

וְזֹאת הַבְּרָכָה

V'ZOT HABRACHAH/AND THIS IS THE BLESSING Devarim/Deuteronomy 33:1-34:12

V'zot Habrachah is a **special parasha** not only because it is the **last reading** of the **Torah**, but also because it is the **only parasha** that is **not read specifically on a Shabbat**. Traditionally it is read on **Shemini Atzeret**, or the **8th day of the Feast of Tabernacles** (Sukkot).

This week we will branch out from one verse in our parasha:

*Devarim 33:5 And He was **King** (melek - מֶלֶךְ) in **Yeshurun** (יִשְׂרָאֵל), When the leaders of the people were gathered, **All the tribes of Israel together** (yachad - יַחַד).*

“Yeshurun” (יִשְׂרָאֵל), from a root meaning “**straight**” (yashar - יָשָׁר), is a **title of honor for Israel** that describes the nation in its **ideal state** as an **upright nation**. Rashi explains that יהוה is Israel’s “**King**” in the most **complete sense only when the people are “united/together”** (yachad - יַחַד). Just as a “**unified**” (yachad - יַחַד) Israel accepted the Torah on Mount Sinai, so once again יהוה will reign only over a nation that maintains a sense of harmony in belief and action.

While **individual service** is **meaningful** and often necessary, it is **not the optimum** that the **Father desires**. He does **not want us** to “**do our own thing**.” He wants the **entire congregation of Israel** to be in **perfect harmony** and in total “**unity**” (yachad - יַחַד) to **worship Him**:

*Ephesians 4:3 being diligent to keep the **unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace.⁴ There is **one body** and **one Spirit**, just as you were called in **one hope** of your calling;⁵ **one Adonai**, **one faith**, **one baptism**;⁶ **one Elohim and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.***

יהוה is “**one**,” and “**unity**” among His chosen is exactly how He demands that we serve Him. **Everything** in our lives should **focus** on bringing the **various parts of the body** into a **single consolidated unit**. It is true that there is **strength in numbers**, but **strength** reaches its **peak when all the parts act in perfect harmony**:

*1 Corinthians 12:12 For as the body is **one** and has many members, but all the members of that **one body, being many, are one body**, so also is Messiah.¹³ For by **one Spirit** we were all baptized into **one body** -- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free -- and have all been made to drink into **one Spirit**.¹⁴ For in fact the **body is not one member but many**.¹⁵ If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body?¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body?¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?¹⁸ But now **Yah has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased**.¹⁹ And if they were all one member, where would the body be?²⁰ But now indeed there are **many members, yet one body**.²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”²² No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.²³ And those members of the body which we think to be less*

*honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unrepresentable parts have greater modesty,²⁴ but our representable parts have no need. But Yah composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it,²⁵ that **there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.**²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.*

As you can see, **individual expression within the body is necessary.** We all are to make our own **personal contribution**; however, we should all be **focused on the same goal.** We see this pictured in how **each tribe of Israel** had its **individual banner** (representing its **unique traits**); however, the **Tabernacle** in the **middle of the encampment** was everyone's **focus**:

***Bemidbar 2:2** "Everyone of the **children of Israel** shall camp by his own banner, with the emblems of his father's house; they shall camp some distance from the **Tabernacle of meeting**."*

Okay, since "**unity**" (yachad - יָחַד) is such an **important principle** given to us from our Father and such a **difficult thing for us to actually achieve**, let's attempt to understand it more fully. Last week we saw how "**His Name**," could be **identified** with "**His Plan**." With that in mind, let's begin the rest of our study with a **prayer**:

***Psalm 86:11** Teach me Your way, O יהוה; I will walk in Your truth; **Unite** (yachad - יָחַד) my heart to fear **Your Name**.*

Another word, stemming from the root of **yachad** (יָחַד) is **yachid** (יָחִיד). Here is some of the **Strong's** information on the related word:

<03173> יָחִיד (yachid)

Meaning: only, only one, solitary

Origin: from 3161 (יָחַד – yachad)

Usage: child(1), lonely(2), one(1), only(5), **only son**(4).

