



Gather & Be Gathered
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Last week, we took a look at “**gathering**” according to the prophets Tsephanyah, Yeshayahu and Mal’aki, in addition to Kepha, Sha’ul and Yahshua; with some interesting results. We saw how our “**regathering**” and the “**ingathering**” all begin with “**gathering ourselves**”. In so doing, we start by *gathering our thoughts* and what Yahweh is showing us by His Ruach and reigning in our desires, so that they become like His. Then, we begin to “**gather ourselves**” together as like-minded talmidim of our Adon, Master Yahshua. And, after the teaching and Oneg, I was even more blessed as Suzannah shared how she was studying similar Scriptures with the same results. Plus, by her studying the Paleo-Hebrew letters, even more depth and understanding were added to the words and terms we learned.

Now, I didn’t mean to scare anyone, when I talked about Beit Emet being a “**beit na’yad**” or “**mobile home**”. But, we really do need to start thinking in these terms. We have learned what Yahweh’s plan is, for the Restoration of the Kingdom to Yisra’el. In fact, we’ve learned what His plan for the Restoration of All Things is. Learning something is only half of the equation. Just like with the Counting of the Omer, we need to incorporate this information into our thinking and into our lives. We are to live our life as if these events are unfolding right in front of our eyes. In fact, in case anyone hasn’t noticed, they are unfolding right here and right now. And, we get to be a part of it. Baruch HaShem Yahweh!

One of the questions I often get e-mails about, or hear in discussions, while it comes in many forms, is; “*How will we know when to go home?*” Sometimes I hear it as more of a demand, “*I’m not going home until I know He’s calling me to*”. To that one I say, “O’K”. But seriously, do you know what to listen for? Do you really? Well, I want to open a Scriptural dialogue about this, to see if we can’t learn and see specifically when we’re released to go. I use the term “released” because we should all want to go as soon as possible. Right? I mean, I want to go home now. Don’t you? Hey, if you’re in doubt about that one, we need to have a serious talk and some prayer time together.

Now, this scriptural discussion will take a couple of weeks, at least. Because, we need to look at what Yahweh has already told us. And, we need to understand it. I did a teaching back in 2004 about how the entire Tov News (Gospel) of the Kingdom was in the Book of Yeshayahu (Isaiah). So, I think that it is a great place to start. I want to add here that this is a “dialogue”. So, if you have any comments or questions, please ask; or we can discuss these at length after Oneg and the Hebrew class. I hope you’ll be studying these Scriptures and comments during the week; so you can bring back your in-depth comments for discussion.

OK, let's begin today as **Yeshayahu** begins to prophesy regarding Yisra'el. Remember, he prophesied to both "houses"; but, after Ephraim went into captivity. So, **Chapter 9:1-7**; ***But there is no gloom upon her who is distressed, as when at first He humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward more heavily oppressed her, by the way of the sea, beyond the Yarden, in Galil of the nations. The people who were walking in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death a light has shone. You shall increase the nation; You shall make its joy great. They shall rejoice before You, as in the joy of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For You shall break the yoke of his burden and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midyan. For every boot of one trampling in tumult, and coat rolled in blood, shall be used for burning and fuel of fire. For a Child shall be born unto us, a Son shall be given unto us, and the rule is on His shoulder. And His Name is called Wonder, Counselor, Strong El, Father of Continuity, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His rule and peace there is no end, upon the throne of Dawid and over His reign, to establish it and sustain it with right-ruling and with righteousness from now on, even forever. The ardor of YHVH of hosts does this.***

So, here we have someone who is distressed; but, there is no gloom upon "**her**", as when Yahweh sent Zebulun and Naphtali (Northern Kingdom) into dispersion, beyond the sea or far away. It speaks of "**her**" as having seen a great Light (Mashiach). Further, this nation shall be increased and be rejoicing, as at "**harvest time**". Yahweh has broken the *yoke* and the *staff* of the "**oppressor**" in that day; which is likened here to how Gideon defeated the Midianites in **Shof'tim / Judges 6-8**. It sounds pretty great, "*tov ma'ot*". It even speaks directly of the coming of Yahshua Messiah. The first thing I thought of here was how we currently have Messianic Jews and Christians living in Israel. In fact, they draw some "*heat*" from time to time witnessing to Yehudah.

