

Greetings, today our manna is from Genesis 23; Matthew 22; Nehemiah 12; Acts 22.

January 22 – Melchizedek Devotional Perspective

[Note: I have added emphasis with underlines, highlights, and [brackets] to Scripture for teaching purposes only.]

Genesis 23

Sarah's Death and Burial

Gen 23:1 And Sarah lived one hundred and twenty-seven years, the years of the life of Sarah.

Gen 23:2 And Sarah died in Qiryath Arba, that is Hebron, in the land of Kena'an, and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.

Gen 23:3 Then Abraham rose up from beside his dead, and spoke to the sons of Heth, saying,

Gen 23:4 “I am a foreigner and a sojourner among you. Give me property for a burial-site among you, so that I bury my dead from my presence.”

Gen 23:5 And the sons of Heth answered Abraham, saying to him,

Gen 23:6 “Hear us, my master: You are a prince of Elohim among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our burial-sites. None of us withholds from you his burial-site, from burying your dead.”

Gen 23:7 So Abraham rose and bowed himself to the people of the land, the sons of Heth.

Gen 23:8 And he spoke with them, saying, “If it is your desire that I bury my dead from my presence, hear me, and approach Ephron son of Tsohar for me,

Gen 23:9 and let me have the cave of Makpelah which he has, which is at the end of his field. Let him give it to me for the complete amount of silver, as property for a burial-site among you.”

Gen 23:10 And Ephron dwelt among the sons of Heth. And Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the sons of Heth, all who entered at the gate of his city, saying,

Gen 23:11 “No, my master, listen to me! I shall give you the field and the cave that is in it. I shall give it to you in the presence of the sons of my people. I shall give it to you. Bury your dead!”

Gen 23:12 And Abraham bowed himself down before the people of the land,

Gen 23:13 and he spoke to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, saying, “If only you would hear me. I shall give the amount of silver for the field, take it from me, and let me bury my dead there.”

Gen 23:14 And Ephron answered Abraham, saying to him,

Gen 23:15 “My master, listen to me! The land is worth four hundred sheqels of silver. What is that between you and me? So bury your dead.”

Gen 23:16 And Abraham listened to Ephron, and Abraham weighed out the silver for

Ephron which he had named in the hearing of the sons of Hēth, four hundred sheqels of silver, currency of the merchants.

Gen 23:17 Thus the field of Ephron which was in Makpēlah, which was before Mamrē, the field and the cave which was in it, and all the trees that were in the field, which were within all the surrounding borders, were deeded

Gen 23:18 to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the sons of Hēth, before all who went in at the gate of his city.

Gen 23:19 And after this Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Makpēlah, before Mamrē, that is Hebron, in the land of Kena'an.

Gen 23:20 Thus the field and the cave that is in it were deeded to Abraham by the sons of Hēth as property for a burial-site.

The deeded region sold to Abraham has much biblical significance and was a very consecrated area between Abraham and YHWH from the onset of Abram's journey. We can probably only scratch the surface to all the parallel meanings that are connected to this exact region. This deed that Abraham purchased consisted of:

1. The field of Ephron,
2. which was in Makpēlah,
3. which was before Mamrē,
4. the **field**
5. and the **cave** which was in it,
6. and all the **trees** that were in field, [Gen. 13:18 identify the trees as terebinth]
7. which were **within all the surrounding borders** - were **deeded to Abraham**
8. **Sarah** was buried in the **cave** of the **field** of **Makpelah**, before **Mamre**, that is **Hebron**, in the land of **Canaan [Kena'an]**.
9. Eventually, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would also be buried there.

Gen 13:18 So Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamrē, which are in Hebron, and built a slaughter-place there to him.

Gen 14:13 And one who had escaped came and informed Abram the Hebrew, for he dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamrē the Amorite, brother of Eshkol and brother of Anēr, and they had a covenant with Abram.

Gen 18:1 And יהוה appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamrē, while he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day.

