



BEHA'ALOTCHA - WHEN YOU KINDLE

Numbers 8:1 to 12:16

Zechariah 2:14 to 4:7

John 19:31-37

Hebrew 3:1-6

In the last study, *Nasso*, the leaders brought the required offerings for the dedication of the Tabernacle. When the offerings were complete, Moses entered the tent of meeting and spoke with God/*Elohim* face to face. May we all be a people who like Moses regularly entered into His Presence.

- 🦁 **Numbers 7:89** “He heard the voice of One speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the Testimony, from between the two cherubim; thus He spoke to him.”

Beha'alotcha opens with the teaching on the light of the menorah in the Holy Place.

- 🦁 **Numbers 8:2** “When you arrange the lamps, the seven lamps shall give light in front of the lampstand/*menorah*.”

The light of the menorah represents the embodiment of the Light of Yeshua. It is essential for believers to keep their lamps burning, as the Messiah said, “*I am the Light of the world*” and commanded His people to mirror or reflect His light to the nations saying, “*You are the light of the world*” (John 8:12; Matthew 5:14).

- 🦁 **Isaiah 42:6-7** “I, the LORD/*Yahweh*, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles [*Nations*], to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house.”

The Levites Set Apart

Numbers 8:5-26

In less than a year, the tribe of Levi went through a complete role change when the men, ages twenty-five to thirty, were set apart for the service of the Tabernacle. We learned in the first Numbers study *Bamidbar* that they were selected because of the sin of the firstborn of Israel at Mount Sinai. The Levites were to undergird God's/*Elohim* people in

preparation for the Messiah and the restoration of the *firstborn - the order of Melchizedek* (Numbers 4:2).

📖 **Numbers 3:12-13** “Now behold, I Myself have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel *instead* [*Strong’s H8478 tachath meaning “for the sake”*] of every firstborn who opens the womb among the children of Israel. Therefore the Levites shall be Mine, because all the firstborn are Mine. On the day that I struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I sanctified to Myself all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast. They shall be Mine: I am the LORD/Yahweh”.

“For they [*Levites*] are wholly given to Me from among the children of Israel; I have taken them for Myself instead [*for the sake*] of all who open the womb, the firstborn of all the children of Israel. And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and his sons from among the children of Israel, to do the work for the children of Israel in the Tabernacle of meeting, and to make atonement for the children of Israel, that there be no plague among the children of Israel when the children of Israel come near the sanctuary.” (Numbers 8:16, 19)

📖 **Jeremiah 33:17-22** “For thus says the LORD/*Yahweh*: ‘David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; nor shall the priests, the Levites, lack a man to offer burnt offerings before Me, to kindle grain offerings, and to sacrifice continually.’” And the word of the LORD/*Yahweh* came to Jeremiah, saying, “Thus says the LORD/*Yahweh*: ‘If you can break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night, so that there will not be day and night in their season, then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levites, the priests, My ministers. As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, nor the sand of the sea measured, so will I multiply the descendants of David My servant *and* the Levites who minister to Me.’”

While the men of Israel were counted from ages twenty years and upwards to serve in the army, the men of the tribe of Levi were counted from thirty to fifty years of age to care for the Tabernacle and act as delegates to the Children of Israel. Even though the Levites were called at twenty-five years of age, a five-year apprenticeship was incorporated to instill confidence so by the time they reached thirty they were ready to serve.

Today many pastors are placed in leadership roles well before the age of thirty and several right out of the seminar. Without the help gained from a mentor type internship, many will lack the necessary skills acquired from practice and may be unprepared for the demands a full pastorship present. Christian statistics report that of the ministers polled in America, 90% felt they were inadequately trained to cope with the demands of ministry and noted that it was completely different than what they thought it would be before entering the field. 70% said they fought depression and developed a lower self-image than when they began, and over 50% of pastors felt they were unable to meet the demands of the job and are now so discouraged they would leave the ministry if they could but have no other way of making a living. Of those entering the field, 50% will

leave within five years, and 33% state that being in the ministry is an outright hazard to their family with the same percentage confessed sexual behavior with their parishioners. The poll goes on to say that 3500 people *a day* leave the church, 1700 pastors leave the ministry *each month* and 7,000 churches *a year* close.