Let's look at **verses 8-13**; ***YHVH sent a word against Ya'aqob, and it has fallen on Yisra'el. And the people shall know, all of them, Ephrayim and the inhabitant of Shomeron, who say in pride and greatness of heart: "The bricks have fallen down, but we rebuild with hewn stones; the sycamores are cut down, but we replace them with cedars." And YHVH set up the adversaries of Retsin (firm, self-will) against him, and stirred up his enemies, the Arameans (Syria) before and the Philistines (Palestinians) behind. And they devour Yisra'el with an open mouth. With all this His displeasure has not turned back, and His hand is still stretched out. And the people have not turned back to Him who smites them, nor have they sought YHVH of hosts.*** Northern Shomeron (Samaria), by the way, is where most of the messianics and Christians live. There are many in the Land, at this time, who are building up Israel in pride. But, there are some who in humbleness of heart and spirit are building up Tzion.

Then, **verses 14-21**; ***And YHVH cuts off head and tail from Yisra'el, palm branch and reed in one day. Elder and highly respected, he is the head; the prophet who teaches falsehood, he is the tail. For the leaders of this people lead them astray, and those who are guided by them are swallowed up. Therefore YHVH does not rejoice over their young men, and has no compassion on their fatherless and widows; for everyone is defiled and evil, and every mouth speaks foolishness. With all this His displeasure has not turned back, and His hand is still stretched out. For wrongness burns as the fire; it consumes thorn bushes and weeds, and sets the bushes of the forest ablaze, and they roll up like rising smoke. The land shall be burned up by the wrath of YHVH of hosts, and the people be as fuel for the fire. A man shall not spare his brother, and cut down on the right hand,***

but shall be hungry; and he devours on the left hand, but shall not be satisfied; each one devouring the flesh of his own arm: Menashsheh Ephrayim, and Ephrayim Menashsheh; together they are against Yehudah. With all this His displeasure has not turned back, and His hand is still stretched out.

This correlates to the war described in **Yo'el 2**, **Zekaryah 14** and by Yahshua in **Mattityahu 24**, where the wicked in Yerushalayim and Israel are killed; but, the redeemed of Yahweh in the Land flee to safety, as He splits the Mount of Olives with His foot. It also speaks of the time in which we live, whereby the countries where Ephraim and Menashsheh have been exiled are against each other; yet together they are against Yehudah (Israel).

Chapter 10 begins with judgment against the leaders in Israel today, as Yahweh withdraws His Hand of blessing, in **verses 1-4**; *“Woe to those making unrighteous laws, and writers who have prescribed toil, to keep the needy back from right ruling, and to take what is right from the poor of My people, that widows become their prey, and orphans their plunder. What shall you do in the day of visitation, and in the ruin which comes from afar? To whom would you run for help? And where would you leave your wealth? Without Me they shall bow down among the prisoners, and fall among the slain.” With all this His displeasure has not turned back, and His hand is still stretched out.* And, **verses 5-19** speak of Ashshur (Northern Arab countries, as the cities mentioned are major cities in Syria, Iraq, etc.), who Yahweh has used to discipline His people, and how they will be destroyed in one day.

The, in **Yeshayahu 10:20-27** we read; *And in that day it shall be that the remnant of Yisra'el, and those who have escaped of the house of Ya'aqob, never again lean upon him who defeated them, but shall lean upon YHVH, the Set-apart One of Yisra'el, in truth. A remnant shall return, the remnant of Ya'aqob, to the Mighty El. For though your people, O Yisra'el, be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return – a decisive end, overflowing with righteousness. For the Master YHVH of hosts is making a complete end, as decided, in the midst of all the land. Therefore thus said the Master YHVH of hosts, “My people, who dwell in Tsiyon, be not afraid of Ashshur, who beats you with a rod and lifts up his staff against you, in the way of Mitsrayim. For yet a little while and the displeasure shall be completed, and My displeasure be to their destruction.” And YHVH of hosts stirs up a lash for him as the smiting of Midyan at the rock of Oreb. And as His rod was on the sea, so shall He lift it up in the way of Mitsrayim. And in that day it shall be that his burden is removed from your shoulder, and his yoke from your neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing oil.*

This is exciting stuff, here. In that day, the remnant of Yisra'el and those who've escaped of the House of Ya'aqob will never again lean on, or be under the authority, of those who had defeated them. Yahweh will be their Head. A remnant shall return to Yahweh, overflowing with righteousness. Because Yahweh is bringing to completion, His plan in the **“Land”**. Remember, we talked last week about **“adamah”** (the **land**), instead of the **“earth”**. Then, His people who dwell in Tzion, not necessarily all of His people, will not be afraid of Ashshur, who still at this point, beats them with a rod and lifts up his staff. Then Yahweh says, *“For yet a little while and the displeasure shall be completed, and My displeasure be to their destruction.”* Then Assyria will be judged and his burden and yoke will be destroyed because of the **“anointing oil”**. In Hebrew it says, **“pani' shemen”** or the **“anointed face”** or the **“shining face”**, as in Yahweh makes His Face shine upon His people to destroy the accursed.

