

Hanukkah

Day Eight Readings

Study by Marc Gravelle

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We begin Day 8 with ***Isaiah 30:26*** *Moreover the **LIGHT** of the moon shall be as the **LIGHT** of the sun, and the **LIGHT** of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the Light of seven days, in the day that Yahweh **BINDS** up the breach of His people, and **HEALS** the stroke of their wound.*

Hanukkah is called the festival of **LIGHTS**. You might ask, **WHY IS THAT, WHY** is Hanukkah called the festival of **LIGHTS**? In the physical sense, **IT IS** because the temple was re-dedicated by the Maccabees and the **LIGHT** of the Menorah was to be kept burning for eight days, which is the amount of days necessary for **Hanukkah, the dedication** of the temple and the altar, according to *Vayiqra (Leviticus) 8 & 9*, **BUT SPIRITUALLY, IT IS BECAUSE** the number eight represents new beginnings and therefore we are to take advantage of this opportunity **TO REDEDICATE OUR TEMPLES, OUR BODIES** to our heavenly Father and truly *seek first the kingdom of Elohim and His righteousness*, and Yahweh assures us *that ALL other things will then be added unto us.*

In celebrating this festival of **LIGHTS**, we celebrate the courage and the zealotry with which the Maccabees **DEFENDED THE WORDS OF THE TORAH, OF OUR ELOHIM**. Their courage and devoted zealous obedience to the Words of the Torah of Yahweh **IS TO BE USED AS A GREAT EXAMPLE FOR ALL OF US, SO THAT WE DO NOT COWER, WHEN WE ENCOUNTER OPPOSITION OR RIDICULE BECAUSE WE HAVE CHOSEN TO KEEP** the Words, the **TRUTH**, the Torah of our Elohim, the very same Torah that Yahweh gave to Mosheh at Mount Sinai, and that instead of cowering in the corner and hiding from any opposition or ridicule, we are to **STAND TALL** and **PROUD**, and defend the Words of the Torah of Yahweh, that were made flesh, and manifested as our our Messiah, the Living Torah, who willingly and lovingly chose to sacrifice Himself, so that we, the believers in the Elohim of Abraham, Yitzchaq and Ya'aqov and followers of the Living Torah, could have **Life Everlasting**.

We are told in *Mark 8:38* **Whosoever therefore shall be **ASHAMED** of Me and of **MY WORDS**, My Torah in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man **BE ASHAMED**, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.**

What **WORDS** do you think Messiah **IS** talking of in this *verse* when He says that whosoever shall be ashamed of Me and **MY WORDS**? The Words that this is speaking about, **ARE** the Words of the Doctrine of Him that sent Messiah? Let's see, Messiah **IS** the Living Word of the Father, and He has said over and over again, in the Scriptures, that He speaks **NOT** of Himself, **BUT** that He **ONLY SPEAKS** the Words that the Father has given Him to speak. **IT IS** therefore abundantly clear to me, and I certainly hope that **IT IS** also quite clear to you, that the Words that Messiah **IS** speaking of, in this *verse*, **ARE** the Words of the Father, the Words of His Torah of Life, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions. Now with that in mind, we can see what this *verse* is really saying. Let's take the time to read it again with the proper understanding. *Whosoever therefore shall be **ashamed of Me and the Words of My***

Father's Torah of Life (His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His inerrant and everlasting Words, His eternal **TRUTH**) *in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of Man BE ASHAMED.*

Wow, that sends shivers up and down my spine, and I for one, **DO NOT WANT** our Saviour to be **ASHAMED** of me. Therefore **IF** you agree with me, let us then resolve, on this, the eighth day of Hanukkah, **TO STAND TALL AND DEFEND THE WORD OF ELOHIM, THE WORDS OF HIS TORAH OF LIFE, WHEREVER AND WHENEVER WE SEE IT BEING SULLIED OR RIDICULED,** and **THEN,** we can rest assured that Yahweh will **NOT BE ASHAMED OF US.**

In a spiritual sense, the **LIGHT** speaks of Messiah, it speaks of the fact that His **LIGHT**, which comes from the Father, **IS** brighter than all other **Lights**. The words *sevenfold* and *seven* represent completion, and Yahweh's perfect way of doing things, and that perfection **IS** the **LIGHT** that will shine upon us for eternity. My friends, **IF** what you seek **IS** the **LIGHT** of Messiah, and furthermore, **IF** you would like that **LIGHT, the Light of Messiah** with you for the balance of eternity, **THEN, NOW IS THE TIME TO STAND FAST** for the Word of Elohim, **STAND FAST** for the Words of His Torah of Life, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions; regardless of what type of opposition we encounter, let us willingly choose to stand strong together, for the wondrous Word of our Heavenly Father.