Gen 25:9 And his sons Yitshaq and Yishma'el buried him in the cave of Makpēlah, which is before Mamrē, in the field of Ephron son of Tsohar the Hittite,

Gen 35:27 And Ya'aqob came to his father Yitshaq at Mamrě, or Qiryath Arba, that is Hebron, where Abraham and Yitshaq had dwelt.

Gen 35:28 And the **days of Yitshaq were one hundred and eighty years.**

Gen 35:29 So Yitshaq breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people, aged and satisfied of days. And his sons **Esaw and Ya'aqob buried him.**

Gen 49:28 All these are the twelve tribes of Yisra'el, and **this is what their father spoke** to them. And he blessed them, he blessed each one according to his own blessing.

Gen 49:29 And he commanded them, and said to them, "I am to be gathered to my people, bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,

Gen 49:30 in the cave that is in the field of Maqpehah, which is before Mamrě in the land of Kena'an, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite as a possession for a burial-site.

Gen 50:11 And when the inhabitants of the land, the Kena'anites, saw the mourning at the threshing-floor of Atad, they said, "This is a grievous mourning for the Mitsrites." That is why its name was called Abel Mitsrayim, which is beyond the Yarden.

Gen 50:12 And his sons did to him as he had commanded them,

Gen 50:13 for his sons brought him to the land of Kena'an, and buried him in the cave of the field of Maqpehah, before Mamrě, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite as property for a burial-site.

Gen 50:14 And after he had buried his father, Yoseph returned to Mitsrayim, he and his brothers and all who went up with him to bury his father.

Matthew 22

The Parable of the Wedding Feast

Mat 22:1 And יהושע responded and spoke to them again by parables and said,

Mat 22:2 "The reign of the heavens is like a man, a sovereign, who made a wedding feast for his son,

Mat 22:3 and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast.

But they would not come.

Mat 22:4 "Again he sent out other servants, saying, 'Say to those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner. My oxen and fattened cattle are slaughtered, and all is ready. Come to the wedding feast." '

Mat 22:5 **"But they disregarded it and went their way – this one to his field, that one to his trade.**

Mat 22:6 "And the rest, having seized his servants, insulted and killed them.

Mat 22:7 "But when the sovereign heard, he was wroth, and **sent out his soldiers,** destroyed those murderers, and set their city on fire.

Mat 22:8 "Then he said to his servants, **'The wedding feast, indeed, is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.**

Mat 22:9 **Therefore go into the street corners, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding feast.'**

Mat 22:10 "And those servants went out into the street corners and gathered all whom they found, both wicked and good. **And the wedding hall was filled with guests.**

Mat 22:11 "And when the sovereign came in to view the guests, **he saw there a man who had not put on a wedding garment,**

Mat 22:12 and he said to him, **'Friend, how did you come in here not having a wedding garment?' And he was speechless.**

When Yahusha returns and questions those without a wedding garment, they too will be speechless. There will be no excuse. They will be hit with a blast of reality like never before. Their minds will race to all the invitations offered to them by Yahusha; their friends; and their family.

They will be awakened in the midst of the 'perfect storm'; realizing the Truth is starring them in the face after it is too late to make any changes!

Mat 22:13 "Then the sovereign said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and throw him out into the outer darkness – there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Mat 22:14 "For many are called, but few are chosen."^a Footnote: ^aSee [Mat 20:16](#).

Paying Taxes to Caesar

Mat 22:15 **Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to trap Him in His words.**

Mat 22:16 And they sent to Him their taught ones with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of Elohim in truth, and it does not concern You about anyone, for You are not partial to any man.

Mat 22:17 "Then say to us, what do You think? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"

Mat 22:18 **But knowing their wickedness, יהושע said, "Why do you try Me, you hypocrites?"**

Mat 22:19 "Show Me the coin of the tax." And they brought Him a denarius.^b Footnote: ^bRoman monetary unit.

Mat 22:20 **And He said to them,**

"Whose likeness and inscription is this?"

Mat 22:21 They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, **"Then give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to Elohim what is Elohim's."**

Mat 22:22 And having heard, they marveled, and left Him and went away.

