

May 11, 2023

Choose God's Overflowing Love

Shalom,

The Torah portions for this week are called **Behar (On the Mountain)** and **Bechukotai (In My Decrees)**. They are in Leviticus 25:1-27:34 and show God's promised blessing for those who put their trust in YHWH and choose to obey **His way of doing things**. In addition, we are shown **principles of sowing and reaping that bring horrible consequences on all who scorn His decrees designed to protect us from evil**.

"If you walk in My statutes and observe My commandments and do them, then I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit." (Leviticus 26:3-4 ESV)

"And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be My people." (Leviticus 26:12 ESV)

If you believe these assurances shown in verses 4 through 12, the **tremendous and overflowing blessing, provision, and protection of God is promised**, but beginning with verse 14, **warnings** are given about **the certain results of ignoring God's loving instructions which keep us and protect us from harm**.

"But if you will not listen to Me and will not do all these commandments, if you spurn My statutes, and if your soul abhors My rules, so that you will not do all My commandments, but break My covenant, then I will do this to you: I will visit you with panic, with wasting disease and fever that consume the eyes and make the heart ache." (Leviticus 26:14-16 ESV)

I have included these verses from Young's Literal Translation and scripture from various references to show that **the results of spurning God's statutes were pre-determined** from the very beginning of time, and not, as we often wrongly suppose, that God is angry and just waiting for us to mess up.

*"And if ye do not hearken to Me, and do not all these commands; and if at My statutes ye kick, and if My judgments your soul loathe, so as not to do all My commands—to your breaking My covenant—I also do this to you, **and I have appointed over you trouble**, the consumption, and the burning fever, consuming eyes, and causing pain of soul..." (Leviticus 26:14-16 YLT)*

Notice that what is stated as "I will also do..." is defined by that which, "I have appointed over you..." Since God never changes, it is obvious that He appointed the

various judgements for breaking the covenant, and they were pre-determined from the foundation of the world.

When parents warn their children to obey common safety instructions, and they disregard those instructions and injure themselves, we know that, even though careful and accurate warnings were given and potential for injury was shown, when the pain occurs, the parents still love the disobedient and injured child and suffer emotionally with them even though they are not responsible for the injury. Loving parents feel compassion and minister whatever comfort they can for the pain.

It seems that our understanding of God is terribly flawed. Many believe that God is vengeful, angry, and waiting to punish the disobedient, but **those who have a scriptural revelation of YHWH, know that the one-and-only God is love and that He never changes.** We know for certain that **He gives warnings out of love,** and when we **pay attention, we are spared the pain** that comes to the disobedient. **This is not a result of an act of judgement, but pre-ordained fact from before the foundation of the world that there are laws in effect that dictate that unsavory and rebellious behavior brings painful, albeit unnecessary, suffering.**

The Lord does not delay and is not tardy or slow about what He promises, according to some people's conception of slowness, but He is long-suffering (extraordinarily patient) toward you, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should turn to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9 AMPC)

*All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake He not unto them: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, "I will open My mouth in parables; **I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world**". (Matthew 13:34-35 KJV)*

*Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, "**Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**" (Matthew 25:34 KJV)*

*For we which have believed do enter into rest, as He said, "**As I have sworn in My wrath, if they shall enter into My rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.**" (Hebrews 4:3 KJV)*

YHWH is gracious and merciful to all mankind, and His anger is reserved for the Devil and his angels, but those who choose to align themselves with Satanic lies, bring upon themselves the anger and sentence which was promised from the beginning and

will ultimately be manifested at the final judgement when all the enemies of God will be cast alive into the lake of fire.

Isaiah was given a prophecy concerning God's anger. **That anger was directed at Jesus for our sakes to bring us into covenant with Him. Thank God forever! Jesus became sin for us, and, in addition, He also took all the righteous anger, that we deserved, upon Himself for us so that everyone who clings to God in trust may enjoy His everlasting favor and love throughout eternity.**

In fact, it was our diseases He bore, our pains from which He suffered; yet we regarded Him as punished, stricken, and afflicted by God. But He was wounded because of our crimes, crushed because of our sins; the disciplining that makes us whole fell on Him, and by His bruises we are healed. We all, like sheep, went astray; we turned, each one, to his own way; yet ADONAI laid on Him the guilt of all of us. (Isaiah 53:4-6 CJB)

“For a brief moment I deserted you, but with great compassion I will gather you. In overflowing anger for a moment I hid My face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,” says the Lord, your Redeemer. “This is like the days of Noah to Me: as I swore that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you, and will not rebuke you. For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but My steadfast love shall not depart from you, and My covenant of peace shall not be removed,” says the Lord, Who has compassion on you. (Isaiah 54:7-10 ESV)

Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God Who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations... (Deuteronomy 7:9 ESV)

Bad choices of the past have certainly caused us pain, but know this: God loves us and has chosen us to be His very own children. Because of His amazing love for us, we can choose His love and abide in Him through Jesus, the Messiah.

Kept by His love,
Terry

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