Zechariah 14: 6 – 7 *And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LIGHT shall NOT be clear, nor dark: 7 But it shall be ONE DAY which shall be known to Yahweh, NOT DAY, NOR NIGHT: BUT it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be LIGHT.*

If we decide to walk **WITH YAHWEH**, in loving surrendered obedience to the Words of His inerrant and everlasting Torah of Life, **THEN THIS IS THE PROMISE** that we can look **FORWARD TO** being fulfilled in our lives, and that promise my friends, **IS**, we will **NEVER see, nor walk in DARKNESS.** How can I make that comment with such certainty? Well, we are told that Messiah, the Words of the Living Torah made flesh, **IS** the **LIGHT** of the world, and furthermore we are told that Messiah **WILL NEVER LEAVE US NOR FORSAKE HIS TRUE FOLLOWERS;** therefore, **IF** He is the **LIGHT** of the World and He never leaves us, nor forsakes His believers and followers, **THEN** that means that we will never walk in darkness, because **IF** we are in darkness, it means that Messiah has left us, which He promised He would never do. We can therefore rest in His assurances, and His promises, that He, the Light of the world, will be with us always, because He tells us in *Malachi 3:6 I am Yahweh I do NOT change.*

Isaiah 60:19-20 *The sun shall NOT BE YOUR LIGHT ANYMORE by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto you: BUT Yahweh shall be unto you an everlasting LIGHT, and your Elohim and your glory. 20 Your sun shall no more go down; neither shall your moon withdraw itself: for Yahweh shall be YOUR EVERLASTING LIGHT, and the days of your mourning shall be ended.*

In case you weren't sure where your **LIGHT** comes from and where it will come from for eternity, here, in Isaiah, we are told, that in end times, there **WILL BE NO MORE NEED FOR SUNLIGHT,** because Yahweh will be our everlasting **LIGHT.** We, as believers in Messiah,

have to learn to accept that **THIS IS A PROMISE** from Yahweh for **US**, and that **IT IS** for the days that we now live in, **IT IS** for today. If you can truly surrender every aspect of your life to Yahweh, **THEN** you are already under the protection and dominion of the **EVERLASTING LIGHT**, our Heavenly Father, and our Prince of Peace. The peace of Elohim that passes all understanding is spoken of in Scripture, in *Philippians 4:6-7* **BE ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING; BUT in everything BY prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your REQUESTS be made known unto Elohim. 7 And the peace of Elohim, which passes all understanding, shall KEEP, GUARD your hearts and minds through Messiah Yeshua.**

Therefore, the necessary ingredient for **PEACE** to be **REAL PEACE, IS** the lack of fear. **IF** you are **fearful** in any part or aspect of your life, **THEN** you **CANNOT** claim to be at **PEACE**. But when Messiah, the Prince of Peace gives you **PEACE**, in and through our Heavenly Father, then you truly have **PEACE**, and you can claim that His **TRUTH**, the Words of His Torah of Life have indeed **SET YOU FREE**. Free from what? Free from any and all fears, for He is our Maker, our Redeemer, our Saviour, our Provider and our ultimate eternal happiness, and He has told us Himself, *I have NOT given you a spirit of fear, BUT I have given you a spirit of power, a spirit of love and a sound mind.*

Let us therefore **USE** that *sound mind* to surrender our hearts in total surrendered obedience to the Words of His beautiful inerrant and everlasting Torah, the teaching and instructions of the **PERFECT BEING**, the Elohim of Abraham, Yitzchaq and Ya'aqov. Amein

Additional recommended Readings

Exodus 30: 1 – 10

*1 And you shall make an altar to burn incense upon: of shittim wood shall you make it. 2 A cubit shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof; foursquare shall it be: and two cubits shall be the height thereof: the horns thereof shall be of the same. 3 And you shall overlay it with **pure gold**, the top thereof, and the sides thereof round about, and the horns thereof; and you shall make unto it a crown of **gold** round about. 4 And two **golden** rings shall you make to it under the crown of it, by the two corners thereof, upon the two sides of it shall you make it; and they shall be for places for the staves to bear it withal. 5 And you shall make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with **gold**. 6 And you shall put it before the veil that is by the Ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with you. 7 And Aharon shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresses the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. 8 And when Aaron lights the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, **a perpetual incense before Yahweh throughout your generations.** 9 You shall offer no strange incense thereon, nor burnt sacrifice, nor meat offering; neither shall you pour drink offering thereon. 10 And Aharon shall **make an atonement** upon the horns of it once in a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonements: once in the year shall he make atonement upon it throughout your generations: **it is MOST holy unto Yahweh.***

YOU, my friends, are the Temple of the Most High Elohim, and the incense that **IS** to be burned on the altar of incense on a daily basis, is called or compared to **THE PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS**. What we are being told here in *Exodus 30* is that we are to go daily to our prayer closet, to our inner altar, to pray and worship our heavenly Father. That altar that is within you, **IS** a place where Yahweh says **HE WILL MEET WITH YOU**. What an incredible promise from the Elohim of all creation. Yahweh says, **IF YOU** will make the time for Me, then

