

The Anabaptists and the German Bible

Dear Joseph,

This past week we had the visit of four people from Germany — Adolf and Granny from Steinenberg, Mrs. Schüle (Caleb David's mother), and Mrs. Müller (Martin's mother). Something happened during their visit, which brought much revelation to Elbert and to all of us. It started Wednesday morning when John Abraham was giving a teaching on discipleship. Mrs. Müller and Mrs. Schüle were there. John was speaking about Mt 28:18-20 and was asking if we were one of the *them* that these verses speak about, the *them* that Yahshua told His disciples to go and baptize and teach to observe all that He had commanded. He was saying that disciples are made instantly in the waters of Baptism, that the very minute one receives the Holy Spirit in the waters of Baptism they are required to be obedient to the word of Messiah, *all* that He has commanded. The very minute these *them* come up out of the water they are disciples — whom the apostles can teach, for the apostles can only teach disciples. The "them" disciples will come under a spirit of obedience immediately, not next week, or next month, or even the next day. These *them* have received the Spirit that makes them disciples. They are responsible from that moment on to observe all that Yahshua has commanded. It is from the hearing of the Gospel and the conviction of the Holy Spirit in their own heart that this act of obedience takes place.

John expressed that which is recorded in Acts 2 as the very demonstration of these words put into practice — how Peter knowing that all authority had been given to Yahshua in heaven and on earth and filled with the Holy Spirit stood up on that day and proclaimed to the men of Israel the good news of Salvation. These men upon hearing these words were cut to the heart, the initial cut of circumcision, and they cried out, "What shall we do?"

Peter then in obedience to Yahshua's words baptized these men in the name of Yahshua, making them disciples, who by the power of the Holy Spirit were placed that day into the Body of Messiah. They were, from that moment on, in the confines of the Body and were to walk out their discipleship there until they died (if they have truly died), being loyal to Messiah.

John went on to say that the consequence of these men's repentance and baptism is recorded in Acts 2 verses 41-46 — a life of devotion to the apostles' teaching and to their fellowship, to breaking of bread and to prayer, a life together, sharing all things in common, selling their properties.

But how was it that these men knew to do these specific things when there was no mention of them in Peter's message on the day of Pentecost? It does say, though, that Peter "with *many* other words solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them 'to be saved from this perverse generation' ". The many other words that Peter expressed were part of the *all* that Yahshua had commanded, for surely Yahshua had talked about possessions (Lk 14:33), farms and houses (Mk 10:28-31), riches (Lk 18:22), breaking of bread (Lk 22), prayer (Mt 6). Peter was being faithful to what the Master had entrusted him with.

John then asked someone to read these passages in German for the sake of our guests so they could read and have them for themselves. Well, when we read them it was like the word was taken out of the sails of everything that John had shared, for the interpretation and the words that were written in German either left out some things or translated it completely off. It really surprised us, and it made us wonder what had been the reason that caused Martin Luther to totally misinterpret that portion of Scripture.

Well, the answer came that evening. All of our guests were with us at dinner. John read a letter that Elbert had written to Barak about temperaments. Elbert wrote to Barak saying that YHWH's will for us must not be made subject to our own temperament. Our temperament doesn't necessarily mean that "this is the way YHWH made me", but it is the way that we have been conditioned because of all the times we have received wrong stimuli and influences. We must not allow our temperament to stand in as the false god of natural tendency — the easiest route. YHWH wants us to have no other gods before Him, so we must "set our temperament or temperamental self aside". We must come to the point where we go to the table and proclaim by our Sovereign's grace, "I am a new creation" — no longer the same; the old man has died; I am in the new man, the new creation — my will, my cells must then follow suit. Our inclinations are rectified, but we must come to that point. We will never be able

to rise above the negative thoughts we take and receive as our own unless we take this standard and cut off this avenue of sin in our life.

John finished the letter, and we continued eating. Elbert asked for a pen, and many things began to be very clear to him. He started rapidly writing many notes on a scrap piece of paper as they came to him. A few minutes later he called John and I out and shared with us what he had just seen about what happened that morning concerning the Lutheran Bible. It was amazing the things that had become clear to him; we went back in and Elbert, filled with the Holy Spirit, began to share.

