

May 18, 1994, Morning Sacrifice Boston

Circumcision of Faith 1

N'Su — Heb 11:32-38 I was thinking that the circumcision of faith we received like the faith of Abraham is what we need to cut off the flesh. All of these men in Hebrews were weak men, but they went through things by the strength our Father provided for them. They loved Him more than their own flesh. I want to be just like them and love Him more than my own flesh. They had forsaken the world to follow our God. Their hearts were circumcised. I don't want to just tolerate sin in my life and go on doing things in my own strength, but I want to hate the flesh — I want my sin to hurt me, to disturb and upset me to the point of cutting off the flesh, so I can have the faith to receive what our Father has promised to us and enter the land.

Keli — It is so wonderful that we can be totally dependent on our Father — that's how the people of old lived. When the children of Israel were at the Red Sea they were stuck there, but our Father opened it up for them. That's the point we're at right now. We need houses everywhere in the different clans — we are right at the Red Sea. Somehow our Father has to deliver us. I'm so thankful to be in a place where we are just waiting to see what He is going to do. We can totally depend on Him.

Huldah — I am thankful for what we are hearing about circumcision. When we were talking about this I remembered that Yoneq told me at Bekor's circumcision that my heart would be circumcised through me laying my hands on my son and restraining him and feeling the pain of his circumcision. I remember how much it hurt. I cried because I felt Bekor's pain. It was so hard to restrain my sons at their circumcisions and see them suffer. I want it to be that I would hurt if I live by my own flesh, and that I would cut it off and depend on our Father. I was so thankful to hear that we need to be weak so we will depend on our God, like Abraham did. He was a humble man, but he trusted our Father. I want to live like that today.

In Gen 17:10, our Father said, "This is My covenant which you shall keep between me and you and your descendants after you . . . ." He was speaking of the outward sign of circumcision that they would wear to remind them of the covenant made with Abraham and his descendants (vs.11). He said that a sign of the covenant is that He would do everything He promised as long as we depend on Him. He took Abraham out to look at the stars and promised him that his descendants would outnumber them. He told Abraham that he would possess the land.

Gen 15:10 — He told Abraham to bring the animals and cut them in two and lay them on opposite sides and the vultures came and tried to take them, but Abraham drove them away. (This was a very significant thing, but it has to be revealed to us what the significance is of those vultures). Then a deep sleep fell upon Abraham and great darkness came over him. Abraham experienced a taste of what death would be like if the covenant was not kept. Even our God would have to experience death, if He did not keep that covenant. Jer 34:18. He's going to give

us (from among the nations — Matt 21:43) the grace to overcome and be those who will keep that covenant He made with Abraham. Gal 3:16,29.

Gen 15:10-18 — The animals had to be selected, cut and sacrificed. Vs.7 — the land is the most significant part of the covenant — without the land there's no way it will come about. In the next age we (the Edah, His special people) who bring about the inheritance promised Abraham and his descendant (Is 49:8) will be inhabiting the earth (Rev 2:26) and bringing His salvation to the whole world. We will extol the glories of our Master Yahshua, to those who have never seen Him, and we will get them to go up to Jerusalem once a year. Our Father chose Abraham and me and you to have the grace and faith to keep the covenant of Gen 18:19 in order for Gen 15:18 to come about.

God Himself walked through those animals and said that if He couldn't put His love in man's heart to the extent that they would love Him more than their own flesh and trust in Him, then He would experience the horror of death.

So you can see Israel's ultimate failure to become a nation united in peace. For years they fell in and out of rebellion, they didn't keep the Sabbath as their holy day, they were constantly bickering and fighting tribal wars, and always murmuring and complaining about things they went through. They complained about having too many children instead of thanking our Father that they had children to command that would receive an inheritance. They never saw the year of Jubilee come.

So our Master came to experience the horror of death so we would not have to, so we could have the grace to experience the covenant. Will our Father not give to us what we ask for? If we ask for faith, He'll give us faith. If we ask for grace, He'll give us grace. If we ask for power, He'll give us power. If we ask for strength, He'll give us strength. It's all totally accessible to us, but we have to ask! We have to cut off the flesh to get it. It's hard to get through the obstinacy in our flesh and ask, but those who don't ask will die — they will be cast into utter darkness. Our Master Yahshua's death will have been in vain because we didn't let Him die that death for us. So we'll have to experience it ourselves, Gen 15:13 — (this is talking about Israel being enslaved for

400 years). If we obey Him we will not experience death, because He made a covenant with us Gen 15:18.

Look up 1 Sam 15 — Our Father punished Amalek and told Samuel to go and utterly destroy all that he had because of what he did to Israel (nothing left — not women, children, cattle, babies). 1 Sam 15 is trying to teach us to cut off the flesh, to hearken (*qashab*) — to listen and receive faith. Gen 15 is what we're living for, and also Isa 49:8. He's chosen us to be a light to all the world and to finally bring about the promises — the desolate inheritances that have been for 4,000 years. They came to the land, but they didn't crucify the flesh. We are saved, but we need to crucify the flesh.