During this time, the temple system along with the Sanhedrin were corrupt. A blended mix of exiles had returned from Babylonian captivity bringing back its influences; such as the Babylonian Talmud. The Maccabean period had past, many Edomites had been converted to Judaism, and now there was a blend of wheat and tares.

The Aaronic Levitical system was just a shell of what it had once been; it was now pretty much on life-support. The spiritual condition of the people, the land, and creation were about to receive a major resuscitation.

Yahusha, against all odds, had come into the world as the Lamb of Elohim; and would be returning as a Lion of the tribe of Judah. He knew who He was, and it would be up to each person to answer His question of, 'Who do you say that I am?'

The earth is YHWH's footstool. When it comes to 'earthly' systems and this imposed 'tax question', He simply replies to those trying to ensnare Him by answering; give to Caesar what is Caesar's and what is Elohim's to Elohim. Yahusha didn't try to fix or avoid any 'tax'; He knew all things on this earth are temporal and He most certainly knew their wickedness behind such a question and such a 'system.' To this day, the enemy has imprisoned many over nefarious 'tax' accusations. It is best to avoid the devil's playground over tax issues as much as possible.

Sadducees Ask About the Resurrection

Mat 22:23 On that day Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him,

Mat 22:24 saying, "Teacher, Mosheh said that if **anyone should die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise offspring for his brother.** [Deu 25:5](#).

Mat 22:25 "And there were with us seven brothers, and the first died after he had married, and having no children, left his wife to his brother.

Mat 22:26 "In the same way the second also, and the third, unto the seventh.

Mat 22:27 "And last of all the woman died too.

Mat 22:28 "At the resurrection, then, whose wife of the seven shall she be – for all had her?"

Mat 22:29 And יהושע answering, said to them, "**You go astray, not knowing the Scriptures^c nor the power of Elohim.** Footnote: ^c [Mar 12:24](#).

Mat 22:30 "For in the resurrection they do not marry, nor are they given in marriage, but are as messengers of Elohim in heaven.

Mat 22:31 "And concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by Elohim, saying,

Mat 22:32 **'I am the Elohim of Abraham, and the Elohim of Yitshaq, and the Elohim of Ya'aqob'?** [Exo 3:6](#). Elohim is not the Elohim of the dead, but of the living."

Mat 22:33 And when the crowds heard, they were astonished at His teaching.

The Sadducees were supposed to be well versed in the Scriptures yet Yahusha answers them and said, 'You go astray, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of Elohim.' That tells us that just because people 'look religious'; just because they may carry a Bible and can quote Scripture verses; doesn't mean they know His Word, know Him, or know the power therein!

Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of Elohim through belief in Messiah יהושע.

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as were immersed into Messiah have put on Messiah.

Gal 3:28 There is not Yehudi nor Greek, there is not slave nor free, there is not male and female, for you are all one in Messiah יהושע.

Gal 3:29 And if you are of Messiah, then you are seed of Abraham, and heirs according to promise.

Matthew 22:30 describes those in His presence **'as messengers'**. In Matthew 22:32 He identifies Himself as the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; He is the **Elohim of the living and not of the dead!**

When studying the Book of Revelation, one must differentiate within the context of certain scriptures, to see if they are speaking of angelic messengers or those spirits and souls that appear 'as messengers.' Why? Because both are present.

The Great Commandment

Mat 22:34 But the Pharisees, having heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, were gathered together,

Mat 22:35 and one of them, one learned in the Torah, did question, trying Him, and saying,

Mat 22:36 "Teacher, which is the great command in the Torah?"

Mat 22:37 And יהושע said to him, " **'You shall love יהוה your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your being, and with all your mind.'** [Deu 6:5](#).

Mat 22:38 "This is the first and great command.

Mat 22:39 "And the second is like it, **'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'** [Lev 19:18](#).

Mat 22:40 **"On these two commands hang all the Torah and the Prophets."**

Ironically, the greatest commandment and the second like it; were the very two the Pharisees and Sadducees were lacking!

The following question asked to them by Yahusha; silences them from asking any more questions. “Whose Son is He?”

