

July 14, 1996

Asl

Families

In Jer 31:1 it says that YHWH will be the God of all the *families* of Israel. In the *latter days* you will understand this — Jer 30:24. This means that we will understand (in the last days) what His Will is concerning the word *family*. Ps 68 should be fulfilled, which says, "He is the defender of widows and orphans." He makes a *home* for the lonely. This is in reference to the widow and the orphan. This means any brother, sister, or widow who no longer has a *direct covering*. Everyone should be covered — *under the direct care of shepherds*. When one follows Messiah the sword is brought and more often than not the "natural" father or mother or husband, for one reason or another, is no longer there to provide the protection, counsel, and safety which was there formerly. So Ps 68 can only be accomplished by the inclusion of such *orphans* or *widows* in the Edah with special care from designated shepherds. That way everyone will be provided for, covered, and protected.

He is the Defender of the orphan and the widow. There must be order. There must be care. We cannot allow those who have lost father, mother, or husband to go defenseless. The heads of families or certain leaders need to provide the *defense*. They can speak on their behalf. They should govern the activities of such people within the Body so as not to be neglected or abused in any way.

This could be done by appointment. Meaning certain single brothers or sisters or widows within the households could be assigned to certain *heads* to cover and look after them. The household head must, of course, keep a pulse on his own particular household, but he must see to it that there are no orphans or widows within his household not being provided for. There are certain logistic problems with this, and it may sometimes be difficult because we often move from place to place. But we must be on the alert to give special care to the single, the orphan, and the widow in our midst (even if they are just with you for a visit). This will ensure that everyone passes "under the rod." Not one sheep will be missing from the flock, unaccounted for. All will

have the surety of protection and defense, and as a result the prophecies of Jeremiah and David will find their fulfillment.

God has so designed the Edah that within it's own confines, the kindly care, love, and authority of God is made manifest through the protective care.

The word *congregation* in Jer 30:20 is more accurately rendered *community* or *Edah* — witness. YHWH says, "Their community shall be established before Me." He is still in the process of establishing His Community.

Everyone will be *established* (set right, firmly held in place) through being a part of the *families* of Israel. Each household should be like a true family with care and protection for all. If everyone is included within a family system, then no one will be overlooked. Then it can truly be said that *He is the God of all the families of Israel*. In the latter days you will understand.