Then, it gets really interesting. We read in **Yeshayahu 10:33-11:10** about the return of Messiah Yahshua; *Look, the Master, YHVH of hosts, is lopping off a branch with an awesome crash, and the tall ones are cut down, and the lofty ones are laid low. And He shall cut down the thickets of the forest with iron, and Lebanon shall fall as a mighty one! 11:1 And a Rod shall come forth from the stump of Yishai, and a Sprout from his roots shall bear fruit. The Spirit of YHVH shall rest upon Him – the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of YHVH, and shall make Him breathe in the fear of YHVH. And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears. But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and shall decide with straightness for the meek ones of the earth, and shall smite the earth with the rod of His mouth, and slay the wrong with the breath of His lips. And righteousness shall be the girdle of His loins, and trustworthiness the girdle of His waist. And a wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and a leopard lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together, and a little child leads them. And cow and bear shall feed, their young ones lie down together, and a lion eat straw like an ox. And the nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the adder's den. They do no evil nor destroy in all My set-apart mountain, for the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of YHVH as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a Root of Yishai, standing as a banner to the people. Unto Him the gentiles shall seek, and His rest shall be esteem.*

Now, as Yahshua returns, it gets even more interesting as we read **verses 11-16**; *And it shall be in that day that YHVH sets His hand again a second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Ashshur and from Mitsrayim, from Pathros and from Kush, from Eylam and from Shin'ar, from Hamath and from the islands of the sea. And He shall raise a banner for the nations, and gather the outcasts of Yisra'el, and assemble the dispersed of Yehudah from the four corners of the earth. And the envy of Ephrayim shall turn aside, and the adversaries of Yehudah be cut off. Ephrayim shall not envy Yehudah, and Yehudah not trouble Ephrayim. But they shall fly down upon the shoulder of the Philistines toward the west; together they plunder the people of the east, their hand stretching forth on Edom and Mo'ab, and the children of Ammon shall be subject to them. And YHVH shall put under the ban the tongue of the Sea of Mitsrayim, and He shall wave His hand over the River with the might of His Spirit, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and shall cause men to tread it in sandals. And there shall be a highway for the remnant of His people, those left from Ashshur, as it was for Yisra'el in the day when he came up from the land of Mitsrayim.*

Notice how Yahweh sets His Hand a second time to recover the remnant of His people, who are left, from Ashshur, Mitsrayim and beyond. This time, it's from all over the earth, including the dispersed of Yehudah. The first exodus was a deliverance of one people from one place. This is clearly speaking of a second "**gathering**" from many places. And, as they fly down on the Philistines, they stretch forth into Edom, Mo'ab and Amman. The first time, it was Lebanon and Gilead (Syria). This is when those who fled Eretz Yisra'el meet up with the whole family and the "**Two Houses**" are indeed "**One House**" again.

Then, we read in **Yeshayahu 12:1-6**; *And in that day you shall say, "I thank You YHVH, though You were enraged with me, Your displeasure has turned back, and You have comforted me. See, El is my deliverance, I trust and am not afraid. For Yah, YHVH, is my strength and my song; and He has become my deliverance." And you shall draw water with joy from the fountains of deliverance. And in that day you shall say, "Praise YHVH,*

call upon His Name; make known His deeds among the peoples, make mention that His Name is exalted. Sing to YHVH, For He has done excellently; this is known in all the earth. Cry aloud and shout, O inhabitant of Tsiyon, for great is the Set-apart One of Yisra'el in your midst!"

