

## **Bar Mitzvah and the Terms of Peace**

### **Letter to Nun**

We have made a point here in Yehudah to say that “all children raised in the community must either go through bar-mitzvah training and be saved as a bar mitzvah, or they must leave the community.” We have several children here that are 15 or just turned 16 who are having the Bar Mitzvah here because they are still not saved. They are children who are very timid, or who feared calling out to Yahshah for some reason, or who were very plainly rebellious, but we have said that none of them can stay in that place. They eventually all become a rebellious element. They say, “I am still trying to decide whether this is what I want for my life.” But there is no question what our children want for their life. They have been dedicated to Yahshua as babies and their course is already set. They must follow that course or they are in rebellion. There is no choice for them... *and* if they are in rebellion they cannot stay in the community.

After the age of Bar Mitzvah they must be holy or leave. So, several children have been forced off their path of rebellion by making the terms of peace very clear to them. There are several bar and bat mitzvah celebrations planned in Yehudah with children (like Zebulun for instance) who have been very bad children. He is now 14 but he must become a bar mitzvah or leave the community.

We never imagined that such a thing would happen, but in Bellows Falls, for example, there were several youth who had no intention of being saved, but planned to just live on in the community until some opportunity in the world opened to them. They were not even outwardly rebellious children. But both outward rebellion and subtle, hidden internal rebellion must go.

A child gains his own will at about twelve or thirteen and must turn his heart toward the ancient path of his parents or he must go to the world where his heart is. The parents must go with the child if they cannot find someone in the world to care for him. So faced with this clear word all these borderline children are now being prepared for Bar Mitzvah and will soon have

the celebration — or they will rebel, not receive the word, not turn their heart, and be forced to leave. That sounds hard, but it is clear that the defiling element must leave Yehudah because it is causing much trouble.

So, what about one of our troubled youth who was born here and suffered some under our lacks as the stem? He *believes*. His course is already set, for he was dedicated as a baby. He must follow the path of his parents. He cannot be a defiler or rebellious son. He must call on Yahshua and be delivered from the evil one.

You can apply John 3:18,19 to our children because the light has come to them and they loved darkness more than light because their deeds were evil, just like everyone else. So, that is why a child raised in the community must leave when he does not receive our Master, because his deeds are evil — so he cannot even remain in the community because no one who does bad deeds can stay in theedah.

Sometimes we have conscientious guests who remain with us several months in the community even though they are not baptised, but their deeds are not evil. Any guest who does any evil deed is judged to be here not to seek our Master but for some other reason, so we ask him to leave. We know that having such persons in this place would bring defilement. It is the same with the children who were born to us. They are not judged less strictly than the stranger in our midst, are they? “They are more accountable because they have heard the truth since they were babies.”

Our children must see the seriousness of the evil deeds they give themselves to, and the defilement it will bring to our people, and be done with it. They have inherited iniquities as their abbas and immas have, but these are things that are dealt with in salvation. They do not have to be free of these before their bar mitzvah for their parents have lived with that same thing for years... slowly plugging away at their enemies...

We have lots of “great disciples” in theedah who were far from perfect when they came into salvation, but they had to have a perfect attitude of repentance before they could start the race — their own personal race in this life to accomplish full restoration in every aspect of their

beings. Paul said in 2 Tim 4:7 that he *finished the course*. Paul did what he said in Phil 3:12 and 13 and 14.

Surely the “bad parents” in the edah have made some mistakes with the children, but we have tried our best to right those wrongs and give help to those children. They cannot keep using the excuses of “bad treatment as a child.” Most of us in the stem were treated far worse as children in our lives in the world, and Yahshua did not have any problem to save us. Surely we all bear scars, but that is not the focus of our life anymore, and neither should it be theirs. They must go on to serve our Master. Ezekiel 18 — Every person must die for his own sins, but the parents will die too if it was their fault. The judgment will take care of deciding whose fault everything was... but we must go on to give all our strength to Him now.

The course is set. The bar mitzvah is the place where the muddy water gets cleared. Will they take on their parents’ HEART or not? The parents in the edah all have good hearts. They may be faulty, but not evil. They have lacks, but not so great that salvation cannot remedy them. Yahshua is our salvation. He will help every man, woman, and child who calls upon Him. We have no excuses...

