

## Enmity and a Sign of the Times

*“I will put animosity (enmity, KJV) between you and the woman—between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel” (Gen 3:15, TLV).*

The Torah reading for these last two weeks involve beginnings. Genesis (*B<sup>e</sup>reshit*) gives us a record of the creation and the fall of man and then Noah (*Noach*) tells us about the ultimate fall of mankind, the ensuing flood to be followed by another new beginning for humanity.

The name of the second letter of the Hebrew alphabet (ב) is *Beth* or *Beit* (בֵּית), which means *house*. This word is found in several Hebrew names, such as *Bethlehem*, (בֵּית-לֶחֶם, literally, 'House of Bread') and *Bethel*, (בֵּית-אֵל, literally, 'House of God'). Even the shape of the letter depicts a floor, ceiling, wall and doorway of a house. Since the name and form of *Beit* represent a house, in several ways it also symbolizes a dwelling place: (1) *Yeshua*, in Whom the fullness of God dwells, (2) Scripture, in which dwells God's Word to mankind, and (3) creation itself, the present dwelling place of mankind. In the *Torah* scroll we notice how the first letter (*Beit*) is printed oversized – the only oversized letter in the entire *Torah*. It is as if the Almighty states: “*I am housing for you something very special, Torah, the words of life itself.*” Indeed, *Torah* is the *Tree of Life* (*Etz Chayim*).

If we divide the Hebrew word *B<sup>e</sup>reshit* into its root *rosh* (*reshit*) then what is left is the letter/word *Beit*. *Rosh* literally means head and, of course, *Beit* we know means house. *B<sup>e</sup>reshit* is thus, the House of the Head, or the Head of the House. We know Torah is the House of the Wisdom of God and we also know *Yeshua* is the Head of the House. Do you see the connection? Since *Beit* follows *Aleph* in the Hebrew alphabet, notice the pointed nature of the letter in the *Torah* (א). One points toward the blank space before the *Torah* starts (and by implication to the letter that precedes it, that is, *Aleph*, and the other points toward heaven. *Beit* is the house of *Aleph*, which is in heaven, the house of *Yeshua*, the Word made flesh.

There are two salient points (among many others) in Genesis that I think deserve elucidating because of their significance to Messianic Believers: (1) the children of Sarah and (2) enmity/animosity between Satan and the woman and between the seed of evil and the seed of the woman (See Gen. 3:15).

There is one thing that separates Isaac from Ishmael and Abraham's other children born after Sarah's death – *Sarah!* Though they were all the seed of Abraham, they were not all the seed of Sarah. God destined the godly seed to come from the covenant union of Abraham and Sarah. Her contribution distinctly set Isaac apart from Abraham's other children as the child of promise. What an incredible truth! It takes the oneness (*echad*) of the marriage covenant (*b'rit*) to bring forth the foundation of the godly generations of the plan of God. Another woman whose seed was terribly important was Mary (*Miryam*); her seed united with the Holy Spirit (*Ruach HaKodesh*) brought forth Messiah *Yeshua*. Ever since the fall of man in the *Garden of Eden* the enemy has been trying to disqualify the role of women concerning the purposes of God on the earth, but He has been confirming their significance over and over and over again.

Let me focus on the word enmity. Throughout the history of our Jewish people, *HaSatan* has been warring and resisting dramatically the role of women concerning the promises of God. This warfare goes back to Genesis and the enmity/animosity between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent – just as there was enmity between Isaac and Ishmael. This incompatibility between the seed of the woman and seed of the serpent was prophesied over/to *Eve* in the *Garden of Eden*. The Hebrew word used is *eibah*, which is translated *enmity* in the KJV and it means: hostility, hatred, animosity, antagonism, and hate [singular]. Notice that the enemy also has descendants (seed, *zarah*). The seed of man and the seed of a woman that are joined (*echad*) together in matrimony provide for the union of these two seeds to make life. This is a new and distinct form of life, taking from both seeds to make a completely unique and distinct individual (one with a new DNA): “<sup>24</sup>*This is why a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife; and they become one flesh (basar echad)*” (Gen 2:24).