Mat 22:41 And when the Pharisees were gathered together, יהושע asked them,

Mat 22:42 saying, “What do you think concerning the Messiah? Whose Son is He?” They said to Him, “*The Son of Dawid.*”

Mat 22:43 He said to them, “Then how does Dawid in the Spirit call Him ‘Master,’ saying,

Mat 22:44 יהוה **said to my Master, “Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies a footstool of Your feet” ’? Psa 110:1.**

Mat 22:45 “If then Dawid calls Him ‘Master,’ how is He his Son?”

Mat 22:46 And no one was able to answer Him a word, and from that day on no one was bold *enough* to ask Him any more questions.

Yahusha is YHWH ‘in Son.’ Therefore, YHWH sits at the right hand of YHWH.

Nehemiah 12

Priests and Levites

Neh 12:1 **And these were the priests and the Lēwites who came up with Zerubbabel** son of She’alti’ēl, and Yēshua: Serayah, Yirmeyah, Ezra,

Neh 12:2 Amaryah, Malluq, Ḥattush,

Neh 12:3 Shekanyah, Rehum, Merēmoth,

Neh 12:4 Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abiyah,

Neh 12:5 Miyamin, Ma’adyah, Bilgah,

Neh 12:6 Shemayah, and Yoyariḇ, Yeḏayah,

Neh 12:7 Sallu, Amoq, Ḥilqiyah, and Yeḏayah. **These were the heads of the priests and their brothers in the days of Yēshua.**

Neh 12:8 And the Lēwites: Yēshua, Binnui, Qadmi’ēl, Shērēḇyah, Yehudaḥ, Mattanyah **over the thanksgiving, he and his brothers.**

Neh 12:9 And Baqbuqyah and Unni, their brothers, **were opposite them for guard duties.**

Neh 12:10 And Yēshua brought forth Yoyaqim, and Yoyaqim brought forth Elyashiḇ, and Elyashiḇ brought forth Yoyaḏa,

Neh 12:11 and Yoyaḏa brought forth Yonathan, and Yonathan brought forth Yaddua.

Neh 12:12 And in the days of Yoyaqim, the priests, the heads of the fathers’ houses were: of Serayah, Merayah; of Yirmeyah, Ḥananyah;

Neh 12:13 of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amaryah, Yehoḥanan;

Neh 12:14 of Meliḳu, Yonathan; of Sheḅanyah, Yosēph;

Neh 12:15 of Ḥarim, Adna; of Merayoth, Ḥelqai;

Neh 12:16 of Iddo, Zeḳaryah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam;

Neh 12:17 of Abiyah, Zikri, son of Minyamin; of Mo'adyah, Piltai;

Neh 12:18 of Bilgah, Shammua; of Shemayah, Yehonathan;

Neh 12:19 of Yoyarib, Mattenai; of Yeḏayah, Uzzi;

Neh 12:20 of Sallai, Qallai; of Amoq, Ēḅer;

Neh 12:21 of Ḥilqiyah, Ḥashabyah. And of Yeḏayah, Nethan'ēl.

Neh 12:22 The Lēwites and priests in the days of Elyashiḅ, Yoyaḏa, Yoḥanan, and Yaddua, were recorded heads of their fathers' houses, also the priests in the reign of Dareyawesh the Persian.

Neh 12:23 The sons of Lēwi, the heads of the fathers' houses until the days of Yoḥanan son of Elyashiḅ, were written in the book of the annals.

Neh 12:24 **And the heads of the Lēwites were** Ḥashabyah, Shērēḅyah, and Yēshua son of Qadmi'ēl, with their brothers opposite them, to praise, to give thanks, watch opposite watch, according to the command of Dawiḏ the man of Elohim.

Neh 12:25 Mattanyah, and Baqbuqyah, Oḅadyah, Meshullam, Talmon, Aqqub were gatekeepers guarding at the storerooms of the gates.

Neh 12:26 These were in the days of Yoyaqim son of Yēshua, son of Yotsadaq, and in the days of Neḥemyah the governor, and of Ezra the priest, the scribe.

