

In the Image of our Father

YHWH has Redeemed His Servant

Isa 48:20 is something you are supposed to sing. A man is supposed to sing it. According to 1 Chr 23:30 we are supposed to sing praises every morning and evening. That's what it actually says.

Go forth from Babylon, flee from Chaldea, declare this with a shout of joy, proclaim it, send it forth to the end of the earth; say, "The LORD has redeemed his servant Jacob!" (Isa 48:20, RSV)

You can't say it with a shout of joy, but with singing. I think that is what it means, if you get it right down to the Hebrew. It is just a translator's choice. How does it go with singing?

*YHWH has redeemed his servant, Jacob.
YHWH has rescued us; yes, He's saved us.
He lifted us from the miry clay
and He set our feet upon the Rock,
making us as a light to men,
to those who sit in darkness.*

ha-êmeq just came up with that all of a sudden as I was reading this in Germany. The tune came to her. It was also talking about Lk 1:79, the men sitting in darkness, waiting for the light to come to them. Here we are, a little light in Germany. ha-êmeq sang that song, by herself, *a capella*, in front of the whole tribe of Levi.

Created in His Likeness

God is one. Man is divided, but God is one. He wants him to be one as He is one, for He created man in His image and likeness. Man is divided against himself, and that is what causes wars. That is what causes oppositional thinking, because you are not one. We are not receiving from the same spirit. If we are all receiving from the holy, set-apart Spirit, then He will have a set-apart people. They will be the holy people He has wanted — "I am holy, therefore you are to be holy."

They will be set apart for His purpose. That is what sanctification is for, as 1 Cor 1:2 says. What does it mean that we are sanctified? We are going to have to learn what *sanctified* means, that religious-sounding word. Most people don't know what it is talking about. They think they are already sanctified and already ready to sit on the throne.

To the church of God, which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Messiah Yahshua, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Yahshua Messiah our Lord, both theirs and ours. (1 Cor 1:2)

What does that mean? We are sanctified in order to be sanctified. You can see that. You have to see the difference between the words. We are set apart for a special purpose and use. That doesn't mean the work is finished in us at all. We are set apart to be purified, so that we can reach the goal and can be one within ourselves. So we can be one with our Father. Those who are led by the Spirit are the sons of God. That doesn't mean your spirit is not led, or your soul is not led, but it is all of you. We all have to be one together, led by the same Spirit, and then our Father's purpose will be done on earth.

We are going to learn what sanctification means pretty soon, and what the Sabbath means. The Sabbath is the only commandment that is a sign. It is a sign that we know the true, living God, and that we are His people, set apart to do His purpose. A lot of people keep some of His commandments in the world, but they can't be His holy, set-apart people. We have to really understand what that means to us.

If we are sanctified that means we are put into a place where we are no longer a part of the world. We no longer love the world because the love of the Father is in us, because we have been set apart. There is no time to love the world. How are you going to get involved in the world while working in the kitchen with your brothers and sisters? You are totally occupied in what you are doing. I am thankful for that. That means there is no longer any secular employment, or secular amusement and entertainment — television, radios, and secular music. We are set apart from that. We are sanctified. It

doesn't have any meaning to us anymore if we are one Body and one spirit with the Spirit who dwells in us. Our spirit is one with Him, and our soul is one with our spirit, and our body is one with our soul.

All we are thinking of is the Spirit. Our mind is on the Spirit. Whoever keeps His mind on the Spirit, He will keep in perfect peace. We are in unity, oneness, with our mind on the Spirit. Our intellect is on the Spirit; our emotions are under our control; our will, our desires, are all one. We are not oppositional thinkers. We want to do our Father's will. If we go a little bit off, we are led and guided back into the right way. We are one.

A lot of people have been "cases"¹ in the past. All of us are little cases. But that means that we become perceptive. We know how the enemy comes in. That is why you are going to be greater parents than your parents, than the first parents. You are going to be greater in every aspect. You have gone through things. You know how your children will go through the same things. You will be able to help others go through it if you were a case. The people, a lot of times, who were cases in public school get to know the principal more than anyone else. You get to be friends with the principal.

