

## Where our Father Commands the Blessing

### All the “Saved” People of the Civil War

I read today that in the Civil War there were so many people being saved. Revivals were going on and hundreds of thousands of people were being saved. This was happening in both the South and the North. The people in the North would pray, and the people in the South would pray, and they would both pray to the same god, and then go and kill each other. They would be in the same denomination of the same religion, worshipping their god, and slaughtering each other. I guess it is one of the most horrible things that have ever happened, the Civil War, and certainly the most horrible thing in American history.<sup>1</sup>

It is amazing, because they actually claimed to believe in the same God, the same Jesus they accepted through the revivalists. That Jesus compelled them to pray and then go and kill each other. They were led by the “Spirit” to go and kill each other. That is amazing, isn’t it?<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Besides the ruin of the South’s economy and culture, the Civil War’s 660,000 deaths are more than the deaths of all the other wars of America combined.

<sup>2</sup> Here is just a sample of what Yoneq was talking about:

*“In the Fall and Winter of 1863, the Union army in Chattanooga, Tennessee, had been besieged by a strong Confederate force, strongly entrenched in the mountains around the city. The Union soldiers were deeply affected by the revival, and many attributed their surprising victory over the Confederates as “a visible interposition of God.” Soon after their victory at Chattanooga, the Union troops were pursuing their enemy as they retreated towards Atlanta. The fires of revival continued for the Union troops in Ringgold, Georgia, where hundreds of men were baptized in Chickamauga Creek.*

*“The Confederate’s Army of the Tennessee, retreating towards Atlanta, had also experienced the fires of the Great Revival...”*

That is, these two armies were fighting and killing each other, experiencing the same “revival.” I suppose it is no more astonishing than any of the rest, but you will be amazed to know that the fires of revival “burned” as Sherman’s army burned and pillaged the South:

*“Surprisingly, the revivals continued with Sherman’s troops as they marched across Georgia and through the Carolinas. When the soldiers stopped for the night, they frequently assembled in local churches and worshipped.”*

It is just how it is with that word, *believe*. You can listen to those radio broadcasts of the Christian preachers, and all these people talking about the word *believe*, and they don't know what they are talking about. They don't know what god they are serving. Something has got to come forth from us; someone has got to talk to them. They have to be shaken from this "belief" in the Son of God whom they claim to know, but they have no way they can obey Him.

I was just thinking about Ps 133, "Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity," and then in the last verse, "There He bestows eternal life." It is really amazing. If you can read verse 1 together with verse 3, making the connection, you will see it. That is the only possibility of not believing in vain (1 Cor 15:2).

You have to be immersed into that life of our Master Yahshua. We have to be in a place where we can love Him and obey His commandments. 1 Jn 2:4 — Anyone who claims this without being in a place where he can obey the Word is a liar. Our Master even said "you have to serve Me where I am" (Jn 12:26). We have to be continually reminded of that. We have to be immersed into that life. Baptism is the immersion into that life where He is, where we can serve and obey Him. Love fulfills the law. It takes a lifetime. There are so many commandments that it is impossible to obey them outside of the place designed for us in which to obey His commandments. Pretty soon it all falls apart if we are not obeying His commandments and we divide and then the community falls apart.

The longevity of the Body of Messiah is the reality of living in the place where we can obey Him. We have to be connected to the reality of living for Him every day of our lives.

*Every commandment which I command you today, you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply and go on and possess the land of which the Sovereign swore to your fathers. (Dt 8:1)*

That is what our Master brought into the Edah (Jn 14:15,21,23). The word *keeps* in 1 Jn 2:4 is a long-term keeping.<sup>3</sup> It is a lifetime of obedience. It is obeying and loving Him and your brothers. Dt 8:1 is so that we will be able to possess the Kingdom that our Master promised.

*And you shall remember that the Sovereign your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Sovereign. (Dt 8:2-3)*

Don't forget and fail to observe His commands when you enter the land and things start to get going. That's when they always fell away, when Jeshurun grew fat and kicked. There is a remembering and a forgetting, and we have to know what these words mean. Our Father is blessing us. He has given us a farm and the possibility of paying it off pretty soon. That is a great blessing.

