

26 October 1995, Morning Minchah Sus, France

Being Devoted to Acts 2:42 — Part 2

Israel was to be redeemed. Lk 24:21 — *Redeem* is an amazing word. What does this word mean? Why is something being redeemed in the first place? *Redeem* — repurchase a possession that has been lost.

Israel has been lost obviously since our Master came to redeem Israel. Even man has been lost since our Master came to redeem man. Redemption brings us back to carry out our original, primary purpose. It restores us back to our original purpose in creation. Redemption bought us back to the purpose we were created for.

Also the first church was created — a new creation. He created man, man fell. He created Israel, Israel fell. He created the first edah, they fell. Now is the restoration to carry out what the first edah, Israel, and man should have done. The first edah redeemed Israel.

Acts 2:40 — With many other words. He probably went on for one, two, or three hours, explaining the covenant to them, all the commandments. Those who received his words were baptized. Right after they were baptized they were sealed with the Holy Spirit.

When you go down to the water, you have the Holy Spirit. You make your confession by the Holy Spirit; you are operating in the Holy Spirit, but you are not sealed with the Holy Spirit. If it wasn't like that, no one could make confession by the Holy Spirit. They made a covenant, and when you make a covenant you have to be loyal to that covenant.

The first things they did was Acts 2:40-42. They were devoted to these things. Peter told them what to do to have abundant grace upon them. Mt 28:18-20 — They were teaching them all the commandments. Jn 14:21-23 — I will abundantly supply them with grace, reveal Myself to them. They were devoted to the apostles' teaching and to what created the fellowship in the Body, the *koinonia* — they contributed, distributed in every way possible. Eph 4:16 — This is how the Body is finally built if every person does his part to the best of his ability according to the grace that is upon them. We are the restored remnant. The nation is going to be built upon us. We are going to be the example to the rest of the millions that come in as to how we are devoted to those four things.

We are to be devoted to the individual prayers. We won't have much corporate prayer if there aren't individual prayers. We have to be devoted to individual prayer, have a relationship with Him, remember Him affectionately. Restoration brings us back to the foundation of the first edah. If we are devoted to these four things, we are right on Yahshua. To be devoted to His word means to be devoted to Him. Also we can't be devoted to Him without being devoted to each other. Perpendicular and horizontal (like in a cross) — the perpendicular representing our relationship with our Father and the horizontal our relationship with our brothers and sisters. We have to have a relationship with the Word and with each other.

To the degree we are going to do that we will bring about the restoration of all things. No one has ever done it. People lack the ingredients, the essential things, so it has always fallen. Dan 2:44 — This kingdom won't be left to another people. It will not need to be redeemed again, like Israel, the first edah. We will have to be redeemed if we are not devoted to these things. It's going to take prayer to do it. It's really hard to pray, difficult, it's not easy. That's why you have to be devoted to it. It's especially hard if we don't do these other things. It all works together.

Dt 4:13 — We have to remember the commandments is the covenant. The people had the commandments even though they were on stone tablets. Now we have the commandments. If we are in the covenant we have the commandments. Our Master said, "Whoever has the

commandments in them..." We will have His commandments in us if we are devoted to the teachings and continue in the Word.

Jn 8:31-32 — I know so many people who aren't set free all over the place, and they eventually wind up being disloyal or treacherous. They aren't set free by the teachings. That's why we have to be devoted to the teachings. If He made a covenant with us, how can we be loyal except by His grace? It has to be reciprocal. Then we are set free. I have to be set free from what keeps me from praying, speaking. I have to be set free from self-regard, self-consciousness, from everything that holds me back from building up the Body.

Jn 8:31-32 — That's why we are to be devoted to the apostles' teaching.

Acts 20:25-27 — "I didn't withhold from you the whole complete Word, the Counsel of God, the gospel of grace and the gospel of the kingdom. Even some of you that I am speaking to right now, some of the elders will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them," verses 28-32. It was written for us, for our benefit. Not only from the outside people will come in, but from our own number, from our midst the wolves will come in.

We have to be on guard to the things we heard from the beginning so no one can come in, lead you astray like the first church. 2 Cor 11:3 — False prophets deceived her, false apostles seeking a following for themselves. Be on guard when someone teaches contrary to what you have heard. Watch out. Guard the fellowship, the Breaking of Bread, the minchah. Judge yourself before you go in.

It takes as much on our part as it took Yahshua to walk the earth for 33 years and then be crucified and go into death. We are a corresponding sacrifice so He won't be ashamed of us. "Here are My brothers; they were set free by My Word; they completely represented Me on earth." He is the head of the Body. If you have a complaint against the Body, you have a complaint against Yahshua. Let's be confident and not have the quirks and bents in us that destroy us. Let us overcome them. By His grace we can overcome to be what He has called and chosen us to be. If we don't overcome by His grace, the things that hinder us then we are not saying much to honor Him.

Remember this one thing: Paul said, "On that foundation we have laid, doing these four things..." — the apostles' teaching, the Breaking of Bread, prayer, *koinonia*. Make sure we are building right, with precious stones, gold, silver, not wood, hay and straw. Wood, hay and straw are going to be burned up. They have no benefit for our Master. Build with what is going to endure through the fire. The day will test it. We are either devoted to these things or not. If we are we will be building with gold, silver, precious stones.

A destroyer is indifferent. He won't take this to heart. He is not for Yahshua. If you are not for Me, you are against Me — Mt 12:30. One person builds up, one tears down by being hardened. Yahshua can't reveal Himself to such a one because he isn't keeping the commandment. The covenant is the commandments. If it's too hard ask for grace...

Acts 4:33 — The first edah had abundant grace. We need the same grace. We know where to get it. He doesn't expect us to do it without grace. He gives grace to the humble, but resists the proud. Humble yourself before His mighty hand, and He will lift you up.

Read 1 Cor 3 — You will see the builders and destroyers.