He first shared about how the letter to Barak was really significant in that if we as parents — fathers — don't cut off the sin that is in us, due to whatever wrong stimuli or influence it has come from — even our fallen temperaments — then we are going to pass that sin down to our children. Whatever that sin is will be passed down from generation to generation. The sin of the father is always passed down from generation to generation. There was a people who wandered in the wilderness for 40 years; they sinned and their bodies fell in the wilderness. They were a people who heard the voice of YHWH, but did not profit from it because it was not united in faith. They hardened their hearts; they were disobedient (Heb.3-4). Then He spoke to them through the prophets, but they were a generation who, although YHWH stretched out His hands all day long, they continued to be an obstinate and rebellious people. They walked in the way, which is not good, following their own thoughts. (Isa.65:2)

John the Baptist came to his generation and found the same. He came preaching repentance and baptism! He excommunicated the whole nation of Israel and called them to make ready the way of the Lord, to make His path straight. He also told those Pharisees and Sadducees who claimed the lineage of the fathers — Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob — that they were a brood of vipers, and warned them to flee from the wrath to come. He told them to bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance. The sin of their true fathers had to be cut off, for the ax was already laid at the root, and they could not claim Abraham as their father, because they were no more the seed of Abraham than Christianity today in the church. The Pharisees and Sadducees hardened their hearts. They were men who, having eyes, were blind and heading directly into the ditch, and having ears could not hear. One day, the way, the truth, and the life appeared before their very eyes, and they were totally blind to YHWH's way. The Pharisees and the Sadducees conspired together to kill Him, because He came preaching the good news — the Kingdom. The sin that these people committed was great, they crucified the Messiah, therefore their sin continues on from generation to generation. They cannot see the Messiah, they have blinders — they are in a stupor. For to this day, whenever Moses is read, a veil is over their heart; their minds were hardened, for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted (2 Cor 3:14-15).

Such is the case with the Jews, but Christianity is in the same condition today. The Protestants and Catholics have committed the same sin as those who crucified Messiah, and it is for this reason that from generation to generation they are a people who cannot see the Kingdom. The Protestants and the Catholics in the 1500's conspired together to kill a group of people called the Anabaptists. They wanted to kill these people, because they were a people who were living the truth.

They were a people who desired with all their hearts to be obedient to Yahshua's word. They were a people who were living together, loving one another, being devoted to what Yahshua had said, earnestly desiring to be true disciples. They were a people who called those of the religious and social system of their day to repent and be baptized. They called people to be baptized again, so they bore the name of Anabaptists. They were a people who the Catholics and the Protestants conspired to kill. Martin Luther consented to their death; he was in accord with the Catholics, because he had never really severed the cord with his mother, the Catholic Church. Together, they brought about their death. Some died in the very waters of baptism, where they were attached and put to death. Others (like a story I read) were taken in small boats with their arms tied behind their backs. The story was about a couple, and the husband was placed in the water and held under while the wife was asked to renounce her belief, but she stood firm and was then thrown over herself. The Protestants and the Catholics came against this very demonstration of obedience. It was a reaction against the Anabaptists that caused them to change the Bible verses that proved that the life these people were living was true, the very same life as in Acts 2. This is why that spirit translates Acts 2 the way it does. It justifies their killing of the Anabaptists.

So it will be today, they will kill those who live that life of obedience. Christianity today cannot see the Kingdom. The Kingdom has been taken away from them because they killed the Anabaptists. They are blind. Their ears and eyes are dull. They keep on seeing and they keep on hearing, but they do not see and they do not hear. The sin of their fathers is upon them; they are in a stupor. The gospel is veiled to them, because they are those who are perishing. The god of this world has blinded their minds because of their unbelief that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God (2 Cor 4:3-4). The only hope for them is to come to Messiah, for only in Him is the blindness and the deafness healed. Only when a man turns to the Lord is the veil taken away (2 Cor 3:16). It can only be removed in Messiah (2 Cor 3:14).

Paul had the veil over his heart — that is why he persecuted the way of Yahshua. He consented to the death of the believers in the same way that Martin Luther consented to the death of the Anabaptists. One day Saul met the risen Sovereign, Yahshua, and although his eyes were open he could not see anything — much like Christianity. Saul had scales on his eyes much like the blinders that are over the eyes of everyone who is on the broad road to destruction. Saul's blinders were only taken away when a messenger was sent to him, a sent one from the Church — a disciple, a prophet, a walker. When he received this sent one, he received this sent one's reward — the Kingdom.

“And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he arose and was baptized.” (Acts 9:17-18) It is the same today. Only those who will receive the sent ones from the Body of Messiah will have the blinders taken away, which are on all those who are in the world. Elbert received and spoke with much grace as he shared it with us and spoke to our guests.