

The Road Map to the Kingdom

This teaching was taught on a Sabbath afternoon one week before the inauguration of the Tribe of Yoceph. Many of us had been away from established communities and the Minchot and Breaking of Bread for a year or two or more. There was much soul-searching going on in the disciples in preparation of the imminent Breaking of Bread. After the teaching there was a long time of sharing and confession. Ultimately four people were baptized and at least a dozen were washed. Normally we don't wash people unless they have been cut off from the Minchot and Breaking of Bread, but in this case it seemed appropriate. It was a victory for our Master and His people...

The diadem is a white linen band encircling the brow to indicate the assumption of royal dignity. The diadem is a filament of linen. It is not a crown, but is worn in assumption of winning the victory. According to the Greek dictionary, it refers to the conqueror's crown. It speaks of valor, worth, and dignity.

We shouldn't wear the diadem, nor should the women wear a diadem or headcovering, unless it's actual, or we will bring disgrace upon ourselves, or our husbands, and the Edah. We don't want to do anything in ritual or rote, which has happened for centuries in the "established church."

We wear the diadem, placing it upon the brow. It encircles the head, which is in submission to our Master Yahshua, who is our Head. It is just like the woman who wears the headcovering in submission to the one who is her head. Our Master's head is our Father. We're all in submission. There is no one who is not in submission. Our Master is submitted to our Father even now. So that's the Body of Messiah.

Road Map to the Kingdom

Today we want to talk about the road map to the Kingdom. It's recorded in the epistle of 2 Peter. This is what he said just before he died. These are the last words that we have recorded of what Peter spoke.

We have to have faith to begin with. Faith is the first thing we receive when we receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is faith. When we heard His words we received

His Spirit. Faith is His Spirit persuading us to believe what no one can believe except by the Holy Spirit. It is possible for “belief” to be in a person’s mind only, but true faith is of the heart. It not only changes your life, but allows you to become a functioning member of the Body of Messiah in submission to your brothers and sisters. We are all in submission to our head. This takes a community. We are not saved unless we have been baptized into the Church, which is the Body of Messiah. We know that “Church” is an invalid word today. When these things were written in the First Century Church, they were looking at the community as the Body of Messiah. There is no such thing as the Body of Messiah outside of the community that the Holy Spirit creates.

Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Yahshua ha Mashiyach, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Yahshua ha Mashiyach. Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Yahshua our Master, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue. (2 Pet 1:1-3)

He’s given us all things that pertain to this life. This life is supernatural — a supra-culture — exceedingly above life in the world. Whoever has the Son has this life. If you don’t have the Son you don’t have the life. You live for yourself in the world, thinking that you have the knowledge of God, when you don’t. You have head knowledge, but not spiritual knowledge that allows you to lay down your life for your brothers as our Master Yahshua laid down His life for us. That’s the litmus test. That’s how we know that we have passed out of death and into life.

He’s given us access to *all things* that pertain to life and godliness. It might be stored somewhere, but we know how to go and get it out of storage by prayer and supplication. We know how to obtain grace for the need that we have. Godliness means being like God. He has called us to His glory and valor. You need valor to live this life. You’ll know this in time, or you won’t be able to endure until the end. It takes valor, virtue, moral excellence, loving your brothers and sisters.

Participants in the Divine Nature

Thus He has given us, through these things, His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and may become participants of the divine nature. (2 Pet 1:4, NRSV)

Many translations say “partakers of divine nature,” but that’s been misunderstood. We are *participators*. It’s talking about *koinonia*. We are sharers in divine nature. It means the same as *breaking* in the Breaking of Bread. In Spanish it is *partición*. We have our part — participation in the sharing of divine nature. We have escaped from the corruption of the world through the diseased condition of the soul that is passed on from generation to generation, through many varied ways. Their thoughts go unrestrained, as they can’t help but focus on their lust. Then they find themselves acting it out. Not only is it the fallen nature, but it is an evil spirit working within that. The evil one works with your desires and inclinations — inherited iniquities.

But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. (2 Pet 1:5-7)

The golden chain begins with faith and ends with love. Faith is first. But then we add to our faith valor. You can’t have valor without all diligence. Diligence is a man’s most precious possession. It’s been given to us. We can cower back, or we can have valor. We have potential for valor, so we have to use all diligence. That’s where most people stop, it’s where we falter and fail — where we give up.

2 Pet 1:3-5 — Virtue is valor. Valor is the strength of mind and heart. It enables a person to encounter danger with firmness and personal bravery. Virtue is excellence, being pleasing to our Father. It is what gives us our worth. Valor is strength, moral excellence, being commendable, having merit. It is the capacity to take action and execute — to do what our Father wants us to do — to carry out the works that He has prepared for each and every one of us. It takes valor.