According to God's/*Elohim* design and pattern His Word holds the key for when the season of leadership begins.

The Water of Cleansing

Numbers 8:6-7

At the Levites setting apart ceremony, Moses sprinkled the water of cleansing from the red heifer sacrifice upon them (Numbers 19). The Levites then shaved their hair and washed (a *mikvah*, immersion in water) before donning new garments. That last step signified their status change and consecration before beginning their term in the Tabernacle.

Shaving was also a requirement in the purifying of the *metzora* (contaminated) person suffering from a *tzaris* (unclean) affliction (Leviticus 14:8). It was the Levites who were the atonement for the firstborns, hence the required shaving. That action foreshadowed the Messiah's ultimate redemption.

Once consecrated, the Children of Israel placed their hands on the Levites, and in turn, the Levites set their hands on the sacrifices thereby fulfilling the cleansing ceremony. The Levites were then dedicated and ready for service in the Tabernacle (Numbers 8:10-11).

The Second Passover

Numbers 9:1-14

For the Israelites who were ceremonially unclean or had come in contact with the dead and missed the first Passover due to defilement, a second Passover was institutionalized. Moses inquired after God/*Elohim* on their behalf and given instructions for the feast to be held at the same time (on the fourteenth day) and in the same manner but in the second month/*Iyar*. They were to *eat the lamb* together with *unleavened bread* and *bitter herbs*. No lamb was to be left or any of its bones broken.

No Broken Bones

John 19:31-37

When Yeshua, our Passover Lamb, was crucified, He hung on a tree for all to see. The Jewish religious leaders at the time wanted to hasten His death, as the first day of Unleavened Bread was approaching. So they could get on with their celebrations without defilement, they asked Pilate to appoint his men to have Yeshua's legs broken thereby quicken His death by suffocation. When the soldiers approached Yeshua, they found His lifeless body. Thus, none of His bones were broken. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Yeshua's side bringing a sudden flow of *blood and water*. These things happened so

Scripture would be fulfilled: “*Not one of His bones will be broken.*” “*They will look on the one they have pierced.*” “*This is He who came by water and blood - Jesus Christ/Yeshua HaMashiach; not only by water, but by water and blood*” (Exodus 12:46; Numbers. 9:12; Psalm 34:20; Zechariah 12:10; 1 John 5:6).

The Cloud Above The Tabernacle Numbers 9:15-23

At the completion of the Tabernacle, the cloud of God’s/*Elohim* Presence was seen over the camp by day and with the appearance of fire by night. If the cloud lifted, it was a sign for the Children of Israel to dismantle their encampment and journey. When the cloud remained stationary, the Israelites could remain. The cloud would linger over the Tabernacle for two days, a month, even a year or more. At God’s/*Elohim* command through Moses, they camped, and at His command, they set out.

Today, Yeshua is seen in the midst of His people - a great cloud of witnesses.

🏹 **Hebrews 12:1-2** “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so *great a cloud of witnesses*, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus/*Yeshua*, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God/*Elohim*.”

Obeying God’s/*Elohim* Commandments and Moving Camp

Many years ago, my husband Carl and I were co-leaders of a small fellowship. One day, while in prayer, God/*Elohim* showed us that the season we were in was coming to a close and a new season would soon begin. We were excited at the time, yet it was a great test of trust and wait on His timing.

Two years passed before we received word *to move camp*. It came on the eve of Passover/*Pesach* when we were woken early with, “*You are the called out ones (ekklesia)*” and “*You are Abraham’s seed.*” We asked, “*Physical seed?*” “*Yes*” came our answer. The next day, on the fifteenth of Nisan, the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, our journey began - the most incredible journey of our lives. That same day the Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh* introduced us to our identity as part of Israel and gave us the Biblical Hebrew understanding of our Savior, Yeshua, beginning with Genesis. The Scriptures kept opening in more profound revelation as we devoured His Word for hours at a time.

Often people sense they are in a time of change but act too quickly. Some rely on their feelings to direct their decision rather than trust on His Spirit to shepherd and guide them as to how, when, and what to do about their situation before evaluating what His purpose is for their lives. As in the case of the Israelites leaving Egypt, it was God/*Elohim*, who

initiated the conflict, not to harm His people, but to deliver them. In any case, our job as believers is always to put Him first before any and everything we do.

