

September 1, 1996

Asl

Our Father's Dwelling Place

Dear Racham,

It is the Sabbath over here in Asher and it was on my heart to write to you and express my thanks for you and the whole tribe of Judah. We as a tribe are so indebted to our big brother. We wouldn't exist if it wasn't for your sacrifices. My wife and I are so grateful for how you have helped us with training needs, we would be lost without you.

It is encouraging to know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brethren. We have been hearing a lot about our Father's dwelling place. Our Father is forming His city, a priestly city on the earth. A city is not a bunch of buildings, like Sydney, but a place where people belong together. A city is people. This city dwells amongst men. He dwells in us and we dwell in the midst of the nations.

Our Father has always been longing for a people that could be His dwelling place. Man was always created to manifest God's presence. We are the most like God and we are created to express His character more than anything. More than the sun, the stars, and the universe. We are the highest creation.

Israel of old was supposed to be God's dwelling place, but they as a nation were never faithful. Our Father led them out of the captivity of Egypt and they longed for a better country, a land of promise. The same thing was in Abraham's heart when he left Ur. In his heart he longed for a place where he could dwell where God was the foundation. So Israel of old was led through the wilderness by our Father with the Shekinah glory in front of them. This was the manifested presence of our Father. This pillar of fire was incredibly awesome, convicting evidence that our Father was with Israel. Eventually our God chose to dwell in the temple in Jerusalem, in the very center of that city. But all this was a type of what He truly desired.

He desired to dwell in the very center of man's heart. He desired to actually take up residence in man himself. That is what our Father desires. That He could manifest Himself in a people and they would radiate His glory. If God had a city, what would it look like? It seems like it would provide conclusive evidence that God dwelt there. We have to provide more evidence than the Shekinah glory. There has to be a fire dwelling in our hearts and we need to really manifest His presence. Our love for one another and our God is going to be that startling effect upon the nations. We know we are His disciples because we love each other and bear much fruit. It is so simple, yet it is hidden from the intelligent and the "wise" and has been revealed to us. It is even hidden from us when we are not seeking Him and desiring to stay in communion.

It is amazing. How are we going to make it? The answer is devotion to our Master. He desires us to be devoted to "*koinonia*" (participation, contribution, and distribution in His Body)

and this is only possible if we are in Communion. All our problems are way too obvious but they aren't what we should focus on. In Matt 6 he taught us how to pray. We need to pray that our Father would finally come on the Earth, that He would get what He has been waiting for, for 6,000 years, and that His name would be made great on the earth through us, by the way we live, that we would have authority to speak because are living out our words. If our hearts are turned and desiring these things then we will receive grace and our Father will protect us when we ask Him to deliver us from the evil one. We just need to keep our hearts turned towards Him. And when we fall we get up and repent. We have the throne of grace to run to. First for grace to overcome, and if our hearts are right we can receive mercy, and then we can continue participating in our Master's Body, building it up. Living in the Body is not going along for the ride, it is devotion to koinonia, the apostles' teaching, the breaking of bread, and prayer.

There is so much more I could write but Chên will leave soon. I am so thankful for all the brothers and sisters in Judah and how generous they have always been to us. It is almost embarrassing the love you have for us. But it is that embarrassing love that will build up our Father's nation. I love and appreciate your life and how you pour out your life on our children. Without the next generation we are lost.

In Yahshua's name,
Your friend,
Israel