
WEEK 51 & 52 SCRIPTURE READING

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by Roly Buys

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Parashah Nitzavim | “you are standing | ניצבים

Parashah Vayeilekh | “and he went” | ויילך

Week 51 & 52

THERE IS NO THING LIKE HAPPEN-CHANCE

The verses that stands out for me this week are:

Deuteronomy 29:13 *“But I am not making this Covenant and this oath only with you.”*

Deuteronomy 29:14 *“so that He can establish you today for Himself as a people, and so that for you He will be GOD - as He said to you and as He swore to your ancestors, to Avraham, Yitz’chak and Ya’akov.”*

Deuteronomy 31:12-13 *“Assemble the people — the men, the women, the little ones and the foreigners you have in your towns — so that they can hear, learn, fear ADONAI your GOD and take care to obey all the words of this Torah; and so that their children, who have not known, can hear and learn to fear ADONAI your GOD, for as long as you live in the Land you are crossing the Yarden to possess.”*



Deuteronomy 29:23-27 “then all the nations will ask, ‘Why did ADONAI do this to this Land? What is the meaning of such frenzied, furious anger?’ People will answer, ‘It’s because they abandoned the Covenant of ADONAI, the GOD of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went and served other gods, prostrating themselves before them, gods they had not known and which He had not assigned them. For this reason, the anger of ADONAI blazed up against this Land and brought upon it every curse written in this Book; and **ADONAI, in anger, fury and incensed with indignation, uprooted them from their Land and threw them out into another land — as it is today.**’

Deuteronomy 29:28 “Things which are hidden belong to ADONAI our GOD. **But the things that have been revealed belong to us and our children forever, so that we can observe all the Words of this Torah.**“

Consider This ...

Many people have the mistaken idea that once you become a son/daughter of Abraham through the work of Y’shua, that you will only experience blessing.

We are informed by Y’shua that **there will be trials** - in fact we are encouraged to walk along the same journey that He did, the only difference being, that we have been empowered by the terms of the Covenant and the working of the Holy Spirit.

It therefore stands to reason, that if I have dealt with:

- ◆ **My personal sin**, (for example Naomi was bitter and the consequences of her own actions needed to be addressed before Ruth could be blessed) and
- ◆ **Generational curses** of the family,

.... then, when any tribulation that comes along my path, it will either be:

- ◆ A trial resulting from the **sins of the land** where I reside (any country that curses YHVH’s Land ... Israel, or its people), where the Apple of YHVH’s Eye has been touched will be cursed.

Or

- ◆ A trial / tribulation that is designed to build my character so that I more readily fit into the calling that YHVH proclaimed over my life.

So, when things happen that I do not expect, or I feel that I don’t deserve to be punished or judged for whatever has come into my life, then I must start to meditate on the WORD to see what YHVH says, or **stop** to listen to the Holy Spirit to hear what YHVH Says.

If I go through life thinking that these things have **merely happened by chance**, I not only miss the opportunity to grow, but I open myself to further judgments from YHVH.

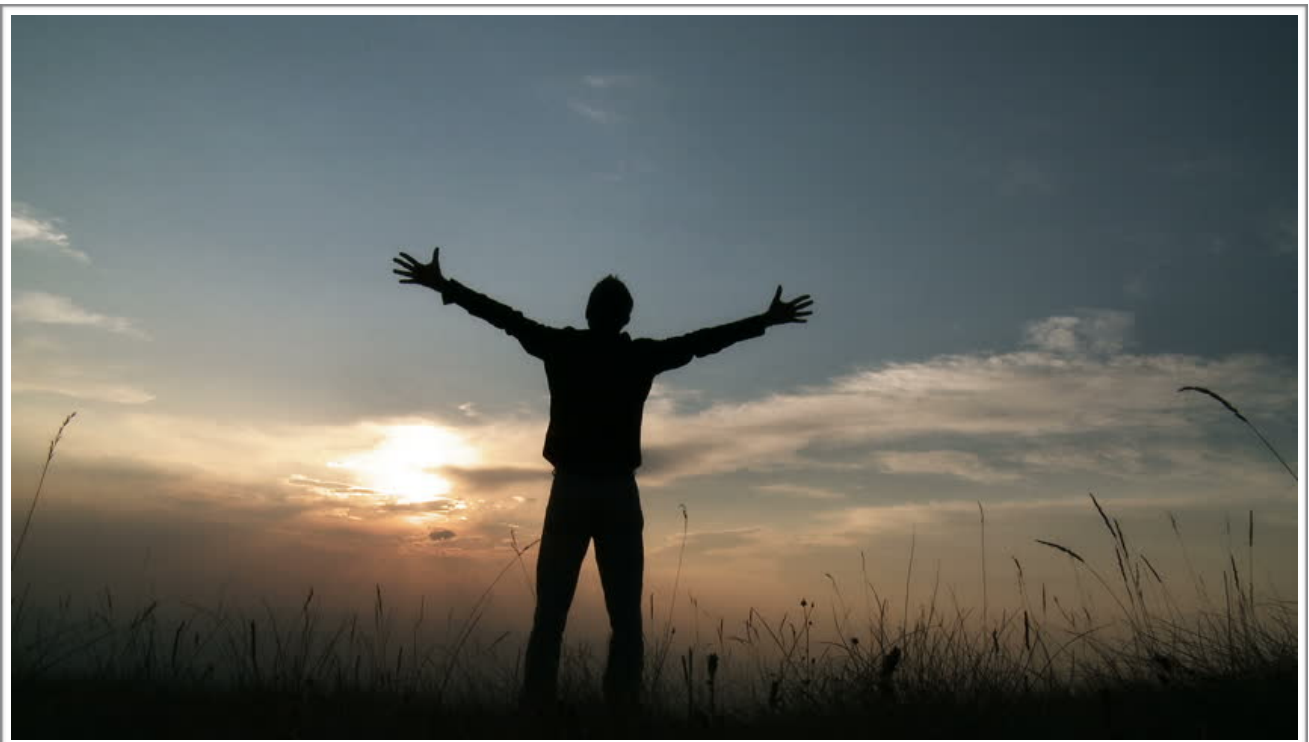
What should I do under these circumstances?