The Cloud Above The Tabernacle Continued...

📖 **Daniel 7:13** “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the *clouds* of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”

The Transfiguration

📖 **Matthew 17:1-5** “Now after six days Jesus/*Yeshua* took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, *Moses and Elijah* appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus/*Yeshua*, ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!’”

When *Yeshua* transfigured before Peter, James, and John, *Moses and Elijah* also appeared and talked with *Yeshua*. As a bright *cloud* enveloped them, a voice from heaven said, “*This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!*” That cloud contained the presence of God/*Elohim* and characterized the same cloud that appeared at Mount Sinai with the Children of Israel in the wilderness.

When God/*Elohim* (*heaven*) desires to initiate a specific action on the *earth*, He always has the office of a *prophet* and a *priest* to facilitate. Why? These two positions represent God’s/*Elohim* “legal” council on the earth. Without their attendance, His Presence or activity on the earth would have no legal authority. Thus, we see *Yeshua* transformed with *Moses and Elijah* by His side. Together, they represent the order of *Melchizedek*. Peter did not understand this yet, but he would in the future.

In the transfiguration, God/*Elohim* shows His people what it means to walk *in* His Presence. We are to be a people who pursue an obedient lifestyle in His commandments (*priest*) having the testimony of *Yeshua* on our lips and walk by the Spirit of the Holy One (*prophet*). This “cloud of witnesses” is where *heaven* and *earth* meet and become *one/echad in Him*. That action on the earth brings *transfiguration* that will raise the dead and heal the sick among us.

Taken Up and Hidden In The Cloud
Moses and the Prophets
Acts 1:9

After Yeshua's resurrection and His forty days on earth with His disciples, He was bodily taken up from before their eyes from the summit of the Mount of Olives into a *cloud* that concealed Him from their sight. When Yeshua passed His office of *priest* and *prophet* to His disciples, His physical *appearance* was no longer necessary on the earth. The office of *priest and prophet* was now successfully edified in His disciples, those who honor His His commandments, honor His prophet's words *and* uphold His principles on the earth (Exodus 19-24; 1Peter 2:9).

- ✠ **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 the LORD/*Yahweh*. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”

- ✠ **Luke 16:29-31** “Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses *and* the prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses *and* the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’”

- ✠ **Luke 24:27** “And beginning at Moses *and* all the Prophets, He [*Yeshua*] expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”

- ✠ **Luke 24:38-45** “And He [*Yeshua*] said to them, ‘Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.’ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, ‘Have you any food here?’ So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took *it* and ate in their presence. Then He said to them, ‘These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses *and* the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.’ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.”

- ✠ **Act 28:23-24** “So when they had appointed him [*Paul*] a day, many came to him at *his* lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God/*Elohim*, persuading them concerning Jesus/*Yeshua* from both the Law of Moses *and* the Prophets, from morning till evening. And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved.”

We too have heard His voice. That word was heard on Mount Sinai and is still heard today through His voice (Scripture). His word is eternal, written down for all generations through Moses *and* the Prophets - imparted to us by His Spirit, which now lives within our heart (Deuteronomy 30:14; Galatians 3:8).

The Silver Trumpets

Numbers 10:1-10

“Make two silver trumpets from hammered silver.”

Hammering signifies a molding process. The silver indicates refining for redemptive qualities. The silver trumpet is Strong’s H2689 a *temple* instrument used by *the priests* to make announcements such as gathering the Children of Israel for the Feast Days, the sighting of the New Moon, the offerings, and protocol on how to move the camp or when to settle down. *One* trumpet signaled the leaders and *two* drew the whole community to assemble. The silver trumpets were also blown to sound an alarm when going to war against enemy oppression in the land.



The ram’s horn is Strong’s H7782 a curved animal horn that sounds like a trumpet. It is the *people’s instrument* used for military purpose and often used in conjunction with the silver trumpets.

Today, understanding the significance of why we blow and when to use the two silver trumpets is important, as they are prophetic instruments.

🌿 **Psalm 89:15** “Blessed *are* the people who know the joyful sound! They walk, O LORD/*Yahweh*, in the light of Your countenance.”

