

January 21, 2023

Passover and the Aleph Tav.

It is not Spring and thus it is not time for our Passover Seder, yet Passover has come early this year, at least in terms of me talking about it. In this week's Parshah Vaera, Moshe's divine appointment with Adonai continues. If you recall from last week's Parshah, there was this burning bush and a curious man wanted to investigate it further...

Exo 3:1 Now Moshe was tending the sheep of Yitro his father-in-law, the priest of Midyan. Leading the flock to the far side of the desert, he came to the mountain of God, to Horev.

Exo 3:2 The angel of Adonai appeared to him in a fire blazing from the middle of a bush. He looked and saw that although the bush was flaming with fire, yet the bush was not being burned up.

Exo 3:3 Moshe said, "I'm going to go over and see this amazing sight and find out why the bush isn't being burned up."

What Moshe was not aware of at the moment is that this was a divine appointment established by Adonai for He was waiting for Moshe to respond to this incredible sign that did as was intended, got his attention.

Exo 3:4 When Adonai saw that he had gone over to see, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moshe! Moshe!" He answered, "Here I am."

Exo 3:5 He said, "Don't come any closer! Take your sandals off your feet, because the place where you are standing is holy ground.

Exo 3:6 I am the God of your father," he continued, "the God of Avraham, the God of Yitz'chak and the God of Ya`akov." Moshe covered his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

The intent for this divine appointment was made clear by Adonai, first in selecting one of His own, one who was a descendant and thus the promise of the Covenant made first with Avraham and extended to his descendants.

Exo 3:7 Adonai said, "I have seen how my people are being oppressed in Egypt and heard their cry for release from their slavemasters, because I know their pain.

Exo 3:8 I have come down to rescue them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that country to a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey, the place of the Kena`ani, Hitti, Emori, P'rizi, Hivi and Y'vusi.

Exo 3:9 Yes, the cry of the people of Isra'el has come to me, and I have seen how terribly the Egyptians oppress them.

Exo 3:10 Therefore, now, come; and I will send you to Pharaoh; so that you can lead my people, the descendants of Isra'el, out of Egypt."

Adonai had heard the cry of His people and would choose Moshe to represent Him before Pharaoh.

Moshe would go through his objections as to why He could not do this task Adonai had set before him yet to no avail. This was not some chance encounter in the desert but as I have stated a Divine Appointment.

Deu 29:28 "Things which are hidden belong to Adonai our God. But the things that have been revealed belong to us and our children forever, so that we can observe all the words of this Torah.

Exo 6:1 Adonai said to Moshe, "Now you will see what I am going to do to Pharaoh. With a mighty hand he will send them off; with force he will drive them from the land!"

Exo 6:2 God spoke to Moshe; he said to him, "I am Adonai.

Exo 6:3 I appeared to Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya`akov as El Shaddai, although I did not make myself known to them by my name, Yud-Heh-Vav-Heh (יהוה) [*Adonai*].

Exo 6:4 Also with them I established my covenant to give them the land of Kena`an, the land where they wandered about and lived as foreigners.

Exo 6:5 Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Isra'el, whom the Egyptians are keeping in slavery; and I have remembered my covenant.

Exo 6:6 "Therefore, say to the people of Isra'el: 'I am Adonai. I will free you from the forced labor of the Egyptians, rescue you from their oppression, and redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.

Exo 6:7 I will take you as my people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am Adonai your God, who freed you from the forced labor of the Egyptians.

Exo 6:8 I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya`akov—I will give it to you as your inheritance. I am Adonai.' "

The seven "I wills"

Within these verses I have shared with you are what are known as the "Seven I Wills" promises Adonai makes, revealing them to Moshe and ultimately fulfills.

We cannot just look at these promises as they are written for there is more to them than just the words.

Yes there is an Aleph Tav in this passage I had just read to you. Actually, there are three of them in a single verse.

Exo 6:4 Also with them I established (Aleph Tav) my covenant to give them the land (Aleph Tav) of Kena`an, the land where they (Aleph Tav) wandered about and lived as foreigners.

1. I will free you from the forced labor of the Egyptians

I will free you from bondage. We see the Aleph Tav free us from the bondage of Sin where we are no longer beholden to it. It no longer controls us like a slavemaster.

2. Rescue you from their oppression

The Aleph Tav rescues us from the wages of our transgression – Death

3. Redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.

The Aleph Tav redeems us with his arms stretched out on the execution stake while protecting us from the great judgments that are to come.

4. I will take you as my people

We see throughout Torah the relationship Adonai establishes with the children of Israel...

Deu 7:6 For you are a people set apart as holy for Adonai your God. Adonai your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his own unique treasure.

Deu 7:7 Adonai didn't set his heart on you or choose you because you numbered more than any other people—on the contrary, you were the fewest of all peoples.

Deu 7:8 Rather, it was because Adonai loved you, and because he wanted to keep the oath which he had sworn to your ancestors, that Adonai brought you out with a strong hand and redeemed you from a life of slavery under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Deu 7:9 From this you can know that Adonai your God is indeed God, the faithful God, who keeps his covenant and extends grace to those who love him and observe his mitzvot, to a thousand generations.

To this day as I stand here with you, this has not changed. It has not changed because we have learned that the promises of Adonai are irrevocable. Sha'ul,

concluding his position and thus the position of Adonai regarding the children of Israel and their call in relation to Adonai and thus their place in the New Covenant writes...

