



Where's the Love, Man ?
Beit Emet Congregation ~ Vancouver, WA
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7/26/08
www.hearoisrael.org

We have spent the last 5 weeks hearing and learning about some important aspects of the “**regathering**” of both Houses of Yisra’el. The culmination of these weeks was, of course, last week at the Restoration of the Kingdom Conference, in Portland, OR; where we heard from Joel Bell and Sagiv Assulin from Israel. They spoke about the opportunities for us to serve our brother Yehudah (Judah) in Eretz Israel. They spoke of the day that is soon coming when we will be not only allowed, but asked, to come home to the Land of our inheritance. Be watching their website; www.biblicalzionist.org for more information.

Most of us get all excited about this subject. After all, collectively, we’ve waited 2730 years to hear the words, “**Come home!**” So, when people come from the Land of Israel, to our conference, and they say that the time is at hand for those words to be spoken, we are ready to jump. I mean, if you’ve been awakened to the restoration of all things, which includes the restoration of the Kingdom to Israel; then, you know what’s got to happen. We have to return to the Land in order for that restoration to be completed and for Bible prophecy to be fulfilled. You, as Israel, should want to see and be in this regathering more than anything else. Because, through our gathering and return to the Land, Mashiach Yahshua comes to be our King.

What’s intriguing in all of this, to me, is that some people are ready to jump on a plane right now. Others are much more hesitant. And, I wouldn’t be critical of either group. Before we “**jump**”, we need to count the cost of such a move and examine where it’s coming from. While we’re excited about the end of the captivity, we don’t want to step out of the will of Elohim. This is why I’ve shared the messages I have in recent weeks. My goal is to shed light on what Scripture has to say. I intend today be no different.

Since I first began to hear about Joel Bell, World Likud and Worldwide Biblical Zionists and all of these amazing stories, I’ve also heard warnings from people who have some concerns. We need to examine these as they surface and look honestly at them; and, not be condemning of any brother or sister who has doubts. In the end, I’m sure we won’t all agree. But, because we want to please Yahweh and walk in Truth, we need to look at these opinions and check them against Scripture. Ahmein?

One of the things I heard, kind of on the sidelines at the conference, was that, “*Well remember, Scripture tells us that there were 30,000 Ephraimites that left Egypt early and were slaughtered by the Philistines when they came into the Land*”. The suggestion here is that if we (B’nei Ephraim) leave the diaspora before our captivity is over; we’ll be punished and slaughtered by Israel’s

enemies. First, we have to ask, "Where in Scripture is that"? Well, it's not exactly in Scripture. This story appears in **Sefer Ha Yasher** (the *Book of Jasher*). In fact, it's **Chapter 75:1-22**; ***At that time, in the hundred and eightieth year of the Israelites going down into Egypt, there went forth from Egypt valiant men, thirty thousand on foot, from the children of Israel, who were all of the tribe of Joseph, of the children of Ephraim the son of Joseph. For they said the period was completed which the Lord had appointed to the children of Israel in the times of old, which he had spoken to Abraham. And these men girded themselves, and they put each man his sword at his side, and every man his armor upon him, and they trusted to their strength, and they went out together from Egypt with a mighty hand. But they brought no provision for the road, only silver and gold, not even bread for that day did they bring in their hands, for they thought of getting their provision for pay from the Philistines, and if not they would take it by force. And these men were very mighty and valiant men, one man could pursue a thousand and two could rout ten thousand, so they trusted to their strength and went together as they were. And they directed their course toward the land of Gath, and they went down and found the shepherds of Gath feeding the cattle of the children of Gath. And they said to the shepherds, Give us some of the sheep for pay, that we may eat, for we are hungry, for we have eaten no bread this day. And the shepherds said, Are they our sheep or cattle that we should give them to you even for pay? So the children of Ephraim approached to take them by force. And the shepherds of Gath shouted over them that their cry was heard at a distance, so all the children of Gath went out to them. And when the children of Gath saw the evil doings of the children of Ephraim, they returned and assembled the men of Gath, and they put on each man his armor, and came forth to the children of Ephraim for battle. And they engaged with them in the valley of Gath, and the battle was severe, and they smote from each other a great many on that day. And on the second day the children of Gath sent to all the cities of the Philistines that they should come to their help, saying, Come up unto us and help us, that we may smite the children of Ephraim who have come forth from Egypt to take our cattle, and to fight against us without cause. Now the souls of the children of Ephraim were exhausted with hunger and thirst, for they had eaten no bread for three days. And forty thousand men went forth from the cities of the Philistines to the assistance of the men of Gath. And these men were engaged in battle with the children of Ephraim, and the Lord delivered the children of Ephraim into the hands of the Philistines. And they smote all the children of Ephraim, all who had gone forth from Egypt, none were remaining but ten men who had run away from the engagement. For this evil was from the Lord against the children of Ephraim, for they transgressed the word of the Lord in going forth from Egypt, before the period had arrived which the Lord in the days of old had appointed to Israel. And of the Philistines also there fell a great many, about twenty thousand men, and their brethren carried them and buried them in their cities. And the slain of the children of Ephraim remained forsaken in the valley of Gath for many days and years, and were not brought to burial, and the valley was filled with men's bones. And the men who had escaped from the battle came to Egypt, and told all the children of Israel all that had befallen them. And their father Ephraim mourned over them for many days, and his brethren came to console him. And he came unto his wife and she bare a son, and he called his name Beriah, for she was unfortunate in his house.***

