

Parashat Pinchas / פרשת פינחס

Shabbat Tammuz 21, 5767, July 7, 2007
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This Weeks Reading List:

Torah: Numbers 25:10-30:1

Haftarah: Jeremiah 1:1-2:3

B'rit HaChadashah: John 2:13-22

Numbers 25:10-13

25:10 ADONAI said to Moshe, 25:11 "Pinchas the son of El'azar, the son of Aharon the cohen, has deflected my anger from the people of Isra'el by being as zealous as I am, so that I didn't destroy them in my own zeal. 25:12 Therefore say, 'I am giving him my covenant of shalom, 25:13 making a covenant with him and his descendants after him that the office of cohen will be theirs forever. 'This is because he was zealous on behalf of his God and made atonement for the people of Isra'el."

Pinchas had a zeal for God, so much so that it is recorded for all of time within the Torah. God is a zealous God and he wears zeal as his mantle as demonstrated in Parshat Pinchas. The Lord also expects us to do the same, to be zealous for the Lord and to make zeal our mantle too. In the scriptures we see God revealed in his Messiah, and we know how Yeshua also had zeal in the House of God. (*John2:13-17*) The kind of zeal I am referring too is what is described of us being believers in Yeshua: (i) "be zealous therefore and repent" (Rev. 3:14-19), (ii) "a special people zealous for good works" (Titus 2:14), (iii) "keep fervent in your love for one another" (1 Peter 4:8), (iv) "contend earnestly for the faith" (Jude 1:3), and (v) serve God acceptably with reverence and fear" (Heb. 12:28). That kind of zealous attitude is one which is a fire in the heart for God, the love and study of His word, and a heart felt love for the lost.

As I continued to read through the parsha, I come across Numbers 27:1-7. This got me to thinking about the genealogy of the Messiah Yeshua. In the Hebrew scriptures we can make two observations about the genealogies, (i) the male line is traced and (ii) generally only men's names are traced with certain exceptions (i.e. Matt1:5, Ruth). Women's names are not given and neither their descendents except for only a passing mention of their names. The father was the one who determined the nationality and tribal identity in the bible. We see the continuation of this tradition even today in our society where the daughters take on the names of their father, and once married, they take on the name of their husband.

Numbers 27:1-7

27:1 Then the daughters of Tz'lof'chad the son of Hefer, the son of Gil'ad, the son of Machir, the son of M'nasheh, of the families of M'nasheh, the son of Yosef, approached. These were the names of his daughters: Machlah, No'ah, Hoglah, Milkah and Tirtzah. 27:2 They stood in front of Moshe, El'azar the cohen, the leaders and the whole

community at the entrance to the tent of meeting and said, 27:3 "Our father died in the desert. He wasn't part of the group who assembled themselves to rebel against ADONAI in Korach's group, but he died in his own sin, and he had no sons. 27:4 Why should the name of our father be eliminated from his family just because he didn't have a son? Give us property to possess along with the brothers of our father." 27:5 Moshe brought their cause before ADONAI. 27:6 ADONAI answered Moshe, 27:7 "The daughters of Tz'lof'chad are right in what they say. You must give them property to be inherited along with that of their father's brothers; have what their father would have inherited pass to them.

This parsha points out a very important concept which goes against one rabbinic objection to the messiahship of Yeshua which are based upon his genealogy. The argument goes something like this: "Since Yeshua was not a descendent of David through his father, he cannot be Messiah and King." The point that is missed about the Messiah is this; the Messiah is supposed to be different in the sense that he is to save us from our sins. A prophetic revelation of this is found in Genesis 3:15, it is written that the Messiah would be reckoned after the "seed of the woman," although throughout the scriptures this seems contrary to the norm. The solution is found within the genealogy of Yeshua.

There are two genealogies found in the b'rit hachadashah, one in the book of Matthew and the other is found in the book of Luke. The first genealogy is that of Joseph the husband of Mary, mother of Yeshua. The second is the genealogy of Mary. Now you might be asking yourself why there is a need for two genealogies. The necessity of the second genealogy is because of the prophecy of the Messiah being reckoned after the seed of the woman. Within Mary's genealogy we find that Yeshua indeed is heir to the throne of David through David's son Nathan. And it is within Parshat Pinchas that we find precedence in the Torah of the inheritance being passed onto the daughters of Israel, and then onto their children. The culmination of this precedence is revealed to us in the Messiah Yeshua being heir to the throne of David as Messiah and King.

In conclusion, typically the father determined the Jewish nationality and tribal identity. But with the Messiah, it would be different since he was to have no earthly father, his nationally, his tribal identity would come entirely from his mother. In the Tanach we see the Messiah is called the "son of David," and the "son of Abraham." In the b'rit hachadashah the Messiah is called the "son of man" and the "son of God." (*Isaiah 7:14, Jer. 23:5-6*) From this we see the culmination of the very nature of who the Messiah would be. As the son of David, Yeshua is King. As the son of Abraham, Yeshua is a Jew. As the son of man God sent his spirit to earth to be born as a man, Yeshua. In this unique thing God did we now serve a God who can identify with us in every way for he was tempted like we are and can uniquely identify with us as our savior and friend. And as the son of God, Yeshua can save us from our sins for only God can save us and forgive us of our sins. The picture of the Messiah as presented to us by the genealogies is awesome. Yeshua is the Jewish King, Savior and Lord of our lives. Could the Messiah be anything less?

For a more detailed look at the genealogy of Messiah Yeshua have a look at an article I wrote titled "**The Genealogy of the Messiah Yeshua**"

<http://www.matsati.com/genealogy.html>

הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:

Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,
"Yeshua" King Messiah for ever and ever