A grand consecrated celebration was performed for dedicating the wall.

Dedication of the Wall

Neh 12:27 **And at the dedication of the wall of Yerushalayim they sought out the Lēwites in all their places, to bring them to Yerushalayim to perform the dedication with gladness, and with thanksgivings, and with singing, cymbals, harps and lyres.**

Neh 12:28 And the sons of the **singers gathered** together from the countryside around Yerushalayim, from the villages of the Netophathites,

Neh 12:29 and from the house of Gilgal, and from the fields of Geḅa and Azmaweth – for the singers had built themselves villages all around Yerushalayim.

Neh 12:30 And the priests and Lēwites cleansed themselves, and they cleansed the people, and the gates, and the wall.

Neh 12:31 And I brought the rulers of Yehuḏah up on the wall, and appointed two large thanksgiving choirs, to go to the right on the wall toward the Dung Gate,

Neh 12:32 and after them went Hoshayah and half of the rulers of Yehuḏah,

Neh 12:33 then Azaryah, Ezra, and Meshullam,

Neh 12:34 Yehuḏah, and Binyamin, and Shemayah, and Yirmeyah,

Neh 12:35 and of **the sons of the priests with trumpets:** Zeḳaryah son of Yonathan,

son of Shemayah, son of Mattanyah, son of Miqayah, son of Zakkur, son of Asaph, [Neh 12:36](#) and his brothers Shemayah and Azar’el, Milalai, Gilalai, Ma’ai, Nethan’el, and Yehudah, Hanani **with instruments of songs** of Dawid the man of Elohim, with **Ezra the scribe before them.**

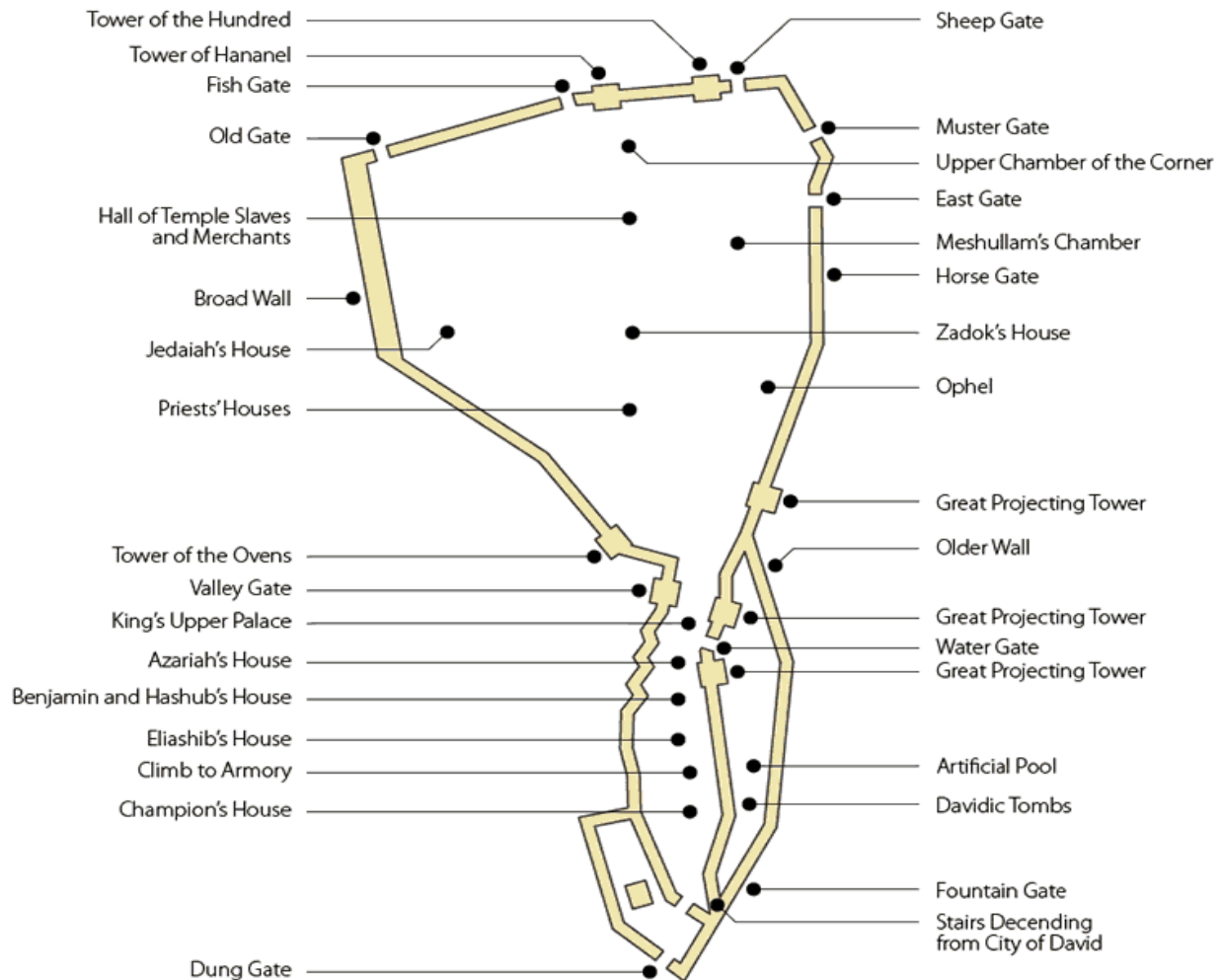
[Neh 12:37](#) And at the Fountain Gate and straight ahead of them, they went up the stairs of the City of Dawid, on the stairway of the wall, beyond the house of Dawid, as far as the Water Gate eastward.