"I am your principal. But you spell my name, 'p-a-l,' not 'p-l-e.'" I got to know him. The principle person is the principal "pal."² He is your friend.

Abigail shel Raphael — I was thankful for what we heard,³ even what we heard this morning. I just started realizing that I am going to have to take more time with each decision that I make as to what is affecting me at the moment. I am going to have to stop and weigh, "What is coming in here?" I am going to have to make a decision about who I want to be, how I want to be, or what I want to be one with. I just realized how much there was another spirit at work.

¹ In this context, *case* means "a person requiring special attention because of a problem."

² *Pal* means a close friend.

³ Many of the comments refer to the two previous gatherings. See "Paying Taxes" (2003.12.31-A01) and "We can't be One unless we're One" (2004.01.01-A01).

It is another spirit that brings in a dulling effect that makes you not really want to consider what is going on inside of you and how to judge each situation and so you react according to your emotions. All of these things are going on and I react this way and I think this and I do that, and I know it is all not right and I am not doing it right, because I am not getting the right results. I am getting the wrong results. But it is all happening so fast and I am not stopping to consider what is going on here and what is affecting me.

But I know that it is possible to judge myself properly. A lot of times I see it as an impossible thing and I don't take the time. I get into these places where I don't pay my taxes and I don't have the patience my children need. It is really true that if you don't pay them, the next month, or the next year, the taxes come due again, and what are you going to do about the taxes? You are already behind, and what are you going to do about it?

It is a very difficult thing to make up for. This has mainly caused me to see my need for my Master Yahshua and to be connected more. Sometimes I don't see my need enough to cause me to cry out like I should and then judge myself properly as the day goes on. Every day I am either losing ground or taking ground. Every moment I am either losing it or taking it. Depending on how much I don't take, is how much I lose.

Just admitting that is healing. It will heal her, make her whole; her composite nature is becoming one just by admitting that. It is like confession. That is what confession is. It heals because you realize what is going on in you in order to confess it. If you don't realize what is going on in you, you will never be healed, because you won't confess it. She is understanding what is going on in her, her inner workings. It is just amazing how you can confess that and be healed. As we confess our sins to one another we can be healed (Jms 5:16).

ha-êmeq — It is so amazing, because at that moment, when it starts to dawn on you, "Hey, what is going on?" you are no longer tripping along through life, but you are figuring out how you got in that place. We are not just there, in this pitiful condition, like the whole world, as Raphael says, "in the red" as far as taxes go. And they have been ever since the Fall. They are falling way short. But when the spirit, the will, and the intellect all get together, you get back into the image of our Father, and right away, once

you are in the image of our Father, you start bearing the fruit of love, because God is love.

The fruit of the spirit means the fruit of what God is like. So all that list about love, joy, peace, etc., comes from getting back to the whole man, and all of a sudden love and joy and peace start coming from your life and God starts being represented again. But then somewhere it breaks and you are just back to, “Hi, how is it going?” “Fine,” and you are back to just being a regular person. You are no longer the one whom our Master actually died for in order to redeem, so that we could make it through all those things back into the image of God. You don’t have to *try* to be loving, and kind, and joyful, or to have self-control, because that’s how you are. You are back in His image, which is just where He wants us to live. He wants us to live in that state, to get back there and stay there. Then we are reaching out, we are kind, we are not thinking about ourselves. We are actually moving forward in what we want to do here.

We are not interested in setting up perfect agriculture or doing every nursing home job in the world. Our purpose is to get back to the image of our Father and produce love and joy. He wants to gather a nation of restored people. That is the light, and it is not going to come from anything else but that, getting back to what we are supposed to be. Then you are a friend of tax collectors and sinners. You are not afraid of tax collectors.

Our Master had the whole resources of the universe to pay His taxes with, and so do we. We are not afraid of this trying brother, “Oh, here he comes, that one again. The one who causes me to get in trouble.” You have the resources. You don’t have to be afraid of the tax collectors, because you are back in the image of the One who is love, joy, and peace. It is just flowing from you. We are supposed to be right. This is the biggest news.

