

## A Confederation of Merrymakers

As we continue to grow we will understand more about the Confederation of the Twelve Tribes and what a *confederation* is. We're part of a "league of nations" — our twelve tribes. Each tribe is a league of clans, as Jer 31:1 says, "I will be the God of all the *clans/families/tribes* of Israel." The same word is translated these three ways.

A confederacy is a compact of mutual support, common action, harmonious parts united in a league. Our confederation is tribal, allied for one purpose, as Pr 17:17 says, allied in one cause and struggle. It's not like fickle friends. There's no such thing as fickle people in the Twelve Tribes. Each person in the Twelve Tribes is laying down his life for his brothers. This is not an association of fickle fair-weather friends.

A confederation lives together, fights together, and dies together for one cause and one purpose. We're going to continue to embellish the teaching on this and hopefully we'll put it all together in a paper, "The Confederation of the Twelve Tribes." It will be part of the curriculum for our children. For instance, in Jer 30:19 and 31:4,13,14 we see what the restoration entails, how our Father will build, and how we'll be rebuilt. You'll see that it says *merrymakers* — the people who make merry with their music, songs, and dances:

*This is what Yahweh says: "I will restore the fortunes of Jacob's tents and have compassion on his dwellings; the city will be rebuilt on her ruins, and the palace will stand in its proper place. From them will come songs of thanksgiving and the sound those who make merry. I will add to their numbers, and they will not be decreased; I will bring them honor, and they will not be disdained. Their children will be as in days of old, and their community will be established before me; I will punish all who oppress them. (Jer 30:18-20)*

Then it continues in verse 24,

*The fierce anger of Yahweh will not return until He has done it, and has performed the intents of His heart. In the latter days you shall understand this. "At that same time," says Yahweh, "I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people."*

Our children will be developed in musical skills — instruments, voice, pitch, carrying a tune. We will train them continually in all of these things so they can be what is prophesied for them to be. There can be no restoration unless we're doing this. We train our children in music, so that everyone can play instruments. We need to be able to play many instruments, not just one. Then when we go to a place where they don't have anyone who plays the flute, we can play the flute, or the piano, or anything. You can see where we are going. We start a song and it's not on the right pitch, so the musicians have to change it. But we ought to be able to start it and they follow us. The musicians *embellish* the singing, they don't overpower it, as the piano sometimes does. So in every clan we train our children in music, and every child learns to play instruments, carry a tune, sing on pitch and lift up their voices. That's how they can be the restoration of all things as Jer 30:20 says. It's the witness — *edah* means *witness*.

Jer 31:4 says, “Again I will build you, and you shall be restored, O virgin of Israel.” In the first century it was built in the Twelve Tribes, but they left their first love and didn't continue on, and didn't train their children. So it will be *rebuilt, restored*. Then it says, “You shall again be adorned with your tambourines, and shall go forth in the dances of those who make merry.”

*“Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old, together, for I will turn their mourning into joy and will comfort them and give them joy for their sorrow. I will fill the soul of the priests with abundance, and My people will be satisfied with My goodness,” declares Yahweh. (Jer 31:13-14)*

If God is the God of that clan, they'll be experiencing this. Otherwise, they're not even of Israel; they don't have a lampstand. That's why lampstands can be taken away, because they left what love impels. We're not what we claim to be if we're not doing this with our children so they can bring this about. If they know who they are, then of course they're going to follow our Master and do what they were chosen to do.

Our Master was talking to old Israel when He said, “I'm going to take the kingdom away from you and give it to a nation of twelve tribes that will produce the fruit of the

kingdom (which you didn't do)." In the first century, Paul said, "Our twelve tribes who serve night and day" (Acts 26:7), speaking of the Edah in that first century. He wasn't talking about old Israel because the Jews weren't a nation of twelve tribes. They were the ones persecuting *our twelve tribes*. In new Israel of the first century, there were twelve tribes developing, but they never got off the ground. It crashed early on.

If you read the Psalms, you'll see all the music there. We have to fulfill what it says in Psalms. We've just barely hinted of what we want to do right now, as every child is trained. No matter whether they have great ability and gifts, every person can play an instrument, every person can sing in tune if they're trained to stay on pitch. When we started out in the Vine House, we didn't have any musical instruments. It was just me getting everyone on tune with songs I brought from the Jesus Movement! Then came Hasah, Malachi, and others, with instruments, to embellish the singing.

1 Pet 2:9-10 describes the confederation of the twelve self-governing tribes. Each tribe is made up of self-governing clans, and all the men in every place are together like in 1 Tim 2:8. They are in total unity in every place where a lampstand remains. It takes a tremendous struggle to maintain the lampstand, which can be extinguished by the leaven that creeps in — not keeping the traditions, going astray, and becoming like the first church in their developmental process. They developed beyond recognition. You couldn't even recognize the church in the third and fourth century based on how it was in the beginning.

