

The Possibility of Evil

Two Waters to Cross

The definition of the flesh is not just bones and body, but it is something in the spiritual realm. We are in another dimension now. Still, that spiritual realm is there for us to resist or for us to be trained and grow. We can live by the flesh still. *Certainly we can live by the flesh; it is there for us.* Also the Spirit, the other dimension is there for us. It is just according to our choice. The children of Israel came out of the bondage of Egypt, of flesh, and they crossed the Red Sea. That was an absolute miracle. They were unable to do anything to save themselves. They were all baptized into Moses, but in the end our Father wasn't well pleased with most of them.

Then the next water was the Jordan, and not many of those who came out of Egypt went across the Jordan River. Most had died in the wilderness, their bones bleached in the sun. The Jordan River was different. The Red Sea was like entering into Salvation, like being baptized into Messiah. If they had put the blood over the doorpost, in faith, they would have been delivered. Obviously, many of them put the blood there in ritual. Many riffraff came out of Egypt with them, and they caused a lot of trouble. It is all there in Dt 8.

The Promised Land was like the Kingdom is for us. It took more than coming out of the Red Sea for them to enter. It took denying themselves, not complaining and murmuring. They died in the wilderness. If their children were worthy, they were able to enter into the Promised Land. If we have really put the blood over our doorpost, we are able to enter the Promised Land, having eternal life. If they lived a godly life all those years they would enter the Promised Land by crossing the Jordan. This took a miraculous work in their lives (and ours) to be faithful all those years.

“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” (Rom 8:5-6)

In the Body you can see that all the time. Those who are carnally minded bring death. They cause disruption and prevent us from having peace. Those who live by the flesh, the evil one is incarnate in them to bring disaster.

To be carnally minded is enmity against God and His purpose and what He is doing. It is not subject to the law God has put in our hearts, nor can it be. Those who live according to the flesh are not pleasing to God (Rom 8:7-8). We know we have the flesh. It is there to be ruled over. It has to be.

The Purpose of the Flesh

It is there for a purpose, one that we would like to address today. We need a little bit of understanding about what *the flesh* is. It is in that other dimension we left behind. It is always there to haunt us and tempt us. It is the only way for the enemy to come in. Being in the flesh, if we can understand it, has to do with the one of the first things our Father spoke to me in Jn 15:5. If we can do anything without Him, then it is the flesh. Whether pruning trees, doing maté demos, working on our projects – if we can accomplish them without Him, that is the flesh.

Anything we can do without faith is the flesh. It is actually sin. That is why we have to crucify that aspect of our lives daily, according to our Master (Lk 9:23). He is our Savior and that is what He said. He is our Savior and He wants to teach us how we can continue to be saved. Then 1 Jn 2:4 says:

He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

This describes all the people in the community who aren't obeying His commandments. And one of His great commandments is to crucify the flesh (Lk 9:23). If a person can't do that, then he is a liar. It is not that he is *telling* a lie — he is *living* a lie. Then that person has his part in the lake of fire. You can't be a liar in the Body. Liars come in over the wall. They are the destroyers. The builders have to make up for the destroyers. Night and day they are working to make up for what the destroyers destroy.

We will see that analogy in the good and evil people in the nations. There is a second death for the nations and second death for us. The very moment that Adam ate the forbidden fruit, as Rom 8:5-9 says, it brought forth death. That is what happens.

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Messiah, he is not His. And if Messiah is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Messiah from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Messiah from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. (Rom 8:9-11)

It has to be that Spirit that dwells in us. I know that in so many of what we call our children and our brothers and sisters who left and love living in the world, the Spirit couldn't dwell in them. But others, who were sent out, the Spirit was living in them, and He was grieved in them, and they were grieved. 1 Ths 5:19— *Quenching* the Spirit is often foolishness or saying something hurtful to another person. *Grieving* the Spirit is walking in a certain kind of sin.