Blowing two silver trumpets is to assemble His scattered people (believers), from among the nations and to proclaim liberty. A remnant will respond with one heart and mind to assemble in the full restoration of David’s Tabernacle.

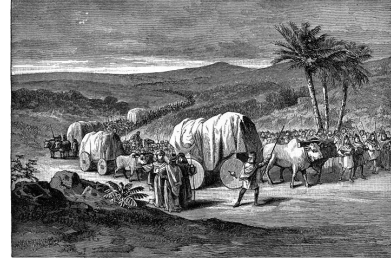
🌿 **Matthew 24:31** “And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

The Israelites Leave Mount Sinai

Numbers 10:11-35

On the twentieth day of the second month in the second year following the second Passover/Unleavened Bread celebration, the cloud lifted from above the Tabernacle. It was time to leave. Great excitement would have rippled throughout the camp as the Israelites observed the cloud moving and upon hearing the sounding of the trumpets call out the order of procession.

Seeing this vast movement of people walking in unison must have been an impressive sight. *Judah* and the company with him, the tribes of *Issachar* and *Zebulun* from the east side would move out first. Once *Judah*'s group was underway, the Levite clans of *Gershon* and *Merari* dismantled the Tabernacle. Under the direction of *Ithamar*, *Eleazar*'s brother, the *Gershon* Levites took down all the hangings, coverings, and curtains, and carefully loaded them onto two carts pulled by two oxen each. Then the *Merari* Levites, who had the responsibility of the frames, boards, and sockets, disassembled the framework of the Tabernacle and loaded them onto four carts that were drawn by eight oxen. He joined his brother *Gershon* in the procession behind *Judah*'s section and the tribe of *Zebulun*. In this way, when the *Gershon* and *Merari* Levites arrived at the next camp, they would have time to prepare the Tabernacle before the *Kohath* priests appeared with the Tabernacle furniture. This prophetic picture revealed to Israel that God/*Elohim* would always have a place prepared for them.



📖 **John 14:1** “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God/*Elohim*, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.”

The trumpets then called the tribe of *Reuben* and the clans of *Simeon* and *Gad* from the south to follow in sequence behind the carts. The priestly order of *Kohath* Levites came after *Gad*. The *Kohath* had the responsibility of *carrying* the furnishings of the Tabernacle (the ark, the menorah, the table of showbread, and the altars, along with all the utensils) covered and wrapped according to God’s/*Elohim* order. Using the poles inserted on the sides of the furniture lent support and gave balance during travel times when these items were lifted high on their shoulders. In this manner, the furnishings were protected and remained consecrated. The priests then joined in this mighty procession walking in unison behind the tribe of *Gad*.

The tribe of *Ephraim* with *Manasseh* and *Benjamin* from the west side of the Tabernacle traveled behind the *Kohath*. The rearguard, under the leadership of *Dan*, along with *Asher* and *Naphtali*, completed this mighty march through the desert.

When the camp moved, Moses would say,

“Rise up, O LORD/*Yahweh*!
Let Your enemies be scattered,
and let those who hate You flee before You.”
And when it rested, he said:
“Return, O LORD/*Yahweh*, to the many thousands of Israel.”
(Numbers 10:35-36)

Fire From God/*Elohim* Numbers 11:1-3

During the travel time, the grumblers and complainers from the outskirts of the camp were becoming vocal. The protestors angered God/*Elohim*, who sent fire among them. Who were those living furthest from the Life Source on the outskirts of the camp? Torah teaches that the heart of every believer must choose daily to draw close to the Life Source - *Yeshua*. They are to guard their hearts and separate from temptations and unwise associations that could influence or ensnare them.

Quail From God/*Elohim* Numbers 11:4-35

Another group, described as *rabble*, tagged along with Israel when they left Egypt. They also brought a discontentment that caused many to lust after other foods. Their slander (*lashon hara*) triggered dissidence and rebellion throughout the camp. Craving food other than what God/*Elohim* provided for them was a direct criticism and defamation against Him as His manna represented the body of *Yeshua* - the Bread of Life (John 6:32-51).

We were told that manna looked like coriander seed (a coriander pod contains two seeds) and was the color of bdellium, an aromatic gum like myrrh that comes from a tree. Both are comely looking.