What is the **source** of our "**unity**" (יָחַד – yachad)? The word **yachid** (יָחִיד) gives us some **answers**:

***Bereshith 22:2** Then He said, "Take now your son, your **only son** (yachid - יָחִיד) Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."*

Although the word **yachid** (יָחִיד) translates to an "**only child**," we know that **Abraham** had **another son** named **Ishmael**. **Yachid** (יָחִיד) can also be used to describe a **child** who is "**unique, unparalleled, or incomparable**." Of course this **anticipates the Messiah** in His **unique relationship** to the Father who claims Him as "**my beloved Son**":

***Matthew 3:17** And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is **My beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased."*

The supreme act of **sacrifice** is **evidence of His love for the world**. This was **prophetically pictured** by **Abraham's willingness to sacrifice** his "**only son**" (yachid - יָחִיד) **Isaac**:

*John 3:16 "For Yah so loved the world that He gave **His only begotten Son** (yachid – יָחִיד), that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

Herein lies the key to "**unity**" (yachad – יָחָד). There is an "**only son**" (yachid – יָחִיד), whom we are to "**live through**" in order to become "**one**":

*1 John 4:9 In this the love of Yah was manifested toward us, that Yah has sent His **only begotten** (yachid – יָחִיד) Son into the world, that we might **live through Him**.*

This "**oneness**" was Yeshua's prayer in **John 17**:

*John 17:11 "Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep **through Your Name** (plan) those whom You have given Me, that they may be **one** as We are...¹⁷ "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth...²⁰ " I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;²¹ "that they all may be **one**, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be **one in Us**, that the world may believe that You sent Me.²² "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be **one just as We are one**;²³ "**I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one**, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.*

What does it mean... "**to be one**?" Verses in the **Hebrew Scriptures** describe the condition of being "**like-minded**" in praising Him:

*Psalms 34:3 Oh, magnify יְהוָה with me, And let us exalt **His name together** (יָחָד).*

*Isaiah 52:9 Break forth into joy, **sing together** (יָחָד), You waste places of Jerusalem! For יְהוָה has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem.*

There is also "**like-mindedness**" in following the Word:

*2 Chronicles 30:12 Also the hand of Elohim was on Judah to give them **one heart to obey the command of the king** and the leaders, at the word of יְהוָה.*

Many verses can be found in the **Brit Chadasha** regarding being "**like-minded**." As you read them, I challenge you to consider whether this describes you in your relationship with your fellow Messianic believers. Remember... "**unity**" is **HIS goal for us!**

*Romans 15:5 Now may the El of patience and comfort grant you to be **like-minded toward one another, according to Messiah Yeshua**,*

1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the Name of our Adonai Messiah Yeshua, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Philippians 2:2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

If the believers of the 1st century would not have been “*like-minded*”, they would have missed the arrival of the Holy Spirit:

Acts 2:1 When the Day of Shavuot/Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

We have just completed Yom Kippur, a day when the congregation of Israel is called to corporately examine their hearts. An individual who sins causes the entire body to be guilty. We are ONE and we all have an effect on each other. Yeshua has atoned for our sins, but what does that mean? Does it mean that we are no longer responsible for repenting and renouncing? No, it means that now we are able to approach His Holiness in our sinfulness and ask Yeshua to remove our sins:

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Yom Kippur is not for salvation purposes, but it is a cleansing process that corporately renews us. When we have rid ourselves of the impurities in our lives, we are able to have “*unity*”! On Yom Kippur, we also repent for the sins that have been passed on to us through our ancestors. In fact, we intercede for the entire body (past, present, future), because this body/bride must be purified and “*unified*” when the Messiah returns for her! We have a vested interest in each other!!

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Messiah also loved the assembly and gave Himself for her,²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious assembly, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

The message of John the Immerser will be repeated. He was calling to those people in the wilderness to “*repent*” and cleanse their hearts by walking according to the Father’s standards. In Matthew, John quoted the words of the prophet Isaiah:

Matthew 3:1 In those days John the Immerser came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,² and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of Yah; Make His paths straight (yashar - יָשָׁר).’”

Isaiah 40:3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of יְהוָה; Make straight (yashar - יָשָׁר) in the desert A highway for our Elohim.⁴ Every valley shall be exalted And every

mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made **straight** (yashar - יָשָׁר) and the rough places smooth; ⁵ The glory of יהוה shall be revealed, And **all flesh shall see it together** (יָחַד); For the mouth of יהוה has spoken."

