

Careful With What You Sow

⁷ *Do not be deceived—God is not mocked. For whatever a man sows, that he also shall reap.* ⁸ *For the one who sows in the flesh will reap corruption from the flesh. But the one who sows in the Ruach will reap from the Ruach eternal life. (Gal 6:7-8)*

⁴ *Circumcise yourselves to Adonai and remove the foreskins of your heart... Else My wrath will break out like fire and blaze, with no one to quench it, because of your evil deeds!” (Jer. 4:3-4)*

These are strong words from the prophet Jeremiah and a good reminder for a Messianic Congregation. In the life of our patriarchs, we see *Adonai*'s law of sowing and reaping play out (and His Sovereignty). We are continually reminded of the sowing and reaping law in Scripture, yet the enemy continually places into our minds the erroneous idea that *Adonai* is not going to do what He said – that He is not a God of His Word. This is deception at its best! No wonder Satan's name is “deceiver” and his primary job is trickery. The classical problem we ignore in this law is that the farmer reaps ten, twenty, fifty and even a hundred times what he sows. When we sow iniquity and evil, we will also reap much, much more than what we sowed, even up to a hundred times more!

⁹ *And the great dragon was thrown down—the ancient serpent, called the devil and satan, who deceives the whole world... (Rev. 12:9a)*

Scripture reminds us that *Adonai* is: ⁷ *“showing mercy to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, yet by no means leaving the guilty unpunished, but bringing the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, to the third and fourth generation” (Exodus 34:7)*. This same phraseology was given in Mt. Sinai after speaking in the hearing of our people the second of the Ten Commandments (Ten Words) – *Adonai* means what He says. We see that if we sow deceitfulness, we will reap deceitfulness, and if we sow iniquity, we will reap iniquity. Even when *Adonai* is with us, as He was indeed with our father Jacob, the fact that He is with us does not invalidate His *Torah*, nor it invalidates His Ways. The enemy of our souls wants us to believe and trust that *Adonai* is just love (1 John 4:7-8), and He is. This is why Scripture says that He sent *Yeshua* (John 3:16), but He is also just and He is a ‘Rewarder’ of those who diligently seek Him (see Hebrews 11:6, and by implication, a non-Rewarder to those who do not trust Him enough to do what He said).

Our father Abraham sowed iniquity with respect to lying and deceiving – could not *Adonai* (whom Abraham knew could raise the dead) also protect *Sarah*? Is it necessary to lie and to deceive? Was it necessary for Isaac (exactly like his father) to lie about Rebekah his wife? Was it necessary for Jacob to lie and deceive Isaac in his deathbed? Do we serve a God who cannot deliver our loved ones or cannot keep His promise to us?

I believe this is the basis of the deceiver's plan for us – since without trust (faith) it is impossible to please Him – the deceiver gets us to mask out faith/trust, to doubt/mistrust Him, and to act on our fears that He is not able, that He does not care, that He does not deliver on His promises, that it is not going to happen unless we intervene. And so we fall again to our lack of faith/trust, and displease (sin against) Him. In the process, we are responsible for altering the roads of life. We will ultimately accomplish His Will for us if we submit to His Sovereignty, but don't we suffer consequences! Could the 12 tribes of Israel not be born of Rachel, instead of from 4 different women? Did our father Jacob suffer for his fraud? Will we if we get involved in knavery?

The text in this week's Torah Portion (*Vayetze*) tells us that *Adonai* is near Jacob: ¹⁵ *Behold, I am with you, and I will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land, for I will not forsake you until I have done what I promised you” (Gen 28:15)* He assures Jacob that He is with him. He reiterates

the promises that He had made to his father and grandfather and assures him that He is on the scene until it is all accomplished. *Adonai* will watch over (guard, Hebrew *shomer*) us. Do we trust Him to do so?

The Lord's Will is not hidden from us – we do not have to guess about what He wants for our lives. He wants us to *sh'ma*, that is, He wants us to prove that we heard His Word by our actions. This is simply called obedience. Our ancestors said in Exodus "*Naase V'Nishma*" (see Ex. 19:8 and 24:3): "*all the words Adonai has spoken, we will do.*" Unlike our forefathers who were hearing His Words for the first time, we have the advantage that we know a priori what He wants since we have His written Word and His *Torah*. We do not need to be deceived anymore; we can live your life according to His Will. These are not my words and these are not your parent's words, these are *Adonai's* Words! Scripture has given us the benefit of having an absolute roadmap for our lives – will you sow righteousness and reap a great reward with His joy? This song always comes to mind:

♪ He gave me beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that we might be trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. ♪

Scripture tells us about the cyclic nature of life. King Solomon the wisest human to ever live tells us: "¹⁴*I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.* ¹⁵*That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.*" (Eccl 3:14-16, KJV) Can we not break the cycle of mistrust that plagues our lives? *Yeshua* said: "*And He said to them, 'Because you trust so little. Amen, I tell you, if you have faith the size of a **mustard seed**, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you'*" (Matt. 17:20). Again He repeated: "²⁶*And looking, Yeshua said to them, 'With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible'*" (Matt. 19:26). Mary was told in Luke 1:37: "³⁷*For nothing will be impossible with God.*" And once more in Luke 18:27: "²⁷*But Yeshua said, 'What is impossible with men is possible with God.'*" Do you get the picture? We can! You can! I can! Say it with me: "***I am an over comer by the blood of the Lamb, by the words of my testimony about the Blood of Messiah, and because I love not my life unto the death***" (Rev. 12:11). Repeat with me: "***I can do all things through Yeshua who strengthens me!***" (Phil. 4:13)

It is time to break the cycle of consequences that plague our walk with the Lord. There is great reward awaiting us if we sow precious seeds of righteousness. This is why Scripture states: "⁵*Those who sow in tears will reap with a song of joy.* ⁶*Whoever keeps going out weeping, carrying his bag of seed, will surely come back with a song of joy, carrying his sheaves*" (Ps. 126:5-6). We can, with His Spirit by our side and with His strength change the course of history, I challenge us to rise and become the generation of Rev. 12:10-11. We are that generation, by trusting (by faith), will you join me with the six hundred thousands of our people at Mt. Sinai and reaffirm to Him "*Naase V'Nishma.*" **We will do and we will obey...**