

16 January 1993, Breaking of Bread Londrina, Brazil

The Mind of Messiah

When we lift up our sacrifice, it is to praise YAHSHUA's name. YAHSHUA is the word. The word became flesh. He became a man. Man is God's highest creation — man as he is supposed to be, as he was in the beginning, as he will be after he is restored — man. Everything is made for man and man is held responsible for how he treats creation which he is destroying. We want to worship our God who made all things and who is going to destroy, with this world, all the things which have a part in destroying. We have to work along with Him in restoring. Even though it is impossible to restore the earth, He has provided another age. Those who are with Him in this age will go over into the next age with Him and restore the earth to YAHSHUA, our King.

When we lift up our hands we are saying that we are in unity, our hands are not defiled — they have not caused hurt to anyone, and that we are one — there is no separation negating that unity. If you are not able to forgive, we can't lift up our hands. Paul instructed men to lift up their hands. We love this Messiah YAHSHUA with our life (2 Cor 5:15). We remain excluded from His kingdom as long as we live for ourselves. He died for all, so after hearing the good news, there is no excuse for living for yourself — only selfishness. The whole essence of His becoming a man was to die for me to relieve my guilt and now I live for Him. Unless a person is laying his life down for his brothers, he cannot know he has passed out of death. We know we have a good conscience and that we can break that bread tonight because we have judged ourselves. We trust Him enough to give everything to Him. The law renews and restores the soul. Our minds are being renewed now (Rom 12:2). We are transformed by the renewing of our mind, not loving the world and the things of the world — the things that crucified Messiah. There is a transformation that has to take place now. Paul said we have to have the mind of Messiah (1 Cor 1:10; 2 Cor 2:16). The Corinthians obviously did not have the same mind, but we must come to have the mind of the Messiah. It will not be given to us, but we gain it by being transformed — by being separated from the world and brought into the environment where the

Holy Spirit renews our mind. We are gaining the mind of Messiah now. We are learning it in this age so that in the next age we will know what to do — that is salvation.

Things didn't work out for Judas' mind. He had it all worked out how it should happen, but YAHSHUA said no, that's not how it is. And Judas didn't trust. And the others all betrayed him too. They simply didn't trust after all He'd said and done in the prior three and a half years. When we go through hard times and suffering and we don't turn away from Him, we continue trusting in Him, believing He is our Master and our lives are His. We endure. Those who have done that this week, drink the victory cup. That is having fellowship, communion, love, joy, peace, thinking the best, forbearing, this is the way we learn to have the mind of Messiah.

#### Story of Yochannan the Baptizer

Ha-emeq told a story:

This book is the new covenant. The old covenant has the law. Malachi said there is going to come a day when Elijah is going to come and restore something. In Malachi, many things were spoken and then it ended with a promise and then — silence — nobody spoke anymore.

The people were waiting for God but nothing came. When will Elijah come? There was a priest whose name was very important. Did you know that your name is important? There was a priest named Zachariah. It means 'YHWH remembers'. He was a good man, a priest in the temple. Sometimes he thought that maybe YHWH forgot about him because for so long nobody heard anything. Zachariah was married to Elisheva. It means 'made an oath'. 'He remembers' and 'swore an oath' — they both were crying out to their God. They had no children, though they were so good. But Zachariah always prayed for a son.

One day he thought about the promise in Malachi that someone was going to come to bring about a restoration. It was Zachariah's turn to go and put incense in the temple and he saw someone standing there. "Who was it?" he wondered. He was scared. The person said "YHWH remembers," (that was his name) "Don't be afraid, because He has heard your prayers and Elisheva is going to have a son." This was the first thing anyone has heard from YHWH in years and years and years. "You are going to have a son and you are going to name him Yochanan

'YHWH's grace'. Zachariah was past the time of having children and his wife was too. But the angel said, "He will be your joy and delight and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of YHWH; he must drink no wine, no strong drink; even from his mother's womb he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, and he will turn many of the Israelites back to their God because he is going to come in the spirit and power of Elijah to go before him to turn the hearts of the fathers to the hearts of the children." That's the last thing the prophet had spoken so long ago, and now it was coming true! It's too good to be true. And he was so old. And it didn't make sense. And him of all people. So he just expressed his little bit of doubt — just a little bit. That was enough for the angel. "I am Gabriel, from the presence of God and I have been sent to you to tell you this good news." Finally YHWH had an order to send him. He finally had a message for man after so long: "Yochanan is going to have the spirit and power of Elijah to prepare the way for something great."

So Zachariah was disciplined for doubting the angel, but Elisheva conceived and they had a son. YHWH remembers and made an oath had a son and named him Yochanan. He was going to be like the Elijah. He was going to prepare the way for who? For YAHSHUA the Son of God Himself. Somehow, for YAHSHUA to come was a real bumpy road, and Yochanan's job was to make the way straight. He had a hard job. He had to move big mountains. Yochanan's life was a rough life. "You've got to get ready." And many people heard the voice of Elijah telling them to get ready. And some were getting their hearts ready. "Clean your heart out!" It was hard work, but he put his hands to the work. Until one day Yochanan said, "There He is, it's YAHSHUA." And then YAHSHUA went on doing His work, doing His work. Then people came to Yochanan, "Hey, that man who came after you is getting more crowds than you." Do you think it bothered Yochanan? No. He said, "I have to get less and less and He has to get more. I'm from the earth but He's from heaven." He was full of the dedication of his abba, Zachariah. [Luke 3].

