

MAS'EI - JOURNEYS

Numbers 33:1 to 36:13 Jeremiah 2:4-28; 4:1-2 Matthew 5:33-37 James 4:1 to 5:20

Mas'ei is the last study in the book of Numbers. Here we find Moses and the Israelites entering the final phase of their long journey as they draw closer to their inheritance in the Promised Land. Ultimately The Messiah/Yeshua Ha Mashiach is the embodiment of the Promised Land in that The Father calls Him My servant, My son, my Firstborn, Israel, and it is "in Him we live, and move, and exist." Our pre-determined path back to the Land, intimacy, and holiness in the Messiah is measured in the words of Moses, as it is Moses who spoke of the Messiah (Exodus 4:22; Isaiah 49:1-6; Matthew 12:18; Hosea 11:1; Matthew 2:15)

- **John 5:46** Yeshua said, "If you believed **Moses**, you would believe Me, for he [Moses] wrote about Me [*Yeshua*]."
- Jeremiah 29:11-14 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD/Yahweh, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares LORD/Yahweh, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares LORD/Yahweh, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile" (Jeremiah 33:6-9; Ezekiel 11:17-20; 36:24-36; 37:15-28).
- Malachi 4:4-6 "Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of LORD/Yahweh. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers [Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob], lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

Israel's Journey Numbers 33:1-49

The Book of Numbers now summarizes the junctures of Israel through the wilderness. Their passage was not random but guided by the Spirit of the Holy One. The Israelites retraced their steps several times, on a journey that should have taken eleven days but ultimately resulted in forty years. Through the tests and trials, God/*Elohim* continued to present His Kingdom in ways that would sanctify Israel so they could enter the Promised Land. His mercy never failed to protect, feed, and care for their every need.

The names of the camps reveal Israel's struggles, wins, and losses and how they fell into idolatry and even cursed Moses, the manna, and the Land they were about to enter, as time after time they implored him to turn back to Egypt. The list also reveals how the Israelites returned to God/*Elohim* in repentance and finally put their faith and hopes in Him *alone*. Israel willingly chose to follow despite all their doubts and fears. Eventually, they learned not to judge but to rest in His Faithfulness entirely. The account of their wilderness journey is also prophetic of future events, as the Prophet Ezekiel points out.

Ezekiel 20:35 "I will bring you out from the nations and I will gather you out of the lands in which you have been scattered."

We have all experienced highs and lows. However, it is the people who choose to rise above the challenges of life who became the overcomers. Past difficulties should not define who we are, nor should they govern our future. How we handle the valleys in our lives gives us our mountaintop experiences. Future redemption beckons each to rise above whatever challenges we face. Trust and faith produce fruit. Seeing ourselves as Yeshua sees us makes us complete and whole in Him. Not only is this about physical redemption but more importantly a look at a sanctified walk in Yeshua.

James 1:2-4 "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

Some of the camp names and their meanings are:

Ramses (child of the sun), Succot (tents), Etham (seabound), Migdol (tower), Marah (bitter), Elim (oaks), Red Sea (sea of reeds), Desert of Sin (bush), Dophkah (drover), Alush (crowd), Rephidim (beds), Desert of Sinai (a bush), Kibroth Hattaavah (the graves of lust), Hazeroth (enclosures), Rithmah (noise), Rimmon Puez (pomegranates of the wrath), Libnah (white), Rissah (dew), Kehelathah (a whole; a congregation), Haradah (fear), Makheloth (congregations), Tahath (depression, humility), Terah (turning, duration), Mithchah (sweetness), Hashmonah (fruitfulness), Moseroth (bonds, discipline), Bene Jaakan (children of Jaakan), Hor Haggidgad (cleft, mountain), Ezion Geber (giant backbone), Kadesh (holy), Mt. Hor (hill), Punon (precious stone), Oboth (desires), Dibon Gad (wasting of God), Almon Diblathian (hiding place of two fig sacks), Mountains of

Abarim (mountains beyond), Beth Jeshimoth (house of deserts), and Abel Shittim (meadow/brook of the Acacias).