As Yahweh sets His Hand the second time and “**gathers**” all the remnant, we read this promise and we’ll see the fulfillment of **verse 8**, in **Yeshayahu 56:1-8**; *Thus said YHVH, “Guard right-ruling, and do righteousness, for near is My deliverance to come, and My righteousness to be revealed. Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who lays hold on it, guarding the Sabbath lest he profane it, and guarding his hand from doing any evil. And let not the son of the foreigner who has joined himself to YHVH speak, saying, ‘YHVH has certainly separated me from His people,’ nor let the eunuch say, ‘Look I am a dry tree.’ ” For thus said YHVH, “To the eunuchs who guard My Sabbaths, and have chosen what pleases Me, and hold fast to My covenant: to them I shall give in My house and within My walls a place and a name better than that of sons and daughters – I give them an everlasting name that is not cut off. Also the sons of the foreigner who join themselves to YHVH, to serve Him, and to love the Name of YHVH, to be His servants, all who guard the Sabbath, and not profane it, and hold fast to My covenant – them I shall bring to My set-apart mountain, and let them rejoice in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their slaughterings are accepted on My altar, for My house is called a house of prayer for all the peoples.” The Master YHVH, who gathers the outcasts of Yisra’el, declares, “I gather still others to him besides those who are gathered to him.”*

So, am I saying by this that there are two “**gatherings**” or “**ingatherings**”? No. What I’m saying is that when Yahweh gathers Yehudah and the outcasts of Yisra’el, there are already some, from both groups living in Tzion, who will escape during the last invasion of the Land, during the Great Tribulation, as the prophets have spoken. How can this be? Well, we need to define the term “**gathering**”. As we saw last week, it is much broader than just Yahweh plucking us up from where we are and causing us to traverse a wilderness.

When I looked up the word “**gather**” in the concordance and lexicons, I found that Yahweh uses two words when describing His “**gathering**” of us. Last week, we learned about “**koshashu**”, meaning to “**gather**” or “**assemble**” or “**collect**” It is Strong’s #7197 and is used 8 times in the TaNaK, most of the times in Tsephanyah. The other Hebrew word is “**kabats**”, Strong’s #6908, used 127 times in TaNaK, meaning “**assemble**” or “**gather**”. When I looked up “**gather**” in the regular old Merriam – Webster dictionary, I found also “**to come together in a group**”, “**to accumulate**” and “**come together by degrees**”.

Do you see a pattern here? I didn’t until very recently. The pattern is that this idea or concept of “**gathering**” is a process. For us, it’s been happening as we’ve been awakened and have come to the truth. Yahweh has already begun to “**gather**” us. We’ve begun to “**gather ourselves**” together, in thought and in practice. We’re “**gathered**” together here, today. Yes, there will be a “**great gathering**”, a “**second exodus**” of huge proportions, from everywhere on the planet. But, what we need to realize is that it has already begun, with us. It’s a *coming together by degrees*.

Where is that in Scripture? Many places, as we’ll see over the next couple of weeks. However, one comes to minds right off. We read in **Yehezqel / Ezekiel 36:21-38**, just before his description of the “*Valley of Dry Bones*” and the “*Joining of the Two Sticks*” in **Yehezqel 37**; *“But I had compassion on My set-apart Name, which the house of Yisra’el had profaned among the gentiles wherever they went. Therefore say to the house of Yisra’el, ‘Thus said the*

Master YHVH, “I do not do this for your sake, O house of Yisra’el, but for My set-apart Name’s sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. And I shall set apart My great Name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. And the gentiles shall know that I am YHVH,” declares the Master YHVH, “when I am set-apart in you before their eyes. And I shall take you from among the nations, and I shall gather you out of all lands, and I shall bring you into your own land. And I shall sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean – from all your filthiness and from all your idols I cleanse you. And I shall give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you. And I shall take the heart of stone out of your flesh, and I shall give you a heart of flesh, and put My Spirit within you. And I shall cause you to walk in My laws and guard My right-rulings and shall do them. And you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers. And you shall be My people, and I shall be your Elohim. And I shall save you from all your uncleannesses. And I shall call for the grain and increase it, and I shall bring no scarcity of food upon you. And I shall increase the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields, so that you need never again bear the reproach of scarcity of food among the nations. And you shall remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good. And you shall loathe yourselves in your own eyes, for your crookednesses and your abominations. Not for your sake am I acting,” declares the Master YHVH, “let it be known to you. Be ashamed and blush for your ways, O house of Yisra’el!” “Thus said the Master YHVH, “On the day that I cleanse you from all your crookednesses, I shall cause the cities to be inhabited, and the ruined places shall be rebuilt, and the land that was laid waste tilled instead of being a ruin before the eyes of all who pass by. And they shall say, ‘This land that was laid waste has become like the garden of Eden. And the wasted, the deserted, and the destroyed cities are now walled and inhabited.’ “Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, YHVH, have rebuilt the destroyed places and planted what was laid waste. I, YHVH, have spoken it, and I shall do it.” “Thus said the Master YHVH, “Once again I shall let the house of Yisra’el inquire of Me to do for them: I shall increase their men like a flock. As a set-apart flock, as the flock at Yerushalayim at her appointed times, so shall the wasted cities be filled with flocks of men. And they shall know that I am YHVH.” ’ ’ ”

Family, the discussion I want to start with you all is to consider that we do not put our “**regathering**” into a box that’s labeled, “**Do Not Open Until Pesach 6001**”. Yes, I still firmly believe that when Yahweh gathers His people, we’ll see it happen in the pattern of the exodus. But, because we are not all in one place, in fact we’re everywhere but one place, the “**leaving**” will not be exactly the same.