And the Sovereign God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Gen 2:16-17)

And they heard the sound of the Sovereign God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Sovereign God among the trees of the garden. (Gen 3:8)

Everything after that was different. They fell into another dimension and they found themselves in another place. The moment they ate, evil became intrinsic in their nature. It became an intrinsic part of their being, of Adam's being, once they ate of that fruit. It was disobedience to the commandment of our Father. He now had an evil compulsion within him (Gen 8:21). He now had the urge to do evil. In Hebrew it is *yesterarah*.¹ That was part of his fallen nature now, or his psyche. No matter what he would

¹ In Gen 6:5 and 8:21, *imagination* is *yetser* (#3336), meaning a form; figuratively, conception (i.e. purpose); frame, thing framed, imagination, mind, work. And *evil* in both verses is *rarah* (#7451), meaning bad or (as noun) evil (natural or moral); evil, wicked, worse, wretchedness, wrong.

do, he could not escape from the evil tendency within him. It was not that he gave into it all the time, but he always had it. Some people give into it more than others, some less. They can be forgiven for their sins in the first death sentence if they didn't give themselves over to the evil urge to the point where there was no returning, destroying their own lives and others. The guilt permeates their conscience and makes them dull. After a while they cannot feel that wonderful feeling of guilt that keeps them on the right road.

The dullness is erased from us as soon as we confess it.

No matter what Adam would do, he couldn't escape it. He would have to spend all of his days fighting this evil urge to go the wrong way and trying to overcome. He had to spend all of his days trying not to get angry, sulk, pout, and to be constant doing his work. He would have to fight evil thoughts that would try to convince him that they were true. It is like all of the things we receive and take in, continually trying to fight the evil thoughts that want to overtake us. *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Rom 3:23).

Originally this evil urge was not part of man. He didn't have it. There was no temptation and no voice urging him to do evil. Man was made in God's image and His likeness and was able to maintain it. In his perfect sense he was allowed to be tempted. It would be seen whether he would overcome and believe our Father instead of the words the tempter said. For him to be able to maintain this image, man had to exercise his will to resist. This was part of our Father's plan for eternity, for the universe, in His infinite foreknowledge. It was according to our Father's way of doing things. He didn't want robots to rule the universe. He knew what He had to do.

If there were no evil to avoid, it wouldn't be anything to remain in the image of God.

Jeremiah – Was part of it that the evil one was there and we were all going to have to face it, anyway?

Yes. Adam (and his seed after him) had to be able to maintain this image of God he was created with and to exercise his will to resist evil. Obviously, our Father knew they were going to fall, for Yahshua was “a lamb slain from the foundation the world” (Rev 13:8, NKJV). In His infinite foreknowledge, our Father already knew that. It was part of His plan for everyone, to see who was worthy and who was not. He didn’t want robots. There had to be something that man faced to maintain his character or let it go. Man had to use his will to resist evil.

Freedom of Choice

Man was created with a free will, for God has a free will and so man did also, since he was made in the image of God (Gen 1:26-28; 3:22; 9:6). God can do what He wants and so can man, but what are we going to do with the free will we have? Man had to be created with a free will; otherwise he would be no more than a puppet.

God has a free will and so does man. God can do good and man can do good. Man must have freedom of choice, even here, even with the Spirit in us. So, they (and we) must be tested in order to go across the Jordan. He didn’t want people in the land who were going to corrupt it. Nor is He is not going to have anyone in the Kingdom this time who is going to corrupt it. Once we are over the Jordan ourselves, our character is going to be fixed. We will be like the angels in that respect — sealed, fixed. The Spirit seals us as well, but that *means* we have to live by the Spirit (Gal 5:25). We have eternal life, yes, but are we worthy to walk with Him in white in the next age? (Rev 3:4-5). We will be if we are walking with Him in this age. If we are not, we will be purified in the next age, if we don’t go through it in this age.