The camp names are extremely valuable for assisting geographers and archaeologists how to locate and identify many of the Biblical sites that support the truth found in the written Word. In the forty-year journey, there are a total of forty-two locations. Of those, fourteen took place in the first year and eight during the final year. The Rabbinical sage Rashi teaches that the Israelites tarried at Kadesh nineteen years.

When You Cross The Jordan River Numbers 33:50-56

God/*Elohim* now gives instructions on how the Israelites are to restore their homeland.

- Firstly, the Israelite army was to remove all unlawful residents from their land. Not one was to remain, as any pagan intermingling could ensure the Israelites.
- Secondly, all pagan idolatry and places of worship were to be removed and destroyed to cleanse the land of any false idols, gods or worship.
- Thirdly, later, when the land was cleansed, the Israelites were to divide it among the twelve tribes (and with those who sojourned among those tribes) according to their size.

"For I have given you the land to possess."

Numbers 33:53

Clean Out The Land Or Be Harassed

Numbers 33:55-56 "But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain shall be irritants in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall harass you in the land where you dwell. Moreover it shall be that I will do to you as I thought to do to them."

When we look at what is happening today with all the wars, violence, and world leaders debating over the State of Israel, we cannot help but think God/*Elohim* is separating the goats and exposing the wolf. Never before has it been so definitive. The homeland that was eternally gifted to Abraham and his descendants *forever* has been occupied and divided by foreign nations with little or no acknowledgment to Scripture, The Covenant, the Biblical lands or its people. God/*Elohim* proclaimed, "For I have given you [His chosen people - Israel] the land to possess." In spite of this declaration, the issue God's/*Elohim* people face today is that other nations want the land of Israel and are trying to destroy everything about Israel: The name of Israel, the nation of Israel, the people of Israel, the inheritance of Israel, and the God of Israel.

Not only is Numbers 33:55-56 a reminder of how God's/*Elohim* people are to take possession of His *physical* land, it is also about their *personal* walk with Him. If His people do not heed His instructions to remove all foreign idolatry and strange fire from their walk, the inhabitants of the

land will remain irritants in their eyes and thorns in their sides, peace will escape them, and their lives will be in constant turmoil. Poverty will be in pursuit of them, and they will accumulate like-minded 'friends' (parasites) who have similar characteristics, always on the run from constant harassment.

The prophet Jeremiah gives us a sobering reminder here,

Jeremiah 31:35-36 "Thus says the LORD/Yahweh, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar (The LORD of hosts is His name): If those ordinances (of the sun, moon and stars) depart from before Me, says the LORD/Yahweh, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever."

The key to remaining a nation before God/*Elohim* is to walk according to His Ways. That includes honoring His Sabbath, Feast Days, and Covenants. The sun, moon, and stars govern all these. Without knowing His times and seasons, Israel will cease to exist. Walking in them will gather a nation (For more information, please see the *Kedoshim*/Leviticus study).

Where is God's/*Elohim* righteous army, those who remember His Words and their vow to keep and honor Him - to walk in His ways desiring to be holy as He is Holy? Where are those who stand in the gap and defend the land of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? Where are those who will inherit the land/earth?

- **Isaiah 6:8** "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for *Us?*' Then I said, '*Here am I! Send me*."
- Deuteronomy 11:8-9 "Therefore you shall keep every commandment which I command you today, that you may be strong, and go in and possess the land which you cross over to possess, and that you may prolong *your* days in the land which the LORD/Yahweh swore to give your fathers, to them and their descendants, 'a land flowing with milk and honey.'"

When Joshua and Caleb spied out the land, they did not view the giants as an obstacle of fear but saw God's/*Elohim* promises. Their resolute heart vision made them overcomers that encouraged the tribes of Israel to take the land. God/*Elohim* said the land belonged to *Israel*, so they entered expecting to take it! Today, if God's/*Elohim* people are fearful of the nations around them, they will not be able to stand in reclaiming the land, unless they see God's/*Elohim* Word in the same context as Joshua and Caleb. Therefore, His people will remain in a suspended Diaspora/exile until they stop listening, believing, and walking in the bad reports issued *by* the other nations.