📖 **Exodus 16:31** “And the house of Israel called its name Manna. And it *was* like white coriander seed, and the taste of it *was* like wafers *made* with honey.”

📖 **Numbers 11:7** “Now the manna *was* like coriander seed, and its color like the color of bdellium.”



Coriander Pod



Bdellium

📖 **Isaiah 53:2** “For He [*Yeshua*] grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground; He has no *stately* form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.” (NAS)

Notice: It was not the Israelites who caused the disturbance, but the rabble rejecting God/*Elohim* and His Promises. The continued contamination threatened to break the whole community apart. This report also revealed that whatever the rabble previously had in their physical or spiritual diets caused them to significantly withdrawal to the point of complaining over *the Living Bread*. The lesson begs the question about those not satisfied

with the *Living Word*. Could they have worshiped forbidden idols? Could their behavior reveal deeper heart issues that prevented them from *seeing life* in the Living Word?

✠ **Isaiah 66:17** “Those who sanctify themselves and purify themselves, to go to the gardens after an idol in the midst, eating swine’s flesh and the abomination and the mouse, shall be consumed together,” says the LORD/*Yahweh*.

✠ **John 6:31-35** [*Yeshua said,*] “Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” Then Jesus/*Yeshua* said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God/*Elohim* is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ Then they said to Him, ‘Lord, give us this bread always.’ And Jesus/*Yeshua* said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.’”

Rejecting the Torah will cause death spiritually, emotionally, and physically. If God’s/*Elohim* people became infected by their slander (unclean/*tzaris* infection - verbal discharge), the whole community would suffer, bringing about their death also. How can Israel be a mighty army if her people listen to slander profaning His Name? God’s /*Elohim* people are learning that those who even listen to *lashon hara*, are in contradiction of His Word. When the rabble spoke complaints among the community, disease spread until the whole camp was infected. Lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life are three ways that *tzaris* can bring corruption. The people lusted after another life source than what they had. That caused their contamination.

✠ **Numbers 11:10** “Moses heard the people of every family wailing, each at the entrance to his tent.”



To settle the matter, God/*Elohim* instructed Moses to bring seventy officials and elders representing the tribes of Israel and anointed them with the same Spirit that was on Moses. God/*Elohim* then brought a strong wind from the ocean that flooded the desert floor with quail. The people who craved another life source began to gather the quail. While the meat was still between their teeth, a severe plague came over them, and they died. The place was called *Kibroth Hattaavah*, which means *the graves of craving* (1 Peter 1:10-11).

God/*Elohim* is a very jealous God. He knows that temptation will mislead His people. There was a reason why He had the Israelites eat unleavened bread while in the desert for that length of time. Besides being a nutritious food for their survival in the wilderness, the manna also built trust in Him as their source. When the Bride is entirely dependent on Him for her very existence, His sustenance builds trust, honor, belief, and hope in her heart. The manna was God’s/*Elohim* consistency to purify and bring physical, emotional, and spiritual healing to strengthen and form a strong *holy* bond and nation before Him. Without consecration (*Him*), Israel would not survive.

During the purifying process, especially during the fifty days between Passover and Shavuot/Pentecost, God/*Elohim* instilled order in the lives of the Israelites. The residual effects of a slave mindset and Egyptian lifestyle needed cleansing from their hearts before they could transform into a mighty army equipped to conquer the land. Manna was the perfect means to achieve this goal. Not until the purification process was complete could the Israelites begin to learn *how* to walk upright. Otherwise they would fall prey to temptation and contamination time and time again (John 17:14-15).

Miriam and Aaron Oppose Moses Numbers 12:1-16

It was one thing to have rabble oppose the authority of Moses, but when Miriam and Aaron (of the Kohath priestly line), his own flesh and blood, spoke out against their younger brother bringing slander upon his wife, it was cause for correction. The Scriptures say that Moses was the most humble man on the face of the earth. Therefore, he did not defend himself or argue back when his siblings attacked him but remained silent before them.

