



HIDDEN TREASURES DURING THE MONTH *of Tamuz*

MARK RANTZ

Within Judaism, the Hebrew month of Tamuz offers powerful imagery of both sobering reflection and hope for redemption and restoration. While falling within early Summer, this noteworthy month marks the beginning of our national descent into mourning (as seen later in the month of Av and Tisha B'Av), when we remember the calamity that led to the destruction of both Temples. Yet, with it, and amidst tears, we uncover the miracles of teshuvah (repentance), emunah (trust), and hatkivah (hope) for total restoration, from a God who loves us!



From our Messianic perspective, the month of Tamuz serves as a beacon of hope from Heaven and the very Heart of our Father with covenantal faithfulness, and redemptive purposes fulfilled alone in Yeshua our Messiah. When drawing from rabbinical sources, our Sages aptly note that Tamuz is best defined as a month of the breach. But why would this be their conclusion, and what does it communicate to us? In answer, the most significant biblical parallel to Tamuz is found in Parashah Ki Tisa (Exod. 30:11-34:35), and namely in chapter 32 as Moses descends Mount Sinai, finding the children of Israel worshipping the Golden Calf. Within our Tikkun network, we have given much discussion to what the Scriptures speak of vividly - covenant! As such, the breaking of the tablets by Moses can symbolize in our minds what we all know sin accomplishes, ... a rupture in covenantal intimacy with our Heavenly Father. This is exemplified in the book of Jeremiah, stating,

"Be appalled at this, O heavens! Be utterly horrified and dumbfounded. It is the declaration of Adonai. My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me - the spring of living water - and they have dug their own cisterns - cracked cisterns that hold no water." (Jer. 2:12-13 TLV)

To this passage, one might then accurately ask, Where and how have we as the human family, both Jew and Gentile alike, exchanged covenant relationship with the Living God for the empty promises of broken and defiled cisterns? To this question, Exodus 32 reminds us that the breaking of the tablet in the moment pleased Adonai (Shabbat 87a) because a people “broken” by sin and the severing of covenant relationship, can only be repaired by a renewal of covenant initiated in love for us by God! A sign of such restoration is seen in the Torah when God commands in Exodus 34 that Moses, to carve a second set of holy tablets for the Aseret haDibrot, or Ten Utterances (Ten Commandments). For us as believers, this is a powerful reminder of what God has done for us in Messiah Yeshua. Just as with the fall of Adam and Eve, so with Ki Tisa and the Golden Calf, God would have been justified in leaving us where we were, as the actions and intentions of our hearts defamed His holy Name! Yet, in the midst of our greatest despair, Adonai in Messiah Yeshua and His perfect sacrifice rescues us from ourselves. The foundation of reality is seen first in the Tanakh as we read,

“Moreover, I will give you a new heart. I will give you a new heart. I will put a new spirit in you. I will remove the stony heart from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Ruach [Spirit] within you. Then I will cause you to walk in My laws, so you will keep My rulings and do them. Then you will live in the land that I gave to your fathers. You will be My people, and I will be your God.” (Ezek. 36:26-28 TLV)





Now, I don't know about you, but when I read this passage from the prophet Ezekiel, I find the very link that ties it all together, where God in every generation and at every season seeks us out for healing, redemption, restoration, and life - even when our rebellion and sin have separated us from Adonai.

Historically, as with Kisa Tisa and the Golden Calf, the 17th of Tamuz brings even more insight as that date marks the breaching of the walls of Jerusalem, and begins the three-weeks of Bein HaMetzarim, or between the narrow places. Such reminds us of our own spiritual vulnerability because of sin, and when our defenses fall, and the façade of our own imaginary strength falls in ruin, while judgment draws near. It is that place, where, of our own doing or ability, we can find no haven apart from the loving arms of our loving Father who is quick and ready to forgive. We forget in our brokenness that God transcends all time, and reality had already planned and set into motion the steps for your own healing and redemption. It is the Lord, who has always seen you, and from before time was time, had already made available a way for the miracles of teshuvah (repentance), emunah (trust), and hatkivah (hope) for total restoration in your life!

Friends, as we enter into the month of Tamuz and prepare our hearts for the months of Av and Tishrei and the hopes promised and fulfilled during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we must never forget that through all of it, God desires that we come home to Him.

We have all wandered far too long in the wilderness of our own pains and brokenness, and the Lord is pleading with you today. Will you, today, surrender and allow this to be the time that you run to His loving arms of compassion and healing? Do we hear Messiah's heart compassion, and warning concerning the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE as He wept over Jerusalem, saying,

"As He [Yeshua] drew near and saw Jerusalem, He wept over her, saying, 'If only you recognized this day the things that lead to shalom! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you when your enemies will surround you with barricades and hem you in on all sides. And they will smash you to the ground - you and your children within you. And they won't leave within you one stone upon another. because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.'" (Luke 19:41-44 TLV)

Such is a powerful reminder for every one of us that Yeshua desires to repair and restore the breaches and torn down places in our own hearts during this Holy Season, but will we recognize and welcome **"the time of [our] visitation."** Our Lord is not a God who sits on a mountain with a ruler, ready and eager to crack our knuckles in anger and rejection. Instead, God has given us all this holy time as an opportunity to experience His love and healing like never before. We do not have to live in fear or uncertainty that He will accept us - because He already has, and we are forever safe in Him. From God's very heart, therefore, hear and can receive these redemptive words,

"Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matt. 11:28-29 TLV)

Beloved, now is the time to enter your Messiah's rest, ... now is the time to let go of those burdens which so heavily weigh you down and receive what Adonai always intended for you ... Healing and Wholeness in Messiah Yeshua. May this season be your time of visitation!



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