[Neh 12:38](#) And the **other thanksgiving choir went over against them**, and I behind them with half of the people on the wall, going past the Tower of the Ovens as far as the Broad Wall,

[Neh 12:39](#) and above the Gate of Ephrayim, and above the Old Gate, and above the Fish Gate, and the Tower of Hanan’el, and the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Sheep Gate. And they stood still at the Gate of the Prison.

Below is a possible rendering of the Jerusalem Wall in Nehemiah’s Day.

Jerusalem’s Wall in Nehemiah’s Day



Neh 12:40 Then **the two thanksgiving choirs took their stand in the House of Elohim, and I and half of the deputy rulers with me,**

Neh 12:41 **and the priests, Elyaqim, Ma'asěyah, Minyamin, Mikayah, Elyo'ěynai, Zekaryah, and Hananyah, with trumpets,**

Neh 12:42 **and Ma'asěyah, and Shemayah, and El'azar, and Uzzi, and Yehohanan, and Malkiyah, and Ėylam, and Ėzer. And the singers sang aloud, with Yizrahyah in charge.**

Neh 12:43 **And on that day they slaughtered great slaughterings and rejoiced, for Elohim had made them rejoice with great joy. And the women and the children also rejoiced, so that the joy of Yerushalayim was heard far away.**

Service at the Temple

Neh 12:44 **And on that day some were appointed over the rooms for the stores, for the contributions, for the first-fruits, and for tithes, to gather into them from the fields of the cities the portions required by the Torah for the priests and for the Lěwites. For Yehudah rejoiced over the priests and the Lěwites who stood up.**

Neh 12:45 Both the **singers and the gatekeepers** guarded the charge of their Elohim and **the charge of the cleansing**, according to the command of Dawid and Shelomoh his son.

Neh 12:46 For in the days of Dawid and Asaph of old there were chiefs of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving to Elohim.

Neh 12:47 **And in the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemyah all Yisra'ěl gave the portions for the singers and the gatekeepers, a portion for each day. And they set apart what was for the Lěwites, and the Lěwites set apart what was for the children of Aharon.**

Acts 22

Paul addresses the unruly mob

Act 22:1 **"Men, brothers, and fathers, hear my defense before you now."**

Act 22:2 **And when they heard that he spoke to them in the Hebrew language,^a they kept greater silence. And he said: Footnote: ^aSee [Act 21:40](#), [Act 26:14](#).**

Paul begins by identifying himself as a Yehudi born in Tarsus of Cilicia but was instructed in the exactness of Torah by Gamliel. Paul too was full of zeal as he sees in the crowd before him; but now, **Paul's zealousness is for righteousness** that can only be achieved through Yahusha HaMashiach under the New Covenant confirming Gospel message.