How many suffer opposition within their own families where members lash out at each other? The question is, “How is our response”? Do we defend and retaliate or do we take Moses’ example of humility? Moses knew he was in God’s/*Elohim* will and as such God/*Elohim* would act on his behalf. What examples do we set for our family and in the body of believers today? Remember the three things that bring contamination: Lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. Moses stood in righteousness. That was his defense and protection, and God/*Elohim* blessed him for his steadfastness.

What we sow, we reap. Many have prayed for a deeper spiritual experience and walk in Yeshua, but what about our body language, our thoughts, and verbal response? Does it mirror Yeshua or does it prevent our prayers from being answered? Is our experience with the Living God/*Elohim* sporadic where we are often placed outside the camp like Miriam or are we living examples daily practicing His Torah lifestyle principles? The humbleness and faithfulness of Moses brought him into the very presence of God/*Elohim*. Moses is our example for today.

Miriam and Aaron were not only speaking slanderously about Moses and his wife, but also against God/*Elohim*, as Moses was His appointed earthly representative. God/*Elohim* dwells in those who believe and trust in Him. When believers think or speak against the righteous, they will be accountable before God/*Elohim* and reap the consequences.

It appears that Miriam spoke the stronger judgment, as she bore the skin affliction/*tzaris*. Moses did not take her words personally but had compassion for his sister. He forgave her instantly and reminded God/*Elohim* of the great things she had done for him as a baby. Even though Miriam repented, she was still required to fulfill the consequences of her sin. Thus, her contamination time outside the camp. For seven full days, she was not allowed to return. This example was for all to see and is still God’s/*Elohim* pattern for

restoring order in His people today. If believers speak or have slanderous thoughts, they contaminate themselves and forgo the blessings for seven days, which means - they will be taken outside the camp. Miriam's story is for *our* benefit as it teaches families and communities on how to stay healthy. By learning to elevate others, as Moses illustrated here, even when faced with adversity, is wisdom.

Who Are The Two Witnesses?

Haftarah: Zechariah 2:10 (14) to 4:7

Along with Hosea and Malachi, Zechariah is one of the prophets of *mercy* who dealt with the return of the whole House of Israel. His life was 135 years *AFTER* the House of Israel went into captivity. He was also a contemporary of the prophet Haggai. This Haftarah portion starts in the middle of a vision given to Zechariah while in captivity.

Zechariah prophesies, "*Come, O Zion! Escape, you who live in the Daughter of Babylon! For I am coming, and I will live among you. Many nations will be joined with the LORD/Yahweh in that day and will become my people*" (Zechariah 1:7,10-11).

However, there were conditions: "*If you will walk in my ways and keep my requirements, then you shall also judge My house, and likewise have charge of My courts; I will give you places to walk among these who stand here. Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, you and your companions who sit before you, for they are a wondrous sign; for behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH*" (Zechariah 3:7-8).

The vision of Zechariah then focuses on "*a solid gold lampstand/menorah with a bowl at the top and seven lights on it, with seven channels to the lights. Also, there were two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left.*" Zechariah did not know what they were. After being asked three times by the angel to identify what he saw, he was told, "*These are sons of fresh oil to serve the Lord/Adonai of all the earth*" (Zechariah 4:1-14; Isaiah 4:2; 11:1, 53:2; Psalm 132:17; Jeremiah 23:5; 33:15; Ezekiel 29:21).

Who Is The Lampstand and Who Are The Two Olive Trees?

🔥 **Revelation 11:3-4** [*Yeshua spoke and said,*] "*And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God/Elohim of the earth.*"

The two olive trees on either side of the lampstand/*menorah* represent sons of fresh oil, those who are witnesses of the true Gospel of Yeshua. Just as *Moses and Elijah* appeared before Yeshua during the Transfiguration, the two witnesses must walk in the office of *priest and prophet* if they are to be His true representatives, witnesses, and disciples on the earth. The Branch of the lampstand/*menorah* represents Yeshua the Light of the world. The true Light reveals His Word, the Torah to His people. The sons of fresh oil are those who walk according to His Word and are obedient to the *Law of Moses and the*

Prophets. These people will come from the *remnant* of the House of Israel and the House of Judah – the Whole House of Israel. Together they sing *the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb* (one and the same song), which is also *the song of the Bridegroom and the song of the Bride*. These are His two united together as *one* in Yeshua reflecting His Light, the Gospel, to the nations (Ezekiel 37:15-28; Luke 24:44; John 1:45; Acts 28:23; Revelation 15:3).