God didn't know what kind of religion it was, but it was not the Body of Messiah. The Body of Messiah can only be one way, and that's how it was in the beginning. It was even called *The Way*. It wasn't called *Christianity*. They got the word, the *way*, from Gen 18:19, "...they keep the way of Yahweh, to do righteousness and justice." The seed of Abraham keep the way. We have to keep the way in order for us to bring about what our Father promised Abraham. That promise hasn't been fulfilled yet because they never

overcame their enemies. They never celebrated a Year of Jubilee because they couldn't maintain their unity over a 49-year period. They always worshipped other gods.

### The Phantom Yahshua

A spirit can come in as a phantom of our Master Yahshua. We'd still call it *Yahshua*, but it's a phantom. It's not really Yahshua. As it says of the Corinthians, "You received another spirit, another gospel, another Jesus." *Jesus* is a phantom; it's not the real Yahshua. *Jesus* is not real, but mystical. There has to be a real restoration. The first thing we have to restore is the true, real gospel and the true, real Yahshua or we'll be worse than the phantom church.

1 Jn 5:20 talks about the True One. That's what the whole book of First John is talking about. They were receiving another spirit, another Yahshua, but they were talking about the True One. The enemy is the god of this world. His evil spirits came in and masqueraded as the True One.

We can go off course and then we're not in communion with the Holy Spirit, the one Spirit that teaches us all things. We start doing other things and accepting other traditions. We start wearing clothes that are of a worldly style because we're drawn to the world. If we love the world, the love of the Father isn't in us. We're supposed to be an example and witness to the world, not the other way around.

**Shemiyah** — If I'm not discerning the Body of Messiah and I'm not going out to pray and ask our Father for grace, but I'm still going to the minchah and lifting my soul up in song, then there's a phantom there. I'm seeking someone other than the One who died on the cross, because He's not leading me to the cross. That's how Christianity began. People kept going when the heart was gone, when they weren't laying down their lives for one another any longer. They continued going to the minchot, singing, and lifting up their souls. Some were probably very zealous about it, but they were lifting their souls up to something else. It wasn't Yahshua, it was the deceiver that slipped in. It's not so far away. We have to realize there's a phantom creeping about, looking for a way in because he would love to find a way into our life and take over.

**Kharash** — The characteristic of a phantom is that you approach it but when you get to it, it's not there. There's no reality to it. Yahshua cannot be found along the path that Shemiyah talked about — the path of not surrendering your life, not discerning the Body, not submitted to the authority in the household, in the clan, and in the tribe. It's the path that takes us off. The phantom would appear in a certain way to be like God because of you wanting something in your own heart. That desire takes you back to serving other gods.

**ha-êmeq** — If our children know who they are, that's going to bring about the next generation of the Twelve Tribes. If you don't know who you are, then you're just content to kick a ball around because you're nobody. When the Pilgrims came over, some people wanted to play games in the streets, but some wanted to build a nation. "What's wrong with having a good time?" Then people started getting sick and many died. It's harder to die for a game, but if you know who you are, you're ready to die for that.

When Yônêq was reading Jeremiah 31, I thought, "*That's our chapter.*" The songs and dances come from knowing who you are. Otherwise, there's no reason to get up and dance. There's no reason to sing and dance when you're not excited about the restoration of Israel, that your sins can be forgiven, and that there is a people being raised up on this planet who really are who they say they are.

This chapter in Jeremiah is very stirring. When you read it, you don't want to forget what it says because it really tells who we are — a confederation of people with the same heart. It's not a phantom. But if it's just a phantom to you, then you'll think it's too hard and you'll just go on with your life.

**Abraham** — When things began in America it wasn't so clear who they were. Were they England? Were they France? Were they Spain? But then England came and surrounded Boston and men like John Adams said, "We will not surrender to them. We are going to revolt against this. We are going to form our own confederation." The fire started there in those men. It permeated everyone. George Washington took his band of men through Valley Forge, that valley of intense pressure and training, and all the fickleness that was inside those men was put away. When they came out of that winter they were ready to follow George Washington and win that war. They were ready to stand behind their commander-in-chief.

I know that's what's taking place here. I feel that pressure that's going to either pull us together or break us. If we're fickle, then it's going

to break us. I want the fickle ways in me to be broken off and for us to be put together to make up that confederation.

Getting Abraham down here was a great sacrifice for Yehudah. They could have said they needed him and couldn't send him. But it's that confederation, allied together for a great cause. It's wonderful that we can make sacrifices for the sake of the confederation. We're really thankful for all you brothers and sisters who have come from a long distance to be here for the push before the reunion. We're so thankful for you.

There's a big sign in Sydney that says, "Know where you're going." It's easy to get lost in Sydney. "If you don't know where you're going, any road will get you there." I'm thankful for where we're going, how we're alive, we're breathing, and we've been chosen by our Father to carry out His will.