God intended His promises to our Jewish people to come from the union of a specific bloodline, the specific union of a man and a woman, and not just any union – a bloodline contributed to by both men and women. It should be noted that not only was Sarah barren, but also Rebekah and Rachel had to confront the same impediment to the promises of God – a barren womb. God’s promises waited on these wombs to open up, and He Himself directed their opening for it is written: “<sup>3</sup>Behold, children are a heritage of Adonai – the fruit of the womb is a reward” (*Psalm 127:3*). In the Messianic bloodline we have the blood of Ruth, a gentile woman, and the great grandmother of *King David*. Messiah’s lineage is notable in that God distinctly include two women of good reputation – Bathsheba and Tamar, and two Gentile women – Rahab and Ruth. Why were these women included unless they had nothing to contribute to the DNA of Messiah? This inclusion of Gentile blood in the lineage of Messiah points to the prophetic joining of Jew and Gentile through the profound and far-reaching sacrifice of the Messiah. Thus, we can sing “*Jew and Gentile, one in Messiah, one in Yeshua, one in the olive tree...*”

Because of the promise of a Messiah who would destroy the enemy of our souls, the enemy has launched an all-out attack on women throughout time, trying to disqualify them as partners of the promises of God. Attacking their fertility, the enemy harassed them, but God has made them overcomers and co-laborers in the perpetuation of His promises on the earth. Ultimately, doctrines and ideas that disqualify the role of women or their essential bestowal of inheritance through the bloodline are doctrines that flow through the anti-Messiah spirit – that spirit which wants to quench the promises of God in the earth and keep God’s purposes from coming forth. But God has great promises for women, for without them, there would be *NO HOLY SEED*.

*Yeshua* describes His return being accompanied by judgment; “<sup>36</sup>But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven nor the Son, except the Father alone. <sup>37</sup>“For just as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For in those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark. <sup>39</sup>And they did not understand until the flood came and swept them all away. So shall it be at the coming of the Son of Man...”<sup>26</sup>As it was in the days of Noah, so will it also be in the days of the Son of Man. <sup>27</sup>They were eating, drinking, marrying, and being given in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all” (*Matt. 24:36-39, Luke 17:26-27, TLV*). So the sign of the times is that judgment is coming – just as the flood came and judged people, so will His return. The ‘sweeping them all away’ is not, as some people interpret, the so-called ‘rapture of the church.’ Rather, it is compared to the flood taking away people in judgment. We can surely go back to *Genesis* chapter 6 and clearly see the context of the *days of Noah* since “Noah found favor in Adonai’s eyes... (*Gen 6:8-13, 17-18, 22*)

*Yeshua* indicates that during the time just before His return, although the warnings were sounded, most people will carry on with life as usual. In those days, even though Noah was building the ark and living in righteousness (i.e., he was preaching and doing works to prove his preaching), people were ignoring him. It was business as usual – getting married, gathering food, etc. Noah’s message was completely ignored. His trek was not a 1-day, 1-week or even 1, 10, 25, or 50-year event. From *Genesis 5:32* and *7:11* we can infer ~100 year ark-building ministry before his peers. So will it be in the days preceding the return of *Yeshua*. Noah’s message (the same as John the Baptist’s message) “Repent & Return” will be preached, but most people will give little heed to it – people do not *sh’ma*. According to *Yeshua*’s own words it should be clear that *Noah* provides an important basis for understanding His teaching about the end times. We also need to find *favor* in His eyes.

<sup>18</sup>For Messiah once suffered for sins also—the righteous for the unrighteous—in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive by the Ruach. <sup>19</sup>Through the Ruach He also went and preached to the spirits in prison. <sup>20</sup>Long ago they disobeyed while God kept waiting patiently, in the days of Noah as the ark was being built. In that ark a few (that is, 8 souls) were brought safely through water. <sup>21</sup>Corresponding to that, immersion now brings you to safety – not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but a pledge to God of a good conscience – through the resurrection of Messiah *Yeshua* (*1 Peter 3:18-21*)