This is the place, the arena, where we can be purified and do the good. We have free choice. We can do whatever we want: anything we want on the Internet, or go into a bookstore and do whatever we want. We have a choice. If we choose to do evil, we will go to death (Jn 8:51). He won’t experience death, but we will.

Man must have the freedom of choice. He must be tested in order to be like His Creator. This is for natural man as well as for us. It applies to both categories of people. There has to be arena where man can have the maximum opportunity to do good, which is the Body of Messiah. The world has opportunity to do good, but the maximum opportunity is in the Body of Messiah. Here we can stand back to back and heart to heart, as brothers born for adversity (Pr 17:17). We are allied together as one man.

We are the *new man*, not just individually, but corporately. That is the arena we are living in. He wants us to know we have the maximum freedom of choice. We have freedom from the enemy if we choose to take it. It is according to our will and character, who we are, and the dignity we have. That is, whether we want to preserve our character and dignity. Isn't that great? He gave natural man the same abilities. He doesn't want anyone in eternity that is just going to destroy and live for themselves and be selfish.

The Possibility of Evil

In order to make freedom a choice, and make it real, our Father had to create the possibility of evil. This is what He had to do in order to make true freedom. The Bible says we are set free — if we want to not do evil. If we want to do evil, we can, taking our little rowboat back across the Red Sea and living in bondage in Egypt. Such people probably never belonged to us anyway, as 1 Jn 2:19 says:

They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

That is what it says. It is the most real thing you have ever read in your life. The people who just lived here were not a part of us, were they? Here is where we can be free from what takes us to death and instead have eternal life.

In order to make freedom real our Father had to create the possibility of evil. There would be no possibility of free choice otherwise. If there were no evil, then doing

good would produce no beneficial change. If we lived here and we were baptized and faced no temptations anymore, no flesh around anywhere to resist, then we couldn't change and grow from one degree of glory to the next (2 Cor 3:18). We couldn't become like our Master Yahshua. Those who purify themselves will be pure, as our Master is pure (1 Jn 3:1-3).

Some don't have the will to be pure like our Master. Some people don't care. They don't hear this word in their heart. It is not in their realm of understanding. That is because they don't have a will to do our Father's will and to come out of the evil one's arena and into our Father's arena.

If we didn't have to use our free will, our free choice, there would be no change. It would be like having a big flashlight while the sun is out at bright noon. There would be no need for its light and it would do no good. There was no darkness for the flashlight to dispel. That is why our Master said, "You are the light of the world" (Mt 5:14).

We are the light that dispels people's darkness (Ps 18:28). If we are in the flesh and not lighting up people's darkness, then our Father is not pleased with us.

Yesterday, we were lighting up people's darkness in San Francisco. Some will be enlightened, and others will go on in their darkness. If they believe a liar, that means they are liars, too. Then they deserve everything they get. If Bob Pardon is telling the truth, then no one is guilty for believing him. If he is a liar the people who believe him are going to the second death because of the truth of Pr 17:4. There was evil there yesterday because of malicious lips. They were led, inspired, and probably possessed by Satan. There were people there listening to us and these others were trying to deflect the truth from reaching their hearts.

In Isa 49:6, the light goes to the end of the earth. People will see a great light (Isa 9:2; Lk 1:79). This is just a little bit about our free will and our free choice.

If nothing but good were possible, there would be no freedom of choice, and doing the good would produce no beneficial change. It would be like holding up a lamp

in the broad daylight. There has to be evil, the temptations of Satan, continually in order for us increase and become like our Master.

Flesh is Self Spelled Backwards

Flesh is self. You can leave the “h” off and spell it backwards and that is what flesh is. I understand *flesh* by what our Master said to me, “You can do nothing without Me” (Jn 15:5). The flesh is merely going on in our own strength. The flesh is not praying and asking for grace.

You can live that way for a while, but it will catch up with you. Your sin will find you out. What is sin? It is knowing the right thing to do and not doing it (Jms 4:17). What is sin? We know we are not even to serve in our own natural strength (1 Pet 4:11). When someone asks us to do something, we are to ask for grace. When your parents ask you to do something, they will be praying for you and you will be praying for what you have to do. Then your mind will be set on our Master.