A Conspiracy Of Fear Numbers 6:1-19

The enemy is known for *planting a conspiracy of fear*. We learned of Satan's ways when Nehemiah was sent to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Fear is the fabricated tool of the enemy that works to entice God's/*Elohim* people *to sin* subtly. The enemy used a pawn named Sanballat to try and remove Nehemiah by inviting him to so-called meetings. Five times Nehemiah refused. An official entourage was then sent with an official document citing more slander against Nehemiah.

The plot of conspiracy deepened when Nehemiah went to the house of Shemaiah, the priest.

Nehemiah 6:10-12 "Afterward I [Nehemiah] came to the house of Shemaiah [the priest] the son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was a secret informer; and he said, 'Let us meet together in the house of God/Elohim, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you; indeed, at night they will come to kill you.' And I said, 'Should such a man as I flee? And who is there such as I who would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in!' Then I perceived that God/Elohim had not sent him at all, but that he pronounced this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him" (Nehemiah 12:42).

Who was Shemaiah?

- Nehemiah 3:29 "After them Zadok the son of Immer [head of the sixteenth priestly order] made repairs in front of his own house. After him, Shemaiah the son of Shechaniah [head of the tenth priestly order], the keeper of the East Gate, made repairs."
- 1 Chronicles 24:1-3, 10-18 "Now these are the divisions of the sons of Aaron. The sons of Aaron were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. Then David with Zadok of the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech of the sons of Ithamar, divided them according to the schedule of their service [in the temple]." "The seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah, the ninth to Jeshua, the tenth to Shecaniah, the eleventh to Eliashib, the twelfth to Jakim, the thirteenth to Huppah, the fourteenth to Jeshebeab, the fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immer, the seventeenth to Hezir, the eighteenth to Happizzez, the nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezekel, the twenty-first to Jachin, the twenty-second to Gamul, the twenty-third to Delaiah, the twenty-fourth to Maaziah."

What was Shemaiah, the priest, *hired* to do?

Nehemiah 6:13-14 "For this reason he [Shemaiah] was hired, that I should be afraid and act that way and sin, so that they might have cause for an evil report, that they might reproach me. My God/Elohim, remember Tobiah and Sanballat, according to these their works, and the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who would have made me afraid."

Shemaiah, the corrupt priest, went along with Sanballat, as Nehemiah was a threat to his shady network. We see this same spirit at work in the Pharisees who sought to kill Yeshua, as they also found Him a threat to their false religious system.

Repentance And Restoration God's/Elohim Land Is Not For Sale

All those who sojourn with the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are the physical present day family of the promised seed of Israel. This truth is found in Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. Today, many are responding to the call of the Spirit of the Holy One/*Ruach Ha Kodesh* through repentance, holiness, and sanctification as instructed by Moses *and* the Prophets. While Yeshua's people rejoin to His Word, they are also returning to the land - the witness of God's/*Elohim* eternal Covenant promises (Galatians 3:8).

- Psalm 83:1-5, 12 "Do not keep silent, O God/Elohim! Do not hold Your peace, and do not be still, O God/Elohim! For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; and those who hate You have lifted up their head. They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, and consulted together against Your sheltered ones. They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more. For they have consulted together with one consent; they form a confederacy against You: Who said, "Let us take for ourselves the pastures of God/Elohim for a possession."
- Numbers 33:55-56 "IF you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land, those you allow to remain will become barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides. They will give you trouble in the land where you will live. And then I will do to you what I plan to do to them."

In these prophetic verses, the nations that surround Israel put forth their unmistakable objectives and covenanted together. This union of Israel's enemies has one objective. To trample underfoot and defeat the Holy One of Israel, "That the name of Israel will be remembered no more."

In the prophetic Psalm 83:6-8, it mentions these nations (that in the last century have been renamed), who have conspired against God/Elohim and His people. The Scripture reads as follows, "The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, Moab and the Hagrites, Gebal, and Ammon and Amalek, Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assyria also has joined with them. They have become a help to the children of Lot."

Other nations make grand policies that seek to divide the land of Israel and Jerusalem, as well as uproot and destroy the Jewish people from the land promised to them. However, the purpose of God's/Elohim Covenantal blueprint/design (called the path of righteousness in Isaiah 35) is for all of His people to return to the land promised to Abraham and his decedents as an <u>everlasting</u> possession (Genesis 15:13-21; Galatians 3:8).

