

Considering Rebellion in the Wilderness

Written by: Todd D. Bennett
www.shemayisrael.net

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I know that I mention the date every week, but sometimes you need to stop and let the significance of the statement sink in. The majority of the world is operating under an illusory system of time. They are still reckoning time according to an empire that dominated the world 2,000 years ago.

Again. It is profound to consider the fact that two thousand years later we are still following the calendar of a supposedly collapsed empire that is grounded in sun worship and polytheistic traditions.

In this age when we are told to "trust the science" it's amazing that the world still follows a religious calendar that honors the Nephilim offspring of fallen creation.

This is particularly significant since the Roman empire was responsible for killing the Messiah. Nevertheless, Christianity became the official religion of Rome and maintained Rome's calendar, among other things.

The Roman Empire ended up as a house divided between East and West that exists to this very day. Yahushua is going to come and turn it all into chaff. (Daniel 2:35)

The modern calendar used by Rome was actually rooted in Babylon, and it is centered around Roman gods and Caesars.

Just like Rome invented the Christian religion to hide the Messiah and steer people into lawlessness, the Roman/Babylonian Calendar continues to accomplish that same function. It directs people away from YHWH and His Appointed Times all the while providing substitute feasts and holidays that help support the economy of Babylon.

It is all part of the bread and circuses that we examined in the previous message.

Most people are so distracted by the bread and circuses in this hectic modern world that they find it difficult to even stop and question time, as it literally flies by them. As a result, few are able to adequately consider the future and the possibility of the fulfillment of Scriptural prophecies in their lifetime.

While they may have some vague notion concerning how the world is going to end, most are so consumed with working to pay their bills, that during their free time they seek entertainment and amusement to distract them from all their problems.

The entertainment that Babylon provides is a respite from the reality of the slavery and dependence that most people find themselves in. It is bitter sweet.

I field questions from people on a regular basis, and I know people are struggling just to get the correct dates to observe the Appointed Times, let alone actually consider leaving everything behind.

The notion of actually rehearsing for a fulfillment of the Appointed Times is a really big deal. Yahushua said He would come as “a thief” and He tells us to “watch.” Revelation 16:15

If you’re not awake, ready and mentally prepared, you won’t be able to react if the rehearsal actually becomes a fulfillment.

It is like the rich man who wanted to follow Yahushua, but he simply couldn’t because he was so tethered to this world by his wealth and belongings.

I’m trying to address these very practical issues because I think most people completely miss the focus of some of the Appointed Times due to traditions, and the fact that they simply have been relegated to observances, rather than rehearsals for thousands of years.

They think that if they simply light some candles and have a meal that they are somehow equipped for what lies ahead.

People aren’t typically thinking that they will actually see a fulfillment of the Appointed Times they are observing. It is critical that we begin to incorporate that mindset into our rehearsals.

Part of the adjustment requires recognizing the false reality that you have spent your entire life living within. It is an artificial matrix designed to distract you from the Creator and the plan that is in place to restore mankind.

Babylon is an aphrodisiac to some and a sedative to others. It can be both a distraction to people and it can put them to sleep. It is designed to keep you away from the kingdom of Elohim until you enter your final sleep, and then it will be too late.

When we recognize that we are living in an entertainment driven society full of pitfalls and distractions, it should reinforce the fact that you have not arrived at your final destination.

It is a reminder that you are a sojourner and that is an important realization for anyone born and raised in Babylon and steeped in Babylonian religion and tradition.

So, we need to be ready to leave and head out on a journey. That has been our focus for weeks because that is the exercise that is actually built into the Appointed Times. And that is why all of the patriarchs chosen by YHWH ended up living Nomadic lifestyles.

Remember that Abram originally lived in Babylon until he was told to *“Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you.”* Genesis 12:1

As a result, every person in every nation that desires to follow the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob must be prepared to “get out of your country.” We all must be prepared to take a journey like Abraham and his seed.

Of course, with every journey you need to know when to depart and you need a destination.

The problem is that everyone seems to have their own opinion on the question of “the ifs, the whens and the hows.”

That is why we need two witnesses.

YHWH provided Moses and Aharon to act as two witnesses for Yisrael. They told Yisrael that they were going to be delivered from slavery.

Now, I'm fairly certain that they didn't have a newsletter or message board where they posted a detailed itinerary to every Yisraelite. There were tribal elders who received the instructions and they passed those instructions on. The people were on a "need to know basis."

We now live in an age of information where everyone wants to know every little detail all of the time. People are not used to being patient and many aren't willing to wait for the instructions from on high. That can lead to people being presumptuous.

This is why the people of YHWH are in such a state of confusion and division. Many of the sheep want to either be the shepherd or they don't want to follow a shepherd.

Like it or not, YHWH built order into Creation and there is a chain of command in the Kingdom.

