

Blessed Are Your Eyes Because They See, and Your Ears Because They Hear

“But to this day Adonai has not given you a heart to know, or eyes to see, or ears to hear” (Deut. 29:3)

“¹⁶But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. ¹⁷Amen, I tell you, many a prophet and tzaddik longed to see what you are seeing and did not see, and to hear what you are hearing and did not hear” (Matt. 14:16-17).

The Hebrew words of Deut. 29:3 (“ולא־נתן יהוה לכם לב לדעת ועינים לראות ואזנים לשמע עד היום הזה:”) are familiar to me so I did not need a dictionary to translate them. *Lev* (לב) means ‘heart’ and *Lada-at* (לדעת) is the infinitive of the verb *yodea* (ידע), which means ‘to know intimately’. *Ve-einaim* (ועינים) means ‘and eyes’ and *lirot* (לראות) is the infinitive of the verb *roeh* (ראה) ‘to see’. *Ve-oznaim* (ואזנים) means ‘and ears’ and *lishmoa* (לשמע) is the infinitive of the verb *sh’ma* (שמע) which means ‘to hear and obey’. *Ad hayom haze* (עד היום הזה) means ‘until this day’. *Ve-lo natan YHVH* (ולא־נתן) means ‘Adonai has not given’. What does *lachem* (לכם) mean? It means literally ‘to you all.’ The TLV correctly translates the verse (“*But to this day Adonai has not given you a heart to know, or eyes to see, or ears to hear*”), or does it?

In the KJV version *to know* implied intimacy, which precisely what the Hebrew verb *yodea* means. Please note that *yodea* is the word translated *to know* in the KJV when it says that Adam had *intimate relations* with Eve and Cain (Abel, Seth) were conceived (“*And Adam knew Eve his wife*” Gen. 4:1, KJV). In fact, in Modern Hebrew, you cannot use the verb *yodea* to say: *I know you (or any person)* because it still means intimate relations. Instead, Modern Hebrew uses the verb *machir* (מכיר). To say *ani yodea Miryam* has a completely and totally different connotation: it means I am acquainted and cognizant of Marilyn but as her husband I also know Marilyn intimately (and I alone know her that way). When it comes to the Lord, we are supposed to *yodea* and not *machir* Him.

We desperately need a heart that knows the Lord intimately, not a heart that is only acquainted and cognizant of Him. We need a soft heart and not a hard heart. We need a heart that is able to hear (*sh’ma*) with compassion and with humility, a heart that sees the benefits of living through Him, for Him, and in Him. Such a heart equips a person with the resolve to obey all the things the Lord has said. A heart that does not know Him intimately is incapable to guide wisely because wisdom is viewing life from God’s perspective. “*In Him we live and move and have our being*” (Acts 17:28). Such a heart operates beyond a natural dimension it operates in a supernatural dimension. If the Lord has not given us (to you) this kind of heart, eyes and ears, then it is time to ask! Yes, it is time to ask. Today is the day to ask the Lord to give us, by His Spirit, a heart (and a soul, which is our mind, will, and emotions) that is ready, willing, and able to relate and respond to Him this way. If as a congregation we want to soar (mount up with wings as eagles) to the next level, we must have that kind of heart.

What is keeping us from having such a heart? Sin, of course. Some leaders in the Body of Messiah understand that their flock needs to go through the washing of repentance and often. This is why many schedule times of revival and bring in guests to motivate them to do so. But not every Christian leader does so. Some Believers are not familiar with revival services and never seem to want to go to one. But we who are involved in Messianic Judaism have scheduled annual times of repentance, which lead to times of revival. In His calendar, the Lord has already scheduled such times and because it is His idea, He is attentive to hearing from His people. Are you aware that we are in the last half of that annual time? Today is the 20th of *Elul* (the 6th month in the Hebrew calendar) and we have exactly nine days before the seventh month, *Tishri* arrives. You see, once you are truly involved in Messianic Judaism, you are not allowed to wait for some future time to seek and obtain Repentance, that time is now. Today we are in a position to ask the Lord for *A Heart to know Him intimately, for eyes to see Him for who He really is, and ears to sh’ma*. Who is He? Well, He is none other than the Savior of the World, the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the Priest forever after the order of *Malki-Tzedek*, the Lion of Judah, Messiah *Yeshua*. ♪ *His name is higher, than any other, His name is Yeshua, His name is Lord...*♪ We can call on Him, we can trust Him, we

can love Him, we can be forgiven because of Him, we can be healed because of His sacrifice, we ask and be filled with His Spirit, and we can activate by asking, even now, a heart that is intimate with Him.

The moon is waning, and autumn is already in the air (leaves are falling in my house). The *Fall Rehearsals* are about to begin (we know that all the Feasts of the Lord (His *moadim*) are rehearsals.) I believe that being aware of celestial utterances is of great value and I truly feel that this is one of the blessings of being part of the Messianic Movement, don't you? While most people in the Body of Messiah are not listening and their heart is neither intimate nor attentive (*there is no heart to know, or eyes to see, or ears to hear*), the moon, the sun and the firmament are speaking loudly. Few are paying attention. Do you hear their voice? Listen! {Have Stephen blow the shofar}

In the synagogue, during the month of *Elul* the *shofar* is sounded, and special prayers are made daily in synagogues around the world expecting us Jews to turn around and return to *Adonai* and be restored into fellowship with God. During this season of Repentance, we (the Messianic along with all Jews) evaluate (introspectively) our lives and, hopefully, we all come to realization that we in desperate need of forgiveness so we can return. We need "*a heart to know, or eyes to see, or ears to hear (sh'ma)*." Repentance speaks to all people. Messianic Believers are called to examine their lives and see where they have departed from God. For us it is a call to carefully re-examine the Scriptures and weigh the evidence that Messiah *Yeshua* was who He said He was. Is Messiah *Yeshua* king of your life and your heart yet?

My friend, judgment is coming to America! But our God has always warned people before He proclaims judgment. He warned the people before the flood, and Nineveh before it was ruined. He does not want anyone to receive the wrath of His judgment, He is warning us today. We need an awakening from the sleep induced by sin so that the power of the Holy Spirit is allowed to work in the heart Believers who trust in God's salvation through *Yeshua* and who asks for: *a heart to know, or eyes to see, or ears to hear*. Repentance (*T'Shuvah*) is a gift from the Lord. Do you want it? Many of you (us) are operating in various degrees of unbelief – but it is time to stop it! By His *Ruach* we rebuke unbelief. *Shabbat Shalom!* {Play *I Hear A Sound*, from the Up to Zion CD}

Chorus: Yeshua be the Lord of all, Yeshua be the Lord of all, Yeshua be the Lord of all the kingdoms of my heart.

1. In my heart are kingdoms of a world that's all my own. Kingdoms that are only seen by myself and God alone. In the past when I tried to rule my world, it just seemed to fall apart. So Yeshua be the Lord of all the kingdoms of my heart.

2. I guess I only fooled myself for I said I'd yielded all. But in a secret corner of my heart was a kingdom that did not fall. But, I surrender now, make my heart Your throne, (Lord) rule its kingdoms, both great and small. For if You're not Lord of everything then You're not Lord at all.

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(Jesus (Yeshua) Be the Lord of All, Lanny Wolfe)