

Virtual Babylon; Not Loving is Hating

David Zerubbabel — I really appreciate this banner that our children made of the camel train. “Return, come back to Me, My people, and keep My Sabbaths holy.” It’s what we’ve been talking about, and it is amazing how they go together. Dt 5:15 connects the Shabbat with their coming out of Egypt. Later, He called them out again, but this time out of Babylon. Again He told them to keep the Sabbath holy, because that is exactly what they were *not* doing that caused them to be carried away into Babylon (2 Chr 36:20-21).

It was with a mighty, outstretched arm that He called them out of Babylon, just as out of Egypt. He stirred the heart of King Cyrus and caused this Gentile king to want to build up the house of our Father and send them back.

Then, in our Master’s day, all of Israel had become like a virtual Babylon right there in the land of their fathers. They were living like captives in their own land, not only captives to Rome, but captives to the evil one; they had been taken captive by him to do his will. Then our Master called them out of “Babylon” again. He said, “Come out of her!” He didn’t say those words, but that’s what He meant.

One day, He astonished them by saying, “Tear this temple down and in three days I will build it again.” He was talking about His body, that He would rise from the dead and be the foundation stone upon which the New Jerusalem would be built and the walls would be restored and the gates would be put in place. That is why He saved those twelve men to be the foundation stones, to restore the gates. He called them out of Babylon and taught them the spirit of the Shabbat because our Master Yahshua was the Lord of the Shabbat.

So here we are in the 21st century, and it is Babylon all over again. We were called out of Babylon with a mighty, outstretched arm. Our Father brought us out, and now He is teaching us to keep the Shabbat. I am glad those two things are together there on the wall, “Return, come back to Me, My people, and keep My Sabbaths holy.” That is just what we are doing.

Baruch — I was also reading in Deuteronomy today, in chapter 12. I was reflecting on the things that we have heard — the stirring of the heart, and all those whose hearts were not stirred. Our Master talked about *gathering* on a number of occasions. There are gatherers and scatterers. “Oh, how I’ve longed to gather you together!” Our Master said that, because He was

a gatherer. You can't argue that point. No matter what doctrine you are under, you can't convince me that our Master was anything but a gatherer. He was that way because our Father is that way. He is a gatherer.

Every time through history that our Father has spoken, there have been *calls* and there have been "comes" and there have been "goes" — many commands have been issued, and all with the same goal of gathering together, never scattering (unless it was in the context of discipline). With His people, it was always gather, bring together — not just in some sort of spiritual way, but a *physical* togetherness, geographically together. It has always been together — together in every way, physically and spiritually.

In Dt 12:7-14 it talks about a particular *place*...

"There you shall eat before Yahweh your God and you shall rejoice in all to which you have put to your hand, you and your households in which He has blessed you. You shall not at all do what we are doing here today, every man doing what is right in his own eyes, for as yet you have not come to the rest..."

... or, you could say a "resting place." A resting place is a physical location. They had not yet come to that specific, physical location where there was going to be rest for them.

"... and the inheritance to which YHWH has given you. But, when you cross over the Jordan and you dwell in the land..."

He was talking about a particular place where He was gathering all of His people who wanted to do something other than what was right in their own eyes. That's what He said, and the ones who were listening to this heard, "You're not going to do what is right in your own eyes anymore. You are going to do what your Father commands you to do in this particular place. Go over the Jordan and dwell in the land He is giving you to inherit, and He will give you rest from all your enemies about you, so you will dwell in safety, and there..."

"... that will be the place that Yahweh chooses to make His name abide, and there you will bring your offerings, there you will bring all that I command you. You shall rejoice before Him, you and your sons and daughters, and your male and female servants, and the Levite who is within your gates, since he has no portion. And take heed to yourselves that you do not offer your burnt offerings in every place that you see, but specifically in that place which YHWH chooses in one of your tribes. There you will offer the burnt offerings and you will do all that I command you."

I am so thankful that there is a *place*, a physical location, where God has a will for people. It has latitude and a longitude, and you can identify it by an address where He has actually caused His name to dwell, and only in

that particular place, at that address, will there be deliverance from your enemies and the hope of a Sabbath rest.

