

Hanukkah

Day Four Readings

Study by Marc Gravelle

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This is the fourth day of Hanukkah, and we have learned so far that we are to stand against tyranny wherever we find it, whether it's in our own back yard or across the world. We are to stand up and be counted as warriors for Elohim. We are **NOT** to be ashamed of what Elohim has put on our hearts, and we are **NOT TO BOW DOWN TO THE** gods of *political correctness*, the gods of *tolerance*, nor the gods of *don't rock the boat*.

We are told in **Mark 8:38** and **Luke 9:26** that **IF** we are ashamed of Messiah, who of course **IS** the Living Torah, the Words of the inerrant and everlasting Living teaching and instructions of our heavenly Father, His inerrant and everlasting Word made flesh, that He, the Living Torah, together with our heavenly Father **WILL BE ASHAMED OF US**. I know where I stand in this equation, and Elohim admonishes us in *Deuteronomy 30*, to choose life; and when we choose Life, it means that we are choosing Messiah, who, as I said, **IS** the Living Torah, the bread of Life, the Light and the Life of the world made flesh.

Before we get into the readings for today I would like for everyone here to take a moment and seriously think about re-dedicating your hearts, minds, souls and strength, your own temple, I would like you to make an earnest commitment in your hearts to Yahweh, make commitment from wherever you are today in your walk with Elohim, a commitment to stand as best as you can, for His **Righteousness**, the Words of the Father's Life Giving Torah, regardless of what opposition you come up against, and the definition of what **Righteousness** actually is, is found in *Deuteronomy 6:24-25*. where it says: *And Yahweh commanded us to do all these Statutes, to fear Yahweh our Elohim, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is at this day. And **IT SHALL BE OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, IF WE OBSERVE TO DO ALL** these Commandments before Yahweh our Elohim, as He has Commanded us.*

Let's pray! Heavenly Father, you have created us to be a Light onto the nations of the world that are mired in darkness, and you have graciously redeemed us from bondage to our past sinful lives; and furthermore, You also provide for, and sustain our lives; therefore, together as one entity, **WE** pray to **YOU** heavenly Father and sincerely ask, that You watch over us this Hanukkah season, and create in us, a new heart, a heart filled with an eternal desire **TO STAND FIRM FOR YOUR WORD AND YOUR TRUTH**, as Mattathias and his sons did so many years ago; **GIVE US THE COURAGE** that you gave to Joshua, **THE HUMILITY** that was in Mosheh, and **THE LION'S HEART** that was in David, and we especially want You to give us David's **DEEP SEATED LOVE FOR THE WORDS OF YOUR TORAH OF LIFE**, the Words of Your inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, Your directives for everlasting Life, which made David **A MAN AFTER YOUR OWN HEART**. Create in us a **CLEAN HEART** that we may obey **ALL** the Words of your inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, Your Torah of Life, so that we may, on a daily basis, seek first the kingdom of Elohim and your **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, so that we may walk as You intended us to walk; for You, heavenly Father, have told us in Your wonderful inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, Your Words of Life, that **YOU HAVE NOT GIVEN US A SPIRIT OF FEAR, BUT THAT YOU**

HAVE GIVEN US A SPIRIT OF POWER, A SPIRIT OF LOVE AND A SOUND MIND, in order that we may **KEEP AND DO** Your Commandments. We ask all of this in the name of Your only begotten precious Son, our Messiah, Yeshua, the Words of Your Living Torah made flesh, who **IS** Yahweh. Amein

In *Isaiah 42:5–7* we read, *Thus says Yahweh Elohim,
He who created the heavens, and stretched them out
He who spread forth the earth, and that which comes out of it
He who gives breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein
I, Yahweh, have called you in RIGHTEOUSNESS
I WILL HOLD YOUR HAND
I WILL KEEP & GUARD YOU.
I WILL GIVE YOU (Yisrael) FOR a Covenant of the people,
I WILL GIVE YOU for a Light of the Gentiles
To OPEN the Blind Eyes,
To BRING OUT the prisoners from the prison
To BRING OUT of prison house them that sit in darkness.*

