

Week 4 – Time: The Month of Elul

Thursday, August 21, 2020, at sun set will be the beginning of Rosh Codesh, or the first day of the month of Elul. Elul is the sixth month of the Sacred Calendar. The name of this month, only mentioned once in Nehemiah 6:15 when the walls of Jerusalem were completed on the 25th day of Elul, was assigned during the period of Israel's exile in Babylon. As far as I can find, there is no mentioning of a name for the sixth month in the pre-exilic text of the Bible. However, Nehemiah saw that the wall was completed in ample time to prepare for the first day of Tisri, which was Yom Teruah, or Rosh Hoshana.

What else happened in Elul? It was on the first day of Elul Moses ascended Mt. Sanai the third time for forty days to have the Ten Commandments re-inscribed. He came down 40 days later on what would now be the 10th day of Tisri which is Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement). It was a time in Exodus 34:6-8 that the thirteen attributes of God were revealed to Moses. Adonai is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, abundant in lovingkindness, abundant in truth, showing mercy to 1000 generations, forgiving iniquity, forgiving transgressions, forgiving sin, yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished, He brings iniquity upon father's children, upon the children's children, even to the third and fourth generation.

This would lead us into a discussion of Teshuvah. Teshuvah is a "return to God". It is a 40 day observance or a period of time in which one evaluates one's self. It is a time to review one's deeds and spiritual progress over the past year. It is a time to awaken from a spiritual apathy or a spiritual slumber. It is a time to repent and seek God whole heartedly.

A way to look at Teshuvah is, "The King is in the field!" He is not hidden away on a throne in his castle. He is out among every day people and he welcomes the common man. He welcomes the great and the small, the old and the young, the rich and the poor. All who come to Him with a genuine penitent heart and awakened in spirit.

Teshuvah is a time to repent towards God and apologize to others for misdeeds. The flesh gets the best of all of us from time to time. It is a time to pray and seek God and His Righteousness and His Kingdom. It is a time to WAKE UP!

The Shofar is sounded daily throughout Teshuvah, the entire month of Elul, throughout Rosh Hoshana, throughout The Feast of Trumpets and into Yom Kippur. Why? It is the voice of God saying, "WAKE UP! RETURN TO ME! I WILL SHOW YOU THE WAY IN TRUTH TO EVERLASTING LIFE!"

Yeshua said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life...No man comes to the Father but through Me."

Teshuvah, for us, as it was for Moses and Israel, is a time to realize that we have not arrived. Like Israel was as they wandered in the desert for forty years, regardless of where we are, we are only beginning the journey. It starts new each day with HIS mercy and grace. For God is a compassionate God. He is a gracious God. He is slow to anger. He is abundant in lovingkindness (mercy). He is abundant in truth. He shows mercy upon 1000 generations. He is forgiving of iniquity, transgression, and sin. He is right and just in judging the guilty and bringing iniquity of the father upon his children and his children's children to the 3rd and 4th generation.

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THAT is why Elul and Teshuvah are so important. Not only does it affect US here and now but OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS ARE AT STAKE!

Another important thing to note is that Teshuvah is called for in the Book of Joel in Chapter 2:12-3:5 but not only is Teshuvah called for, there are instructions on the process, and the rewards and promises of Teshuvah follow. READ THE SCRIPTURE!

It's time to repent of our short comings! By the way, repentance is not you falling on your knees and telling God how "bad" you've been and telling Him how sorry you are. God already knows how bad we are. No, the word repent means to change one's mind, one's bearings, one's direction. Repentance is realizing "I've not been active in prayer seeking God. I'm going to make a concerted effort to do so." It's "I've not been faithful in my language and the way I speak. I'm going to change that." It's "I have ruled and disciplined my family with fear. I'm not going to do that. I'm going to rule and discipline my family in love." Those were all "big ticket" items that I've had to repent of in the last several years, if the truth be told.