One must understand that the Melchizedek priesthood had not been in its reigning position since the Israelites broke their marriage covenant, the Book of the Covenant, with the sin of the golden calf [Exodus 32]. At that time, the Melchizedek Priesthood ran parallel to the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood in a denigrated position. The Book of the Law was implemented to spare their very lives after the sin of the golden calf and was administered through the formation of the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood. It served as a tutor and a witness against them **UNTIL Yahusha would come**. It was a parable (Heb. 9:9) that revealed the coming Messiah; the Lamb of Elohim that would fulfill all the sacrifices once and for all.

Heb 9:7 But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for sins of ignorance of the people,^a Footnote: ^a Num 15:15-28.

Heb 9:8 the Set-apart Spirit signifying this, that the way into the Most Set-apart Place was not yet made manifest while the first Tent has a standing,

Heb 9:9 which **was a parable** for the present time in which both gifts and slaughters are offered which are unable to perfect the one serving, as to his conscience,

Heb 9:10 only as to foods and drinks, and different washings, and fleshly regulations imposed **until a time** of setting *matters* straight.

Heb 9:11 But Messiah, having become a High Priest of the coming good *matters*, through the greater and more perfect Tent not made with hands, that is, not of this creation,

Heb 9:12 entered into the Most Set-apart Place once for all, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood, having obtained everlasting redemption.

What we are seeing in Acts is the major transference back to the Melchizedek Order. **The Melchizedek Priesthood would now reign forevermore**. Many in Paul's day, and in our day, take offense against such a transference, forgetting what the Scriptures had foretold. Some would ultimately believe as did Paul; and others would vehemently reject giving up 'how they had always done things'; and they would reject giving up their position, power, prestige, and money.

Act 22:3 "I am indeed a Yehudi, having been born in Tarsos of Kilikia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamli'ël, having been instructed according to the exactness of the Torah of our fathers, being ardent for Elohim, as you all are today,

- **Act 22:4** who persecuted this Way to the death,
- binding and delivering up into prisons both men and women,
- **Act 22:5** as also the high priest bears me witness, and all the eldership, from whom I also received letters to the brothers, and went to Dammeseq to bring in chains even those who were there to Yerushalayim to be punished.

We are about to read the conversion of Paul on the road to Damascus. Hearing the 'voice' of YHWH is a very big deal. Those with him did NOT hear His voice speaking to Paul. That is why the following verse is important, 'Today if you hear His voice...

Heb 3:15 while it is said, “**Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.**” [Psa_95:7-8](#).

Act 22:6 “And it came to be, as I was journeying and coming near Dammeseq, **about noon**, suddenly **a great light shone around me out of the heaven**,

Act 22:7 and I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Sha’ul, Sha’ul, why do you persecute Me?’

Act 22:8 “And I answered, ‘Who are You, Master?’ And He said to me, ‘**I am יהושע of Natsareth, whom you persecute.**’

Act 22:9 “And those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, **but they did not hear His voice speaking to me.**

Act 22:10 “And I said, ‘**What shall I do, Master?**’ And **the Master said to me**,

- ‘Rise up,
- go into Dammeseq, and
- there you shall be told all that you have been appointed to do.’

Paul was blinded in order that he would see and believe ...

Act 22:11 “And as I could not see because of the esteem of that light, being led by the hand of those who were with me, I came into Dammeseq.