Speaking the Truth to One Another in Love

So, if we continue to speak to one another because we love one another, then we will all grow up in every aspect of our personalities. Now, I know you have heard that so many times in Eph 4:15. If we speak to one another we will all grow up in every aspect. We will all grow up socially, mentally, emotionally, spiritually — all of those aspects of our personalities. Some people, their emotions just go wild. Our Father can deal with that. He is healing our emotions, and helping us to get them under control.

Huldah was saying last night, “This is the dirtiest, filthiest sink I have ever seen in my whole life.” I said that was great. That is what we need. She is going to get this taken care of. She had to get angry to get it going, to get it done. But she was still under control. She was angry, but she didn’t sin. She got the job done. That was great. I love that aspect of her.

It’s the same with that filthy carpet over there. I got mad, too. We come in here to clean up and think we get every speck, but we are dull to the condition of that carpet. And all a visitor has to do is look at the carpet and say, “This is filthy,” and want to get out of here, but now it is beautiful because we made a stand. We got it done. It just takes a word and someone laying down his life to do it. It was really good how you all took care of it last night. It has been that way for two years, almost. It was filthy, dirty, stinking, and we decided we were going to do it all of a sudden. Now it is maté-proof (the new green carpet on the stairs). You can spill maté on that and you won’t even know it. Everything we have should be maté-proof.

That is why we have to be something-proofed ourselves. Our emotions have to be tax-proofed or something. We have to grow up in every aspect. We have to admit it. If we don’t, it will never work.

Your child is out in the street and you say, “Get in here!” You are not out of control, but you get him out of the street before the car hits him. There is a reaction to take action and do something, instead of just being laid back and doing nothing. There is a balance. We have to be well balanced. All of our aspects have to be well balanced, like a nice, big, smooth wheel. If it is out of balance, then it is like the washer when it is out of balance. Then your emotions go berserk. But you put things in order and then it just goes perfectly.

Shalem — It is so incredible that we can actually have His Spirit inside of us. It is our responsibility that our spirit is one with His Spirit. It is so easy to just go on in the natural, not filled with the Spirit. Then something big happens and it is like a brick wall, and it just hits you. It is like not taking

that tithe money out all year, and then all of a sudden you have to pay your taxes at the end of the year. It would totally bankrupt you, to pay all the year's taxes at one time. But if we are filled with our Master's Spirit, then love is going to flow out of us. It is not going to be a struggle to pay those taxes. It made me want to take that responsibility seriously of being filled with our Master's Spirit so that I can always have the fruits of the spirit in my life. Then I won't find myself being bankrupt.

Yedidiah — I am thankful for what we heard this morning, too. I got this picture in my mind that when the Spirit is ruling and reigning there is peace in the land. But sometimes we don't really recognize the signs of revolt and uprising until the revolutionaries against the Kingdom of the Spirit have already gathered together. They have their weapons, their armor, their tanks, and their missiles. Suddenly they are firing the big guns and you say, "Woa, wait a second. Somehow there has been a revolution here. I wasn't paying attention." Somehow the whole army had gathered together. Maybe the revolutionaries had been meeting for weeks and for months planning how they were going to start the revolution.

I know our Father wants us to detect the first signs of revolt, like the first signs of the things that come up against the Spirit. Maybe one of the first signs is that you don't pay your taxes, like you are trying to throw off the government or something. "I am not going to pay my taxes. We are going to do things a different way."

When I was hearing people speak, it put a new light on the words, "Blessed are the peacemakers" (Mt 5:9). You could picture them as those who go in when the tough situations arise and straighten everything out. Really, I heard that peacemakers are those who do something about the voice of revolt that comes up inside your heart. They squash that down so that there can still be peace in the land. There is a blessing on the place. I am thankful for what we hear. It is true food. It is possible that there could be peace in the land. He can make it so that it never reaches the point where the missiles are being fired. We can know something is off long before then. If we have a heart to hear, our Father can show us the first warning signs.