We have the hope of a Sabbath rest. We have the hope that our enemies can be put underfoot by the power of our God. It happens here, in the place where He has caused His name to dwell. It does not happen anywhere else. That is why we have such a ministry to those young people that come from Ada's [a local health food store], and to anyone else who might come through our doors — because we've got a place that our Father has chosen to dwell in, and we've been gathered in a particular location.

Return! Come back to Me, My people! WHERE? Here or wherever He has caused His name to dwell. I am so thankful to be in that place where we have the hope of rest and particularly a Sabbath rest.

ha-êmeq — David said the reason that they had to go into captivity was because they didn't keep the Shabbat. So they were over there, captive in Babylon, and then He called them back. Later on, our Master called them out of the ritual of the religion of Judaism, which was linked with Babylon. What was going on even in Israel was linked to and being supported by money from Babylon.

Our Master wasn't really too fond of that temple and everything that was going on in it and around it by the time He came. Then, somewhere along the line, the people that our Master called out of that religion, the thousands of Jews who took on the good news, somehow, somewhere along the way, they became Babylon again, because they quit keeping the Shabbat.

When we were walking over here, we saw Christmas lights and Christmas trees — all of these Babylonian rituals that came into the church. There were the zealots of the first century, and then their children were kind of half-hearts. Then somehow, Christmas trees and all this other garbage came into the church, and it became Babylon. There they were again, right back in Babylon. All these things started coming in when they quit keeping the Shabbat and switched it over to Sunday, and when they started saying Jesus Christ instead of Yahshua ha Mashiyach. Maybe that is when He actually walked away from that whole system, and it took on the name Babylon.

Yônêq was reading to me that *Babylon* means Rome. In 1 Pet 5:13 it says, "my sister who is in Babylon," and it means Rome. Somehow it got centered in a place that was supposed to be the church. There is a letter to the Romans, written to really good people in the first Edah who lived in Rome. That is why the letter is called "Romans." They actually lived in

Rome. Not long after that letter was written to this really nice church there, it began to be called *Babylon*.

I remember when we first heard about the Sabbath. It is so obvious in the Bible, people can't help but notice it. There is a whole denomination called the 7th Day Adventists. They started coming around the Community in the beginning, when we were all really young. I had been a disciple for two years, and that was an "older disciple" at that time. So some people came around and were saying things about the Sabbath, and we thought, "Wow! That really makes a lot of sense." But Yônêq said, "Be careful!" He didn't want me to take on the Shabbat by some other spirit. He said, "Stay away from those people; they're coming to deceive you." He had found one of their books, which they had hidden all over our house. We threw them all away.

Later our Father spoke to us about the Shabbat, but then it was totally different, because it came in the right way, in the right spirit, not on another oxcart. We learned about the priests carrying the Ark on poles, as it says in the Law, and not on an oxcart.

I'm so thankful all the children made this banner for the Shabbat. It is so special. I can't even believe how beautiful it is. I really appreciate it, because it brings the right Spirit of what we are saying, because we really love the Shabbat. And now we've come out of Babylon because we want to keep this holy day.

Ben Nabi — When ha-êmeq was speaking, it really struck me that you can *become* Babylon. We will either become Babylon, or we will become Israel. What else is there? *Israel* means to rule with Elohim. I love that. That is what I want to become. I want our Father to have Israel.

When I first came to the Community, I heard people say things like, "Our Master is taking the land of our heart." He comes into our heart, and once He's there, He starts taking the land. It is not an automatic thing that He has our hearts. First, He plants a flag in our heart — that's His flag, marking His possession. Then, after He is there, He starts making progress in the rest of our soul, and He takes the whole land if we let Him take it.

Our Father can't have a people who will take the land whose hearts are not completely His. He has to take all the land of our hearts if He is going to make us Israel. I am thankful that is happening. I want my whole heart to be His. I don't want anything of Babylon to be in my heart. How can He have a ruler in Israel who has a little chunk of his heart still under the flag of Babylon? He can't! It just cannot be that way. I want to leave it all behind.

Havah bat Zerubbabel — The cover of the *Intertribal News* says, “Fallen, Fallen is Babylon the Great.” Sometimes I wonder why it says “great.” I thought of *great* as a good thing, but Babylon is confusion. Rev 17:6 says even Yochanan “marveled” at the harlot. She appeared great.