You see, not only is it time for us to wake up, repent, and return to God with all our hearts, it's time to do some serious soul searching. It's time to start thinking and praying about what your role in God's Plan is for you here on this earth, your calling if you will, and what your role will be in bringing God's Kingdom. What am I talking about? I'm talking about the calling upon your life. I'm talking about the anointing on your life to fulfill that calling. I'm talking about surrendering to that calling and receiving the anointing. But I'm telling you this. "Many are called but few are chosen." Ever heard that? Do you know why there are so many called and why there are so few chosen? Because many who hear the calling reject the calling because the calling is not what they wanted it to be! They reject the calling instead of receiving the calling because they are afraid that they may have to submit to something greater than themselves! Few are chosen because so few accept the calling upon their lives. The calling is not what they wanted it to be.

How do I know that? Been there, done that! You think I wanted to sound a shofar and be laughed at for my efforts? No! I wanted to be the rock star preacher! But God said, "NO! Son you are my Shofarim! You sound My trumpet! You are MY appointed Watchman!" You know what? It's a frightening, lonely and unpopular assignment. I'm praying Ruach ha-Chodesh directs me where to go. When to go. Where to sound, the trumpet when to sound the trumpet, how to sound the trumpet. I don't want it to be my sound coming out of this horn. I want it to be HIS sound! I want to see HIS power manifest!

But what if, you feel like you don't know what your true calling is? Let me tell you something that I know for certain. It is a miserable existence. I struggled for years because I wanted to be the rock star preacher. I don't know why I thought I could pull that off. I'm not gifted at speaking publicly. I'm not graceful in my mannerisms and sometimes I'm down right hard to look at. But I wanted the attention of man. I'd look in the mirror expecting to see Billy Graham and all I saw was John the Baptist with wild honey and locusts on my face. All I'd see was a hooded figure who appeared to be a vagabond.

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Oh I get the attention all right. You want attention? Put that tallit on or carry one of these around in public and you'll get attention. It may not be the kind of attention you want. I've been called Lawrence of Arabia and everything else to a Jew boy wannabe. The question to ask when you are seeking your calling is, "God what do YOU have for me to do?" "Holy Spirit, what anointing do you have to pour out on me?"

For me it was a life of misery, anguish, and bitterness.

I encourage each of you in these days to come known as Elul and the High Holy Days. Seek God with all the passion you can muster. Hear the blast of the Shofar! Awaken! If you are uncertain of your gifts or your calling, pray that those things be revealed. If you have received confirmation on your gifts and calling pray for the anointing that comes with it. If you have received the gifts, the calling, the anointing are you walking in those things? Are you praying and studying to understand the power within you waiting to be released? And, if you've received all that, are you truly seeking God and Ruach ha-Chadesh to direct you in your journey!

IT'S IMPORTANT! Our generation and four generations behind us are depending on us and what we do NOW!

Now before you repent and before you pray for all these things, the watchman issues you not a warning but some truth. It will not be easy. You want the gifts and the calling? You better be willing to spend the time growing in spirit. You want the anointing to complete the gifts and the calling. You better be ready to be hard pressed. The oil of anointing is like the oil of the olive. It's only gained through a pressing.

Elul is coming! Teshuvah is coming! The forty days of the shofar is coming! The King is coming to the field to meet with you! Is the awakening coming? That's up to you. Are the gifts, the calling, the anointing coming? Perhaps. Much of that is up to you. As I said earlier, many are called but few are chosen. All the rest rejected the calling because it was not what they wanted it to be or because they saw that they would have to submit to something greater than themselves. It doesn't matter which way it is or if it's a combination of the two, it's a check in the loss column.

Elul is a month of preparation for the High Holy Days of Tisri to the Feast of Trumpets that has not as yet been fulfilled. The Feast of Trumpets will be fulfilled when seven seals are broken, seven trumpets are sounded, and seven bowls of wrath are emptied. Oh Yeah, Yeshua will return with a shout, the archangel and the TRUMPET OF GOD Coronating Him as King!

In First Kings Chapter 1 Solomon, the first king of David's line was coronated king with the trumpet. In the last days, Yeshua, Jesus Christ will be the last King of David's line coronated with the trumpet. And people wonder why it is that David was the only man of whom it was said, was a man after God's own heart.

From the first day of Elul judgment begins to fall from heaven, we have forty days, through the 10th day of Tisri, Yom Kippur, The Day of Atonement to seek God that HE may halt the

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judgments of the past year and decide upon the blessings of the coming year. But, it's up to you which it will be and to what extent.