

August 5,2023

## **The Seven Comforting Messages of Messiah – Part 2**

Parashah Ekev (Deuteronomy 7:12 – 11:25) and Isaiah 49:14 – 51:11

These seven messages Adonai conveys through the Prophet Yeshayahu, amplify the very character of who He is...

**Exo 34:6** Adonai passed before him and proclaimed: "YUD-HEH-VAV-HEH!!! Yud-Heh-Vav-Heh ( יהוה ) [*Adonai*] is God, merciful and compassionate, slow to anger, rich in grace and truth;

**Exo 34:7** showing grace to the thousandth generation, forgiving offenses, crimes and sins; yet not exonerating the guilty, but causing the negative effects of the parents' offenses to be experienced by their children and grandchildren, and even by the third and fourth generations."

This is the second of Seven messages expanded upon in the Parshah towards a people, a nation that have turned away from Adonai their God, done abhorrent things such as worshiping other gods, and yet His compassion is seen here as He further extends what He will do.

The Prophet speaks of God as both loving and just. He punishes Israel for their sins, yet He takes them back in compassion. Within this parashah, Adonai conveys to Moshe how He will deal with His people.

In Parashah Ekev (Deuteronomy 7:12 – 11:25) starts off with an encouragement for listening, just as last week's Parshah encouraged Israel to listen...

**Deu 7:12** "Because you are listening (Shma) to these rulings, keeping and obeying them, Adonai your God will keep with you the covenant and mercy that he swore to your ancestors.

Their mind was open to listening thus their heart (should) would be open as well.  
That is where it begins and ends.

**Deu 7:13** He will love you, bless you and increase your numbers; he will also bless the fruit of your body and the fruit of your ground - your grain, wine, olive oil and the young of your cattle and sheep - in the land he swore to your ancestors that he would give you.

**Deu 7:14** You will be blessed more than all other peoples; there will not be a sterile male or female among you, and the same with your livestock.

**Deu 7:15** Adonai will remove all illness from you - he will not afflict you with any of Egypt's dreadful diseases, which you have known; instead, he will lay them on those who hate you.

Yet the Haftarah (Isaiah 49:14 – 51:11) starts off...

**Isa 49:14** "But Tziyon says, 'Adonai has abandoned me, Adonai has forgotten me.'

A very different position than was conveyed in the opening of Parashah Ekev, yet Adonai's response is anything but angry, given Israel's transgression:

**Isa 49:15** Can a woman forget her child at the breast, not show pity on the child from her womb? Even if these were to forget, I would not forget you.

**Isa 49:16** I have engraved you on the palms of my hands, your walls are always before me."

**Isa 49:17** Your children are coming quickly, your destroyers and plunderers are leaving and going.

**Isa 49:18** Raise your eyes, and look around: they are all gathering and coming to you. Adonai swears: "As surely as I am alive, you will wear them all like jewels, adorn yourself with them like a bride."

**Isa 49:19** For your desolate places and ruins and your devastated land will be too cramped for those living in it; your devourers will be far away.

A message of hope, in lew of their current state.

**Isa 50:1** Adonai says: "Where is your mother's divorce document which I gave her when I divorced her? Or: to which of my creditors did I sell you? You were sold because of your sins; because of your crimes was your mother divorced.

The Prophet is reminding the people that it was your sins that have put you in the hands of another. Yet as I conveyed in the previous Parashah...

**Deu 4:30** In your distress, when all these things have come upon you, in the acharit-hayamim (end of days), you will return to Adonai your God and listen to what he says;

**Deu 4:31** for Adonai your God is a merciful God. He will not fail you, destroy you, or forget the covenant with your ancestors which he swore to them.

A message to those with faith and those lacking faith...

**Isa 50:10** "Who among you fears Adonai? Who obeys what his servant says?

Even when he walks in the dark, without any light, he will trust in Adonai's reputation and rely on his God.

To The Faithful...