We were doing the dance, “Great and wonderful are Your glorious deeds” tonight. It is so great that He is saving us. That is so much greater than Babylon and all its glory. I’m so thankful that we have something truly great going on, though it seems so insignificant compared to the confusion of the huge world. It’s really great and marvelous that we could have His glory. The song says, “Your glorious deeds.” The bride’s white linen is her righteous deeds. It is the deeds that we do with His glory upon us. It is great and wonderful — so much greater than the great confusion of Babylon.

Yonadab — It doesn’t matter what we are building, but *how* we are doing it is what really matters. If we are doing it with a thankful heart, then it can be the greatest thing on earth. It doesn’t matter *what* you do, but it’s the *way* that you do it. It’s the kind of attitude that you do it with. I’m thankful that we are able to build up His kingdom. Our Father is not going to advance if we don’t let Him into our lives. He will just stay outside knocking at the door. If we don’t let Him in, then He won’t come in and do the work that He needs to do.

Not Loving is Hating

He will keep in perfect peace the one whose mind is stayed on Him. That is where rest really comes from, and of course that has everything to do with the Sabbath. But don’t be surprised that the world hates you if you love one another (1 Jn 3:13-14). If we do not love our brothers, that means we are dead. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer. You know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. Whoever hates his brother (1 Jn 4:20) cannot love God, for God is love (verse 16), and he who abides in Him continues in communion with Him.

By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as He is, so also are we in this world (1 Jn 4:17).

Love has no element of fear in it. Perfect love drives away fear, because fear involves pain, and if a man gives way to fear, there is something imperfect in his love.

We love because He first loved us, and if anyone says he loves God while he hates his brother, he is a liar. There is a murderer (1 Jn 3:15), and there is a liar (1 Jn 4:20), and both are also in Rev 21:8. All the murderers and liars go to the lake of fire. No murderer has eternal life. The one who does not love his brother is a murderer, and he does not have eternal life in him.

The only way we have eternal life is by loving our brother. If we do not love our brother, we do not have eternal life. We may be here in the community, but we do not have eternal life if we do not love. The one who does not love his brother is a murderer. If he does not *love* his brother, then he *hates* his brother, which is the same as murder (1 Jn 3:15). If you don't love, you hate — hating is not loving. When you have opportunity to love, but you don't, you hate, and that is the same thing as murder. Hating is murder, so not loving is murder, because not loving is hating. Hating is not loving, and not loving is hating, and we know that hating is murder.

The one who says he loves God, but does not love his brother is a liar, therefore he is going to the lake of fire, because he does not have eternal life, even though he may claim to have it. But he does not love his brother, so how could he have eternal life in him? Anyone who hates a man whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. It's very clear in 1 Jn 3 & 4. To hate is the same as murder, and that is a serious matter in the Body of Messiah. That person is right here in the Community, not loving his brother or sister.

1 Cor 13 — Even if you distribute all your possessions to the poor, and give your body to be burned, but you are not loving, it profits you nothing. It does not matter how well you can speak, or how many verses you can memorize, if you're not loving, then it profits you nothing. You can have the gift of prophecy, and be well versed in all mysteries and all knowledge, and have such acts of faith that can move mountains, but if you do not have love, you are nothing.

If I do not have love, what does it profit me? It profits me nothing. Love is patient and kind. Love is patient and kind. Love is patient and kind. If you are not patient, you do not have love. If you do not have love, you do not have eternal life. If you do not love your brother, then you hate him, and you are a murderer.

So, do not claim to be a believer if you do not love your brother, because if you do not love, you are a liar and a murderer — certainly not a believer. There are two things which you will become if you are in the Body and you do not love: a liar and a murderer. That's not talking about the people who are outside in the world. We know that they don't have eternal life. But we don't either, if we do not love. If we are ignoring someone, or if we allow someone to irritate us, and we alienate ourselves from him and avoid him, then we do not love.

There is no fear in love. Love is patient and kind. Love knows neither envy nor jealousy. Love is not forward, or self-assertive, or boastful, or conceited. She does not behave unbecomingly and does not seek to aggrandize herself, nor does love blaze out in passionate anger, or brood over wrongs. She finds no pleasure in injustice done to others. She joyfully sides with the truth, and she knows how to be silent. She is full of trust, full of hope, full of patience and endurance. Love never fails.