Now, while there are claims that this book is a faithful copy and translation of an original Hebrew text dating back to 70 CE; the Hebrew book can only be traced back to maybe 1552, in Naples, Italy and for certain to Venice, Italy in 1625. There is no historical record of this particular rendition, or any other, prior to this date.

The Talmud contains commentary about this event and states that this occurred 180 years into the captivity of B'nei Yisra'el in Mitzrayim. However, this commentary was all written after the 1625 printing. Further, in **Sanhedrin 92:b**, the commentator concludes that these 30,000 men whose bodies were left in the valley of Philistia, were the army resurrected by the prophet Yehezqel (Ezekiel) in the "**Valley of Dry Bones**" in **Yehezqel 37** and that they went into captivity in Babylon with Yehudah.

The TaNaK (the Scriptures) have only this to say of the incident, in **Dibre haYamim Aleph / 1 Chronicles 7:20-27**; ***And the sons of Ephrayim: Shuthelah, and Bered his son, and Tahath his son, and Eladah his son, and Tahath his son, and Zabad his son, and Shuthelah his son, and Ezer and El'ad. But the men of Gath who were born in that land slew them because they came down to take their livestock. And Ephrayim their father mourned many days, and his brothers came to comfort him. And when he went in to his wife, she conceived and bore a son. And he called his name Beri'ah, because evil had come upon his house. And his daughter was She'erah, who built Lower and Upper Beyth Horon and Uzzen She'erah. And Rephah was his son, as well as Resheph, and Telah his son, and Tahan his son, La'dan his son, Ammihud his son, Elishama his son, Nun his son, Yehoshua his son.***

So, what are we to believe? It really doesn't matter. According to Scripture, B'nei Ephraim were killed because they tried to steal livestock. According to Jasher, they were slaughtered because they left Egypt before the time appointed by Yahweh for Yisra'el to remain in Mitzrayim. So, don't steal another man's livestock and don't go home early; and, all will be well with you.

The livestock issue, we'll save for another teaching. As for going home early; we know by every calculation done by both secular and Bible historians that the 2730 year period of the punishment of the House of Yisra'el (*B'nei Ephraim*) is up absolutely no later than Yom Teruah, or as some say Rosh Hashanah, 2009, according to the calendar of the day. I'm willing to bet, even my life, that today is not too early. Our dear sister, Elizabeth Lewis, and a bunch of other B'nei Ephraim, who are currently living the Land, are testimony to the fact that Yahweh has not called them, or us, out of captivity to kill us in the Land. Didn't our forefathers say as much many times, after they came out of Mitzrayim? Our days are numbered by Him Who created us.