Valor enables a person to achieve moral excellence, and to encounter hardships and dangers and hard times with stability — personal bravery. If you had lived in the first century, you would have needed personal bravery. Paul had valor. Peter learned to have valor when he applied all diligence.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. (2 Cor 4:17)

We can't give up when light affliction comes. Has anyone had hard afflictions yet? Right now they are light compared to what is coming.

To execute takes valor. To be an executive, an executor, is to carry out and accomplish a declared intent of someone else — our Master or a leader in the community. **You do what your leader sends you to do. You don't look to the right or the left, but you carry it out. Diligence is the quality of a redeemed human being. People who aren't redeemed have a certain diligence, but not to carry out the will of the Creator.** Our diligence is set apart for Him, to do His will. Diligence is marked by careful unrelenting attention to what you are sent to do.

The first step on the road to the Kingdom is faith. But then in order to enter the Kingdom, the thousand-year reign of Messiah, you have to have diligence. Only the overcomers will reign with Messiah in the Kingdom of the next age. Eternal life is something that we have been sealed for by the Spirit within, even if we are unworthy of the Kingdom. We can be unworthy to rule with Him. He will be looking for those who have reached their full potential in this life in the community. This is where all of our aspects reach their full potential, including our spiritual, mental, emotional, social, and physical aspects. If we're not teaching properly, if our children are not being raised up properly they won't develop mentally in the proper way in order to go on to adulthood.

All of our encounters in community are what develop our emotional stability, and our social abilities to carry on conversations and love people. That's what Paul said in Eph 4:15, that we have to grow up in all aspects into the Head by speaking to one

another. There is no other place to do that except in the Church, which is the community. We can't do it by being in the world 99.9% of the time and then a little time in a building. That won't get it.

The road to the Kingdom is to have *all diligence*. It's not enough to just have faith. Faith was received for a purpose. It's the foundation. Then added to that foundation is the building that is going up. It takes all diligence. Our Master is the Chief cornerstone of the foundation and we're laid upon Him. But now we have to grow up until the final shingle goes on the roof. Faith is essential. We can't go on to virtue without faith. Without faith it's impossible to please God. But it's not good enough to just have faith; we have to add to our faith. The Race is going to begin someday. We can't go on with faith only, but we have to apply all diligence in order to add virtue or valor or glory to our faith.

Being Found Worthy

The epistle of 2 Peter gives us the road map to the Kingdom, in order to be found worthy. Rev 3:4 — *Worthy* means comparable. You can be compared with Messiah in His humanity. We're compared to Him — we're humans and we have the Spirit, He is human and He has the Spirit. We have to be comparable. Who is worthy to rule with Him unless he is compatible? Are you going to marry Messiah if you're not compatible? Do we not try to help people know whether they are compatible with each other? You are not going to marry a wife who is not compatible, are you? We have to be found worthy of the Kingdom.

Those who endure, who have that moral excellence and perseverance, are those who are saved for the Kingdom (Mt 24:13). It's talking about entering the Kingdom here. It's easy to get mixed up between entering the Kingdom and eternal life. Then people think that you can lose your salvation if they don't understand what the Word is saying.

If we belong to Him we belong to Him, even though we have to be under discipline. A father disciplines the child he loves.

If we overcome we'll sit down on His throne as He overcame and sat down on His Father's throne (Rev 3:21). He had to overcome and set His face like flint, didn't He? Didn't He have to have unshakable certainty after His baptism? How confident was He in His humanity that He was a Son of the living God? He had to hear His Father's voice, didn't He? The voice came and said, "This is My Son in whom I am well pleased." Then He had the unshakable certainty and set His face like flint to go out into the wilderness to be tempted by the evil one and then go on to the Cross where He died, taking our sins into death. Then He rose again from the dead and ascended into Heaven, from which He poured out His Holy Spirit. We have received His Holy Spirit in order to live for Him. If we're not living for Him we don't know Him.

Here we are reading the last letter that Peter wrote to His little flock.

Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless. (2 Pet 3:14)

...knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Master Yahshua ha Mashiyach showed me. (2 Pet 1:14)

So Peter said, "Just as He showed me." So where did He show him?

"Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish." This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me." (Jn 21:18-19)

Our Master told him that he would have to suffer and die, and that his death would glorify our Father. He wrote his second letter right before he glorified our Father. We'd better pay attention to it. We'd better do what it says.

Joseph — Peter said in 2 Pet 1:15, "I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease." Our Father honored his effort because we have it.

That's right. 2 Pet 1:12-15 is so amazing. It's very essential that we fall in love with Peter and his words and understand what he was trying to say before his departure. It was written to us.

