

## **Our Identity as Israel, Pt. 2 - Prayer**

### **March 14- During Flight – My Journal**

*Early in the morning on our flight a dozen or more men put on their tefillin, wrapped their arms, and began praying & bowing their knees and lowering their heads in reverence toward the Holy Temple Site. It was a scene of overwhelming dedication as you heard alarms going off all over the plane calling them to prayer at the set times.*

*I am stricken with mixed emotions as I witness a commitment not found in most in the messianic walk but a sadness at what I perceived as a ritual that may take away from the original intent of the heart of Abba. What do these devout men know that I don't know? I want to find out.*

*Can we in the Messianic community move into the realm of this level of commitment or will we continue to languish in mediocrity till Messiah returns? It's a question that I am not prepared to answer yet.*

*I am still in the air a few hours from Tel Aviv and the anticipation is growing. I am expecting or should I say hoping to have an encounter with my creator while I am here as a guest in his land.*

*But am I really ready for such an encounter when my very commitment to prayer is in question and I haven't even arrived yet?*

What was so intriguing to us about these devout Jewish men praying at their set times faithfully? Why had I thought it was a futile ritual without looking into it further? Why, Why, Why am I stubborn???

Three days after we landed we had a short teaching on Shabbat by Mark Webb and it was on prayer. The question was asked, why do they pray twice a day at set times? Well I never thought the answer would be found in the Scriptures, but I was shocked when I found it was not only in Scripture but written in both testaments.

What I thought was a ritual turned out to be a Biblical instruction that we are going to read now. This will be a rapid fire bouncing around the Scriptures but all notes are posted on line for you to look up later as you have time.

***Numbers 28:1-4*** “And YHVH spoke unto Moshe, saying, 'Command the children of Yisrael, and say unto them, My offerings, and My bread for My sacrifices made by fire, for a sweet savor unto Me, shall ye observe to offer unto Me in their due season.' “And you shalt say unto them, this is the offering made by fire which you shall offer unto YHVH, two lambs of the first year without spot day by day, for a continual burnt offering.

**Slide 1** - “The one lamb shalt thou offer in the morning, and the other lamb shalt you offer at evening.”

Before we get rolling the first thing to come to your mind is this is the Temple and it is gone.

Do you not know that you are the Temple of the Living God? 1 Cor.

So before we try to slap something down let's take a look at the whole picture first. Agreed? Then, as always, you can make up your own mind as to how you and your family move forward.

It is crystal clear through reading the Torah that there was a morning and an afternoon sacrifice done at the Temple every day of the year. It is called the morning and evening oblations or offerings. It is never disputed among religious Jews that this was around 9 am and 3 pm.

However.... The Hebrew experts in Alabama may differ in opinion???

In Hebrew, the phrase Beyn Ha Abayim is used to describe a phrase that is rarely translated correctly in English but is a far more accurate rendition of this afternoon time rather than evening as we know it. It literally means between the evenings..... but what evenings.

Midday or noon was the beginning of evening and sunset was the end of evening. Remember, this is a Hebraic way of thinking in this day and time. What time is between the beginning of evenings and the sunset? Around 3 pm.

*Besides, evening here is after dark and would be the next day in Israel.*

The same time the Passover Lamb for the nation was to be killed at: beyn ha arbayim – 3 pm on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first month, between the evenings. The time of the afternoon or (Biblical) evening oblation.

**Slide - 1 Chronicles 16:40** *to offer burnt offerings to Yehovah on the altar of burnt offering continually morning and evening, even according to all that is written in the law of Yehovah, which He commanded Israel.*

**Slide - 1 Chronicles 23:30** *"This is the offering which Aaron and his sons are to present to Yehovah on the day when he is anointed; the tenth of an ephah of fine flour as a regular grain offering, half of it in the morning and half of it in the evening.*

**Slide - Ecclesiastes 11:6** *Sow your seed in the morning and do not be idle in the evening, for you do not know whether morning or evening sowing will succeed, or whether both of them alike will be good.*

**Slide - Ezra 3:3** *So they set up the altar on its foundation, for they were terrified because of the peoples of the lands; and they offered burnt offerings on it to Yehovah, burnt offerings morning and evening.*

***The morning and evening prayers at the tabernacle and temple are clearly written throughout the Old Testament.***

*What about individuals?*

**Slide - Psalm 55:16** *But I call upon God, and Yehovah will save me.*

**17** *Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan, and he will hear my voice.*

**Slide - Palm 92:2** *To declare Your loving kindness in the morning and Your faithfulness in the evening,*

**Slide - Ps 141:2-3** *2 Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. 3 Set a watch, O YHVH, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.*

King David clearly prayed at the appointed morning and afternoon prayer times and is inspired to write it in the Psalms. He also prayed at noon.

