

Beth Ariel Congregation  
Congrégation Beth Ariel



English text translation of Yiddish audio

## Yiddish Messianics

# A Time of Reflection

*Based on the audio file in Yiddish*

Welcome everyone to Beth Ariel Congregation's program in Yiddish. We call it Yiddish Messianics. We are excited to share with all our listeners the Good News that God (Hashem) loves His people and wants to draw us near to Him. Der Ayebershter (God) wants His people, Israel, to know Him - He wants all the people of the earth to know Him.

In the 56<sup>th</sup> chapter of the prophet Isaiah it is written:

*"For My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations".*

And one day that will happen, when Moshiach will reign and the wolf will lie with the lamb and the lion will eat straw.

This is the true Jewish hope. Yes, all nations will come to worship Hashem in Jerusalem.

It is written in Isaiah 66:23: *All mankind will come to bow down before Me," says the Lord.*

Yes, it will be an incredible time of peace that will one day in the future come to this entire earth.

Now as we will look into the Word of God we will see, through God's own words, the great love that He has for us right from the beginning. Through the pages of the Tanach-our Holy Torah, the Prophets and the Writings, we will see something

very important; how God's love for us is actually shown in how He gave us a way to deal with our sin.

Now, you might ask, why is sin so important? Because it is with sin that all the problems of the world started.

In the 59th chapter of Isaiah the prophet it is written:

*But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. (Isaiah 59:2)*

Sin not only separates us from God, but it is a heavy burden to carry. So many of us carry guilt from things we have done and things we have not done in our past. Many of us are very disappointed and distressed because of choices we made in life, wrong choices, wrong decisions and we want to get right with God. We want to be right before Him. Sin is a heavy burden but God's forgiveness lightens up the entire load.

King David knew where to go when sin burdened him. He wrote in Psalm 55:22

*"Cast your burden on the Lord, and HE shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved"*

And in Isaiah 41:10 it is written:

*Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, ....*

And in Isaiah 46:4 it is written:

*"Even to your old age I will be the same, And even to your graying years I will bear you! I have done it, and I will carry you; And I will bear you and I will deliver you."*

These are the great and dear words from the prophet Isaiah... God cares and shows His amazing love for each one of us.

As we are now coming close to the days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we begin a time where many of us reflect on our lives. What have we been doing and where are we going? How can I be a better husband, or wife? How can I be the best parents to my children? How can I be a better friend or neighbor? How can I be more joyful, holier and how can I honor God more in my life?

During this season of reflection-cheshbon hanefesh, we will be asking; is God pleased with what I am doing now?

What does God really want me to do? And How do I really get right with God? At this time of year, we also seriously consider the days ahead and our eternal destiny.

We read in the book of Daniel 7:9,10:

*As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.*

What's inside the Book of Life? The events of our life and the choices we made fill up the book and will determine our eternal destiny.

Now, when I was young I learnt that all Jews are on their way to heaven. We seldom had to worry about our eternal destiny. Because I am a daughter or son of Abraham, I am granted entry into heaven with little worry. However, I read

something different in the prophet Daniel. In the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter I read that some... yes, only some will go to Gan Eden while others will not!

As it is written in Daniel 12:1b-2:

*..and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.*

This means that not all will be guaranteed a place in the heaven. What deeds or actions will reserve a place for us in the Book of Life?

Many of us might say that fasting, giving to charity, doing acts of kindness or praying will merit us to get written in the Book of Life. We are so busy with doing, doing, we forget to ask if all this doing ever does anything to change us on the inside! is this what gets rid of sin and draws us closer to God?

The Tanakh teaches us that there are two basic and fundamental things we need to have in order to be in a right relationship with God. First, we need faith. What a beautiful example we have with our forefather Abraham and his faith in God. Here he is, at 85 years old. It's been 10 years since God promised him that he would be a great nation and at this point he doesn't have even one son of his own.

In the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter of Genesis, God answers Abram by telling him to look up at the stars in the heavens and believe that this number would be like his descendants. Yes, God can do all things!

And what does it say after that?

*Genesis 15:6 Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.*

Do you see the power of faith and how it made him right with God, how his **faith** made him righteous before God?

For us, faith in God has to be the first and fundamental principle of our lives. It says in the New Covenant that without faith it is **impossible to please** God. It is also written that God will greatly bless the one who is seeking Him with their whole heart.