Now we have come **full circle back to Devarim 33:5**. When we “**repent**,” we make our **paths “straight”** (yashar - יָשָׁר). This allows us **through Yeshua to earn the title of “Yeshurun”** (יֵשׁוּרֻן), a name for **Israel** which **symbolizes “unity”** (yachad - יָחַד) in **Him!!**

Closely identified with the word for “**unity**” (yachad – יָחַד), is the **related word** meaning “**one**” (echad - אֶחָד). **Echad** (אֶחָד) stresses “**unity**” and is seen in the **familiar verse**:

Devarim 6:4 " Hear, O Israel: יהוה our Elohim, יהוה is one (echad - אֶחָד)!"

Ezekiel prophesied that the **fragmented nation of Israel** would **someday** be “**reunited**,” as he **symbolically joined “two sticks”**:

Ezekiel 37:16 "As for you, son of man, take a stick for yourself and write on it: 'For Judah and for the children of Israel, his companions.' Then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel, his companions.' ¹⁷ "Then join them one to another for yourself into one (echad - אֶחָד) stick, and they will become one (echad - אֶחָד) in your hand.

Once again **Judah and Ephraim** would be “**one nation**” with “**one king**”:

*Ezekiel 37:22 "and I will make them one (echad - אֶחָד) nation in the Land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall **no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms** again.*

The **point of Ezekiel’s prophecy** is the **corporate restoration of Israel**. **Hosea** is another witness to this event:

Hosea 1:11 Then the children of Judah and the children of Israel Shall be gathered together (yachad – יָחַד), And appoint for themselves one (echad - אֶחָד) head; and they shall come up out of the Land, For great will be the day of Jezreel!

Ezekiel 37:22 tells us that there will be “**one King**” over a “**unified**” **Israel**. We see this verified by other writers:

Zechariah 14:9 And יהוה shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be -- "יהוה is one," (echad - אֶחָד) And His Name one (echad - אֶחָד).

Revelation 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Adonai and of His Messiah, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

Everything we have discussed thus far can be **extracted from the one verse we began with** from our **parasha**. Let's take one more look at **Devarim 33:5** as it appears in context:

Devarim 33:2 And he said: "יְהוָה came from Sinai... From His right hand came a fiery law for them. ³ Yes, **He loves the people**; All His saints are in Your hand; They sit down at Your feet; Everyone receives Your Words. ⁴ Moshe commanded a Torah for us, A heritage of the congregation of Jacob. ⁵ And He was King in Yeshurun (יְשׁוּרֻן), When the leaders of the people were gathered, All the tribes of Israel together (yachad - יַחַד).

Devarim 33:5 remembers the day that יְהוָה was made "King" by the people at the covenant acceptance ceremony at "Sinai." As "unified" (yachad - יַחַד) Israel, they wanted יְהוָה to be their "King"! As we see from verse 4, after their acceptance of Him, they received His "Torah"...crucial for being "Yeshurun" (יְשׁוּרֻן) and for maintaining "unity" (yachad - יַחַד). This "unified" attitude is summed up in a single verse in Shemot:

Shemot 24:3 So Moshe came and told the people all the Words of יְהוָה and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one (echad - אֶחָד) voice and said, "All the words which יְהוָה has said we will do."

Friends, our future is to become "Yeshurun." We must again become a "unified body." In fact, it is clear in the Hebrew that "Israel" (יִשְׂרָאֵל) is the "straight" (יָשָׁר) of "El" (אֱל). When "Israel" truly becomes "Yeshurun" (the straight of El), then the "King" will come! The question is...are each of us humbling ourselves, by loving our brother, to work towards this "unity"? We began this study with a prayer, we'll end it with another as we bow our knees to the King:

Ephesians 3:14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Adonai Yeshua the Messiah, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ that Messiah may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height -- ¹⁹ to know the love of Messiah which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of Yah. ²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him be glory in the assembly by Messiah Yeshua to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Shabbat Shalom!

Ardelle

Be strong! Be strong! And may we be strengthened!

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