What about Elijah. There are two places we may see this connection as it relates to him.

**Slide - 1) 1 Kings 17** is the story of Elijah being sent to the Kerith Ravine east of the Jordan River for a time. Verse 6 states: *<sup>6</sup> The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.*

Could this be at the time of the morning and evening prayers??? As Elijah prayed at the appointed times he was fed by the Father???

2) When he faced off with the prophets of Baal it says the prophets of Baal cried out morning to noon but no response from their god. Elijah convinced them around noon that Baal was just sleeping and that if they were louder or more persistent maybe he would answer. Is it possible Elijah was stalling with a purpose????

**Slide - 1 Kings 18:29** *As midday passed, they raved on **until the time of the offering of the oblation**, but there was no voice, no answer, and no response. 30 Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come closer to me"; and all the people came closer to him. First he repaired the altar of Yehovah that had been thrown down;*

It describes all the preparation of the altar, the 12 stones, and the preparation of the offering and then drenching it in water three times to ensure there is no human way it can be lit on fire. And listen to what happens down in verse 36.....

**Slide - 36** ***At the time of the offering of the oblation**, the prophet Elijah came near and said, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your bidding. 37 Answer me, O YHVH, answer me, so that this people may know that you, O YHVH, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back."*

***Slide - 38*** Then the fire of Yehovah fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and even licked up the water that was in the trench. **39** When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "Yehovah indeed is God; Yehovah indeed is God."

Elijah offered up his prayer and his sacrifice at the time of the evening oblation or mid afternoon at 3 pm. Coincidence? I think not.

**Slide - Daniel 6:10** But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows **open toward Jerusalem**. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God.

Daniel was praying at the appointed hours of prayer. Just as he always had done refers to before being in exile and during the exile. It says he faced Jerusalem. Why? You can blame King Solomon not ritual...

1 Kings 8 tells the story of Solomon's prayer that he offered when dedicating the Temple to Yehovah.

**29** that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, "My name shall be there," that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place.

**Slide - 30** *Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.*

***Down to 35*** *"When heaven is shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against you, and then they pray toward this place, confess your name, and turn from their sin, because you punish them,*

***37*** *"If there is famine in the land, if there is plague, blight, mildew, locust, or caterpillar; if their enemy besieges them in any of their cities; whatever plague, whatever sickness there is;*

**SLIDE - 38** *whatever prayer, whatever plea there is from any individual or from all your people Israel, all knowing the afflictions of their own hearts so that they stretch out their hands toward this house;*

**SLIDE - 41** *"Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name **42** for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and **prays toward this house,***

**SLIDE - 44** *"If your people go out to battle against their enemy, by whatever way you shall send them, and they pray to Yehovah **toward the city that you have chosen and the house that I have built for your name,***



*45 then hear in heaven their prayer and plea, and maintain their cause. 46 "If they sin against you—for there is no one who does not sin—and you are angry with them and give them to an enemy, so that they are carried away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near; 47 yet if they come to their senses in the land to which they have been taken captive, and repent, and plead with you in the land of their captors, saying, "We have sinned, and have done wrong; we have acted wickedly';*

***SLIDE -*** *48 if they repent with all their heart and soul in the land of their enemies, who took them captive, and **pray to you toward their land**, which you gave to their ancestors, **the city** that you have chosen, **and the house** that I have built for your name; 49 then hear in heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their plea, maintain their cause 50 **and forgive your people** who have sinned against you, and all their transgressions that they have committed against you; and grant them compassion in the sight of their captors, so that they may have compassion on them 51 (for they are your people and heritage, which you brought out of Egypt, from the midst of the iron-smelter). 52 Let your eyes be open to the plea of your servant, and to the plea of your people Israel, listening to them whenever they call to you. 53 For you have separated them from among all the peoples of the earth, to be your heritage, just as you promised through Moses, your servant, when you brought our ancestors out of Egypt, O Lord God."*

**SLIDE** - Solomon did NOT invent the morning and the afternoon prayers but it was Solomon that gave a righteous prayer at the dedication of the Temple of Yehovah that indicated that we should pray toward the land, toward the city and toward the house that God established. It is this exact place that Messiah Yahshua will rule from in the future. As his prayer suggests, this may be primarily for those who are in exile and had been banished. Kind a like you and I wouldn't you say?