Simon Peter said to Him, "Master, where are You going?" Yahshua answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward." (Jn 13:36)

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could die like he did? Maybe he was crucified upside down. Tradition says that is what happened, but of course you can't always believe everything you hear. But maybe it's true. He might have said, "I'm not worthy to be crucified like my Master. I want to be crucified upside down. Let me suffer and die for days if I have to." But he's through with his suffering, except when he might see our actions sometimes. Even our Master might suffer to see our actions — how we don't love when we have the opportunity.

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Master and Savior Yahshua ha Mashiyach. (2 Pet 1:10-11)

It's not enough that these things (verses 5-7) are yours, but they must be increasing (verse 8). If you're swimming upstream and you quit swimming, what happens? You float downstream. That's why we have the morning and evening sacrifice of our bodies as *a single* living sacrifice. It has to be pure. If we come in with impurities, even one member being impure, it disqualifies the sacrifice. We're destroyers.

"If these things are in you and abound, it makes you neither barren..."

Did you know we can be barren? Do you know what *barren* means? No fruit. Giving birth to wind. It's just like the servant who didn't use all he had — all the talents, all the grace, all the faith. He didn't call upon our Master to give him the grace and faith that he needed to have valor and glory. "Father, the glory you've given Me, I have given to them, that they may be one as we're one."

What if we're not one as He is one? What if we never attain to that glory? He's given us the glory, why don't we use it? Where is the glory that we would divide from our brothers? Christianity is divided in about a hundred thousand places. Our Master wants a people on the Earth who will not divide, who will be one so that the world would know that we're His disciples, because we love one another.

This is the letter Peter wrote just before his death (2 Pet 1:12-15). The litmus test is 2 Pet 1:10 — *“Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble.”* That's amazing isn't it? This is the road to the age-lasting Kingdom. Not the eternal Kingdom, but the age-lasting Kingdom — lasting for a thousand years, which comes before the eternal Kingdom. It is the thousand-year reign of Messiah.

Rev 20:4-6 speaks about those of the woman who are diligently training their children right now in order to bring about the Male Child. They will rise to rule with our Master, they'll be worthy. Then it speaks of “the rest of dead” who did not rise until the end of the thousand years (verse 5). Who are they? They are those who are not worthy of the Kingdom (Dan 12:2).

There's a resurrection of those who have eternal life — some are found worthy and some are found unworthy. Those who are not found worthy will experience shame and contempt for themselves, because they didn't apply all diligence in order to add to their faith virtue and glory. They didn't love our Master enough. They were the foolish virgins (Dan 12:10). This is talking about the resurrection of those who belong to our Master. If we're unfaithful, He remains faithful. He cannot deny Himself.

Once you understand that and *know* that you have eternal life, then you're not trying to work for your eternal life. It's a gift that's been given to us because we've given up everything in order to follow our Master. Now we're on our way to the Kingdom. He needs people to rule with Him in the next age. There are going to be billions and billions of people. There won't be any deserts. The earth will be filled with people.

How many wise virgins are there in a thousand of those who are saved? 500. How many foolish virgins? 500. There are five wise and five foolish. Do you think our Master was talking about everyone in the world? He was talking about the virgins. That didn't include everyone.

Jeremiah — They all thought they were going into the Kingdom.

They might have, but they didn't add to their faith valor.

David Derush — They tried to make up at the last minute, but it doesn't work that way.

He has to build that character in us a little bit at a time as we go.

Soreph Gamaliel — Someone once said to me, "A certain person doesn't have courage in the face of his enemies." I never forgot it. Valor is what you need to have courage to deal with your iniquities. If you don't have that courage to deal with your iniquities, and you're a parent, then you pass on those iniquities to your children. You also pass on your way of dealing with them to your children — cowardice. So they have a double portion to overcome. Unless something extreme happens in that child, he won't have children in the Male Child. Because the pattern he sees in the way to deal with things is cowardice. It's ingrained in him.

We are not talking about eternal life, we're talking about the Kingdom. But many of us grew up in the world, and even those of us who grew up in the world were affected by the great folk religion over the western world. They ignore 2 Peter 1. It's incomprehensible. "I'm saved by faith in Jesus, that's all!" 2 Peter 1 says you're not going into the Kingdom unless with diligence you add valor to your faith. It's incomprehensible so they don't deal with it. That affects us to where we think that we don't have to add valor to our faith. Somehow we think that having faith and living in the community is enough, not having valor and courage in the face of our iniquities. We have to have that courage because we have to follow the pattern of our Master. He went out in the wilderness to be tempted. He faced His enemies all the way to the cross and He prevailed.