- Genesis 13:14-17 "And the LORD/Yahweh said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: 'Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."
- **Zephaniah 3:17-20** "The LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim* in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet *you* with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing. 'I will gather those who sorrow over the appointed assembly, who are among you, *to whom* its reproach *is* a burden. Behold, at that time I will deal with all who afflict you; I will save the lame, and gather those who were driven out; I will appoint them for praise and fame in every land where they were put to shame. At that time I will bring you back, even at the time I gather you; for I will give you fame and praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I return your captives before your eyes,' says the LORD/*Yahweh*."

The Boundaries Of The Land Numbers 34

In Numbers 34, God/*Elohim* outlines the boundaries of the Promised Land. Comparing those to the borders of the Land given in the Covenant to Abraham and his descendants in Genesis 15:18-21, we note a sizeable difference. The Israelite today lives in only a tenth of what was initially given to them. According to Ezekiel's vision (Ezekiel 47:13-48:35), the possession of the entire Promised Land has yet to take place; therefore, is an end-times prophecy.

With more and more people returning to the inspired Word of God/*Elohim*, many are beginning to walk according to His instructions. With that, the land will respond and come into its fullness, as more people turn to sanctification. Therefore, no longer will they live outside the Covenants and promises of God/*Elohim* but walk more fully engaged in the inheritance of their restored land.

According to Scripture, both the journey through the wilderness and the divisions of the Land, according to the tribes, are prophetic for *our day*. Even though many claim all twelve tribes no longer exist at this present time, God's/*Elohim* word is trustworthy.

** Ezekiel 20:5-6 "Say to them, 'Thus says the Lord/Adonai GOD/Yahweh 'On the day when I chose Israel and raised My hand in an oath to the descendants of the house of Jacob, and made Myself known to them in the land of Egypt, I raised My hand in an oath to them, saying, 'I am the LORD/Yahweh your God/Elohim.' 'On that day I raised My hand in an oath to them, to bring them out of the land of Egypt into a land that I had searched out for them, 'flowing with milk and honey,' the glory of all lands."

In spite of those who attempt to dictate Israel's national policies and foreign negotiators who try to trade God's/Elohim land for peace (which is a front to eradicate Israel from the face of the earth), they will not succeed, as they are fighting a spiritual battle. God's/Elohim promises are especially for those living in the land of Judea and Samaria. They are present day warriors who live amid hostile neighbors. Many of these brave men and women risk their lives every day enduring great hardships, poverty, terrorism, and threats of having their homes bulldozed by their own government who are more intimidated by international correctness than the power of the written Word and their God/Elohim who gave it to them. Even their fellow brethren (those who have lost faith in their God/Elohim) have cursed them. The courage and testimonies of these brave men and women with their deep trust in the God/Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are a testimony to His Word. The growing number of Israelite communities who believe that God's/Elohim Biblical prophecies hold true today are standing firm in the face of the Goliaths around them.

The only time God/*Elohim* ever mentioned dividing the land was to reveal the boundaries of inheritance between the twelve tribes of Israel. He never once spoke of *giving* any part of Abraham's inheritance away, especially to foreign nations because *the land belongs to Him*. Only when His people perpetually sinned did He cleanse the land of *toxicity*, but only for a season. The land was never permanently taken from Israel. God/*Elohim* is faithful and honors His oath to Abraham and his decedents *forever* (Galatians 3:8).

Galatians 3:8-9, 29 "And the Scripture, foreseeing that God/*Elohim* would justify the Gentiles [*Nations*] by faith [*trust*], preached the gospel [*Yeshua*] to Abraham beforehand, saying, 'In you all the nations shall be blessed.' So then those who are of faith [in Yeshua] are blessed with believing Abraham. And if you are Christ's/Messiah's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

God's/*Elohim* oath to Abraham was gifted him by way of a Covenant. A Covenant is permanent and cannot be reinterpreted or changed, *ever*. If God's/*Elohim* Word/covenant is true, then we will see His promise *in the beginning* and again *in the end*, as He is the *same yesterday*, *today*, *and forever*. Thus, God's/*Elohim* vow, spoken to Abraham and his descendants in *Genesis*, *the beginning*, is seen again in *the end* - *Revelation*.