Now please understand that when Yahweh says, that He has called us in **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, He means exactly that, and He has told us in *Deuteronomy 6:25* what **RIGHTEOUSNESS IS**; when Mosheh said, *and IT SHALL BE OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, IF WE OBSERVE TO DO ALL these Commandments before Yahweh our Elohim, AS HE HAS COMMANDED US.*

We also have to realize that
THERE IS ONLY ONE entity that created the heavens and stretched them out,
THERE IS ONLY ONE entity who spread forth the earth and that which came out of it,
THERE IS ONLY ONE entity who gives breath unto the people of the earth and spirit to them that walk on the earth, and therefore
THERE IS ONLY ONE entity that can make the promise we find in these *verses*,
And that **ONE ENTITY**, my friends, **IS YAHWEH, FOR NO OTHER ENTITY CAN FULFILL THESE PROMISES BUT HIM.**

Let me ask you a question, are these Words, spoken by Yahweh in *Isaiah 42* just mere words to you, or, can you truly see and understand and accept the mandate that our heavenly Father has placed before us, in these *verses*? **IF** you can see and truly understand and believe that this is indeed, a **mandate that Yahweh Himself has placed before us, THEN** you should also understand and believe, that our gracious heavenly Father **HAS NOT LEFT US ALONE, TO FULFILL THIS TASK**, He says, **I WILL HOLD YOUR HAND** and **I WILL GUARD YOU**? This **IS THE CREATOR** of the universe that says to each and every one of us, who willingly and lovingly choose to follow and obey Him, **I WILL HOLD YOUR HAND** and **I WILL GUARD YOU**.

There **IS NO MISTAKING WHAT HE SAYS**, when He says, **I WILL HOLD YOUR HAND**. Yahweh plainly says, **IF YOU WILL ACCEPT AND DO My Commandments and live by them, THEN I WILL HOLD YOUR HAND** so that you may learn them and then teach them to other people as Messiah taught them to you.

Let us make sure that we remember, that being a **Light** onto the nations of the world, **MEANS** that

we are to manifest and mimic the Torah obedient Life that our Messiah lived, when He was here on earth with us, and therefore, it means that when we follow Messiah, when we walk in His footsteps, we then become or reflect the very same Light that Messiah displayed when He was here on earth, and that Light, my friends, **WILL** bring people out of the darkness that **IS SO** prevalent in this world of ours today, and it will bring them into Yahweh's marvellous **LIGHT**, and He has chosen **YOU** and **ME** to do exactly that.

I am sure that you have read, that Messiah said, He would **never leave us nor forsake us**; many people believe that that was a New Testament teaching, **BUT** since Messiah **IS** from everlasting, He was there in the beginning also, therefore **ALL** of His Promises are also **FROM** the beginning. And here in Isaiah, we see what His promise will do for us, **IF ONLY WE WILL HEED THE CALL**, His call to **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, for He promises that **HE WILL HOLD OUR HAND AND KEEP AND GUARD US AS WE DO HIS WILL**.

This Hanukkah, why don't we truly make that commitment together; commitment **TO ANSWER HIS CALL TO RIGHTEOUSNESS? IF WE TRULY BELIEVE YAHWEH, THEN** let us believe His promises also, His promises that are spoken of throughout Scripture, and especially here in Isaiah, when He says: **I WILL HOLD YOUR HAND, I WILL KEEP YOU, I WILL MAKE YOU MY COVENANT PEOPLE**, that you may be a **LIGHT unto the gentiles—the peoples of the world**.

We must believe in our hearts that **IF** Yahweh **IS** for us, **THEN WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?** We cannot, and should **NOT** be like the doubtful people in the story of Lazarus. Messiah had been teaching the people and His disciples for quite a while, and they still did not understand when He said that Lazarus would rise again. Then we read one of the saddest *verses* in the whole bible. It says *Yeshua wept, John 11:35*.

Let us make a commitment today that when Messiah looks upon those of us that have willingly chosen to walk in His ways, we will hear Him say, *well done good and faithful servants*, instead of the same sad *verse, Yeshua wept*, having to be written about us, because of walking under the influence of today's man made imaginary *gods* of political correctness, tolerance, etc. rather than leading a surrendered contrite obedient Life to the Words of the Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life.

