

And I Will Be Found By You

When the month of Elul began on Sunday evening August 8, 2021, it marked the start of a thirty-day period leading up to the first ten days of Tishri, from Tishri 1 (the evening of September 6, 2021) to Tishri 10 (the evening of Wednesday, September 9, 2021), the evening of the Feast of *Yom Kippur*. These are called the Ten Days of Awe. These forty days are also known as *Yemei Ratzon*, the *Days of Favor*, as the sages believe this was the time that God forgave the children of Israel after the Golden Calf incident. The rabbis teach that these days should be used to prepare for the solemn Day of Atonement, the day when the books are open before the Lord, and He evaluates each and every person. We who have accepted *Messiah Yeshua* should use these days to evaluate what aspects of our walk need re-evaluation so that we can experience unstoppable blessing. These days can truly become *Days of Favor* for us, as they were for the children of Israel. We can repent and turn from those things that are standing in the way of His Blessings and begin to walk in the fullness of His Grace (desire and power), so we can experience tremendous favor.

The sages also teach that *Adonai* is more available and attentive during the month of Elul (*the Days of T'Shuvah*). Scripture teaches us that we can seek the Almighty and that we will find Him provided we search for Him with all of our heart: *"¹²Then you will call on Me, and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³You will seek Me and find Me, when you will search for Me with all your heart. ¹⁴Then I will be found by you," says Adonai, "and I will return you from exile, and gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you," says Adonai, "and I will bring you back to the place from which I removed you as captives into exile" (Jer. 29:12-14).*

I believe we are entering into a time where the Lord is making it abundantly clear that we need greater intimacy with Him. In fact, more than a need, intimacy with Lord is THE only thing that will allow us to stay in tune with what He is doing and the times we live in. By intimacy I mean loving and serving Him out of a heart of love and gratitude while delighting in Him, not His system, not His religion, not His work – and to be sure, there is great pleasure and delight in doing the work of God.

♪ *"Awake, awake, oh Jerusalem. Rise up from the dust, captive daughter of Zion. You have forgotten, the Lord your maker, For I, even I, am He who comforts you.*

You will seek me and you shall find me, When you search for me with all of your heart. You will come and pray to me, and I will listen to you, And I will be found by you. And I will restore your fortune, And I will gather you from all the places where I have driven you.

Shout for joy oh barren one, you who have bore no child. For your husband is your maker, and you are My people

Awake, awake, oh Jerusalem, Rise up from the dust, captive daughter of Zion. You have forgotten, the Lord your maker, For I, even I, am He who comforts you.

Shout for joy oh barren one, you who have bore no child, For your husband is your maker, and you are My people, And you are my people, and you are my people, Jerusalem" ♪ (Awake Oh Jerusalem, Joe Finkelstein, Kol Simcha, 1979 based on Isa. 52:1,2; Jer. 29:13,14; and Isa. 54:1,5)

It is time to worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth: *"²³But an hour is coming – it is here now – when the true worshipers will worship the Father in **spirit and truth**, for the **Father is seeking such people as His worshipers.** ²⁴God is Spirit, and those who worship Him **must worship in spirit and truth**" (John 4:23-24).* Being sought by the Father Himself is a better guarantee than the promise that *we will find Him when we seek for Him with all of our heart.* Both result in finding Him, but He has infinitely better resources at His disposal to accomplish the search. In fact: *"⁷ Where can I go from Your Ruach? Where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸ If I go up to heaven, You are there, and if I make my bed in Sheol, look, You are there too. ⁹ If I take the wings of the dawn and settle on the other side of the sea, ¹⁰ even there Your hand will lead me, and Your right hand will lay hold of me. ¹¹ If I say: "Surely darkness covers me, night keeps light at a*

distance from me,”¹² even darkness is not dark for You, and night is as bright as day— darkness and light are alike” (Psalm 139:7-12) You see He is Omniscient, Omnipresent and Omnipotent. You say, is it really possible that we can be sought by the Father? *Yeshua* said it very clearly and His words are trustworthy. We must become true worshippers who esteem and practice worshipping the Father in Spirit (the Holy Spirit) and in (with) truth. In fact, verse 24 states that to truly worship the Father we **MUST** do so in **Spirit and in Truth**.

I want to be sought by the Father. In fact, I want our congregation to be sought by the Father. I want to be *found by Him* practicing Holy Spirit worship and living an integral life of truth. This is fundamental to our ministry and our congregation. I am compelled to remind us again today that: *“We shall know the truth and the truth shall make us free.” (John 8:32)*

Our world does not love truth, as perfectly predicted by Scripture. People love lies and refuse to learn the truth. The current Believing World is much like the Samaritan world in Scripture: *“You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews” (John 4:22)*. They do not really know and understand that their Messiah is the one who is from the Jews. How sad!

However, rest assured that in worshipping the Father with truth (and with His Holy Spirit), He WILL *‘seek us and He WILL find us.’* So, may we be *“found by Him”* rejoicing in Spirit and in Truth as we prepare to enter into His *High-Holiday-Season*. Amen!

♪ *“Sing O barren one, come and sing a joyful song. For the shame & blush of your youth shall be not remembered more
Sing O barren one, I will prosper you again. For your children shall grow and grow, Established in righteousness.*

For a brief, brief moment, did I turn away from you, from you. Now in great loving kindness, will I come and gather you

Sing O barren one, For through mountains and hills should move My loving kindness will never depart from you.

*For a brief, brief moment, did I turn away from you, from you. Now in great loving kindness, will I come and gather
you”* ♪ *(Sing O Barren One, Lamb III, Joel Chernoff 1976)*