🌿 **Romans 11:16-18; 25-27** Paul spoke, saying, “For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches. And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.”

A wild olive tree has the same *genetics* as a cultivated olive tree - *they are both olive trees*. God/Elohim does not *mix* seed as mixed seed was forbidden in the Torah. For example, an apple tree will not graft with an oak or an olive tree. Biblical graphing is always with the same genetics.

We mentioned before that the term *gentile* means *pagan, confused, and without God*. Gentiles were not the people Paul was referring to in Romans. Paul’s ministry was to the *lost sheep of the House of Israel*. The word Paul used was the Greek word *akrobustia* (Strong’s G203). The *akrobustia* are thought of as a “*wild olive tree*.” When the House of Israel went into captivity, these people were scattered and forced to live among the Gentiles or Nations. Many assimilated into that lifestyle and culture, thus were given a derogatory term of *Goy or Gentile*. In doing so, the House of Israel lost their identity as *part of Israel*, and their understanding of the promised inheritance God/Elohim gave to Abraham and his descendants forever.

The people of Yeshua are *the physical seed of Abraham*. The people returning to Kingdom principles and walking upright are called the *akrobustia* (Strong’s G203) in the New Testament/*Brit Chadashah*. They are also the promised seed of Abraham (Galatians 3:7-9, 29).

🌿 **Galatians 3:7-9, 29** “Therefore know that *only* those who are of faith [*trust in Yeshua*] are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture [*Yeshua John 1:1,14*], foreseeing that God/Elohim would justify the Gentiles [*those coming in from the Nations*] by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, *saying*, ‘In you all the nations shall be blessed.’ So then those who *are* of faith [*in Yeshua as their Savior*] 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.”

If a tree lost most of its *roots*, it would look wild, sparse, and emaciated, bearing little or no fruit whereas a healthy olive tree near a life source and tended regularly would look full of life and bear abundant fruit. The *wild olive branch* spoken of in Romans Chapter 11 is a picture of those from the House of Israel who were scattered among the Nations

repenting and returning to walk in Yeshua's ways. Thus, they (the wild olive branch) are grafted back into the true olive tree along with the *Whole* House of Israel (all twelve tribes), with Yeshua as its Root. The Life of the Living Torah that was given to Israel, according to the Covenants God/*Elohim* made with His chosen people and those who join with Him flows from Yeshua - the life-giving Root (John 5:46-47).

Zechariah is prophetically pointing out that when God's/*Elohim* people return and walk righteously, in one accord (in Covenant with His Word) that action grafts them back into the true olive tree, rejoining the natural *sap* of the Tree of Life. Why is this important? As believers, *it is all about holiness*, as His people are called to be *a royal priesthood and a holy nation*. The believer's goal is unity with the Messiah – *the Holy One of Israel*. Messiah came in the order of Melchizedek. David was a king and a priest in the order of Melchizedek. Yeshua is the son of David, who became our King and High Priest of this same order. In this way, Yeshua renewed the Covenant at His death and called His people to enter into His Priesthood, *the goal of their salvation* (1Peter 2:9; Amos 9:11; Acts 15:16-21; Hebrews 8:8-10).

The song of Moses *and* the song of the Lamb (Yeshua) are one and the same song. The *Davidic* Covenant follows the *Mosaic* Covenant, which is all based on the *Abrahamic* Covenant. That is the goal of all God's/*Elohim* people; believers included. A unified Israel is realized in the restoration of David's kingdom. In Scripture, the term "*David's fallen tent*" signifies the lack of application or walk of obedience to what is taught by Moses in the Mosaic Covenant and by the Prophets. Embracing His instructions automatically *renews* the Davidic Covenant in His people, as all who obey His Word are seen as the seed of Abraham and part of the Commonwealth of Israel. In this way, all Israel will be saved (Luke 1:32, 69; Psalm 132:17; Isaiah 9:7; Jeremiah 23:5, 33:15; Ezekiel 34:23; Amos 9:11; Romans 11:24-26; Revelation 15:3) (*For more information on covenants refer to Emor study in Leviticus www.sheepfoldgleanings.com*).