Therefore I urge **ALL OF US**, and I include myself in that number, to answer our heavenly Father's **CALL TO RIGHTEOUSNESS**; the call to walk in His Ways, under the influence of the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teachings and instructions, under His marvellous life saving Torah.

Paul told us in *Romans 7:1* Do you **NOT KNOW** brethren, (for I speak to them that **KNOW THE TORAH (Law)**, **HOW THAT THE TORAH (LAW) HAS DOMINION OVER A MAN AS LONG AS HE LIVES?**

Paul says that **IF WE ARE ALIVE, THEN THE TORAH HAS DOMINION (RULE, DOMINANCE, CONTROL) OVER US**.

In *Isaiah 45:7* Yahweh says, *I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I, Yahweh, DO ALL THESE THINGS*.

After reading this *verse* in Isaiah, can you see the wisdom of *Romans 7:1* Do you **NOT** know, brethren, (for I speak to them that **KNOW** the Torah, Law) how that **THE TORAH (LAW) HAS DOMINION OVER A MAN AS LONG AS HE LIVES?** Again, I say, **IF** you are alive, **THEN ALL** the Words of the Torah of our heavenly Father, according to Paul, **HAS DOMINION (RULE, DOMINANCE, CONTROL) OVER YOU!**

On this day, the fourth day of Hanukkah, let us resolve in our hearts to follow Yahweh with the knowledge that He **IS WITH US AT ALL TIMES**; and that there **IS NOTHING FOR US TO FEAR**, **IF** we simply surrender our hearts to Him in loving surrendered obedience to the Words of our heavenly Father's Directives for everlasting Life. Yahweh admonishes all of us, **TO NOT FEAR**, for the devil **IS NOTHING**, the world **IS NOTHING**, evil **IS NOTHING**; for **ALL** things are under His authority; and He is looking for those who will **be bondservants** to the Words of the Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions; He is looking for people **WHO HAVE THE HEART OF A BONDSERVANT AND WHO ARE ANXIOUS TO BE CALLED SONS OF THE LIVING ELOHIM.**

Isaiah 42:16 *And I will bring the blind by a way they did NOT know; I WILL LEAD them in paths they have NOT known: I WILL MAKE DARKNESS LIGHT before them, and crooked things STRAIGHT. These things WILL I DO UNTO THEM, and NOT FORSAKE THEM.*

This is not just any ordinary promise; **IT IS** another great promise from our Elohim! Yahweh Elohim Himself is telling us, that **IF** we surrender our wills to His will, we can then be part of bringing His Light unto the nations of the world, a Light that will lead the peoples of the nations of the world **in Paths that they have NOT known, the Path of His Torah of Life**, because the Father's Word, the Torah, will make their darkness Light before them.

Remember how you saw the Scriptures before you came to this Hebraic understanding? Would you not say that you have come from **darkness**, not understanding His Word, into the **Light**, understanding His Word, and the life that **IS WITHIN IT**, and how to apply it in your own daily life? The Words of His Torah of Life **IS** what straightens the **CROOKED PATHS** that have **been twisted** by the Pharisees of old, by the man made false secular or religious denominational **doctrines** from the thousands of denominations found in the Christian churches of today, and by all religion and religious leaders the world over. Amen

Additional recommended Readings:

1 Kings 7:40-50

*And Hiram made the lavers, and the shovels, and the basins. So Hiram made an end of doing all the work that he made king Solomon for the house of Yahweh: The **TWO** pillars, and the **TWO** bowls of the chapiters that were on the top of the **TWO** pillars; and the **TWO** networks, to cover the **TWO** bowls of the chapiters which were upon the top of the pillars; And **four** hundred pomegranates for the **TWO** networks, even **TWO** rows of pomegranates for one network, to cover the **TWO** bowls of the chapiters that were upon the pillars; And the **TEN** bases, and **TEN** lavers on the bases; And one sea, and **TWELVE** oxen under the sea; And the pots, and the shovels, and the basins: and all these vessels, which Hiram made to king Solomon for the house of Yahweh, were of bright brass. In the plain of Jordan did the king cast them, in the clay ground between **Succoth (tabernacle)** and **Zarthan (to pierce, to puncture)**. And Solomon left all the vessels unweighed, because they were exceeding many: neither was the weight of the brass found out. And Solomon made all the vessels*

