

December 17 2022

Yosef and the Aleph Tav

I want to share the introduction to our Torah study for this week's Parshah Vayeshev, meaning "And he dwelt" as the premise for what I am about to share with you today.

It is written in Genesis 37:2

Gen 37:2 Here is the history of Ya`akov. When Yosef was seventeen years old he used to pasture the flock with his brothers, even though he was still a boy. Once when he was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, he brought a bad report about them to their father.

Yet what is interesting is that it starts with the life of Yosef. All eyes will soon turn from Ya'acov to the most gifted young man in his household – His son Yosef.

I still believe this to be considered the life of Ya'akov because he is the patriarch and the blessing has not yet been passed on to his children. We will see that later on in Bereshit. Yet it is through Yosef we will see the following.

- The covenant will be carried to the fourth generation
- We will learn what a suffering servant looks like
- We will learn what life lived in the fear of God looks like
- We will learn what both betrayal and unconditional forgiveness looks like
- We will learn what it is like to bear false accusation and stand silently in the face of it like a lamb before the shearers
- We will learn what both experiencing bondage and being miraculously delivered from bondage looks like
- We will discover what redemption really means

Without this information, how would you know what a covenant lifestyle would be like?

People who carry torches make easy targets! Yosef means 'increase' or 'to add.' He was a shepherd, and a willing obedient servant to his father. He was especially loved by His father.

He was given the coat of many colors, showing a mark of favor and honor. His own brethren hated him. He was a prophet of his own coming future, dreams of true superior position. He witnessed to his brethren, and the more he witnessed, the more they hated him.

He was envied and slandered (Lashan Hara). He was sent on a mission of love by his father. Yosef was ready and willing to go "*Thy will Father, not mine, be done.*"

He left home to seek his brethren no matter the distance or the cost. During that time, he had no where to sleep as he went.

His brethren conspired against him and decided to kill him. Yosef was stripped of his raiment. His brethren caused him untold sorrow and suffering. Yosef was sold for twenty pieces of silver, which was the price of an '*immature*' slave. His brethren deliver him to his enemies.

While Yosef was suffering, they sat down to eat bread! Ya'akov (Israel) thought Yosef was dead, identified by his blood-stained garment. Yosef was hidden in Egypt by God so they could later return and serve. He, rejected by his own, served the Egyptians. He was severely tested, falsely accused, yet maintained his integrity.

While suffering for righteousness sake, he preached to two prisoners, and everything came to pass, as Yosef had said. After suffering innocently, he was exalted to a throne (2nd highest in the realm). All people were compelled to bow the knee to Yosef

At first, his brethren did not recognize him. He extended a cup, (Benjamin's sack) - of redemption. He was '*sent*' by Adonai and was '*sacrificed*' for the salvation of his brothers - The Whole House of Israel.

Yosef received a new name. This new name, Zaphnath-Paaneah, had two meanings.

The *first* means "*the revealer of secrets.*" Yosef was not only a savior, but he became the revealer of secrets. Yosef had all things at his disposal. He reconciled to his brethren.

The *second* meaning of his name was "*food-man.*" He supplied the needs of the world, and ruled over all.

Does this remind you of someone else? It does for me.

The story of Yosef is not an allegory, written merely to serve as type, shadow, and symbol. It is a great story in its own right. Yosef is a real character; his

adventures and misadventures are his own.

If we investigate the Yosef story and perceive the person of Messiah that is to be expected. *Why?* God is the author of salvation both then and now.

Yosef's story is an example of what it looks like when God saves His people. His story is what it looks like when God raises up a savior.

Therefore, it is not that the story of Yosef foreshadows the story of Messiah as much as both stories are similar. They both tell the story of God rising a savior for the salvation of Israel.

I find it interesting in doing a search for Yosef in the New Covenant writings, specifically the Gospels and Yeshua's teachings I find no direct references to him. Thus all our understanding about the relationship between Yeshua and Yosef as the suffering servant are allusionary.

Allusion is defined as "an expression designed to call something to mind without mentioning it explicitly; an indirect or passing reference."

Not by Yeshua's words but by His life do we relate the two. There are many aspects of the life of both Yeshua and Yosef that prompt us to draw comparison for which this is not coincidence but is intentional by the One who established His plan.

We see...

- Both were born first, opening the womb
- Both were shepherds
- Both were hated by their brothers
- Both would suffer at the hands of their brothers and of the world power
- Both would redeem their brothers and be a savior for the entire world.

All this is seen through understanding Scripture and thus rightly dividing it in context to draw the comparison of Yosef to Yeshua.

We will see how Yeshua will be compared to the likes of Moshe and David later on, thus we see Yeshua as a composite of those who came before Him being a sign for us.

Deu 18:15 "Adonai will raise up for you a prophet like me from among yourselves, from your own kinsmen. You are to pay attention to him,

Deu 18:16 just as when you were assembled at Horev and requested Adonai your God, 'Don't let me hear the voice of Adonai my God any more, or let me see this great fire ever again; if I do, I will die!'

