

## Realizing Our Potential

Dear Brothers and Sisters

It is wonderful to consider how the LORD opens up His foundational instruction to us through the lives and experiences of the patriarchs and the nation of Israel. The Holy Spirit reveals His **Torah** to those who will receive it for what it really is, not just law, not just the first five books of the Bible but the cumulative revelation of the Teaching and Instruction of God, which, in fact, spans all sixty-six books of Scripture. The fact is that these foundational teachings are just as relevant to our lives today as they were to the people to whom they were originally given.

*Malachi 3:6 For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*

*Psalms 119:89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.*

*1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.*

YHWH never changes, nor does His Word. Every Word of God is as true and relevant today as it was when He originally breathed it. Every creative word, every blessing, every promise is certain, and must come into manifestation. Our responsibility is to believe the Word and obey His instructions in order to position ourselves to receive the blessing called into being by God from the beginning. Every one of us have a place in the plans and purposes of God, and as we trust Him, we overcome the obstacles that hinder those blessings from manifesting.

As we study the scheduled Torah portions for each year and the related scriptures throughout the rest of the Bible, we are reminded of the various trials and temptations that were recorded in the lives of central figures in scripture. We are also reminded that they are recorded as examples to us as we see how their choices affected the courses of their lives, and in our meditation of these events, we receive wisdom from God to walk out His teaching and instruction in every aspect of our lives.

*1 Corinthians 10:11 YLT And all these things as types did happen to those persons, and they were written for our admonition, to whom the end of the ages did come,*

*1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:*

*1 Peter 4:13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.*

*1 Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

We know that no temptation that we face comes from God, but we also know that we will certainly face many temptations and trials which will test our faith. We have seen that this was the case with Abraham, who is known as the father of those who are of faith, with Isaac, and with Jacob, whose life we are examining in the reading for this week found in Genesis 28:10—32:3. As we consider the tests each of these men of God, and others recorded in scripture were faced with, we recognize moral choices that were not always handled correctly, and we can see the short-term and long-range consequences that were associated with those bad choices. We can also see that, even when mistakes were made and calamity was impending, when those men did *t'shuvah*, or **repented**, there was growth in their lives that brought them back into line with the plan of God, and brought about deliverance and restoration.

In Jacob's case, handling situations in the flesh that needed patient waiting on the Lord, landed him in years of servitude and hardship. We can even see this as he impulsively chooses the beautiful Rachel for his wife, while withholding the love and tenderness that was due to the "tender eyed" Leah whom God had chosen to be mother to six of the twelve tribes of Israel, including Judah and Levi. Because he looked on outward appearances, Jacob was motivated by his flesh and feelings until the time that he began to see the plan of YHWH, and until he grew in his trust for the LORD. Then, because he diligently and patiently endured, he developed in steadfastness and integrity. Even though he had succumbed to temptation, after he had chosen the path of righteousness, the Lord brought him through subsequent tests, showing him the way of escape from them, and eventually established him as a **prince with God**, which is the meaning of the name, *Israel*. All of the tests, trials and temptations of the enemy that were sent to destroy Jacob were turned by God, as Jacob turned to God, each step being used to maximize the potential that God had placed within him.

As you meditate all of the trials and attacks that face you, you will see that your Father is faithful. He will not allow you to be tempted above your ability. In every circumstance and situation in your life, **even those where you have made the wrong decision, and gotten yourself into difficulties** that seem to have no solution, if you will **repent, change your mind and direction** and **trust in God and His Word**, He will show you the right way to go, and He will create a way of escape for you. Don't look on the outward appearance of things. Don't give in to temptations sent to bring you down through faulty human reasoning. Don't allow discouragement to cloud your thinking. Fill your mind with the Living Word of God until it begins to flow forth from your lips. Choose to see with the Father through tender eyes of faith overcoming feelings designed to destroy your trust. Endure patiently with a heart of thankfulness and a mouth filled with praise until your potential in the Messiah Yeshua is brought into manifestation.

Looking unto Yeshua,  
Terry