Solomon knew that the children of Israel would fall away and he prayed for provision when we repent and turn back to Yehovah with all our hearts. King Solomon, son of David, the one chosen to build the first Temple to Yehovah prayed for every one of us in this room.

We here today have come to realize that we are in exile and we have *"come to our senses in the land to which we have been taken captive"*.

We need to repent and turn back toward His land, toward His City, and toward His Holy Hill, the Temple Mount and repent. We need to understand that this is our future inheritance and the land we are going back to when Messiah shows up.

**OK, Tom I am buying in. The OT guys prayed at the oblation times, but what about the New Testament? Glad you asked Rich.**

This is about the time someone is thinking we are supposed to pray without ceasing. YES, but does that negate the appointed times? NO.

Joshua was commanded to meditate on the Torah day and night, but that did not remove the appointed times, statutes and oblations.....

The disciples in Jerusalem continued in the Temple daily after Yahshua ascended to heaven. That logically would always be at the time of the prayers as it was for almost everyone that visited the temple as a non-levite. But that alone is not proof.

Acts 2 - The Holy Spirit fell and they were all filled with the Ruach HaKodesh and the on-lookers mocked saying they were drunk.

**SLIDE** - Peter said, they are not drunk for it's only the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour; 9 am. The time of the morning oblation is when the Ruach fell on the disciples and they were filled.

**SLIDE** - Acts 10:3 – Cornelius was praying and during the ninth hour (3 pm) he saw a vision and was told to send for Peter. His prayer was answered during the afternoon oblation time.

The next day Peter is praying on the roof about the sixth hour (noon).

Anyone seeing a New Testament pattern yet?

IF not Rich's new hammer is coming for you.

The bottom line is this. We can pray at any time of day and night, but that does not negate a set time for prayers that the Father has instituted. Also, the appointed times of prayer do two things.

1) They reach out to the Father at the times HE appointed for us to offer up our sacrifices. For us it is the sacrifice of praise and prayer and a sacrifice of thanksgiving.

2) They bring us to a place of devotion that the Messianic community so desperately needs. **I would prefer that the Muslims stop showing us up in the area of dedication.** We need to be committed to learning how to please the Father His way and we could use a little more devotion and a lot less knowledge if you know what I mean.

Humbleness is what the Father desires and humbleness is what will allow you to learn something new and put it into practice if it is from the Holy Scriptures.

Never again will I look at traditions and be quick to judge. Yes, I will evaluate and may not adopt many of the traditions, but far more traditions are rooted in Scripture than I once thought. Far more traditions are a way of setting apart as HOLY, what God has said to set apart as Holy.

Perhaps we can learn much more from the Jewish people and sages than we have been led to believe?

Yes, I am still going to follow my Messiah's instructions and not follow the Takinot and Maasim of the Pharisee's, but I think we would all be far better off if we took the time to understand what is really going on behind the traditions and how we can adapt "some of them" for our own lives in a healthy way that is honoring to our Messiah.

### **Aaronic Benediction**

Here at the House of Scripture we start at 3 pm, the time of the afternoon oblation. We will begin our services with the Shema or a prayer from the Amidah prayers and there is a reason behind it. The Amidah prayers are a great template so to speak. They teach you how to focus your prayer on the Father rather than just asking for stuff. It will show you how to Bless the Creator rather than looking at Him like a genie in a bottle.

Much like the prayer Yahshua taught the disciples was a model, so too are the Amidah prayers and they are beautiful. We will NOT do them all every week and allow them to become a ritual, but we will do them in honor of our Creator as a way to teach everyone how to rid ourselves of the selfish prayers we learned in our past walk.... and learn how to pray the Creators way in this new walk. **Amen?**

**And now we are going to do a little slide show presentation of our Israel Trip.**

**AFTER WE ARE DONE, WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A PRESENTATION TO THE CHILDREN WHO HAVE WORKED SO HARD ON THEIR SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION.**

**NEXT SHABBAT WE START HEBREW CLASSES. SEE RHONDA IF YOU ARE INTERESTED. 1:30 PM**

**IF YOU HAVE NOT SIGNED UP FOR UNITED IN WORSHIP YET YOU NEED TO DO SO. [WWW.UNITEDINWORSHIP.org](http://WWW.UNITEDINWORSHIP.org)**

**And finally, I would like to ask Pastor Lee to come share a few minutes with you about the Restoration Ranch Ministry he his heading up in Florida.14**