Hananyah — I was thankful for what ha-êmeq said, for often there is an intense battle going on in my mind, which is going at a million miles an hour about all kinds of things. I don't take my thoughts captive, because they are just thoughts — they are not actions. In reality, the thoughts will become actions. It explains why I am not bearing the fruit of the Spirit, why I am not taking ground. It is because my spirit is not taking control

over my soul. I am not living as though I am made in the image of God. I am thankful for what we are hearing.

Mevaser — It is His sanctified people who are going to make His name great on the earth. When I was first in the Edah, I worked in Island Pond in the print shop. Every year we would print the Town Report for Island Pond. Part of it was the list of all the people who didn't pay their taxes. Their names were there in black and white. This was before we started paying the tithe, and many of our names were on the list. It was the hardest thing, such a discipline, to print that report. You knew it was going to go out to our neighbors. We all felt it. It was a discipline, a shame, a reproach that our name would be on that list. But our Father spoke to us, that if we will give Him the first fruits, then we will have what we need to pay our taxes when it's demanded of us. We will make His name great on the earth. It is the same with our spiritual life.

Amen. We will just catch a fish and get the coin out of his mouth and give it. It is our Father's anyway.

Chanan — ha-êmeq said that if we are one within ourselves, we don't have to be afraid of being around that person we don't necessarily get along with. I told my abba one time, "I just don't get along with that person, so maybe I should just not talk to him, or try to avoid him." He said, "No, even if that person is wrong, our Father is probably just putting him there to test you or humble you." That really spoke to me. The next time I get into a situation where someone irritates me, I can take it to myself and say, "I am not connected to our Father's Spirit, for I can't keep my peace."

Amen, wonderful! Our wonderful youth are coming forth. There is great and wonderful potential in all of you. It is going to come forth if we cultivate it. You can see what is holding them back. He wants us to see our sin. As long as we are seeing and confessing our sin, we can be healed. Otherwise, we are haywire.

Tamar — It spoke to me what you just said about hindrances, like what ha-êmeq said about the fallen nature in us. Sometimes I don't remember that there is a fallen nature, something that hinders me from being one. I know there are things that hinder me. It is so clear what our Master is talking about. We are being restored to be like our Father, like our Master was, for He said the evil one had no part in Him. I was thinking that those things that divide us are actually part of the evil one. Our Father wants us to be restored. Somewhere it says, "Put aside the hindrance of a divided heart."

I am thankful to hear these things because I really want to be level and consistent and have the fruits of the Spirit, being connected to our Father's Spirit so that I can be restored. Then I can help other people be restored to our Master's image. It was so clear to me. I want to be restored to our Master's image. That is where He first created man. He was totally whole. Since then, everyone has fallen. As we grow in different aspects we are going to be whole again.

ha-êmeq — When you meet a hindrance, it just seems impossible to pass. But, if you look hard enough, you are going to see that there is a keyhole there. And there is going to be a key. He wants to give us the keys to the Kingdom. Somehow, by hearing what we hear, we get the key, and then we are through that hindrance and we put the key on our belt. As time goes on you have a lot of keys. When people see someone with a lot of keys, they might think, "Wow, you are pretty important," but all we can say is, "No, I just had to go through a lot of hindrances."

Then you have the key for others.

ha-êmeq — Yes, then you have something to help them with. That is why it is so important to bring things back, to get things into us, so we really have the keys, so we really know what is going on. Then it's not just in a pile of teachings somewhere, but right there on our belt.

Faith comes by hearing. We live by faith, by what we hear. It is just amazing that faith comes by hearing. Then it goes to the will. If you are willing to do our Father's will, then you are going to take it in. It will go into your ear, to your intellect, your emotions and your will. The will is the final factor connected to the spirit. Then it starts to regenerate your spirit as the Holy Spirit springs into action. He becomes one with our spirit, and then we continue to hear, and He confirms what we hear. Our Father confirms it by the Holy Spirit within us. Then we grow from faith to faith.

It is amazing what humanity is. We are just a muscle, but our soul is a living soul within us, looking out through our eyeballs. That is eternal.