Deu 18:17 On that occasion Adonai said to me, 'They are right in what they are saying.

Deu 18:18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kinsmen. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I order him.

Deu 18:19 Whoever doesn't listen to my words, which he will speak in my name, will have to account for himself to me.

2Sa 7:10 I will assign a place to my people Isra'el; I will plant them there, so that they can live in their own place without being disturbed any more. The wicked will no longer oppress them, as they did at the beginning,

2Sa 7:11 and as they did from the time I ordered judges to be over my people Isra'el; instead, I will give you rest from all your enemies. " 'Moreover, Adonai tells you that Adonai will make you a house.

2Sa 7:12 When your days come to an end and you sleep with your ancestors, I will establish one of your descendants to succeed you, one of your own flesh and blood; and I will set up his rulership.

2Sa 7:13 He will build a house for my name, and I will establish his royal throne forever.

Though this would appear to speak of Shlomo directly it also alludes to Yeshua based on the eternal dynamic of the throne for we know that Shlomo would not and could not be the eternal aspect of this verse, hence the only possibility through what Adonai has revealed is that this is referring to Yeshua.

For we read in Luke's gospel...

Luk 1:32 He will be great, he will be called Son of Ha` Elyon. Adonai, God, will give him the throne of his forefather David;

Luk 1:33 and he will rule the House of Ya`akov forever—there will be no end to his Kingdom."

Thus there is more to see in the relationship between Yeshua and others who are seen in relation to Him.

For now, our focus is on Yosef and the Aleph Tav another indirect relation between Yeshua and Yosef.

Remember, the Aleph Tav is what is known as a divine marker, intended to point us towards something. It is Yeshua who revealed this connection for us and just as we will be doing with the relationship between Yeshua and Yosef will have to connect the two together. These people are a sign that points to Yeshua.

The prophet Zechariah conveyed...

Zec 3:6 Then the angel of Adonai gave Y'hoshua this warning:

Zec 3:7 "Adonai-Tzva'ot says this: 'If you will walk in my ways, obey my commission, judge my house and guard my courtyards; then I will give you free access among these who are standing here.

Zec 3:8 Listen, cohen gadol Y'hoshua, both you and your colleagues seated here before you, because these men are a sign that I am going to bring my servant Tzemach [*Sprout*].

Zec 3:9 For look at the stone I have put in front of Y'hoshua: on one stone are seven eyes; I will engrave what is to be written on it,' says Adonai-Tzva'ot; 'and I will remove the guilt of this land in one day.

Zec 3:10 When that time comes,' says Adonai-Tzva'ot, 'you will all invite each other to join you under your vines and fig trees.' "

Thus another sign is the Aleph Tav whereby the revelation of Yeshua...

connects the standalone Aleph Tav as a sign. It is through Adonai that we are able to understand the relationship between where the Aleph Tav is and its relation to Yeshua.

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."

His final words documented in Scripture tell us to "Pay attention" because He is coming soon. Think of the Aleph Tav and His relationship to it as a Parable. Not everyone who heard Yeshua's parables would understand them. Here is what He shared when asked by His Talmidim why He spoke in parables.

Mat 13:10 Then the talmidim came and asked Yeshua, "Why are you speaking to them in parables?"

Mat 13:11 He answered, "Because it has been given to you to know the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but it has not been given to them.

Mat 13:12 For anyone who has something will be given more, so that he will have plenty; but from anyone who has nothing, even what he does have will be taken away.

Mat 13:13 Here is why I speak to them in parables: they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding.

Mat 13:14 That is, in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Yesha`yahu which says, 'You will keep on hearing but never understand, and keep on seeing but never perceive,

Mat 13:15 because the heart of this people has become dull—with their ears they barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, so as not to see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and do t'shuvah, so that I could heal them.'

Mat 13:16 But you, how blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear!

Mat 13:17 Yes indeed! I tell you that many a prophet and many a tzaddik longed to see the things you are seeing but did not see them, and to hear the things you are hearing but did not hear them.

Thus Yeshua has revealed Himself to be the Aleph Tav, a secret that we are intended to know. If we are intended to know about it then we are intended to understand it also.

Thus this mystery and its relationship with Yosef is not seen until chapter 39 and is only found in one place in this week's Parshah.

Gen 39:21 But Adonai was with Yosef, showing him grace and giving him favor in the sight of the prison warden.

Gen 39:22 The prison warden made Yosef supervisor of all the prisoners in the prison; so that whatever they did there, he was in charge of it.

Gen 39:23 The prison warden paid no attention to anything Yosef did, because Adonai was with him; and whatever he did, Adonai prospered.

Its location is actually found in verse 22 and reads...