Yochanan was telling people what they were doing wrong so they could see their need for YAHSHUA. He was exposing their sins. He didn't hold back. And so he offended some people, including some officials. And so Yochanan was put in prison. Yochanan was thinking,

"Soon YAHSHUA is going to take over. Soon righteousness and justice is going to rule."

Yochanan's friends visited him in prison and told him all the about the things YAHSHUA was doing, miraculous things, and what He was saying. Yochanan would ask them, "Are things going towards Him? Is he taking over yet? Are the people following Him? Think of all the people I baptized." "Well, there are crowds, but nothing is really happening." And Yochanan started to think and, remember his abba?, what he did? — doubt. It wasn't that he was a bad man. But he saw in an earthly way — it didn't seem possible. He was from the earth. He had an earthly ministry, tearing down mountains and raising up valleys. And he wondered, "Was I wrong?" And he sent a message, asking a question, "YAHSHUA, are you the one or is there someone else we should be expecting?" So his friends went to YAHSHUA, "We're from Yochanan in prison. But he has a question, "Are you the one or should we expect someone else?" YAHSHUA told them, "Go back to Yochanan and tell him, 'The blind see, lepers are cured, the lame walk, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, the good news is being told to poor needy people and,' tell him this, 'blessed is he who does not stumble over Me.'" That went right into Yochanan's heart. He knew He was the one. There's not someone else. There's another kingdom He's talking about. His kingdom is another kingdom. "Why did I doubt." He repented with all his heart. Then the guards came in and now, Yochanan's job was finished. Remember Yochanan had said that YAHSHUA was going to get greater and he was going to get less? Well, his work was done. Yochanan stood firm. "The king wants your head." Yochanan wasn't afraid — he knew another kingdom was coming. He put out his neck to the sword. Many will have to give their lives, even your sons. It didn't matter to Yochanan. He gave his life even to death for YAHSHUA. But he had vision. All his doubts were gone.

On this earth no one was greater than Yochanan, until YAHSHUA. But YAHSHUA said the least in the kingdom was greater than Yochanan. He went to death for a little while until he saw the gates of death open up and his friend came to deliver him from death. The new kingdom, the other kingdom. YAHSHUA never opened the gates of the king's castle, but He opened the

gates of death — he opened the new kingdom. [YAHSHUA always knew he wasn't going to take over the king's castle.]

Yoneq — The reason our Master quoted Isaiah 51 when John the baptizer said, "Are you the one or is there someone else?" Therefore He quoted the very prophecy about YAHSHUA. And so when Yochanan got the word, he said, "ok that's it then, YAHSHUA is the Son of God and the prophecy is fulfilled." And it cleared up his head. How would you feel if you were in a rat infested prison? Most people thought the Messiah was going to start the kingdom up right then. It wasn't revealed to John the baptizer that 2000 years would come between YAHSHUA's first and second coming. John the baptizer didn't have complete revelation, it wasn't given to him. But blessed is he who does not stumble no matter what he has to go through. If he has to go to prison — even if he has to go through hard times. Like sometimes we go through certain trials and what enters into our mind? "Blessed is he who does not stumble because of what happens to you because of Me." Don't stumble just because you are in prison and they want your head. Don't stumble now, because the time is coming when we are going to go through great suffering. Your children are going to be killed, we'll be killed, suffer, be put in prison — and then will be your time to not stumble.

How do we take a little bit of hardship now? A time is coming, when hard times come, that among yourselves you'll find that people's love grows cold — betraying one another. But blessed (with the kingdom) is he who does not stumble because of what he has to go through. (Blessed always means with the kingdom — how else?) If you can't go through a little bit of suffering now, what's going to happen when you go through a lot?

Emet — I have to go to the throne of grace and then take a step walking in the direction of the light. I can't just wait there for this burst of energy to come to me. I have to take the first step.

If you draw near to Him (James 4:8), He'll draw near to you. That's what we have to do: we have to draw near to Him because we are the one who moved.

There are two aspects of the gospel. First let people see the hope in us. Don't put the cart before the horse. First they fall in love with our Master. First the essential gospel of how YAHSHUA was the Son of God, how He loved you and the wonderful aspects of our Master YAHSHUA. Then they might say, "What must I do?" Then you explain what they have to do to be obedient to the gospel. And then you see whether they believe or not. Be wise. Make them thirsty. Fish. Don't drive people away before they hear the good news. Tell them how He had a purpose for them, died for them, has a plan for them. Tell them about putting their hand on the sacrifice. Let's present Him rightly. Be wise, pray for wisdom.

When we say He is Sovereign, it means we don't have any sovereignty left — we gave it all up to Him. When we say Master or Lord, we mean sovereign, we mean that He is the king.