**Isa 50:11** But all of you who are lighting fires and arming yourselves with firebrands: go, walk in the flame of your own fire, among the firebrands you lit! From my hands this *[fate]* awaits you: you will lie down in torment.

Those lacking faith and taking matters into their own hands. Adonai says...

**Isa 51:1** "Listen to me, you pursuers of justice, you who seek Adonai: consider the rock from which you were cut, the quarry from which you were dug —

**Isa 51:2** consider Avraham your father and Sarah, who gave birth to you; in that I called him when he was only one person, then blessed him and made him many.

Israel is reminded where they came from, thus conveying the magnitude of Adonai's capabilities to redeem Israel.

**Isa 51:3** For Adonai will comfort Tziyon, will comfort all her ruined places, will make her desert like `Eden, her `Aravah like the garden of Adonai. Joy and gladness will be there, thanksgiving and the sound of music.

Adonai pleads with His people...

**Isa 51:4** "Pay attention to me, my people! My nation, listen to me! For Torah will go out from me; I will calm them with my justice as a light for the peoples.

**Isa 51:5** My righteousness is at hand, my salvation goes out, my arms will judge the peoples. The coastlands are putting their hope in me, trusting in my arm.

**Isa 51:6** "Raise your eyes toward the skies, look at the earth below. The skies will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like clothing. Those living on it will die like flies; but my salvation will be forever, and my justice will never end.

**Isa 51:7** "Listen to me, you who know justice, you people who have my Torah in your heart: don't be afraid of people's taunts, don't be upset by their insults.

**Isa 51:8** For the moth will eat them up like clothing, the worm will eat them like wool; but my justice will be forever, and my salvation for all generations."

**Isa 51:9** Awake! Awake! Arm of Adonai, clothe yourself with strength! Awake, as

in days of old, as in ancient generations! Wasn't it you who hacked Rahav to pieces, you who pierced the sea monster? [*Rahav symbolizes Egypt; the sea monster symbolizes Pharaoh*]

**Isa 51:10** Wasn't it you who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep; you who made the sea bottom a road for the redeemed to cross?

Those who seek justice and pursue Adonai are the ones who paid attention and listened...

**Deu 8:1** "All the mitzvot I am giving you today you are to take care to obey, so that you will live, increase your numbers, enter and take possession of the land Adonai swore about to your ancestors.

**Deu 8:2** You are to remember everything of the way in which Adonai led you these forty years in the desert, humbling and testing you in order to know what was in your heart - whether you would obey his mitzvot or not.

**Deu 8:3** He humbled you, allowing you to become hungry, and then fed you with man, which neither you nor your ancestors had ever known, to make you understand that a person does not live on food alone but on everything that comes from the mouth of Adonai.

**Deu 8:4** During these forty years the clothing you were wearing didn't grow old, and your feet didn't swell up.

**Deu 8:5** Think deeply about it: Adonai was disciplining you, just as a man disciplines his child.

**Deu 8:6** So obey the mitzvot of Adonai your God, living as he directs and fearing him.

**Deu 8:7** For Adonai your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with streams, springs and water welling up from the depths in valleys and on hillsides.

And were the faithful remnant that Adonai would continue to protect...

However, those that were not faithful and didn't revere Adonai, would see a much different outcome...

**Deu 8:19** If you forget Adonai your God, follow other gods and serve and worship them, I am warning you in advance today that you will certainly perish.

**Deu 8:20** You will perish just like the nations that Adonai is causing to perish ahead of you, because you will not have heeded the voice of Adonai your God."

So, when Tzion asked,

**Isa 49:14** "But Tziyon says, 'Adonai has abandoned me, Adonai has forgotten me.'

Was it the faithful remnant or the one who did not pursue Him?

Yet Adonai answer:

**Isa 51:11** Those ransomed by Adonai will return and come with singing to Tziyon; on their heads will be everlasting joy. They will acquire gladness and joy, while sorrow and sighing will flee.