Accept that it may be necessary for me to change ... “welcome to the brave new world of the future”.

- ◆ We are normally creatures of habit.
- ◆ With that attitude we would like everything to remain the same.
- ◆ However, Moses tells the Israelites that they have been walking around the mountain for long enough.
- ◆ He tells them that it's time to cross the Jordan.
- ◆ They don't know what lies ahead.
- ◆ They will recall being told of giants.
- ◆ But if they move forward, there is also the promise of a better future .

- ◆ Be flexible ... be adaptable.
- ◆ The past is only history and cannot be changed..
- ◆ The present is already happening and I can not wiggle my way out
- ◆ But, for the future ... there is opportunity around every corner.

A. Accept that life goes on, that I cannot control everything, but that I can decide how I will react and choose to live ... life waits for no man



- ◆ **We are blessed** with the ability to make choices.
- ◆ We cannot rely on the same old ways to always be successful.
- ◆ Others will innovate, and that which I experience today will be outdated.
- ◆ **Make a choice** to leave the old and move forward to a new adventure.

This calls for the attribute of perseverance ... the journey may be long ...

- Think about the salmon.
- It leaves the sea which has been its home for the past few years. It will journey up powerful flowing rivers in order to return to the source of the river where they were born to give birth to the next generation. It will jump up over waterfalls, face the bears that hunt for food, face the fisherman who are there for sport, in order to get back to their place of birth.
- No matter what the tribulations (they make the journey) willingly, even if it means that this is the end to their life.

B. Accept that I must become creative and change the way I see things ... expand the way that you think

If you like to live in a comfort zone ... by keeping all things the same, then you will not be able to see opportunities when they pass by.

- ◆ Many people complain that they have not been blessed, but equally, you will find that they struggle to expand their thinking / views.
- ◆ Make a point to read different books / listen to other people with radically different ideas and keep testing the water to find a new niche for yourself.
- ◆ Most of all, make the most of your time on earth. We are only given a certain number of days. Know that the time will come when your life-walk is over.
- ◆ Use every moment.
- ◆ Recently I noticed a saying ...

“I am giving you some of my time ... its precious ... if you waste it, I cannot get it back, so be careful how you use it.”

Powerful, isn't it?

C. Find true friends (not the kind that Job had)

Find friends who will stand by you - they may be few in number ... but they are the ones that count.

- ◆ There are many people who will be your friend when things are going well. All you have to look at is the Lotto-jackpot winners of millions ... see how many loving family and friends they have until the money runs out.
- ◆ You don't need these kind of friends.
- ◆ But every now and then you will meet someone that will go out of their way to help.

We went on holiday with our caravan many years ago. At that time of our lives we owned a modified 6 cylinder Kombi.

- *We went all over the Cape for 3 weeks. On the way back we started to hear strange noises. Suddenly the gear box packed up, stuck in second gear.*
- *We limped back into Bloemfontein ... still some 250 km from home.*
- *The car had to stay behind, and would take the best part of a week to repair.*
- *The children needed to get back home as the schools started again the following day.*

*This friend - **a true friend**, drove all the way to us, hitched the caravan, and took us back home ... these are few and far between ...value and appreciate them.*

D. Enjoy the moments of blessing that you have , even in these difficult times ... there will always be a beautiful sunrise or sunset to view during the darkest of days

There will always be a silver lining around every dark cloud.

You have to get out of bed to see it ... keep looking!

E. Accept that starting over is only a new challenge / opportunity

We are called to become a renewed man ... spiritually, emotionally and intellectually. YHVH gives us opportunities to leave a legacy.

Only those who cross the Jordan, **and enter the Promised Land** ... can leave their children with a **piece** of the Promised Land.



WHAT WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT THIS WEEK?

1. Did you thank YHVH for the trials and tribulation that were your portion recently ... can you witness to the opportunity that opened up in your time of crises?
2. Are you role-modeling a leadership style to your family that will be passed on to them that will encourage them to think of trials as challenges?

A FINAL THOUGHT

At times like these, my mind returns to the man named Caleb, and his daughter.

Here is a family that faced the *tribulation of spending 40 long, uncomfortable, unnecessary years wandering around in the desert.*

They must often have thought of the missed opportunity, and possibly been very unhappy whenever the desert sand blew into their tent, or when they had to sit and wait for the unfaithful generation to die out.

- ❖ But they never lost vision.
- ❖ When the time came they were prepared for the change.
- ❖ And they opted for the biggest challenge of all.

Give us Hebron ... give us the giants!



BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-27

“Y’varekh’kha YHVH v’yishmerekha.
May YHVH bless you and keep you.

Ya’er YHVH panav eleikha vichunekka.
May YHVH make His Face shine on you and show you His favour.

Yissa YHVH panav eleikha v’yasem l’kha shalom.
May YHVH lift up His Face toward you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:27 *“In this way they are to put My Name on the people of Isra’el, so that I will Bless them.”*