At the end of the day; this shouldn't be about us. Family, our motivation cannot be about what we get out of this. Too many peoples have laid claim to Eretz Israel. Huge church systems and ministries have bought up land in Israel. Even ministries in this movement have announced their "**claim**" to the Land, as their inheritance. As one Israeli Jew told Joel the day before he left to come to our conference, I'm paraphrasing here, "*If you come here to help, with the heart of G-d, Israel will come out to meet you.*" This has to be about serving..... serving our brother. The "Prodigal Son", when he came to himself, realized that it would be better to be a servant in His Father's house, than to remain in exile and eat with the swine. This has to be our heart. The rest is simply vain talk and wishful thinking.

At the conference, I mentioned the American Colony in Jerusalem, started by Horatio Spafford, his wife Anna and a small group of brave souls who ventured from Chicago, IL in 1881, to serve their Jewish brothers in Jerusalem. Their complete story can be read at;

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/americancolony/amcolony-overview.html>

These people really understood what it meant to serve their brother in order to pave the way for the restoration of the Two Houses, in hopes that the Kingdom of Elohim would come and restore all things. Folks, they were truly early. They were not slaughtered. Because, they did not come to

steal. They came to serve. Some died of things like Malaria. One of them being Horatio Spafford, himself. But, what he and Anna and the others started lasted until 1950. Wow! 69 years. I wonder if that is a shadow of the first 69 weeks of Dani'el. If so, can the 70th week be far behind? History tells us that it was dissention and division from within that brought to an end the American Colony in Jerusalem, a true work of Yahweh. We need to learn from those who have gone before us. Division and rebellion have no place in Yisra'el.

Let's remember the greatest commands of all, as Yahshua taught us in **Yohanan - Mark 12:28-31**; *And one of the scribes coming near, hearing them reasoning together, knowing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first command of all?" And Yahshua answered him, "The first of all the commands is, 'Hear, O Yisra'el, YHVH our Elohim, YHVH is one. And you shall love YHVH your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your being, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first command. And the second, like it, is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other command greater than these."* Indeed, on these two commands, hang all the Torah and the prophets.

We should love and serve our brother, because Yahweh desires us to. It's not about rabbis and Talmud. It's all about love. And, as Yahshua taught us in **Yohanan / John 15:9-13**; *"As the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you. Stay in My love. If you guard My commands, you shall stay in My love, even as I have guarded My Father's commands and stay in His love. These words I have spoken to you, so that My joy might be in you, and that your joy might be complete. This is My command, that you love one another, as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this: that one should lay down his life for his brothers."* That means more than being willing to die for someone. You must also be willing to live for them and serve them. Remember, Yahshua taught us also that he who is least and servant of all, shall be the greatest in the Kingdom of Elohim. **Selah.**

What we're confronted with, is really about "**vision**". **Mishle / Proverbs 29:18** reads (according to most English translations; *Where there is no vision, the people perish, But blessed is he who guards the Torah.* First, the Hebrew word for "**vision**" here is "**chatzown**" (*chet-zayin-vav-nun*) and means "**a prophetic vision**" or "**divine revelation**". And the Hebrew word used for "**perish**" is "**para**" (*pey-reish-ayin*), which really translates as to be "**let loose**" or "**unbridled**". So, "**without the prophetic vision from Yahweh, the people are let loose**". What is the "**vision**" of our movement today? Truth is; we don't have one. Everyone has their own vision. And, as a result, there is nothing but in-fighting and division. People and ministries argue over calendars, new moons, Sabbaths, polygamy and the list goes on ad-nausium. B'nei Ephraim is as fragmented now as it was in the various church denominations we left.

We know, or at least we should know, that the divine revelation of the Two Houses being re-united in these last days is dependent on Yahshua's redemptive work and our willingness to obey Torah and come together to serve one another. We also should know, from our study of Scripture, that we are to go home to Eretz Israel. I challenge each of us today, Yehudah and Ephraim and the Sojourner among us, to walk-out Torah as Yahshua taught us. I'm not saying to lay down all your beliefs; but, to lay down our "**self-righteous**" attitudes about all the truth we think we know, and simply, love and serve your brother. If we will indeed follow Yahshua's example and lay down our life for our brother; then, as He promised, "**our joy will be complete**" as He regathers us and plants us in the Land and feeds us with the inheritance of Ya'aqob.

Baruch HaShem Yahweh !