

The Virus¹

One or two evenings ago Yoneq gave thanks for the virus that has been affecting many people here in Sus. It seems to be a rather strong virus taking people out of functioning for one week and it has been spreading continuously. Like all things work out for good for those who are called according to God's purpose, there must have been something good in all of this since our Father allowed this to happen.

After our Master arose He spent time with the disciples before He ascended. In one of those occasions they asked Him when He'd restore the kingdom to Israel. His answer was that it was not for them to know times and epochs which the Father fixed by His own authority. Their job was to be filled with the Spirit and preach the gospel even to the remotest parts of the earth (Acts 1:6-7).

He probably knew that the first church would fall away, that they would serve as an example for us upon whom the ends of this age have come. It would have been too discouraging, too devastating for them to know this at that point. They went through the things that came upon them to assure that those at the end of this age might make it. If we read the epistles, which are corrective letters from the apostles to the communities, we can see and learn a lot. Even though the letter of James was written by a man named James, we don't know which James it was. It must have been a James who wrote to the second generation (in the second century) of the church, because we can see that a falling away from Acts 2 and 4 had happened. All kinds of things were going on. What happened?

Paul was writing to the Corinthians about grumbling and complaining, about not loving Yahshua affectionately, about being divided, being carnal, not receiving apostolic authority... about destroying the Body. There is no difference between destroying the corporate Body of Messiah (the church) and His personal body (as it was tortured and crucified). Those who do this are guilty of the body and blood of Messiah, guilty of destroying the community and the life

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of the community, the life of Messiah. This can happen in many ways. By holding resentment, bitterness, envy, jealousy, being unkind, holding back our lives, seeking our own glory, doing our own thing, lawlessness, thinking of ourselves higher than others, providing only for our own needs, having our own ideas of how and where we should function in the body and what we should do as opposed to being a servant, judging others according to the flesh. It is things like these if they go unchecked that destroy and divide the Body and cause us to be guilty of the body and blood of our Master.

So what is our safeguard? Our Father provided our bodies with an immune system. It is the most wonderful and amazing protection. It has the capability to deal with every disease, and anything that would cause harm and break down our bodies. The white blood cells, the lymphocytes are the most free-moving cells in the body. No other cell can move around in the body as freely as a lymphocyte. Lymphocytes clean up poisons and wastes in the body and they also deal with foreign elements in the body, intruders like bacteria and viruses. There is an information center where lymphocytes are trained to deal with especially dangerous intruders: This is the thymus gland behind the sternum below the thyroid gland. They did not know too much about the thymus gland until about 35 years ago and what is being discovered is very exciting. It is as new as space travel.

For example if the thymus gland is taken out of a newborn mouse, the little mouse won't have a functioning immune system for lack of a training center for the lymphocytes. This little mouse only can live in a completely germ free environment. You could transplant any organ into this mouse and it would not reject it, but a simple cold virus would be absolutely deadly. In the best case this little mouse without a thymus gland could live three months. Then it would die with an infection.

The information of the Body of Messiah is the word. It trains our spiritual immune system to deal with whatever would destroy us. Everything happened as an example for us and it is written down for our information, upon whom the end of this age has come. It is written down so that we could make it. The information is there; we need to get it. Why do you think it is

written down? Of course so that we would read it. That's why we have to read it and be careful about having an attitude of, "Oh, no another teaching, oh, no, time to read the Bible again."

Yahshua is the word and however we relate to the word we relate to Him.

Col 1:10 is everything. We have to walk in a manner worthy of our Master and the word tells us how we walk in a manner worthy of Him. And if we don't, we have to confess it and forsake it. We have the word, the information, and we have the Spirit. The Spirit examines us and trains us through the word.

A virus came into the first church. Someone introduced it and then it spread like leaven. More and more people were affected, eventually all of them were wiped out and the community was destroyed. We have the information about this virus, we know what it is and how it works and destroys and we know how to deal with it and how to fight it. The information is right there — we can read about it. What came upon them doesn't need to come upon us.

We have the preparation time before the sacrifices and we especially have the victory cup. This is like our immune system. That's where we examine ourselves with the help and input of Ruach ha Kodesh. Everything depends on the word. It feeds and nourishes us, it strengthens our immune system. If we want a strong, healthy immune system we need a lot of training, input by the word. The more we have of Yahshua, the better equipped we are to recognize and deal with our enemy, the greater hope we have to rule with Him in the next age.

Our Father is retraining our immune system. It is a very serious thing to not walk in a manner worthy of our Master and then drink the victory cup and go to the Breaking of Bread, never examining ourselves confessing and forsaking it. Then the virus is in, destroying us and our immune system is not able to recognize it, much less deal with it. This is destroying the Body, being guilty of the body and blood of our Master. Many in Corinth didn't walk in a manner worthy of Yahshua. They didn't judge it. They were judged. Many in Sardis didn't walk in a manner worthy of Him. Rev 3:4 — Many in the first church didn't. That's why Rev 19:7 hasn't come about. The bride has not made herself ready, compatible, comparable, worthy.

A virus came in and destroyed them. Our Master won't drink the victory cup again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom, until the bride has overcome all these viruses and our Master will be able to drink the victory cup again with her in the kingdom. That is the fulfillment He was talking about. The fulfillment of His victory. He indeed won't drink it anymore until He drinks it with her.

The New English Bible left out Lk 22:20. In the account of the last supper in Luke it talks about two cups. Since it doesn't talk about two cups in the other gospel accounts of the last supper, the translators thought that it must be a mistake. They did not understand. It is enough that it is in one account. That is all we need. They cut it right out. It is like cutting your immune system out. Of course there is no way that they can deal adequately with the viruses after that. What can you expect. That's why the Christian churches are full of sickness and wounds (Jer 6:7).

What can we say after that? We have everything, all the information we need in order to make it and to not become like the first church became.

Our immune system is our self-judgment for the victory cup — examination by Ruach ha Kodesh through the word, confession and renouncing. This keeps the Body clean, strong, pure and healthy.

We are thankful that our Father is speaking to us and restoring our immune system. We know as long as He is speaking to us we are alive. We praise Him because we are alive.