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# WEEK 13 SCRIPTURE READING

5779 / 2018-19

A close-up photograph of a person wearing a white, textured robe. They are holding a terracotta jug with both hands, pouring water from its spout. The jug has a light-colored string tied around its middle. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white.

*by Roly Buys*

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For further information or to place an order, please contact us at:

Tel: +27 (0) 60 825 5780  
Fax: +27 (0) 86 681 9458  
E-mail: [kanaan@iafrica.com](mailto:kanaan@iafrica.com)  
Website: [www.kanaanministries.org](http://www.kanaanministries.org)

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# Parashah Shemot | “Names” | שמות

Week 13

## THE WORLD WILL SAY THAT THEY DO NOT KNOW THE MESSIAH

The verse that stands out for me this week is:

**Exodus 1:8** *“Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.”*

**Exodus 3:5-6** *He said, “Don’t come any closer! Take your sandals off your feet, because the place where you are standing is Holy ground. I am the GOD of your father,” He continued, “the GOD of Avraham, the GOD of Yitz’chak and the GOD of Ya’akov.” Moshe covered his face, because he was afraid to look at GOD.”*



### Consider This ...

We, (I speak of believers), read the story of Pharaoh as something from the past, something of history ... for some it is almost too hard to conceive as real, and think of this as an analogy.

- ◆ The fact that archeology has provided evidence of this empire, that images of the wheels at the bottom of a sea-bed can be viewed, and
- ◆ that artefacts have direct mention of the names of people such as King David, would cause people to think differently about this story.
- ◆ Yet the image of the opening of the Reed sea is so extraordinary that most people will struggle to express absolute confidence in the reliability of the message.

At the same time there are many so-called believers ... teachers of the Biblical literature that argue against the reliability of many of these stories.

They will tell us that you cannot accept everything the Bible says.

## **Instead ... look at the content of the message.**

### **1. A worldly king will arise that will say that he does not know you or your GOD**

This has happened over and over again.

- ◆ We have world leaders who manipulate and speak the words that people wish to hear in order to gain power and position.
- ◆ We have church leaders who tickle the ears of the masses, causing them to be dulled into a false sense of security
- ◆ We have wars on many continents, and leaders from all over the world getting involved seemingly for their own gain—while the ordinary man on the street gets mutilated in the aftermath of the war
- ◆ We have church leaders who are accumulating masses of followers, money and possessions, preaching a gospel that rejects the calling for accountability for our actions.
- ◆ We have people, in growing numbers, that will resort to violence - the boycotting of innocent people's rights in order to support an agenda of anti-Semitism—we have well known people who will call for self-control from Israel, but say nothing about the senseless murders / violence / bombings of women and children - we have spiritual leaders that stand for the rights of the Palestinian movement while not applying YHVH's standard for the rejection of terror actions —why the double standard?

A worldly king has arisen ... don't look for a man / woman - look for a spirit ... that **does not know or accept YHVH.**

### **2. Now look at the reply ...**

***“Stand on holy ground ... and you can face any challenge.”***

- ◆ The Bible says that Moses turned aside when he saw the bush.
- ◆ The Rabbi's have an interesting story - they say that he had left the flock and had gone off searching for a lost lamb.

I cannot find any evidence for this - but it would seem to be quite likely - as the flock would not on its own approach something that looks dangerous like fire.

And indeed, Y'shua Himself has used this thought in a parable or two.

The one that stands out is:

**Luke 15:4-6** *“If one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them, doesn’t he leave the other in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? When he does find it, he joyfully hoists it onto his shoulders; and when he gets home, he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Come, celebrate with me, because I have found my lost sheep!’*”

There are many verses that speak about the Lost sheep ... the idea that man has gone astray.

**Isaiah 53:6** *“We all, like sheep, went astray; we turned, each one, to his own way; yet ADONAI laid on Him the guilt of all of us.”*

**Psalms 79:13** *“Then we, Your people and the flock in Your pasture, will give You thanks forever. From generation to generation we will proclaim Your praise.”*

And Y’shua makes sure that we understand, that it’s the **lost sheep of Israel** that He has come to find.

- ◆ Who are they? ... these are the 10 Tribes of Israel ... under the House of Ephraim that were taken into bondage in Assyria – never to return, and
- ◆ by extension, all of the gentiles who would come to accept Y’shua as the Messiah (note he is not speaking to the House of Judah - their return is by reconciliation to the YHVH).

**Matthew 10:6** *“... but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Isra’el.”*



So it seems to me that the “sheep” have to approach the burning bush to be on Holy Ground.

## **What sort of ideas / concepts arise from this image?**

### **(a) The bush burns but is not destroyed**

If we think about this image we are encouraged to know that while we will go through trials and tribulations (fire), that we will survive.

