



The Way of Righteousness

Daily Devotions
Following the Biblical
Hebrew Calendar

By Greg Wilson

Aviv 1 - "YHVH our Portion"

Lamentations / Ekhah 3:22-24:

*"YHVH's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease,
For His compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
Great is Your faithfulness.
"YHVH is my portion," says my soul,
"Therefore I have hope in Him."*

What words of hope, that HaShem's compassions are new every morning - are new THIS morning. He has once again caused the sun to rise at precisely the right time, and with its light comes the hope of Yahweh renewing his devotion to us. He is faithful indeed to care for us, His children. And thus, since He cares for us, we can say that He is our portion - in other words, He is what gives our life goodness - He is the one who makes us happy and fulfilled. And so, because we have this promise of enjoying Him forever, we can put our hope in Him - living hope that lifts our heads, lifts our hearts! Hope for an eternal future of bliss with the King of Kings, whose care for us is renewed every morning. Let us hope in Him, and indeed claim Him as our portion - He, our beloved, is ours to enjoy forever, not to mention all He will prepare for us to enjoy in the New Heavens and New Earth, in the glorious New Jerusalem where our beloved King Yeshua will reign. Amen.

Dear Adonai, thank you that your compassions are renewed towards me every morning. I love you, and I set my hope on you, for you are my portion. Amen.

Aviv 2 - "Abiding in the Word"

Psalm 1

*"Ashrei (happy) is the man who shall not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
And shall not stand in the path of sinners,
And shall not sit in the seat of scoffers,
But his delight is in the Torah of YHWH,
And he meditates in His Torah day and night.
For he shall be as a tree planted by rivers of water,*

*That yields its fruit in its season,
And whose leaf does not wither,
And whatever he does prospers.
The wicked are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind blows away.
Therefore the wicked shall not rise in the judgment,
Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
For YHWH knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the wicked comes to naught."*

In this short psalm, we see the blessedness of the righteous man contrasted with the cursedness of the ungodly. In verse 1 we see there is a distinction between the righteous and the wicked - we are not all just "sinners saved by grace." We are either walking on the narrow road, or we are getting watered down by the world. But if we walk uprightly, we will not walk in the advice of the ungodly, or stand where sinners go, or sit with those who scorn the good. This makes me think of Yeshua, who frequently sought to get away and pray, drawing near to His dear Father, connecting with the source of His holiness. And so we delight in the law - the Torah or instruction of Yahweh - old and new - from Moses and Yeshua, who magnified the Torah of Moshe (Moses) to the heart level. We delight in His righteous ways and way of doing life - loving your neighbor as yourself, doing justice to the fatherless, and we meditate on his instructions day and night, "being transformed by the renewing of our mind." The fruit of connecting with Elohim's ways like this is that we are like a well-watered tree, plugged into the life-giving water of righteousness, bearing righteous fruit because of abiding in Elohim's ways and His Way, Yeshua. We will not wither, but our labors will prosper, when abiding like so.

All this is contrasted with the wicked, that are not rooted in Elohim's righteousness. No, they are blown about like chaff, unable to stand under Elohim's judgment. The psalm concludes - HaShem knows the way of the righteous, praise Him, but the way of the ungodly shall perish. So, let us steer clear of too close association with the ungodly, and let us plug into Elohim's righteous word and His word in flesh - Yeshua, and produce the fruit of righteousness thereby.

Adonai, strengthen me to turn away from ungodliness as I abide in Your word and in Yeshua's love and care. Let me shine, so the wicked can see and come over to the righteous side. For Yeshua's will and thus in His name - Amen.

Aviv 3 - "The Lion & The Lamb"

Revelation 19:11-16

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

In this glorious regal passage, we see the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords – our Yeshua, on a white horse, ready to slay the evil armies gathered against Him, presumably right before He will reign for a thousand years. We see that Yeshua is not only the sacrificial, meek lamb of God, but He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah as well (Rev. 5:5), that has the right to conquer his enemies and those who work wickedness. When He walked the earth more as the Lamb, he alluded to His other lion-like identity when He said, "I have come to cast fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled, but I have a baptism to undergo... (the cross)" So we see part of Yeshua's heart desires to execute justice on the earth, despite the other part of his heart that desires to save men. Is this not why we praise Him so, for He has perfect compassion and mercy, and He has perfect justice and wrath. Let us serve this King, "rejoicing with trembling" (Psalm 2:11), and worship Him in reverence, thanking Him for His mercy, thanking Him for His justice.

Mighty Yeshua, I bow before You, the Lion and the Lamb. I desire to serve You, modeling your mercy and patience and grace and forgiveness to those around me, but also knowing justice is coming. Be exalted, my King! Amen.

Aviv 4 - "Preach the Word"

2 Timothy 4:1-5

“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.”

In this passage, we see the passionate apostle Paul urging Timothy, his son in the faith, to “fulfill his ministry” by preaching the word and doing the work of an evangelist. Although some in the body of Messiah may be specially gifted at evangelism, surely all of us are called to share the Word of God with those around us in some capacity or form. So, according to the knowledge we have, starting with the foundation of repentance and faith in Messiah’s shed blood, let us pray for opportunities to pass on timely words for those outside or inside the Kingdom, that need to hear about Yeshua’s salvation and other things of God.

Timothy, and us, are charged to be ready in season and out of season to preach the word – when we’re seeking to, and also when an opportunity comes we didn’t expect! The passage also prophesies of a time when people will not endure sound doctrine, but will heap up false teachers. This is all the more reason to “be watchful in all things, endure afflictions” and preach the truth, as opposed to false doctrines that tickle the ears, like that all will be saved, for example. So in light of Yeshua being the One who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom, let us seek to invite the prodigals home with kindness, and win the unrighteous over to the attitude and conduct of the righteous, before judgment must come. Amen.

Elohim, Father and Son and Spirit, quicken my spirit to speak for you at the appropriate times, and hold to the truths of Your word, spreading Your truth and the message of the Father’s love, and of faith and repentance before it’s too late. In Yeshua’s name, for His will, I pray. Amen.

Aviv 5 – “Adorned with Devotion: Tassels”

Numbers 15:37-41

“And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue:

And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring:

That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God. I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the LORD your God.”

In Matthew 5:17-19, we see how Yeshua upholds the Torah (Law/Instruction) of Moshe (Moses) and says that those who keep even the least of its commandments will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Well, in Numbers (BaMidbar / In the Wilderness) 15:37-41 we see one of these commandments – not one of the *very* least, but one of special beauty and significance. This is the command to adorn the corners of your clothing with tassels (fringes), including a blue thread, which are to remind you to obey the commandments of the LORD and not follow after “the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined” (v. 39).

What a rich way to “wear the faith” – adorning yourself with these decorative tassels which serve an important purpose – reminding one to obey HaShem (“the Name” of God – יהוה – the Hebrew letters Yod Hey Vav Hey, pronounced Yehovah or Yahweh or otherwise). Also, what a distinct way to start conversations with curious onlookers. Let us adorn ourselves with devotion, though not being “showy” or prideful about it, and so artistically express our heart’s desire to obey our Father.

*HaShem, I desire to obey You and will wear these tassels to remind me to do so.
Forgive me when I fail You. In Yeshua’s name, for His will, Amein – so be it.*