God alone walked through the animals that Abraham cut in two and He said, "I will go through it and if My love is not so great that I can not capture the human heart, then I Myself will go to death and stay in darkness." He thought when people saw His great love (His glory revealed) that they would give their whole life to Him — this was His predetermined plan, 2 Cor 4:3,14.

Is 53:10,11 — He saw in time that at the end of this age (6,000 years) there would be a people (1 Cor 10:11) who would profit from the mistakes, errors and sins that our forefathers made. They would see and say, "Yes, that's right." Rom 15:4 — We're that people who see the failures of old Israel in the scriptures, so that we might have hope. 1 Cor 10:6, 7, 8, 11. They were our example who went before us. Gen 15:18 — We see that our Father made a covenant. The twelve tribes in the next age will be the pre-eminent people. They are going to be an example to the nations.

They will flow in to Jerusalem to see a people who are praising their king with the patriarchs who are governing the twelve tribes of Israel. Matt 19:28. Those who overcome from among us (the Gentiles) will rule over the nations. Wherever your homeland is, you'll probably go back there in the next age Rev 2:26.

Gen 15:18; Gen 17:8 — This is the promise in the covenant of circumcision if you as parents make that vow and are determined to do it from your heart and not in ritual — Abraham's circumcision wasn't a ritual, but for Israel later on, it became a ritual. Even the priests began going to the sacrifices without really preparing. They didn't want to get up in the morning to

make a sacrifice. We can be like that too, just coming because we're supposed to — just a ritual. Gen 15:18 talks about the land of Israel from the Euphrates to the river of Egypt. He will be our God — we are the sons of Abraham Gal 3:29. If we're in Him (which we are) we're the seed of Abraham. Gen 17:10 — His descendants are still doing it. He still has that people who are circumcising their children in hope and faith. Gen 18:19 — If you are the seed of Abraham, you have the ability and power and right to command your children. If you're not in the covenant, you won't be able to. But since you are, you will be able to command them. The covenant that our Father made with Abraham was for his descendants after him and it was so implanted in their hearts that they would command their children after them.

But Gen 18:19 didn't continue after him like he was commanded. So we have to take it up for him until the male child is sent out Matt 21:43. Even in Rom 4 it speaks of the faith of Abraham and how he received the sign of circumcision — the seal — the outward sign of what was in his heart.

So we have faith even before we are circumcised. Rom 4 talks about us! vs.13 — Faith has to come. The promise is of no effect if it is ritual. It must be by faith. vs.16, 17, 18, 19, 20. It goes to show you who Abraham trusted in. What our Father promised to Abraham was an impossibility without faith, but Abraham kept on being fully convinced that what He promised He was able to perform. Abraham didn't waiver and we have the same faith that he had. So we make the Jews and other people who don't have faith jealous. That's the very reason why you're breathing — but you don't understand it all, because faith has to be given to you, little by little. How are we going to keep the covenant? By trusting in Him. Phil 2:12-13 — We work out our salvation in fear and trembling having self-distrust, not trusting in ourselves (thinking we can do it without Him). We get caught up in the cares of living and don't put our trust in Him. If we don't have faith we're not saved, because we're saved by faith.

ha-Emeq — Phil 2:14 — This is the best verse. Whatever He promised, He has the power to fulfill. God is at work in you to bring about His good pleasure — His predetermined plan. We can't even think along those lines. We think our good pleasure is having ice cream! We can't think about our good pleasure. We bring about His will by doing His good pleasure — by doing the things that please Him.

Why are you here? Who are you living for? Why were you chosen? Do you know our Master? Do you know Abraham? We are to walk in his footsteps. John 8:39 — Who are you? If you're the seed of Abraham, you'll do what he did. Satan tries to destroy — he puts plants in the Body. Where do tares come from? He puts them here and they grow up and try to destroy. They work against faith. But somehow we are miraculously still here. Do we have things in our life that discourage us? Are we bogged down by our own problems or do we see the final goal we are striving to attain to? What is our will for? To turn our will over to His will. Phil 2:13 — To WILL is to do His good pleasure. That's what we have a will for — to give it over to Him. Our Master said, "Not My will, but Your will be done." Paul said if we live by the flesh we're going to see the horror of darkness. If we live by the flesh we'll die, but if we live by the spirit, we'll have life and peace. Your will is where decisions are made — not in the intellect, but in the will. The will has the final say-so of whether we live by the flesh or by the Spirit. You can't even give your bodies as a living sacrifice unless you use your will. You will over your body for grace to come to you. If it doesn't, you're living in the flesh. You have a regenerated spirit which is able to rule over your will. Gal 2:20 — I no longer live, but Messiah in Me. Let's give our bodies as a living sacrifice.