Gen 39:22 The prison warden made Yosef (Aleph Tav) supervisor of all the prisoners in the prison; so that whatever they did there, he was in charge of it.

וַיִּתֵּן עֹר בַּיִת-הַסֵּהר בְּיַד-יוֹסֵף אֶת כָּל-הָאֲסִירִם אֲשֶׁר
בְּבַיִת הַסֵּהר וְאֵת כָּל-אֲשֶׁר עֹשִׂים שָׁם הוּא הָיָה עֹשֶׂה

Yosef was given authority over all the prisoners. How does this relate to Yeshua?

I can see the wheels turning and scriptures coming to the forefront of your minds.

Let's look at this in two parts.

The first being that of authority.

Mat 28:18 Yeshua came and talked with them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

This is seen through the Prophet Yesha'yahu whereby this prophecy speaks of Shevna, David's servant directly...

Isa 22:22 I will place the key of David's house on his shoulder; no one will shut what he opens; no one will open what he shuts.

Yet, we are able to relate this same authority to David's house based on the verses I had shared with you earlier.

2Sa 7:12 When your days come to an end and you sleep with your ancestors, I will establish one of your descendants to succeed you, one of your own flesh and blood; and I will set up his rulership.

2Sa 7:13 He will build a house for my name, and I will establish his royal throne forever.

And that which Yeshua will bestow upon Kefa...

Mat 16:18 I also tell you this: you are Kefa," [*which means 'Rock,'*] "and on this rock I will build my Community, and the gates of Sh'ol will not overcome it.

Mat 16:19 I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you prohibit on earth will be prohibited in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven."

Mat 16:20 Then he warned the talmidim not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Thus Yosef has received authority over all the prisoners which leads me to the next correlation.

We are the prisoners for whom Yeshua has been given authority over. The relation to Yosef and his circumstance and that of Yeshua the Aleph Tav is really unmistakable when you consider the alignment to His mission and the message of the Prophets.

Luk 4:16 Now when he went to Natzeret, where he had been brought up, on Shabbat he went to the synagogue as usual. He stood up to read,

Luk 4:17 and he was given the scroll of the prophet Yesha`yahu. Unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written,

Luk 4:18 "The Spirit of Adonai is upon me; therefore he has anointed me to announce Good News to the poor; he has sent me to proclaim freedom for the imprisoned and renewed sight for the blind, to release those who have been crushed,

Luk 4:19 to proclaim a year of the favor of Adonai."

Yeshua read from the Prophet Yesha'yahu, specifically chapter 61:1 and part of verse two.

Thus the Aleph Tav with Yosef in prison connects Yeshua to the promise of the Prophet and an authority given over the prisoners...US.

The major difference between that authority given to Yosef and that given to Yeshua, one was transferable while the other was not. Yeshua had the authority to give His authority to others because of the relationship with the one who gave Him that authority in the first place.

Psa 2:6 "I myself have installed my king on Tziyon, my holy mountain."

Psa 2:7 "I will proclaim the decree: Adonai said to me, 'You are my son; today I became your father.

Psa 2:8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance; the whole wide world will be your possession.

We have a King who's authority can not be denied or overtaken by another. It is by faith that we trust in the one who has been sent and thus the one who will return.

With all that is going on around us today, both external and internal, let us be reassured that His authority will reign supreme and that we are in the midst of His promise to return for we have already been set free from our prison, the one who has all authority over the prisoners. It is up to us to be patient, endure all things of this world as we anticipate His return.

Mat 24:3 When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the talmidim came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that you are coming, and that the `olam hazeh is ending?"

Mat 24:4 Yeshua replied: "Watch out! Don't let anyone fool you!

Mat 24:5 For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Messiah!' and they will lead many astray.

Mat 24:6 You will hear the noise of wars nearby and the news of wars far off; see to it that you don't become frightened. Such things must happen, but the end is yet to come.

Mat 24:7 For peoples will fight each other, nations will fight each other, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various parts of the world;

Mat 24:8 all this is but the beginning of the 'birth-pains.'

Mat 24:9 At that time you will be arrested and handed over to be punished and put to death, and all peoples will hate you because of me.

Mat 24:10 At that time many will be trapped into betraying and hating each other,

Mat 24:11 many false prophets will appear and fool many people;

Mat 24:12 and many people's love will grow cold because of increased distance from Torah.

Mat 24:13 But whoever holds out till the end will be delivered.

What Yeshua has shared is occurring as we speak thus we are to rely upon what has been conveyed to us...

Deu 32:1 "Hear, oh heavens, as I speak! Listen, earth, to the words from my mouth!

Deu 32:2 May my teaching fall like rain. May my speech condense like dew, like light rain on blades of grass, or showers on growing plants.

Deu 32:3 "For I will proclaim the name of Adonai. Come, declare the greatness of our God!

Deu 32:4 The Rock! His work is perfect, for all his ways are just. A trustworthy God who does no wrong, he is righteous and straight.