Act 22:12 “And **a certain Hananyah,^b a dedicated man according to the Torah**, being well spoken of by all the Yehudim dwelling there, [Footnote: ^bSee Act 9:10 and Act 9:17.](#)

Act 22:13 **came to me, and stood by and said to me**,

- ‘Brother Sha’ul, look up.’ And at that same hour I looked up at him.
- **Act 22:14** “And he said, ‘**The Elohim of our fathers [Exo 3:15](#)** has appointed you to know His desire,
- and to see the Righteous One,
- and to hear the voice from His mouth.
- **Act 22:15** Because you shall be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard.
- **Act 22:16** And now, why do you delay? Rise up, be immersed, and wash away your sins, calling on the Name of יהוה.’

Act 22:17 “**And it came to be, when I returned to Yerushalayim**, and

- while I was praying in the Set-apart Place,
- I came to be in a trance,
- **Act 22:18** and I saw Him saying to me,
- ‘Hurry and get out of Yerushalayim, speedily, because they shall not accept your witness concerning Me.’

Act 22:19 **“And I said,**

- ‘Master, they know that in every congregation I was imprisoning and beating those who believe on You.
- **Act 22:20** And when the blood of Your witness Stephanos was shed, I also was standing by giving my approval to his death, and keeping the garments of those who were killing him.’

Act 22:21 **“And He said to me, ‘Go, because I shall send you far from here to the nations.’”**

Paul and the Roman Tribune

Act 22:22 **And they were listening to him until this word,**

What word? Until Paul shared, he was being sent **to the nations!**

To this day, those that say they are ‘Jews’ and are not; seek the demise of whom they call ‘goyim’ or ‘nation people.’ Their desire is for the ‘goyim’ to submit to their ‘Noahide Laws’; and never speak or write YHWH’s or Yahusha’s Name! Neither would they be allowed to study His Word, the Bible.

These ‘Jews’ under the Chabad Lubavitch sect, have unfortunately infiltrated all 50 states in the U.S.A. by getting the ‘U.S. A. Education Day’ resolution **now declared as Public Law 102-14** by the U.S. Congress under President George H. W. Bush. ‘U.S.A. Education Day’ has the ‘Noahide Laws’ embedded within; much like a ‘Trojan horse.’ The U.S.A is not the only continent affected; they have centers worldwide in their quest for international implementation.

The seething hatred, envy, and jealousy of those that say they are ‘Jews’ and are not, still rages as in Paul’s day against the set-apart ones; but in a ‘stealth’ manner; and if exposed cries of ‘antisemitism’ are used as their shield.

and then they lifted up their voice, saying,

- “Away with such a one from the earth, for it is not fit that he should live!”
- **Act 22:23** As they were shouting and
- tearing their garments, and
- throwing dust into the air,

Act 22:24 **the commander** ordered him to be brought into the barracks, and said that he should be **examined by flogging**, in order to find out why they were shouting so against him.

- **Act 22:25** And as they were stretching him out with straps,
- **Sha’ul said to the captain** who was standing by, “Is it permitted for you to whip a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?”

Act 22:26 And when the captain heard, he went and reported to the commander, saying, **“Watch what you are about to do, for this man is a Roman.”**

Act 22:27 And having come, the commander said to him,

- “Say to me, are you a Roman?”
- And he said, “Yes.”
- **Act 22:28** And the commander answered, **“With a large sum I obtained this citizenship.”**
- And Sha’ul said, **“But I was even born so.”**

We see more and more why Paul was YHWH’s chosen vessel. His knowledge of His Word; his language skills; his dual citizenship; and many other qualities set Paul apart for His service. This is the second time that his Roman citizenship spared Paul.

The commander releases Paul the next day and turns his case over to the chief priests and their council. Probably, for the most part, these were the very same council members that had condemned Stephen to death. Surely, Paul recognized many of their faces.

Act 22:29 **Then at once those who were about to examine him withdrew from him.** And the **commander was also afraid** after he found out that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him.

Paul Before the Council

Act 22:30 And **on the next day**, intending to know for certain why he was accused by the Yehudim, **he released him**, and **commanded the chief priests and all their council to come, and brought Sha’ul down and set him before them.**

~ Shalom ~ Libby

Devotional Reading Plan Link: <http://www.mcheyne.info/calendar.pdf>