Now I'm not promoting submission or "shepherding" doctrines that some cultic churches promote. Been there done that.

At the same time, we need to be careful that we don't just become a bunch of mavericks who aren't aligned with the Kingdom. Recall the period of the Shoftim (Judges) when there was no king and "*everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*" Judges 21:25

In case you didn't realize it, we're there.

I know that many people have been burned by controlling and manipulative pastors, preachers, churches and ministries. Once bitten twice shy.

There can come a point though, when our independence can turn into rebellion.

Let's face it, Americans take pride in the fact that they rebelled against a king and they promote and extol democracy as a virtue. These traits are not always compatible with the Kingdom of Elohim.

I have been in churches that operate like democracies where the congregation votes in the pastor. I have also been in congregations where the pastor acts as an overlord. The problem is that none of these church models represent the Kingdom of Elohim. They are artificial creations of men and religions.

We all need to step back out of our religious systems and inherited mindsets and assess whether we are really ready to walk in submission to the King in His Kingdom.

Last week I was reading Ezekiel and I couldn't help but notice how often the prophet referred to Yisrael as "the rebellious house."

"¹ And He said to me, Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak to you. ² Then the Spirit entered me when He spoke to me, and set me on my feet; and I heard Him who spoke to me. ³ And He said to me: Son of man, I am sending you to the children of Yisrael, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day. ⁴ For they are impudent and stubborn children. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, Thus says Adonai YHWH. ⁵ As for them, whether they hear or whether they refuse - for they are a rebellious house - yet they will know that a prophet has been among them." Ezekiel 2:1-5 (see also Ezekiel 2:6, 2:8, 3:9, 3:26, 12:2, 12:3, 12:9, 12:25, 17:12, 24:3, 44:6)

It reminded me what a problem that rebellion was in the wilderness.

Here is what Moses had to say about it:

“⁹ Remember and do not forget how you provoked YHWH your Elohim to wrath in the wilderness. From the day you came out of the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against YHWH . . . ²⁴ You have been rebellious against YHWH from the day that I knew you.” Deuteronomy 9:7 and 24

As part of your preparation for the wilderness, it may prove beneficial to see if you’ve got any seeds of rebellion lurking inside of you before you leave your house.

We all need to learn from the mistakes of our predecessors, and as we just read, Yisrael was filled with rebellion from the very beginning of their journey.

The wilderness is the place where all of the problems that might be hidden in Egypt and Babylon come bubbling to the surface.

We have been talking about our journey in the wilderness, and addressing the issue of rebellion in the wilderness is important.

There is a significant example of rebellion in the wilderness provided through the rebellion of Korah. It is found in the text called “Numbers” in most English Bibles. In the Hebrew it is “b’midbar,” which literally means “in the wilderness.”

Remember when we consider the events in the wilderness that these were a people originally covered by the blood of the lamb and delivered from Egypt. They had entered into Covenant with YHWH at Sinai and agreed to the terms of that Covenant.

First, read how Jude connects the Exodus with the rebellion of Korah.

“⁵ Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that the Lord (Yahushua), who saved a people out of the land of Egypt,

afterward destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶ And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day ⁷ just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. ⁸ Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. ⁹ But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, YHWH rebuke you. ¹⁰ But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. ¹¹ Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion." Jude 5-11

Jude was sending a warning to the people of Elohim who were being led astray by rebellious individuals.

I love how Jude specifically attributes the deliverance in the Exodus to Yahushua in some texts. The Exodus was all about Yahushua, and it still is. While we can be participants in the deliverance process, the focus is not on us as individuals. It is on the Lamb of Elohim and His blood covering the homes of those who trust in Him – His Bride.

The text specifically states that they were “saved” out of slavery, but later destroyed because they did not believe. That reveals the glaring flaw with the Christian understanding of being saved. YHWH can save us from physical death and slavery, but that does not necessarily equate with living in paradise for all eternity. You can follow YHWH through the waters, and then later decide to murmur and even rebel against Him.

The notion of “once saved always saved” demonstrates a lack of understanding of the salvation process as revealed through the Appointed Times. That is why I wrote the book [“Salvation: The Covenant Journey.”](#)

The fact that Jude would place so much significance on the rebellion of Korah is quite profound. It is an important lesson that we should all be familiar with.

