5). Second, Yahweh promises to regenerate the Israelites by circumcising their hearts through New Birth so that they would love Him totally. (Deuteronomy 30:6) Third, Yahweh promises to judge Israel's enemies (Deuteronomy 30:7) and fourth, that Israelites will ultimately obey Yahweh and Yahweh will prosper them in their obedience (Deuteronomy 30:8-9).

"Behold, I will gather them out of all the countries, whither I have driven them in Mine anger, and in My wrath, and in great indignation; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely: and they shall be my people, and I will be their Elohim: and I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: and I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from following them, to do them good; and I will put My fear in their hearts, that they may not depart from Me. Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with My whole heart and with My whole soul. For thus saith Yahweh: Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them. And fields shall be bought in this land, whereof ye say, It is desolate, without man or beast; it is given into the hand of the [Iraqis]. Men shall buy fields for money, and subscribe the deeds, and seal them, and call

witnesses, in the land of Benjamin, and in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, and in the cities of the hill-country, and in the cities of the lowland, and in the cities of the South: for I will cause their captivity to return, saith Yahweh.(Jeremiah 32:37-44)”

“Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Adonai Yahweh: I do not *this* for your sake, O house of Israel, but for my holy name, which ye have profaned among the nations, whither ye went. And I will sanctify my great name, which hath been profaned among the nations, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the nations shall know that I am Yahweh, saith the Adonai Yahweh, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. For I will take you from among the nations, and gather you out of all the countries, and will bring you into your own land. And I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep mine ordinances, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your Elohim. And I will save you from all your uncleannesses: and I will call for the grain, and will multiply it, and lay no famine upon you. And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that ye may receive no more the reproach of famine among the nations. Then shall ye remember your evil ways, and your doings that were not good; and ye shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations. Nor for your sake do I *this*, saith the Adonai Yahweh, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel. Thus saith the Adonai Yahweh: In the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places shall be builded. And the land that was desolate shall be tilled, whereas it was a desolation in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are fortified and inhabited. Then the Goyim (nations) that are left round about you shall know that I, Yahweh, have builded the ruined places, and planted that which was desolate: I, Yahweh, have spoken it, and I will do it. Thus saith the Adonai Yahweh: For this, moreover, will I be inquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them: I will increase them with men like a flock. As the flock for sacrifice, as the flock of Jerusalem in her appointed feasts, so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of men; and they shall know that I am Yahweh. (Ezekiel 36:22-38)”

The New Covenant reinforces the promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that Yahweh would establish the Commonwealth of Israel as His chosen people. (Deuteronomy 29:13). The New Covenant stands as a bulwark against crisis theology and replacement theology, Yahweh knew full well His people would turn from Him and His covenants and turn to idols and acts like the Goyim. This is why He also promises to one day restore them to the land and have compassion on them (Deuteronomy 30:1-3). So, the ultimate outcome of the New Covenant does not depend on Israel for obedience but instead depends on Yahweh and His faithfulness. There is coming a day when Yahweh will return them to the land and they will possess it and Yahweh will bless them forever and Yahweh will circumcise their heart so that they will obey Him, (Deuteronomy 30:6) and the seed of Abraham will possess the Promised Land forever.

ARE YOU MARRIED OR JUST LIVING TOGETHER?

Many of you have known Yahweh for years, some of you like me do not remember a time you were without Yahweh. Like Abraham, you have been touched by Covenant and experienced his miraculous deliverance. You have felt him deeply in your soul and sensed your bones tingle with awe in His presence. But do you own Him and His Covenant? Have you taken your wedding vows? Have you renounced self-effort and called him Sovereign? Or have you remained a casual lover, living privately with him but never committing to the Covenant? Do you sense a bond to your inheritance? Are you ready to take the vow?

The good news is that Yahweh is so richly in love with you, He will give you everything if you will commit your life to Him and accept His Covenant. Will you circumcise your heart anew and afresh? “For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, if you are not a new creature. And as many as shall walk by this rule, peace *be* upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of Elohim. Henceforth, let no man trouble me; for I bear branded on my body the marks of YahShua. The grace of our King YahShua Ha Moshiach be with your spirit, brethren. Amein. (Galatians 6:15-18)” “Take heed lest there shall be any one that maketh spoil of you through his philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Moshiach: for in him dwelleth all the fulness of the likeness of Elohim physically, and in him ye are made full, who is

the head of all principality and power: in whom ye were also circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, in the putting off of the body of the flesh, in the circumcision of Moshiah; having been buried with him in immersion, wherein ye were also raised with him through faith in the working of Elohim, who raised him from the dead. And you, being dead through your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, you, *I say*, did he make alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses; having blotted out the bond written in ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us: and he hath taken it out that way, nailing it to the Tree; having despoiled the principalities and the powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it. (Colossians 2:8-15)”

Are you enjoying the gift of children? Nothing brings more joy to the heart than birthing children. And nothing can be compared to the joy of making disciples. Yahweh wants to marry you so that together you can give birth to a new generation that has never heard of His love or His covenant.

In 1999 I heard Bro. Anges Wooten challenge me, “Judah has been in the land since 1917. He fought to bring the establishment of Israel in 1948 taking it from the faith realm into manifestation. Again Yahweh pushed Judah into taking the land for the rest of the tribes. Today Judah guards the Holy Land alone with Benjamin while the rest of Israel waits. Even if every Jew from all over the world goes back to the Land it would not be enough to secure the land, there is only 14.1 million Jews in the World.” Bro. Anges Wooten, a retired full bird colonel says it will take 200 million to secure the land, where do you get them? You get them from Ephraim – the other 10 tribes.

“I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself: ‘You have chastised me, and I was chastised, like an untrained bull; restore me, and I will return, for You are Yahweh my Elohim. (Jeremiah 31:18)”

Though it is not yet time to return, are you so married to the land that it is part of your identity? Can you let go of the dispersion and rise up and return to Zion? Have you heard the call? Have you taken the vow?

“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd layeth down his life for the sheep... I am the good shepherd; and I know mine own, and mine own know me, even as the Father knoweth me, and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice: and they shall become one flock, one shepherd. (John 10:11, 14-16)”