We are in a battle. We can't just throw someone out. We have to look at what he is caught up in. A person who goes out and does something only godless people do, when they know he is from the community, hangs our Master up to public shame – as though He couldn't save you (Heb 6:4-6). It is as though He never descended off the cross and rose up again to save you. Then that person may not be able to repent. I know Manasseh was able to, but that was in the Old Testament. They didn't have as much as light as we do. We have tremendous light, from both the Old and New Testaments and by hearing His Word day and night at the minchot. What is sin? Knowing the right thing to do and not doing it (Jms 4:17).

The flesh is always present, but not always active. As long as we obey our Master's commandments, and offer our bodies morning and evening as a living sacrifice, then we are going to live in freedom. 2 Pet 2:14 – All of 2 Pet 2 was talking about false prophets, teachers, and false things — all the ways that the truth will be blasphemed:

“Having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children.”

That means having our eyes full of what they are not to be full of, which causes all of these sins. “Having eyes full of...” means that such people can’t cease from sin, which leads them to the enticement of unstable souls. This enticing of unstable souls is just the flesh. Such are accursed children who have forsaken the way.

We don’t want the riff-raff with us. Who were the rabble that came out with them? They were probably those who put the blood up on their doorposts, but not in sincerity. The death angel finally caught up with them.

Othniel – Maybe it was what you said earlier, that the enemy had to be there in a human voice, saying those antagonistic things, always challenging authority. Then it came to the point where they had to cross the line (or not) when Moshe called them.

If everything was perfect here and no one ever had the temptation to murmur and complain, then no one would ever think that someone didn’t love him or her. And they would always love others, anyway, and no one would be in the flesh. But that working in us to do or say what’s wrong has to be resisted. When you resist, something grows in you, just as we get stronger physically by overcoming resistance. It is our spiritual exercise to resist the temptation to do evil.

Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him. (Col 3:9-10)

That is our old ways – the old man – and the old ways the enemy uses to lead us astray. Those ways are still in us, even though we have the new man, so we get to rule over them.

“For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily” (Col 2:9). He is the firstborn of everyone who is going to be like Him, in each and every one of us in whom dwells Yahshua ha-Mashiyach (Col 1:15). We become one with divinity. In us will dwell

the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form. That is the journey we are on. I haven't crossed the Jordan yet. Have you?

The Wise and the Foolish Virgins

Look at Dt 8 sometime. If you are a foolish virgin you won't, but if you are a wise virgin you will. Judge yourselves by this. If you never look at Dt 8, and really understand it, then you are a foolish virgin. If you do, and really comprehend it, you will be able to help your brothers, also, for these things were written down for the end of the age, for our instruction (1 Cor 10:11).

I know that, probably before the Race begins, each and every one of us will know that the divine spirit that dwelled in our Master Yahshua dwells in us. But, why did He have to be baptized? Well, some people might say He received the Holy Spirit then, when He was thirty years old. But we believe He received the Holy Spirit, or the Word of God, the divine Spirit, most likely at conception, when He was conceived by a human seed. Then the Holy Spirit hid Himself from our Master, and He had to seek Him just like we do. He grew in stature and knowledge of the Word as He grew up. He saw His Father and He saw the word and He said, "Yes, what is written about here looks like Me."

Then the day would come when He saw it was time. It was time to go to the water. He came up from it with an unshakable certainty. When the Race begins, maybe we will too, who have the Holy Spirit, go into the water and get rid of any doubt. We will ask for that unshakable certainty. Sometimes people doubt, but we have no doubt whatsoever when we love our brothers and sisters.