I will make the time for **YOU**, and I will come and meet with you and commune with you in your prayer time. This **IS A PROMISE FROM Yahweh** Himself, and His promises my friends are eternal. Amein

Vayiqra 16: 12 – 13 *And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before Yahweh, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the veil: 13 And he shall put the incense upon the fire before Yahweh, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, **that he die not:***

Here we are told that when we go to the mercy seat which is within us, for we are indeed the temple of Elohim, **WE MUST DO SO IN PRAYER** with a surrendered heart, for incense in Scripture represents the prayers of the saints. It says that we are to do this, so that **WE DO NOT DIE**. Death, my friends **IS** separation from the Father, **BUT PRAYER KEEPS US CLOSE TO HIM**. Therefore choose life, choose prayer. Amein

Psalm 36: 7 – 10 *How excellent is Your lovingkindness, O Elohim! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. 8 They shall be abundantly **SATISFIED** with the **fatness of Your house**; and You shall make them **drink of the river of Your pleasures**. 9 For with You **IS** the fountain of life: **IN YOUR LIGHT SHALL WE SEE LIGHT**. 10 O continue Your lovingkindness unto them that **KNOW YOU** (Yada, have an intimate relationship with You); and Your **righteousness** to the upright in heart.*

Here, *verse 10* tells us that **IF** we have an intimate relationship with our heavenly Father, which means that **IF** we lovingly choose to surrender our wills to Him and willingly and lovingly **obey** His Commandments, the Words of His Torah of Life, **it means that we are upright in heart**, and **IF** we are upright in heart, **THEN**, Yahweh **will continue to pour His lovingkindness upon us**. To be upright in heart, means to be **obedient** to the Words of Yahweh's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Life Giving inerrant and everlasting Torah. If we can learn to **TRUST Yahweh** and truly surrender our hearts, minds, souls and strength to Him, **THEN, WE TOO WILL DRINK of the river of His pleasures and experience the fountain of Life**, because Yahweh **IS LIGHT**, and in our surrendered state, we too will become His **LIGHT** onto the nations, that are mired in darkness.

Psalm 141: 2 *Let my prayer be set forth before You as **incense**; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening **sacrifice**.*

Can you see what the Psalmist is saying here in this *verse*? He is asking Elohim to let his actions, the desires of his heart, **BECOME HIS SACRIFICE**. We all have to understand that the sacrificial system my friends, **IS** still in full effect, full force today, for Elohim has told us in His Word, that the sacrifices that Yahweh has ordained, **ARE** an **EVERLASTING ORDINANCE**, **BUT** for some reason, the Church Father's have decreed that the Sacrificial system is over and done with, thereby usurping Yahweh's Commandment, that He said was eternal. Now, it is up to us to decide for ourselves, whom we will believe, **WILL WE** believe man and his ever changing man made false doctrines, or **WILL WE** choose to believe our infinite, omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent Elohim, when He says that His Sacrificial system **IS FOREVER**.

We have to understand that from the very beginning of time, Yahweh has wanted our hearts, and that **IS** what the Psalmist understands here in this Psalm, and that is why the Psalmist is asking Elohim to accept his prayers and the lifting up of his hands to Yahweh in worship, **AS HIS SACRIFICE**. We should follow in the footsteps of this Psalmist and offer our sacrifices and worship on His altar on a daily basis.

Revelation 5:8 *And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.*

The four beast represent the world, the four corners of the world, north, east, south and west, and the twenty four elders represent Yisrael, the twelve tribes and the twelve apostles, and or the twenty four courses of priests. All of them, fall down before the Lamb in prayer and worship. **CAN WE DO ANY LESS?** Therefore, this Hanukkah let us rededicate our temples, our hearts, minds, souls and strength to having a more earnest prayer life that mimics Messiah's prayer life.

Revelation 8: 3 – 4 *And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much **incense**, that he should offer it **with the prayers of all saints** upon the golden altar which was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, **ascended up before Elohim out of the messenger's hand.***

Again and again, throughout Scripture, incense is compared to the prayers of the saints. If you are walking a surrendered, loving obedient life to Elohim, then, you are one of His saints and according to Scripture, you are **TO PRAY** to Him, and **PRAISE AND WORSHIP** Him everyday. On this the last Day of the Feast of Hanukkah **LET US PLEDGE**, to rededicate ourselves and our prayer life, to serving Yahweh, and commit to pray and praise Him on a daily basis. As the Tamim offering, which is the continual morning and evening sacrifice that was offered daily on the altar, as commanded by Yahweh, let us also offer our prayer and worship to our heavenly Father everyday. Amein

I hope and pray that this Hanukkah has been a blessing and a very joyful time in Yahweh for you, and I look forward to many more Hanukkah celebrations together with you, where we can share the Word of Yahweh that He has put on our hearts. Amein!

I hope you have had a glorious and happy spiritual renewal this Hanukkah! Amein

Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.

Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought, and your every deed. Until we meet again; Shalom Alechem! Amein!