*that pertained unto the house of Yahweh: the altar of gold, and the table of gold, whereupon the showbread was, And the candlesticks of pure gold, **five** on the right side, and **five** on the left, before the oracle, with the flowers, and the lamps, and the tongs of gold, And the bowls, and the snuffers, and the basins, and the spoons, and the censers of pure gold; and the hinges of gold, both for the doors of the inner house, the most holy place, and for the doors of the house, to wit, of the temple.*

All of these tools and instruments were done by master craftsmen, indicating the purity and righteousness of our Elohim. This indicates to us that when we come before Him, we must bring our **best behaviour** and since He is omnipresent it means that we have to **BE ON OUR BEST BEHAVIOUR AT ALL TIMES**. As we read the Scriptural account of the making of the tabernacle, **IT IS** very evident that the Tabernacle that was built in the wilderness by Mosheh and all of Yisrael, **IS** a beautiful picture of our Messiah. Here in *1Kings 7:46* we have names that are mentioned, they are Succoth which means, Tabernacle, and the Tabernacle **IS** a picture of Messiah, and we have the name, Zarthan, which means **to be pierced**. Therefore the Message that we are to take from these two names, is that our heavenly Father will send His Messiah to teach us, the Words of His Living Torah and that Messiah would be **pierced** for our Salvation.

1 Kings 19:10

And Elijah said, I have been very jealous for Yahweh Elohim of hosts: for the children of Yisrael have forsaken Your Covenant, thrown down Your altars, and slain Your prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

Here Elijah mentions that the people of Elohim have totally forsaken Him, and chosen instead to follow the gods of others, and Elijah believes that **HE ALONE IS LEFT**. Let us live our lives in such a way that we can show Elijah that **HE IS WRONG** and that **HE IS NOT THE ONLY ONE THAT IS LEFT THAT ACTUALLY BELIEVES, FOLLOWS, OBEYS AND DOES THE WORDS OF THE WRITTEN TORAH OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER THAT YAHWEH GAVE MOSHEH AT MOUNT SINAI**. Let us be as Elohim described, the people to Elijah, the seven thousand that have **NOT BENT THE KNEE** to the man made imaginary gods of this world. This Hanukkah, let us recommit ourselves to willingly **BEND OUR KNEE ONLY** to the Elohim of Abraham, Yitzchaq and Ya'aqov.

1 Maccabees 2:27

*And Mattathias cried throughout the city with a loud voice, saying, Whosoever **IS ZEALOUS FOR THE TORAH**, and maintains the Covenant, **LET HIM FOLLOW ME**.*

May we too, show forth that kind of **Zealousness** for the **ALL** the Words of the Torah of Elohim, the very same **Zealousness** with which Mattathias and his sons believed, followed and obeyed the Words of the Father's Torah of Life! I would like to suggest that you read Maccabees *chapter 4*, at home, before we come together on Day 5 of Hanukkah.

Zechariah 2:10 – 4:7

*Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and **I will dwell in the MIDST of you**, says Yahweh. And many nations shall be joined to Yahweh in that day, and **shall be My people**: and I will dwell **in the midst of you**, and you **SHALL KNOW** that Yahweh of hosts has sent Me unto you. And*