We are so busy with the external things that we can feel the void in our lives, in our soul.

This brings us now to the second principle we need to live with when it comes to having a relationship with Hashem. The second fundamental need is a kaparah... God's kaparah.

Let's go back to Genesis once again. There we meet with Adam and his wife Chava (Eve). They both went against God by eating of the fruit they were told not to. God said that in the day you eat it, you will die. Adam did not follow God's command and ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. What did Adam do when he realized he was now naked before God? He hid and covered himself with a fig leaf. How did God respond? He called Adam out of the bushes and in love asked, "Why are you hiding"? And in that moment God did an amazing thing. He did not accept the fig leaf covering that Adam took to cover himself. Instead, He took animal skin to cover Adam.

As it says in Genesis 3:21

*The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.*

That means that an animal needed to die and this became an atonement (substitution) for Adam and Eve. We see the great love and grace from God for us.

No, it wasn't the deeds that Adam did, it wasn't the fig leaf cover that made it right, it was God's covering. It was blood that made an atonement for their sins and this is the atonement we have had since... blood atonement.

We learn and read from the Torah that God commanded the children of Israel to have blood in every sacrifice on the altar.

As it says in Leviticus 17:11

*For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.*

It is very clear that we cannot free ourselves from nor clean ourselves of our sins. Even our best attempts at righteousness leave us powerless next to God's holiness.

The prophet Isaiah emphasizes with strong words when he wrote:

*But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are like filthy rags: We all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away" (Isaiah 64:6).*

And the price or cost to cover our sins is very high... too high...

King David says in Tehillim Psalms 49:7-8:

*"None of them can by any means redeem his brother, Nor give to God a ransom for him-For the redemption of their souls is costly, no payment is ever enough.*

King David teaches us here that the price of our sin is too high for any of us to pay. But God can provide the price... God Himself can provide the atonement... nothing is too difficult for Him.

Since our Temple was destroyed, no sacrifices have been made for the last 2000 years but God's requirements for sin have not changed. Who are we to think we can change those requirements? Blood was always the sign in a covenant with God.

That same requirement was made on the children of Israel in Egypt when the Destroying Angel passed over the homes which had the blood on the doorpost. It was the blood that protected and kept the first born alive.

What do we do today? The answer comes from the good news of Isaiah's 53<sup>rd</sup> chapter: Our sins are covered by God's Servant, the Messiah and the atonement He made by giving His life for us.

For this is what it reads (Isaiah 53: 4a,5a,5b):

*"Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering... he was bruised for our iniquities.. by his stripes we are healed... the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."*

We are now coming to the concluding part of our study. Are we good enough to get into the Book of Life? No, but Yeshua Who carries our iniquities writes our name in the book, because of two things we do: have faith in God and have faith in His atonement for us, that He has given His only Son, as our covering. God's requirements have not changed.

Please, take time to read Isaiah 53 and consider of whom the prophet speaks.

On Rosh Hashanah, in synagogues around the world, Jews will be reading from the Torah, from the book of Genesis about the Binding of Isaac. In Genesis 22:7, Isaac asks his father Abraham,

*"And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: But where is the lamb for a burnt offering".*

*And Genesis 22:8 continues with, "And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together."*

We learn here that just as God provided the ram as a sacrifice instead of Isaac, God himself, in His love for us has provided the blood of atonement for us today. He gave us the blood covering that we need today. God has given us His Only Begotten Son, Messiah Yeshua to be the true kapparah for our sins. By coming to know the true Messiah, we can experience the true joy and inner peace that comes when we know that no matter how much we do doesn't really count. It is our faith that counts first.

Listen now, please. If we have well understood that we need a sacrifice, the only one, and it is Yeshua the Messiah, and if we understand that we are all sinners and our works are not good enough to free us from guilt, this means we have understood the most important message God can give... that God so loved the world that He gave His only and sole son that whoever believes in Him, would be saved and be with the Lord forever.

It's not about what we do but about what God has done for us.

We want to thank all our listeners for joining us and we invite you to our next program. We hope that you were blessed by this study. If you want to communicate with us please call at 514 685 5902 or you may reach us on the web site at [info@bethariel.ca](mailto:info@bethariel.ca). With blessings in the name of Yeshua the Messiah we wish you a shalom shalom!