Yahweh, again speaking through the prophet, says in **Yeshayahu 43:14-21**; *Thus said YHVH, your Redeemer, the Set-apart One of Yisra’el, “For your sake I shall send to Babel, and bring them all down as fugitives, even the Chaldeans, who rejoice in their ships. I am YHVH, your Set-apart One, Creator of Yisra’el, your Sovereign.” Thus said YHVH, who makes a way in the sea and a path through the mighty waters, who brings forth the chariot and horse, the army and the power (they lie down together, they do not rise, they have been extinguished, they have been quenched like a wick): “Do not remember the former events, nor consider the events of old. See, I am doing what is new, let it now spring forth. Do you not know it? I am even making a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The beast of the field esteems Me, the jackals and the ostriches, because I have given waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to My people, My chosen, this people I have formed for Myself, let them relate My praise.”*

And, finishing for today, He goes on in **Yeshayahu 44:1-8**; *“But now hear, O Ya’aqob My servant, and Yisra’el whom I have chosen. Thus said YHVH who made you and formed you from the womb, who helps you, ‘Do not fear, O Ya’aqob My servant, and Yeshurun, whom I have chosen. For I pour water on the thirsty, and floods on the dry ground. I pour My Spirit on your seed, and My blessing on your offspring, and they shall spring up among the grass like willows by streams of water.’ One says, ‘I belong to YHVH; another calls himself by the name of Ya’aqob; another writes with his hand, ‘Unto YHVH,’ and names himself by the name of Yisra’el. Thus said YHVH, Sovereign of Yisra’el, and his Redeemer, YHVH of hosts, ‘I am the First and I am the Last, besides Me there is no Elohim. And who is like Me? Let him call and declare it, and lay it before Me, since I appointed the everlasting people. And the events that are coming and those that do come, let them declare these to them. Do not fear, nor be afraid. Have I not since made you hear, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there an Eloah besides Me? There is no other Rock, I know not one.’ ”*

Yahweh has already begun a work in Yisra’el. You are living proof of that **“work”**. He has put it on your heart to keep His Torah. And, as our heart of stone is replaced with a heart of flesh, we naturally long to go **“home”**. Some of you are maybe still struggling with the idea of **“home”** being a dangerous place, filled with people who may not want you there. I’ll save that as part of our later discussion, a discussion Joel Bell and Sagiv Assulin will want to be a part of. But, one way or another, when we cry out as our fathers did, He will hear us and bring us out of Mitzrayim and Babel. But, we must also allow Him to remove Mitzrayim and Babel from us.

As Yahweh spoke through **Tsephanyah (who’s hidden in Yah)**, in **chapter 3:14-20**; *Shout for joy, O daughter of Tsiyon! Shout, O Yisra’el! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Yerushalayim! YHVH has turned aside your judgments. He has faced your enemy. The Sovereign of Yisra’el, YHVH, is in your midst. No longer need you fear evil. In that day it shall be said to Yerushalayim, “Do not fear, Tsiyon, do not let your hands be weak. YHVH your Elohim in your midst, is mighty to save. He rejoices over you with joy, He is silent in His love, He rejoices over you with singing.” “I shall gather those who grieve about the appointed place, who are among you, to whom its reproach is a burden. See, I am dealing with all those afflicting you at that time. And I shall save the lame, and gather those who were cast out. And I shall give them for a praise and for a name in all the earth where they were put to shame. At that time I shall bring you in, even at the time I gather you, for I shall give you for a name, and for a praise, among all the peoples of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes,” said YHVH.*

Are you free? With the understanding that Yahweh has given you, through Ruach HaKodesh, are you desiring to follow Yahweh and His Torah? Are you doing so? And, are you free to do so? Then you are a captive released. Your punishment is up. The door of your cell is open. Do you want to go home? Then go!

Baruch HaShem Yahweh!