

Free Moral Agents Can Choose Either the Blessing or the Curse

²⁶ “See (*Re’eh*), I am setting before you today a *blessing (b’racha)* and a *curse (k’lalah)* — ²⁷ the blessing, if you listen (*sh’ma*) to the mitzvot of Adonai your God that I am commanding you today, ²⁸ but the curse, if you do not listen (*sh’ma*) to the mitzvot of Adonai your God, but turn from the way I am commanding you today, to go after other gods you have not known. (*Deut 11:26-28*)

Adonai has given us free moral agency therefore it is up to us since we have the power to choose between being blessed or being cursed. In today’s Believing world the idea of God allowing us to be cursed is foreign, almost unfathomable. This week’s *Torah* Reading is *Re’eh*, which means to “Take a closer look or to observe.” The word shares the same root as the Hebrew *Pa’al* verb to see (*Roeh*). It deals with the choices in a life dedicated to His *Torah*. These are the choices that ultimately bring life or death. In the text we are severely warned against idolatry in all of its various forms. We are also given instructions about the food we may or may not partake of. We are retold about the *Shemithah* (sabbatical) year and reminded about the soon-coming fall *moadim*. There are no shortcuts: we can *choose blessing/life* or *choose cursing/death*.

There are certain Scriptural presuppositions (hypotheses) that are at the core of our *KS* ministry. One prominent tenet is the desire to walk out (not just talk about) in His ways. Historically, *KS* people have been people of convictions, commitment and trust. We do not ‘nickel-dime’ one another in our affairs. We understand that *Adonai* is interested in the daily affairs of His people and He is much more than capable in overseeing all matters concerning His flock, which He purchased with His own Blood. What are some of these presuppositions that guide our congregation in the path of establishing a foundation of many godly generations?

Kol Simcha Premises

I. Concerning Adonai

- All Scripture is profitable and valuable for walking in His ways: “¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for restoration, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the person belonging to God may be capable, fully equipped for every good deed” (*2 Tim 3:16-17*).
- The Father (*Abba*), the Son (*Yeshua*) and the Spirit (*Ruach Elohim*) **DO NOT, CANNOT, AND WILL NOT CHANGE**, (*Ecc 3:14-15*), (*Mal 3:6*), (*Heb. 13:8*), (*James 1:17*).
- Messiah ***Yeshua is HaTorah (the Word) made flesh*** (*John 1:14*).
- Throughout His life *Yeshua* provided many examples of how to walk in the Father’s ways (see *Luke 2:52*), He demonstrated: **Attentiveness, Obedience, Wisdom, Truthfulness, Loyalty, Patience, Gratefulness, Deference, Humility, etc.** “*All things work together for good in order to conform us to the image of His Son*” (*Ro. 8:28-29*). If **we lack character**, it is revealed immediately in **our attitude**.
- The Power to live the lifestyle comes from His Grace: Grace is the desire and the power *Adonai* gives us to do His will (*1 Cor. 15:10*), (*Titus 2:11*), (*Eph. 2:8,9*), (*Phil. 1:2; 2:13*), (*Heb. 12:15*), (*Jas. 4:16*)
- **Biblical Standards Grow Out of: Scriptural Principles, Godly Character, His Grace, and Scriptural Disciplines.** Our humanistic **society reacts harshly to these standards**, but **God’s Wisdom is better than weapons of war** (*Ecc 9:18*) and *KS* is a congregation striving to be part of His standard.

II. Concerning His Congregation

- In His sovereignty, **He has gifted His flock and its members individually**. In particular, He has given each person **one of seven motivational gifts detailed in Romans 12**. If every member has **1 basic motivational gift**, we are not all **gifted alike** nor do we have identical points of view. **The normal state of affairs in a congregation** is that **one’s point of view will be shared by 14.28%** (1 out of 7) and that **85.72% will have a different point of view** (6 out of 7).
- Marriage is a **Blood Covenant (B’rith) and NOT a Contract**
- Marriage is the union (*echad*) of the **spirit, soul and body of one man with one woman**.
- There are Scriptural guidelines for sexual intimacy in marriage.

- The **home** (and not the synagogue) is the center of Messianic Life
- There is a **brutal war against children**: Satan's Hidden Agenda is: **To destroy Godly seed** (Gen. 3:15)
- The stated goal of Humanistic Medicine is: *"Controlling human fertility ... by birth control, abortion and sterilization ... people must come to want fewer children"* (*The Health Care of Women, McGraw-Hill, 1975*)
- We must take **personal responsibility in medical matters**
- Some reasons why **some women do not want more children**: Abusive and Intrusive Birth Procedures, Rebellious children, Financial Pressures, Husband's Attitude Toward Children and Medical fears.
- **The Strength of a Family is in the Number of Children they Have** (Ps 127: 4-5)
- Education needs to be done primarily (and whenever possible) at home – the parents are responsible.
- **Apprenticeship** is in many cases more valuable than a college degree

III. Concerning Finances in His People

- Financial **Freedom** is a goal for **EVERYBODY**
- People need to **stop robbing God in tithes and offerings**: (Mal 3:7-12; Deut. 12:11, 17-18; 14:22)
- There should be **NO DEBT** in the congregation, in business nor in the home
- Some business **partnerships are Un-Scriptural**
- **Co-Signing** of Loans is **Un-Scriptural**

The month of *Elul* is around the corner it begins next Thursday, August 20, 2020, when the sun sets. In God's system and in Jewish tradition *Elul* (the 6th month) is the month of repentance. As *Elul* and September loom we need to **remember, review and return** to His ways in areas where we have digressed from His path due to the 'cares' (stress & influence) of this world. Some guiding principles include:

- **Everyone Has Blind Spots** – We can **lovingly exhort** one another into good works (Luke 6:41-42).
- **We need to ask one another for our blind spots and receive correction in the spirit of Adonai.** Marilyn and I have asked the congregation over the years to point out our blind spots – will you extend to us the same courtesy (to point out your blind spots)?
- **God will not change His standards for our situations.** We need to strive to do things God's way no matter what the price. Do not expect God to give an answer in prayer for something He has already specified in Scripture. We need to pray: *"Lord, give me the grace to do Thy Will"* (Matt. 26:39, 42, 44)
- **"The Torah of Adonai is Perfect restoring (converting) the Soul"** (Psalm 19:8)