Yahweh shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem AGAIN. Be silent, O all flesh, before Yahweh: for He is raised up out of His holy habitation. And He showed me Joshua, the high priest, standing before the messenger of Yahweh, and satan standing at His right hand to resist Him. And Yahweh said unto satan, Yahweh rebuke you, O satan; even Yahweh that has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the messenger. And he answered and spoke unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him He said, Behold, I have caused your iniquity to PASS from you, and I WILL CLOTHE YOU with change of raiment. And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the messenger of Yahweh stood by. And the messenger of Yahweh protested unto Joshua, saying, Thus says Yahweh of hosts; IF YOU WILL WALK IN MY WAYS, and IF you WILL KEEP MY CHARGE, THEN you shall also judge My house, and shall also keep My courts, and I WILL GIVE YOU places to walk among these that stand by. Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, you, and your fellows that sit before you: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth My servant the BRANCH. For behold the Stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon one stone shall be seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, says Yahweh of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day. In that day, says Yahweh of hosts, shall you call every man his neighbour under the vine and under the fig tree. And the messenger that talked with me came again, and woke me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, And said unto me, What do you see? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof: And Two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof. So I answered and spoke to the messenger that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord? Then the messenger that talked with me answered and said unto me, do you NOT know what these are? And I said, No, my lord. Then he answered and spoke unto me, saying, THIS IS THE WORD OF YAHWEH unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says Yahweh of hosts. Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.

Let us therefore take confidence that Yahweh has indeed come, and **IS** dwelling in the midst of us today, and let us strengthen our resolve to surrender more of our lives to Him on a daily basis, to **WALK** in **ALL** of His ways, and **KEEP** His charge, until we come to the fulfillment of Messiah's life, which **IS TOTAL AND ABSOLUTE SURRENDER** to our Father in Heaven, and then, He will **USE US AS** His vessels to **JUDGE** His house and **KEEP** His courts as He has promised.

Lamentations 2:9 *Her gates are sunk into the ground; he has destroyed and broken her bars: her king and her princes are among the Gentiles: **THE TORAH (LAW) IS NO MORE; HER PROPHETS ALSO FIND NO VISION FROM YAHWEH.***

Let us turn lamentation **into praises** for our Heavenly Father, by being obedient to Him, and thereby help restore that which was lost, through the lusts of the flesh, through our sinful Torahless nature, and re-establish Yahweh's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions in our lives, re-establish His Righteousness, the Words of His inerrant and everlasting Torah as the most **IMPORTANT FACTOR OF OUR DAILY LIVES.**

John 10: 22 – 39 *And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, (Hanukkah) and it was winter. And Yeshua walked in the temple in Solomon's porch. Then came the Jews round about*

Him, and said unto Him, **How long** do you make us to doubt? **IF you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.** Yeshua answered them, I told you, and you did **NOT believe**: the works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. But you do **NOT believe**, because you **are NOT** of My sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep **hear** (shemah) My voice, and **I know them, and they follow Me**: And **I give unto them ETERNAL life**; and they shall **NEVER perish**, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. **My Father, who gave them Me, is greater than ALL**; and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand.

It is quite clear in Scripture, that our Messiah, willingly celebrated the Feast of Dedication known as Hanukkah, and since He **IS THE ONE AND ONLY TRUE EXAMPLE**, of what total surrendered obedience to the Words of the Torah of our heavenly Father **WILL DO IN A PERSON'S LIFE**, let us mimic Him, in all that He did, while He was here on earth with us, and let us truly surrender our hearts to our heavenly Father as Messiah did, and as He told us and taught us to do. **Acts 21:20** *And when they heard it, they glorified Yahweh, and said unto him, you see, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are who BELIEVE; and they are all ZEALOUS OF THE TORAH.*

This Hanukkah, let us also show forth our **Zealousness** for the Words of the inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions of our Heavenly Father, by willingly and lovingly obeying all of His Commandments in the manner that He has prescribed.

Titus 2:11 – 14 *For the grace of Elohim that brings salvation has appeared to ALL men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great Elohim and our Saviour Yeshua Messiah; Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works (Torah). Speak of these things, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise you.*

Let us resolve to live sober, righteous lives that are focused on zealously obeying **ALL** the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life, so that we **CAN** indeed **BE A PECULIAR PEOPLE** fully surrendered to our heavenly Father and **ZEALOUSLY** carry out the instructions of the Words contained in His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions for Life, His inerrant and everlasting Torah. Amein

May you have a glorious and happy spiritual renewal this Hanukkah! Amein

*Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.
Have a great Elohim blessed Day and may Yahweh bless your every thought,
and your every deed. Until we meet again; Shalom Alechem! Amein!*