Rom 11:25 For, brothers, I want you to understand this truth which God formerly concealed but has now revealed, so that you won't imagine you know more than you actually do. It is that stoniness, to a degree, has come upon Isra'el, until the Gentile world enters in its fullness;

Rom 11:26 and that it is in this way that all Isra'el will be saved. As the Tanakh says, "Out of Tziyon will come the Redeemer; he will turn away ungodliness from Ya`akov

Rom 11:27 and this will be my covenant with them, . . . when I take away their sins."

Rom 11:28 With respect to the Good News they are hated for your sake. But with respect to being chosen they are loved for the Patriarchs' sake,

Rom 11:29 for God's free gifts and his calling are irrevocable.

5. I will be your God

Adonai would establish a people He would call His own, through covenant relations. He would be like a husband to them and they would be His bride.

Jer 2:2 "Go and shout in the ears of Yerushalayim that this is what Adonai says: 'I remember your devotion when you were young; how, as a bride, you loved me; how you followed me through the desert, through a land not sown.

This promise would continue through the New Covenant ratified by the blood of the Aleph Tav...

Jer 31:30 "Here, the days are coming," says Adonai, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Isra'el and with the house of Y'hudah.

Jer 31:31 It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers on the day I took them by their hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt; because they, for their part, violated my covenant, even though I, for my part, was a husband to them," says Adonai.

Jer 31:32 "For this is the covenant I will make with the house of Isra'el after those days," says Adonai: "I will put my Torah within them and write it on their hearts; I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Jer 31:33 No longer will any of them teach his fellow community member or his brother, 'Know Adonai'; for all will know me, from the least of them to the greatest; because I will forgive their wickednesses and remember their sins no more."

Thus, within this New Covenant you will see that which was established when Adonai spoke to Moshe and the Aleph Tav was present.

6. I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya`akov

The Aleph Tav will bring them into the promise of the Kingdom just as the descendants of Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya'akov entered the land promised to them in the covenant.

7. I will give it to you as your inheritance

Those who enter the Kingdom through the Aleph Tav King will receive the inheritage of eternal life, never seeing death and living in Shalom for eternity.

These are the seven things Adonai would do for the Children of Israel by redeeming them from the bondage of slavery at the hands of Pharaoh, King of Egypt. These are done, Yet the Aleph Tav, embedded in Scripture and thus its meaning hidden for centuries has now been revealed to us through Yeshua who proclaims that He is the Aleph Tav.

I want to reiterate this verse again...

Deu 29:28 "Things which are hidden belong to Adonai our God. But the things that have been revealed belong to us and our children forever, so that we can observe all the words of this Torah.

Though in plain sight, found in the Hebrew Scriptures, the Aleph Tav was still hidden. Its true purpose was not fully known but only perceived to be Divine in nature and intended to point us in a certain direction. What was once hidden, having belonged to Adonai has now been revealed to us and now belongs to us.

Three times in Revelation it is revealed when Yeshua identifies Himself as the Aleph Tav with the last occurrence being Revelation 22:12 - 13

Rev 22:12 "Pay attention!" [*says Yeshua,*] "I am coming soon, and my rewards are with me to give to each person according to what he has done.

Rev 22:13 I am the 'Aleph Tav, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."

Now that the Aleph Tav has been identified, we can now go back and look at where the Aleph Tav is written in Scripture and make further and deeper connections that will either reveal another hidden truth or confirm that which has

already been revealed.

In this case it is the origin of Passover and its connection to Yeshua. Later on we read of the requirements for the Passover Lamb.

This is what it says about the Passover Lamb...

Exo 12:3 Speak to all the assembly of Isra'el and say, 'On the tenth day of this month, each man is to take a lamb or kid for his family, one per household—

Exo 12:4 except that if the household is too small for a whole lamb or kid, then he and his next-door neighbor should share one, dividing it in proportion to the number of people eating it.

Exo 12:5 Your animal must be without defect, a male in its first year, and you may choose it from either the sheep or the goats.

Exo 12:6 " 'You are to keep it until the fourteenth day of the month, and then the entire assembly of the community of Isra'el will slaughter it at dusk.

Exo 12:7 They are to take some of the blood and smear it on the two sides and top of the door-frame at the entrance of the house in which they eat it.

Exo 12:12 For that night, I will pass through the land of Egypt and kill all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both men and animals; and I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt; I am Adonai.

Exo 12:13 The blood will serve you as a sign marking the houses where you are; when I see the blood, I will pass over [*Hebrew: pasach*] you—when I strike the land of Egypt, the death blow will not strike you.

This sacrifice is of redemption not atonement. I have shared with you in the past that this sacrifice is more powerful in that it doesn't atone for our transgression but pays the price for the penalty of our transgressions. In other words this sacrifice redeems us from the wages of sin...death.

Rom 6:20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in relationship to righteousness;

Rom 6:21 but what benefit did you derive from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end result of those things was death.

Rom 6:22 However, now, freed from sin and enslaved to God, you do get the benefit—it consists in being made holy, set apart for God, and its end result is eternal life.

Rom 6:23 For what one earns from sin is death; but eternal life is what one receives as a free gift from God, in union with the Messiah Yeshua, our Lord.

...in union with Messah...

Who is our Passover Lamb.

Joh 1:29 The next day, Yochanan saw Yeshua coming toward him and said, "Look! God's lamb! The one who is taking away the sin of the world!"