

So Now, O Kol Simcha

“¹²So now, O Israel, what does Adonai your God require of you, but to fear Adonai your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve Adonai your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³to keep the mitzvot of Adonai and His statutes that I am commanding you today, for your own good?” (Deut..10:12-13).

This week’s *Parasha* is *Ekev* (עֵקֶב): *on the heels* or *as a consequence of*. The word shares the same root as the name of our Father *Ya’akov* (יַעֲקֹב). 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 *Adonai’s Torah*. In the Body of Messiah, the *Torah* is often dismissed as *being done away with, having been ‘nailed to the cross.’* Nothing could be further from the truth of *Adonai’s* ways. What an awesome responsibility we have in training our people in the ways of *Adonai*, even if it invokes a reaction from society at large! We in KS strive to train up a new *creation* who will be given the opportunity to embrace *all* of His ways. It is exciting to raise a people of *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 new creation has been ordained by *Adonai* and is to be raised via the loving and guiding hand of *His Ruach HaKodesh*. *Adonai* 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, the most basic reason Believers fail to recognize the time of their visitation is *because every great move of the Spirit of Adonai* in history *has been new and unprecedented*. If you study Ecclesiastical History, you will not find any two moves of the *Spirit* to be alike. He has come in a different way every time. He always brings new wine. Even the prophets only see in part, and we have yet to see evidence of a move of the *Spirit* 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 Adonai is releasing, they will end up in the camp of the enemy and be used against us*. A biblical example of this principle is King Saul’s rejection of David out of jealousy and fear, and as a result David ended up in the camp of the Philistines. Mercifully, *Adonai* 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.

A second factor to take into consideration is pride. Many feel that they are the only ones that have the anointing and answers for His Flock. Leaders easily end up taking the place of the *Holy Spirit* 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*. The sheer pride of many congregational leaders in history has likewise resulted in damage and defeat in the Body, more than possibly all of the false doctrines, teachers, prophets, and shepherds combined. Such pride will cause us to accept an evil, religious spirit as the *Holy Spirit*.

But then, many have missed great spiritual opportunities due to fear. This is often motivated by either territorial preservation or timidity that brings suspicion of anything new. As President Franklin D. Roosevelt once prophesied: *‘The only thing we have to fear is fear itself’*. Fear is one of our most devastating and effective enemies. We must recognize and reject fear because if we are led by it, then we will be led by the devil. *“But the person who is righteous will live his life by trusting (Hebrews 10:38)”* which quotes *“...but the just shall live by his faith (Hab. 2:4)”*

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

Even a casual study of the Believing Community's history in the last two centuries indicates that those who have been used to lead one generation have usually ended up resisting the next generation. Before the end of days, we are promised something quite different: *"Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of Adonai. 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 (Mal. 4:5-6)."*

Adonai would not send this ministry if a *restoration between generations* was not needed. There is a battle going on in *Adonai's* camp 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 irritate each other, but the ultimate victory will not come until there is a union of both.

Defeats can be *avoided* if the *old* will recognize the *new* and move with it. 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 *Adonai* in the past. We must start listening to dreamers and visionaries, especially among Spirit-filled people. We must humble ourselves and realize that those who have nothing to risk will often hear more clearly from *Adonai* 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 and not by fear.

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 current limits. If you are caught in a place of having to choose between the new and the old, prayerfully consider choosing 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 prepared to ensure that it is used correctly and rightly. The new is coming. Let us seize the day.

♪ *"And now Israel, and now Israel; what doth the Lord Thy God require of thee?"* ♪ (And Now Israel, LWW, 1977)