Just think of how our Master said to Peter in Jn 13:36, "You're going to follow Me where I go!" But Peter fell, then he fell again, and Paul had to rebuke him. He thought, "I've fallen, I'm a coward." Then he took hope in our Master's words. Then he came to the end of his life, and he could write about adding valor to his faith because he had done it. He had taken hope in our Master's words. He had courage. That's what we need to have.

I saw today why there is contempt when we fall. What do you have when you are on one side of the battle, and you join the other side of the battle? You have contempt from both sides. You're a traitor to one and untrustworthy to the other, and contempt is all you feel. When we side with our enemies, when we give in to our bad attitudes, all we have is contempt. We need courage in the face of our enemies. That's why we have the throne of grace.

The Greatest Movement Ever Launched

Do you know what a *movement* is? We say, "Why the movement never got off the ground." Are we off the ground or not? We're not saying we're off the ground. Maybe we're on the runway. What we're doing is the greatest movement on the face of the earth. Nothing can be compared with this movement that we're in. I don't want to call it a movement, but it is a movement. A movement is a maneuver to bring about or secure an objective as a result of skillful management, all working together to achieve or obtain its objective. What's our objective?

David Derush — The overthrow of the evil one's reign, the end of the age, and the establishment of our Master's Kingdom on the Earth.

Amen. That's going to take all diligence and the grace of our Father. Our Master said it's going to take a witness to bring about the end of the age. What witness? The witness of this life. The gospel of the Kingdom will be proclaimed as a witness. Not just people shouting the gospel, not just going on television, but it is a proclamation of a life that is lived out before the watching world.

For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Master Yahshua ha Mashiyach. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. (2 Pet 1:8-9)

Whoever lacks these things cannot see the glories that lie ahead. And they forgot the day that their sins were washed away and left in the bottom of the deepest part of the ocean. How do you forget that?

Faith Comes By Hearing

Paul said that faith comes — a little bit closer... a little bit closer... until you receive it. Then you are sealed with the Spirit when you're baptized — when you have faith to be immersed into the Body. When it says “faith comes by hearing” (Rom 10:17), the word *hearing* (#189) means *the sense of hearing, the organ or instrument hearing — the ear*. That means you can't get faith from reading a tract, or a book, or one of our freepapers, or even the Bible. You have to receive a sent one. “Whoever receives the one I send, receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives the Father.” That's reconciliation. And then that brother you receive brings you home and gives you his bed. He doesn't lead you to a “Bible-believing Church.”

You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Yahshua ha Mashiyach. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

You're not going to work at IBM and then go to war. You're going to set your face like flint. You're not going to look to the right or the left. You're engaged in warfare. We don't get entangled in the world and the things of the world. He's chosen us to be His soldiers. We want to please Him. Isn't that wonderful? We get entangled with loving our brother in the Body.

“If a man strives for Mastery, yet he is not crowned lest he strive lawfully.”

There's no entry into the Kingdom unless you *strive* (Lk 13:24). That means you go through the narrow gate. Another translation says, “... compete according to the rules.” It's like the man who ran the race. He was a great, marvelous athlete. He leaped over the hurdles and everyone was cheering and he was going ahead of the others. He finally crossed the finish line as the winner. There was great hoopla. They put the crown on his head and they published his picture all over the world. But then they gave him a little test. They checked his blood. They took the crown off his head. He was on steroids.

We don't want anything fake or phony or plastic. We only want whatever is real, and that's all.

Those Who Cover Their Sin Will Not Prosper

Pr 28:13 — To cover your sin means that you blame others, reasoning everything out, trying to justify yourself, but you don't admit and confess it and be done with it. If you'll confess it and forsake it you'll prosper. Those who are prospering know who is not prospering. If they don't go to that brother or sister who is not prospering, they are not going to prosper either, because they have sin then. We have to go and help our brother out of the pit he is in.

The first-century church fell because they didn't respect authority. God is authority. If you have a problem with authority you have a problem with God. What kind of problem do you have with God? There is no difference between the Holy of Holies of old and the Holy of Holies we walk into in the Breaking of Bread, except that we don't have a chain tied around our ankle. We die (spiritually) right in the midst of the assembly if we go in with unconfessed sin.

Holding Fast Our Confidence

...but Messiah as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end. (Heb 3:6)

Can you imagine communities that have no outspokenness? They hide their sin — they don't confess it. He's the Son over every community that has outspokenness and maintains that confidence. It's wonderful that we are confessing our sins here. It means that He is a Son over this house. What if we held it in, what would happen? When they hold it in it destroys the community. That's what destroyed the First Church — the communities of the First Century. They left their first love and their lampstand was taken out of the way. There was no longer anyone saved. Why should the Holy Spirit bring anyone into a dead community? We have to be alive.