We have no doubt whatsoever when we are shedding light on our brother's darkness (Ps 18:28), looking him in his eyes, asking him if he has been falling into this or that. The temptations have got to be there. Satan prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour (1 Pet 5:8). Have we been a proper light to them, telling them they are going to be tempted, telling them they have to overcome all their

enemies? When is our Master going to come back? When He at least has fifty percent of us doing that.

Heavens holds Him until He can come and restore all things in the next age (Acts 3:21). Heaven holds Him. He is waiting at the right hand of our Father right now, waiting for His enemies to be made a footstool for his feet (Heb 10:13). At least 50% of us will do that and bring Him back to this earth.

If I am not doing that, it doesn't mean I am going to the lake of fire, but I am a foolish virgin. There are the three kinds of men: the natural, the foolish, and the wise. The natural man is unsaved, but sometimes they are just fantastic performers. They can get along just fine in their flesh. In fact, Satan even gives them a little boost sometimes. They have enough truth in what they say to make their error lethal. We see it all the time. I have seen so many people since the beginning that never surrendered to our Master. Their lives were not pleasing to Him. They could have surrendered to our Master anytime they wanted to.

How many people have come in? We trust them and we believe them when they say they want to give up their lives. But we find out a little bit later that they didn't.

Yowceph Rodriguez – I was really amazed when you spoke in the very beginning about the people who came out of Egypt. They were baptized into Moses, and that meant they were to bury the flesh. Their arena was the wilderness, and that is where they were tested as to what was in their hearts (Dt 8:3). That test has to be there.

Our Father did that by bringing them into the wilderness. After that, once they entered the Promised Land, our Father told them they had to be circumcised. He said, "It is time for all of you to be circumcised." Then they had the chance to be tested. They had to drive out all of their enemies, like the Amalekites, and they didn't do it.

What are we going to do with our free will? Are we going to obey our flesh or do what the Spirit tells us to do? It is a matter of life and death. We have to see what wars in our members and where it leads us. It is terrible where it leads me to. I have to be a man that would cut off my flesh and not allow it to rule me in any way.

Simchah – I am really thankful for what we heard. I looked at what we heard Nov 6, 2002, the day before my daughter was born. “In all our communities we never have the minchot unless the revelation from the last minchah is passed on. It’s a continual sharing until Shabbat morning where we have a double portion. This requires outspokenness on our part – if we lose it we are no longer His house. To be outspoken requires overcoming. In everything we do, we have to overcome (Rev 3:21), to conquer. There’s always something in the way.

“The enemy is the accuser of the brethren. Everywhere you go the enemy is there. People don’t have vision because they don’t use their will to overcome. We must subdue the enemy – conquer (Gen 3:15) – for her seed will conquer the evil one. We have power and authority to conquer (Rev 12). It will take our heel being terribly bruised. No one will reign with our Master unless they overcome like Him. If we do lose fellowship with Him, we have to overcome everything to open the door to let Him back in. We have to enter the Kingdom with a bruised heel. Our heel will be checked to see if it is bruised. The enemy can’t keep us from crushing his head.”

In 2 Cor 6:2, I read, “*For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*”

Every day our Father puts in front of us life and death, and I want to make the right choices every day. I am thankful He brought me through the Red Sea, and I don’t want to disappoint Him.

Keli – If all we’re thinking about is our heel, then we’ll never crush the enemy’s head.

Shear Yashub – I am thankful for what we have heard this morning. I have been in the flesh for so long. I am sick and tired of being in the flesh. I am sorry for what happened in the house and I am sorry for lying about it. I am sorry for being disrespectful to my parents and not listening to what people had to tell me. I am sorry for being disrespectful to Natan at the job.

I need our Master Yahshua to save me and to be forgiven for my sins. I want to change and be saved and be on our Father’s side. I don’t want to be disrespectful and hurtful like I was to Othniel and Achsah up in Kerman and being a bad example to their children. I want to bend the knee of my heart and really change. I want Yahshua to save me!

AMEN!

We baptized Shear Yashub at the pond on the Morning Star Ranch in Valley Center, our first baptism there.