### **Response from Nun**

Thank you very much for your letter in reply to mine. It was very, very good and clear. This helps me understand what is happening there in Yehudah and how to build here in Asher. When you said, “This may sound hard, but it is clear that the defiling element must leave because it is causing much trouble,” I thought it wasn’t hard at all, but quite the opposite. The standard that Yoneq is trying to establish is for our future posterity — with an outlook to building on a solid foundation. Without this we will go off. If we can build clearly from the start (which in a way has already begun with Zakar’s Bar Mitzvah as an example) then future generations will have a solid footing to know how to judge between obedience (in crossing the line to Bar Mitzvah) and rebellion.

But even though we have begun here on the right footing I can see that there is still the need to fully understand what our Father wants to accomplish through this — overall in the tribes. There can be no “putting off ’til later” attitude in *our* children, who have been raised in the communities. As you said, their course has already been set, just as I told Yedidah at her son’s circumcision. It dawned on me that all the children born “in her” are already set on a course for the Holy City. They are not born for calamity, but for the City of God. Their eternal destiny has already been set, pre-determined, pre-destined according to choice. Our choice (as parents) automatically pre-determines our children’s course for eternity. So there has to come a point for them to cross the line and verify that destiny by consenting themselves to the covenant, in reality.

The only concern I have is that parents would see their great responsibility in establishing that standard. Our children must be raised according to Gen 18:19 as Yoneq has taught us. Otherwise, there is the danger having the “formality” of the standard (Bar Mitzvah), but the reality will not be there in the hearts of our children — nor in their parents. But Yoneq establishing the standard firmly in the communities confronts the rebellion in the hearts of “wayward children” and the tolerance of it in the hearts of the “wayward parents.” They are called to cross over or leave. This is very good. But we have then the greater responsibility in having such a standard to make sure that each child, from now on, is a true Bar Mitzvah. With the clearness of the standard our children will know what to expect at a much younger age. There will be no vagueness or misconceptions to have to deal with as they know what is clearly in front of them. This will make our children more responsible earlier on to the commandments of God, which their parents should be putting into them. I know that Bar Mitzvah isn’t going to deal with all the iniquities within them — they need our Father’s Spirit for that. But Bar Mitzvah should “set/seal” the heart (of Abraham) in them — to be sons or daughters of the commandment (to love Yahweh with all their heart, soul, strength and mind), and to not tolerate rebellion.

Giving the children who are rebellious, or even those who are borderline, this clear standard will keep us pure as an upcoming nation of twelve tribes. They cannot just be “falling

into listening to the radio” from now on. They have to be called to make a decision once and for all (like you said concerning Jn 3:18,19). They have had more than enough time to respond to the truth. It is a very serious thing. It isn't merely “falling” any longer, but it is “rebellion” — loving to do evil, more than coming to the light. I believe this clear standard will even be the grace they have been needing to hear so they could “cross the line.” But, they will have to fight like Paul did and keep on course. At least our Father will be there though within them, helping them, determined to not give up.

This is very encouraging to me. I love white and I love black. Grey is so confusing... I could comment in detail about all the other many aspects that your letter pointed out, like why would we treat our children any different or less strictly than how we treat guests that come to us. Guest who “do evil” must leave (they are here for no good purpose), so if our own children are in such a state they must follow suit. They are no different, just because they are “our” children. If they are allowed to remain they will bring defilement throughout the camp (as we have already seen). All I can see from your letter is that we, as parents/leaders, better get off our behinds and bring in the standard our God wants to raise up among us. That is very good, very good. Our children are much more accountable than our guests (in a way), for they have heard since birth the Words of God and they know more acutely the standard of God.

I need so much wisdom. I appreciate you helping me to see things rightly. I understand what you said about them using the excuses about “bad treatment” they received in the community. This is no excuse for them not to be saved from the evil within them. We were all raised far worse than even the “bad treatment” they may have experienced within the community. It just makes me sad though that this has happened here. I hope we will learn from things that have happened in our past and the parents will help each other more to get the grace they need before things become “problems.”

I was glad that you said we all have scars, but that this is not our focus. Wow, we're going somewhere, aren't we? Something so great is ahead of us. It's really happening! The

nation is being formed. We're developing normally. We are being saved from troubles that could cause us to abort.