They all believed. But it has to be a belief that is *unto* something. There has to be a way that people can follow His commands. It is a lifetime ordeal, a lifetime thing to obey all of His commands. It is not just one day. Love fulfills the law (Rom 13:8). It is an expression of love for Him and for one another. They forgot about entering the land. The young ones forgot Him after everything got going well. That is probably the greatest test. We have to remember Him and not forget.

Ha-êmeq – The word *Zakar* means the Male Child, but it is also means *remember*, like Zakariah means *YHWH remembers*. *Zakar* means the noteworthy or predominant sex, the Male Child. Our Father said, “I know that when you go into the land and things start going well, you are going to forget Me.” He was saying, “You are going to become empty-headed and forget Me.”

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<sup>3</sup> *Keep* in 1 Jn 2:4 is #5083 in Strong's Greek Concordance of the New Testament. It means to guard (from loss or injury, properly, by keeping the eye upon. It also means to note (a prophecy; figuratively, to fulfill a command); by implication, to detain (in custody; figuratively, to maintain).

So many times on our trip through the different communities we talked about forgetting the past (Phil 3:13-14). But we also talked about not failing to learn what we should have learned through what we went through. We can't walk around with continuous amnesia. We can't forget all the things our Father did for us, and how He saved us through them all. Some people remember all the bad things. Some people will tell me all kinds of terrible things that went on in Island Pond.

I was there through the Brussels sprouts winter, but I don't dwell on the hardships. That's not what I think of about Island Pond. We were such a happy, joyous, people and we had the most wonderful celebrations. We remember the things we learned. We don't forget, now that we live in a little bit fatter times, so we don't live like spoiled brats. We remember what we learned when times were leaner about how we should eat and about having self-control in all things.

He helped us through that time, a couple of hundred people living in a place where there was no work. The Zakar will remember the good things and what they needed to learn. They won't remember the times they got disciplined, but the lessons they learned through what they suffered.

Jeremiah – The things our Father uses to make us great men are the very things people with the victim spirit are bitter about. Our Father has circumstances that we can increase in, but others look back and are embittered.

Asher – We have talked about remembering the Sabbath, bringing it back to mind, and turning our foot from our own pleasure, which is practicing resting and having koinonia with your brothers – a life that you live – and not something you remember on Saturday. It is something we put at the forefront of our minds, as Shemuel was saying. It is really easy to think of the Word of God as something in your minds, but if it is not part of our life we are not remembering it. I want to be more violent and faithful to remember it and make it part of my life and kept it as part of my life so that our Father can increase us.

Even concerning the Breaking of Bread it says, "Do this in remembrance of Him." The word *remember* has more significance than we might think. It means the Breaking of Bread will never be a ritual if we *actually* do remember Him, remembering His death. If we could spend a million years in the lake of fire, we would probably remember His death more and what He has done for us.

Jesse – I was thankful to hear that remembering His commandments is so essential to the longevity of the Body. We will fizzle out if we don't remember the commandments, the things that we are built upon, all the things that built our character. What is built off of the foundation crumbles, and that is what always happened in the past. "I did this for you," our Father told Israel, "and you forgot Me."

I would hear those stories as a child and wonder, "How could they forget?" It said in one, "Tell your children what that pillar is there for," which they built after crossing the Jordan, so that the children would never forget. Amazing miracles happened then, but now we have the commandments. The things that are making us we once thought were breaking us. The things that will keep us are not just mental concepts. All the things that come and try to divide us will still not touch Ps 133. The evil one always wants us to think badly of our brother. Chips on our shoulders are not where the blessing of eternal life will be poured out. Keeping His commandments preserves the place where eternal life is.

It was kind of like a push leaving Egypt. They were thirsty and hungry. Only those who are worthy will enter the Kingdom. You can't bring that complaint into the Kingdom.