

And Now Israel

וְעַתָּה יִשְׂרָאֵל מָה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ שְׂאֵל מֵעַמָּךְ

¹²"So now, Isra'el, all that ADONAI your G-d asks from you is to fear ADONAI your G-d, follow all his ways, love him and serve ADONAI your G-d with all your heart and all your being; ¹³to obey, for your own good, the mitzvot and regulations of ADONAI which I am giving you today. ¹⁴See, the sky, the heaven beyond the sky, the earth and everything on it all belong to ADONAI your G-d. ¹⁵Only ADONAI took enough pleasure in your ancestors to love them and choose their descendants after them - yourselves - above all peoples, as he still does today. ¹⁶Therefore, circumcise the foreskin of your heart; and don't be stiffnecked any longer! ¹⁷For ADONAI your G-d is G-d of gods and Lord of lords, the great, mighty and awesome G-d, who has no favorites and accepts no bribes. ¹⁸He secures justice for the orphan and the widow; he loves the foreigner (ger), giving him food and clothing. ¹⁹Therefore you are to love the foreigner (gerim), since you were foreigners (gerim) in the land of Egypt. ²⁰You are to fear ADONAI your G-d, serve him, cling to him and swear by his name. ²¹He is your praise, and he is your G-d, who has done for you these great and awesome things, which you have seen with your own eyes. ²²Your ancestors went down into Egypt with only seventy people, but now ADONAI your G-d has made your numbers as many as the stars in the sky! ¹"Therefore, you are to love ADONAI your G-d and always obey his commission, regulations, rulings and mitzvot. ²Today it is you I am addressing - not your children, who haven't known or experienced the discipline of ADONAI your G-d, his greatness, his strong hand, his outstretched arm. (Deut 10:12-11:2)

Kol Simcha and the Dawning of a New Generation

This week's *Parasha* is *Ekev*(עקב): "on the heels" or "as a consequence of." The word shares the same root as the name of our father *Ya'akov* (יעקב). It deals with the predictable consequences of a life devoid of His Torah. The passage above encapsulates the message of the entire *Parasha*.

It has correctly been said that what one generation fights against, the next generation embraces. The world has been busy fighting against יהוה's Torah. In the Body of Messiah, Torah is often dismissed as "being done away with, having been 'nailed to the cross.'" Nothing could be further from the truth of יהוה's ways. What an awesome responsibility we have in training our children in the ways of יהוה, even if it invokes a reaction from society at large! We in KS strive to train up a new generation, the generation of our children, who will be given the opportunity to embrace all of His ways. Also, it is exciting to raise a generation of young people on Torah. KS is and has been a group of people committed to building their lives, marriages, families, education and businesses "to walk in all His ways."

This Torah-based generation has been ordained by יהוה and is to be raised via the loving and guiding hand of His *Ruach HaKodesh*. Thus, יהוה is "visiting His people" to bring about a great, unprecedented move of His Spirit in the days when the "fullness of the Gentiles has come in." However, many people fail to recognize the time of His visitation. The most basic reason Believers fail to recognize the time of their visitation is *because every great move of the Ruach Elohim in history has been new and unprecedented*. If you study ecclesiastical history you will not find any two moves of the *Ruach* to be alike. He has come in a different way every time. He always seems to bring new wine. Even the prophets only see in part, and we have yet to see evidence of a move of the *Ruach HaKodesh* being perfectly foreseen or understood by anyone before it came.

We must also understand another important factor: *if we do not recognize and incorporate the new things that יהוה is releasing, they will end up in the camp of the enemy, and be used against us*. A biblical example of this principle is *Sh'aul HaMelech's* rejection of David out of jealousy and fear, and

as a result David ended up in the camp of the Philistines. Mercifully, יהוה spared David from the spiritual tragedy of fighting against the people he was called to one-day rule. This mistake results in such tragedies far too often.

The Pride of Leadership

Another factor to take into consideration in leadership is pride. Many people feel that they and only they have the anointing and answers for His flock. Leaders easily end up taking the place of the *Ruach HaKodesh* in people's lives and usurp His authority over His own house. This is perhaps due to a complete misinterpretation of the ministry of the faithful and wise servant in Matthew 24:45, among other causes. The sheer pride of many congregational leaders in history has likewise resulted in more ultimate damage and defeat to the Body than possibly all of the false doctrines, false teachers, false prophets and false shepherds combined. Such a pride will cause us to believe that an evil, religious spirit is the Holy Spirit.

Others have missed great spiritual opportunities because of fear. This is often motivated by either territorial preservation or timidity that causes suspicion of anything new. As President Franklin D. Roosevelt once prophesied, "*The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.*" It is true that fear is one of our most devastating and effective enemies. We must recognize and reject it because if we are led by our fears, we will be led by the devil. According to Hebrews 10:38 "*But the person who is righteous will live his life by trusting,*" which is a quote from Habb. 2:4 "...but the just shall live by his faith."

Every successful leader who gains a reputation and following will be tested to see whether he or she will continue to follow יהוה, or instead try to live off of their one great victory, which is to live in the past. Every leader at every level, even within a congregation, will one day be placed in a situation where they will have to choose between the new and the old. The old is familiar, comfortable, and proven, but the new always involves risk. The choice made will determine whether they are an old wineskin, or if they will remain flexible and expandable enough to hold more new wine.

The passing of the Mantle to the Next Generation

If one studies the believing community's history in the last 2 centuries one discovers that those who have been used to lead in one generation have usually ended up resisting the next generation. However, before the end of days we are promised something different in *Malachi* 4:5-6:

Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of vuvh. And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse.

יהוה would not have to send this ministry if a restoration between generations was not needed. There is a battle going on within the camp of יהוה between the new and the old, between the established and those who have little or nothing to lose and are still willing to risk pressing beyond the present limits. Both of these are now an affront and irritation to each other, but the ultimate victory will not come until there is a union of both. Perhaps this is why our fathers and sons and daughters ministry in *Kol Simcha* is in such demand and people are so excited about it.

Many defeats can be avoided if the old will recognize the new and allow it to be used. Likewise, many defeats can be avoided if the new will humble themselves and realize that they need the wisdom and assistance of those who have achieved great victories and advances for יהוה in the past. We must start listening to dreamers and visionaries, especially from among the youth. We must humble ourselves

and realize that those who have nothing to risk will often hear more clearly from יהוה than those who have large, established, successful ministries. Just as new technologies almost always seem weird and far-fetched at first, they become realities in the hands of those who live by faith and trust, not by fear.

Again, fear is our worst enemy at this time. Those who are too fearful, or too comfortable, to leave their comfort zones are in fact in the most vulnerable place of all. The future belongs to those who are willing to press beyond the current limits. If you are caught in a place of having to choose between the new and the old, choose the new. However, the truly wise will establish themselves in the sound wisdom of experience and use it as a strong platform for launching into the future.

We must always be committed to sound, biblical doctrine, sinking our roots ever deeper, but not out of fear of the new, but in order to be more prepared for it and to insure that it is used rightly. The new is coming. We must seize the day.