- 📖 **Jeremiah 23:5** "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD/*Yahweh*, "That I will raise to *David* a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth."
- 📖 **Jeremiah 33:15** "In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to *David* a Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth."
- 📖 **Jeremiah 33:22** "As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, nor the sand of the sea measured, so will I multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me."
- 📖 **Psalm 89:2-4** "For I have said, 'Mercy shall be built up forever; Your faithfulness You shall establish in the very heavens.' You said, 'I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: Your seed I will establish forever, And build up your throne to all generations'" (Psalm 132:13-17).

Paul said,

“For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery [*of the Gentles/akrobusia returning*], lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel [*House of Judah*] until the fullness of the Gentiles [*House of Israel, those living among the Nations*] has come in [*returned*]. **And so ALL Israel will be saved** [*ALL twelve tribes and those who have joined to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob*], as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away *ungodliness* from Jacob [*the Whole House of Israel*]. For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins” (Romans 11:25-27; Isaiah 59:20-21; 27:9; Jeremiah 31:33-34).

The twelve tribes were once aliens and strangers in a foreign land separate from the Covenants. When His people return to a Torah lifestyle, they draw their life source from the Root of the Olive Tree (*Yeshua*). Therefore, they are fully accepted as *native-born Israelites* and no longer considered as aliens, strangers or Gentiles to the Covenant. They became wholly part of the *Whole House of Israel*, and as Scripture declares, “*then all Israel will be saved*” (Romans 11:26; Isaiah 59:20, 21; 27:9). (See also the book of Ruth; Leviticus 19:34; Isaiah 14:1; Ezekiel 47:22 and Ephesians 2:19).

📖 **Ephesians 2:12** “... at that time you were without Christ/*Messiah*, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God/*Elohim* in the world.”

The Root

📖 **Revelation 22:16-17** “I, Jesus/*Yeshua*, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. *I am the Root and the Offspring of David*, the Bright and Morning Star. And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”

Who is The Root of The Olive Tree?

Is the olive tree *Jewish*? The root of the olive tree is *Yeshua*, who came through the lineage of David, of the tribe of Judah. David’s Kingdom is the united *Whole House* of Israel, all twelve tribes (2 Samuel 2:4-5:5). *Yeshua*, who is of the House of David, represents all twelve tribes, not just one tribe. As High Priest, *Yeshua* still wears an ephod which holds a breastplate with twelve beautiful gemstones openly displayed on His chest each engraved with the name of a tribe – twelve in all. Two large gemstones also rest on His shoulders each bearing the engraved names of the twelve tribes; six names on one shoulder and six on the other. Not once, but twice *Yeshua* chooses to publically exhibit the twelve engraved names of all tribes twelve of Israel. Today, through *Yeshua*’s confirming position as High Priest not one gemstone or tribe is missing. All twelve are eternally before Him to this day (Hebrews 8:1).

As the Incarnate Word or Living Torah, Yeshua overtly *supports all twelve tribes of Israel*. The Covenants given to Israel through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob symbolize the trunk of the tree and those who uphold His promises to His people Israel. The branches of the tree represent His people united and coming together. Just as some *branches* were *broken off* due to disobedience, others were *grafted back in through repentance*. When believers *return* to walk in Covenant with the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, they are restored to Yeshua's redemptive plan and promises for all Israel (Genesis 12:1-3; 15:17; Psalm 52:8; 128:3; Isaiah 11:1).

“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,”
says the LORD/Yahweh of hosts/tzva’ot
(Zechariah 4:6)

🌿 **Isaiah 44:3-6** “For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring; they will spring up among the grass like willows by the watercourses. One will say, ‘I am the LORD’S/Yahweh;’ another will call *himself* by the name of Jacob; another will write *with his hand*, ‘The LORD’S/Yahweh,’ and name *himself* by the name of Israel. ‘Thus says the LORD/Yahweh, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD/Yahweh of hosts/tzva’ot: I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me *there is no God/Elohim*.’”

🌿 **Revelation 1:12-18** “Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance *was* like the sun shining in its strength. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, ‘Do not be afraid; *I am the First and the Last*. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.’”

Shabbat Shalom
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Reference

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