- ◆ In fact we are told that we need to bring our works of faith to YHVH so that these can be tested
- ◆ so that the works that are wood and hay (in other words self / ego / old-man) can be burned away, and that the works value (gold ... that is the works of the spirit) can be revealed.

**1 Peter 1:7** *“Even gold is tested for genuineness by fire. The purpose of these trials is so that your trust’s genuineness, which is far more valuable than perishable gold, will be judged worthy of praise, glory and honor at the revealing of Yeshua the Messiah.”*

**Revelation 3:18** *“My advice to you is to buy from Me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich; and white clothing, so that you may be dressed and not have to be ashamed of your nakedness; and eyesalve to rub on your eyes, so that you may see.”*

### **(b) The bush holds the promise of empowerment**

What happened to Moses as he approached the bush?

**His potential and his calling are revealed.**

When we enter the presence of The Fire of YHVH, we will find out exactly what we are enabled to achieve.

So many people go through life struggling to find meaning, or measure themselves up against an ungodly standard of world success, and in the process set off in directions that were not intended for them.

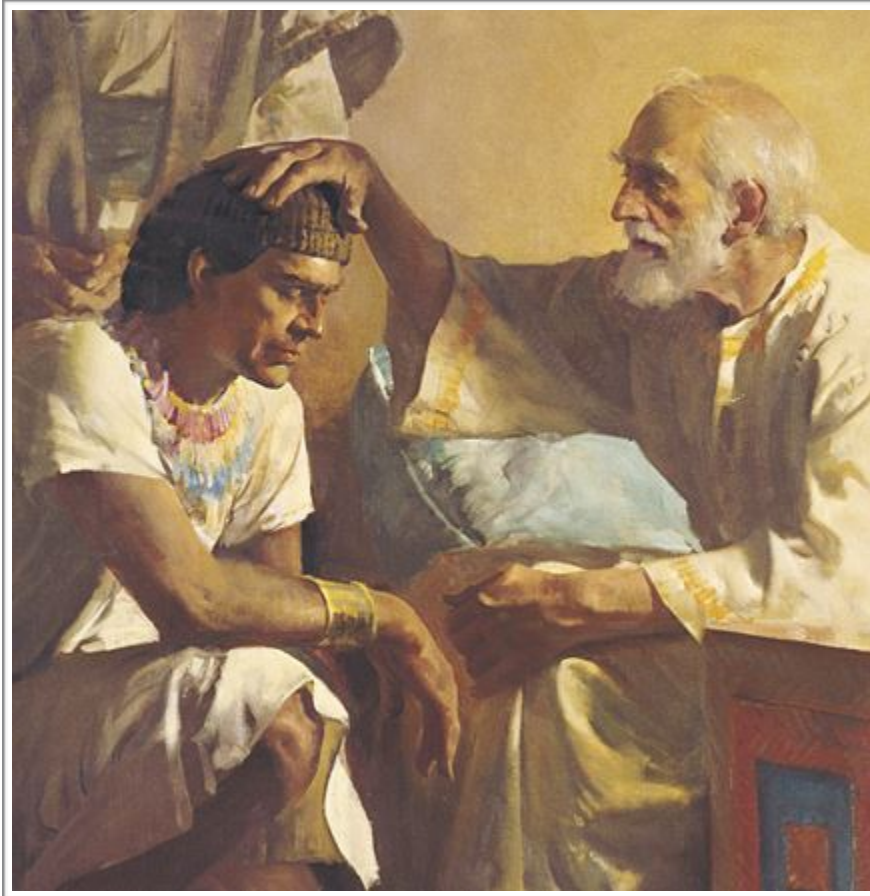
## WHAT SHOULD WE DISCUSS THIS WEEK?

1. Have you thought to step closer to the burning bush this week ... how much of the self / ego / old-man is still standing up in your life?
2. Are you making a stand against the efforts of the kings of this world, by walking in obedience to YHVH's Commandments.
3. Do you have a harvest of the choicest gifts of Heaven to show?



## A FINAL THOUGHT

- ❖ Jacob blesses his sons
- ❖ Each one-uniquely
- ❖ The blessing over Joseph is especially beautiful ... it speaks about;
  - those who live in abundance,
  - who experience the choicest of gifts
  - who have the best yield from the lands



### **Why does this man get all of this blessing?**

Because he “dwells inside of the bush”.

Our place is in Messiah.

**Deuteronomy 33:13-16** “And of Joseph he said, “Blessed by the LORD be his land, with the choicest gifts of heaven above, and of the deep that crouches beneath, with the choicest fruits of the sun and the rich yield of the months, with the finest produce of the ancient mountains and the abundance of the everlasting hills, with the best gifts of the earth and with fullness and the favor of him who dwells in the bush. May these rest on the head of Joseph, and on the top of the head of him who is prince among his brothers.”



# 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.”*