- Genesis 15:18-21 "On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates" (Revelation 21:12).
- Revelation 21:12-13 "Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west."

Therefore, *forever* means *forever*. Many people try to govern God's/*Elohim* plans, but the fact is, God's/*Elohim* Word is true *from beginning to end*. He spoke it. Therefore, His Word is final and will come to pass.



HAYOVEL





Jeremiah 33:7 "I will bring <u>Judah</u> and <u>Israel</u> [all twelve tribes] back from captivity and will rebuild them as they were before."

The Way Home

The way home is called *the highway of holiness* (Isaiah 35). In Genesis 17:7-8, God/*Elohim* established His Covenant with Abraham and his descendants after him through his promised son Isaac, as an *everlasting Covenant*. God/*Elohim* gave Abraham and his descendants all of the land of Canaan *for a perpetual possession*. Approximately 3,500 years have passed since Abraham received the Covenant. Many wars, occupations, and catastrophes have come and gone – but true Israel has not forgotten His spoken promise to them.

Is God/*Elohim* finished with Israel? Has He forgotten or revoked His Covenant regarding His people, their land or their blessings? Animosity toward the Jews has gone on for thousands of years. Who would have believed after those horrific events in the Second World War, that the Jewish people would face yet another wave of anti-Semitism like we are seeing sweeping across the nations today, which now includes Christians. Thankfully, there is hope. His Word is true, eternal, and has been declared over and over again.

- **Ezekiel 11:17** "I will gather you [*Israel*] from the nations and bring you back from the countries where you have been scattered, and <u>I will give you back the land of Israel</u> again."
- John 14:14 "You may ask me for any thing in my name, and I will do it."

The Prophet Ezekiel gave a very detailed vision describing the Temple, the Land, and its boundaries.

Ezekiel 47:21-23 "Thus you shall divide this land among yourselves according to the tribes of Israel. It shall be that you will divide it by lot as an inheritance for yourselves, and for the strangers who dwell among you and who bear children among you. They shall be to you as native-born among the children of Israel; they shall have an inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel. And it shall be *that* in whatever tribe the stranger dwells, there you shall give *him* his inheritance, says the Lord/Adonai GOD/Elohim."

The boundaries spoken to Abraham by Covenant are still valid today, as a Covenant is eternal. Ezekiel made that clear in chapters 47-48, as the boundaries and the divisions of the Land belonging to the twelve tribes of Israel are all registered by name. Not one was missing. Each tribe is accounted for and individually recorded. All His people of every tribe are assigned their own portion in the land of Israel. God/Elohim was very careful to have His directives itemized as a witness to each generation so there would be no mistaking His instruction, intent or promises to the twelve tribes of Israel. His Word is their protection, as His truth sets His people free. His prophetic listing from Ezekiel 48:1-7 along with the Priest and Levite territories are as follows,

"At the northern frontier, Dan will have one portion; it will follow the Hethlon road to Lebo Hamath; Hazar Enan and the northern border of Damascus next to Hamath will be part of its border from the east side to the west side.

Asher will have one portion; it will border the territory of Dan from east to west.

Naphtali will have one portion; it will border the territory of Asher from east to west.

Manasseh will have one portion; it will border the territory of Naphtali from east to west.

Ephraim will have one portion; it will border the territory of Manasseh from east to west.

Reuben will have one portion; it will border the territory of Ephraim from east to west.

Judah will have one portion; it will border the territory of Reuben from east to west.

The special portions will be next to Judah from east to west and border on Benjamin for the priests and Levites."

And from *Ezekiel 48:23-29*,

"As for the rest of the tribes: **Benjamin** will have one portion; it will extend from the east side to the west side. **Simeon** will have one portion; it will border the territory of Benjamin from east to west. **Issachar** will have one portion; it will border the territory of Simeon from east to west. **Zebulun** will have one portion; it will border the territory of Issachar from east to west. **Gad** will have one portion; it will border the territory of Zebulun from east to west. The southern boundary of Gad will run south from Tamar to the waters of Meribah Kadesh, then along the Wadi of Egypt to the Great Sea."

"This is the land which you shall divide by lot as an inheritance among the tribes of Israel, and these are their portions," says the Lord/Adonai GOD/Elohim"

Ezekiel 48:29

Not only is *the land* for the Israelites held in prophetic Covenant (yet to unfold in the future) but so is *the Holy City* held in prophecy. If the land, the gates, and the Holy City of Jerusalem are all held in prophecy, so then are *the people* whose name is Israel.

The name of the city from that time on will be called, "THE LORD/Yahweh IS THERE"

Ezekiel 48:35

Ezekiel 37:11-14 "Then He said to me, 'Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!' Therefore prophesy and say to them, thus says the Lord/Adonai GOD/Elohim: 'Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD/Yahweh, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD/Yahweh, have spoken it and performed it,' says the LORD/Yahweh.""

Lost Identity, Lost Heritage

Jeremiah 31:35-36 "Thus says the LORD/Yahweh, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar (The LORD of hosts is His name): If those ordinances (of the sun, moon and stars) depart from before Me, says the LORD/Yahweh, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever."

Many people from both Houses, those caught in wars, enemy occupations, crusades, pogroms, and holocausts throughout the ages, had lost the vision God/*Elohim* gave them. Thus, countless individuals were not able to comprehend being part of the *eternal* Covenant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, nor receive the immeasurable blessings and promises contained in their inheritance as part of Israel. They also lost the truth, as spoken by God's/*Elohim* prophets, of their redemption and return to the Promised Land. Therefore, as a result, many people were blind to the truth held in God's/*Elohim* faithfulness. However, there has always been a remnant that believed. Trust kept alive the remembrance of His Promises and gave *hope* that passed His inheritance on to the next generation.

- Habakkuk 2:2-3 "Then the LORD/Yahweh answered me and said: 'Write the vision and make *it* plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry."
- Isaiah 30:8-10,15,18-26 "Now go, write it before them on a tablet, and note it on a scroll, that it may be for time to come, forever and ever: that this is a rebellious people, lying children, children who will not hear the law of the LORD/Yahweh; who say to the seers, 'Do not see,' and to the prophets, 'Do not prophesy to us right things; speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits.' For thus says the Lord/Adonai GOD/Elohim, the Holy One of Israel: 'In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength.' But you would not... Therefore the LORD/Yahweh will wait, that He may be gracious to you; and therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For the LORD/Yahweh is a God/Elohim of justice; blessed are all those who wait for Him. For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you. And

though the Lord/Adonai gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, but your eyes shall see your teachers. Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it,' whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left. You will also defile the covering of your graven images of silver, and the ornament of your molded images of gold. You will throw them away as an unclean thing; you will say to them, 'Get away!' Then He will give the rain for your seed with which you sow the ground, and bread of the increase of the earth; it will be fat and plentiful. In that day your cattle will feed in large pastures. Likewise the oxen and the young donkeys that work the ground will eat cured fodder, which has been winnowed with the shovel and fan. There will be on every high mountain and on every high hill rivers and streams of waters, in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall. Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD/Yahweh binds up the bruise of His people and heals the stroke of their wound."

Cities of Refuge Numbers 35:6-34

Of the forty-eight cities given to the Levites, six were designated as refuge cities for those who accidentally killed a fellow man; three cities on the west side of the Jordan, and three cities for the Transjordan Tribes. It is interesting to note that the three refuge cities *in* the land are the most hotly disputed real estate in the world today (Joshua 20).

Zelophehad's Daughters Marry Numbers 36:1-13

We read of Zelophehad's daughters in the *Pinchas* study in Numbers 27:1-11. Here we see they seek further advice as to how to preserve their father's inheritance if they should marry. By marrying, would their father's land be absorbed by their future husband or would it stay intact? The advice was given that every daughter was to marry within their tribal clan thereby keeping their father's inherited portion intact. No inheritance in Israel was to pass from one tribe to another, for every Israelite was to keep their tribal identity and land as outlined by their forefathers before them.

The Book of Numbers/Bamidbar closes with, "These are the commands and regulations the LORD/Yahweh gave through Moses to the Israelites on the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho" (Numbers 36:13).

Chazak! Chazak! Venishchzeik!
Be Strong! Be Strong! And May We Be Strengthened!

Shabbat Shalom Julie Parker

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