So, let’s now read what happened in the text of B’midbar:

“¹ Now Korah the son of Izhar, son of Kohath, son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men. ² And they rose up before Moses, with a number of the people of Yisrael, 250 chiefs of the congregation, chosen from the assembly, well-known men. ³ They assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aharon and said to them, You have gone too far! For all in the congregation are holy, every one of them, and YHWH is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of YHWH? ⁴ When Moses heard it, he fell on his face, ⁵ and he said to Korah and all his company, In the morning YHWH will show who is his, and who is holy, and will bring him near to him. The one whom he chooses he will bring near to him. ⁶ Do this: take censers, Korah and all his company; ⁷ put fire in them and put incense on them before YHWH tomorrow, and the man whom YHWH chooses shall be the holy one. You have gone too far, sons of Levi! ⁸ And Moses said to Korah, Hear now, you sons of Levi: ⁹ is it too small a thing for you that the Elohim of Yisrael has separated you from the congregation of Yisrael, to bring you near to himself, to do service in the tabernacle of YHWH and to stand before the congregation to minister to them, ¹⁰ and that he has brought you near him, and all your brothers the sons of Levi with you? And would you seek the priesthood also? ¹¹ Therefore it is against YHWH that you and all your company have gathered together. What is Aharon that you grumble against him? ¹² And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram the sons of

Eliab, and they said, We will not come up. ¹³ Is it a small thing that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, that you must also make yourself a prince over us? ¹⁴ Moreover, you have not brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey, nor given us inheritance of fields and vineyards. Will you put out the eyes of these men? We will not come up.” ¹⁵ And Moses was very angry and said to YHWH, Do not respect their offering. I have not taken one donkey from them, and I have not harmed one of them. ¹⁶ And Moses said to Korah, Be present, you and all your company, before YHWH, you and they, and Aharon, tomorrow. ¹⁷ And let every one of you take his censer and put incense on it, and every one of you bring before YHWH his censer, 250 censers; you also, and Aharon, each his censer. ¹⁸ So every man took his censer and put fire in them and laid incense on them and stood at the entrance of the tent of meeting with Moses and Aharon. ¹⁹ Then Korah assembled all the congregation against them at the entrance of the tent of meeting. And the glory of YHWH appeared to all the congregation. ²⁰ And YHWH spoke to Moses and to Aharon, saying, ²¹ Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment. ²² And they fell on their faces and said, O El, Elohi of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and will you be angry with all the congregation? ²³ And YHWH spoke to Moses, saying, ²⁴ Say to the congregation, Get away from the dwelling of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. ²⁵ Then Moses rose and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Yisrael followed him. ²⁶ And he spoke to the congregation, saying, Depart, please, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest you be swept away with all their sins. ²⁷ So they got away from the dwelling of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. And Dathan and Abiram came out and stood at the door of their tents, together with their wives, their sons, and their little ones. ²⁸ And Moses said, Hereby you shall know that YHWH has sent me to do all these works, and that it has not been of my own accord. ²⁹ If these men die as all men die, or if they are visited by the fate of all mankind, then YHWH has not sent me. ³⁰ But if YHWH creates something new, and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that

belongs to them, and they go down alive into Sheol, then you shall know that these men have despised YHWH. ³¹ And as soon as he had finished speaking all these words, the ground under them split apart. ³² And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the people who belonged to Korah and all their goods. ³³ So they and all that belonged to them went down alive into Sheol, and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly. ³⁴ And all Yisrael who were around them fled at their cry, for they said, Lest the earth swallow us up! ³⁵ And fire came out from YHWH and consumed the 250 men offering the incense. ³⁶ Then YHWH spoke to Moses, saying, ³⁷ Tell Eleazar the son of Aharon the priest to take up the censers out of the blaze. Then scatter the fire far and wide, for they have become holy. ³⁸ As for the censers of these men who have sinned at the cost of their lives, let them be made into hammered plates as a covering for the altar, for they offered them before YHWH, and they became holy. Thus they shall be a sign to the people of Yisrael. ³⁹ So Eleazar the priest took the bronze censers, which those who were burned had offered, and they were hammered out as a covering for the altar, ⁴⁰ to be a reminder to the people of Yisrael, so that no outsider, who is not of the descendants of Aharon, should draw near to burn incense before YHWH, lest he become like Korah and his company - as YHWH said to him through Moses. ⁴¹ But on the next day all the congregation of the people of Yisrael grumbled against Moses and against Aharon, saying, You have killed the people of YHWH. ⁴² And when the congregation had assembled against Moses and against Aharon, they turned toward the tent of meeting. And behold, the cloud covered it, and the glory of YHWH appeared. ⁴³ And Moses and Aharon came to the front of the tent of meeting, ⁴⁴ and YHWH spoke to Moses, saying, ⁴⁵ Get away from the midst of this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment. And they fell on their faces. ⁴⁶ And Moses said to Aharon, Take your censer, and put fire on it from off the altar and lay incense on it and carry it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them, for wrath has gone out from YHWH; the plague has begun. ⁴⁷ So Aharon took it as Moses said and ran into the midst of the assembly. And behold, the

plague had already begun among the people. And he put on the incense and made atonement for the people. ⁴⁸ And he stood between the dead and the living, and the plague was stopped. ⁴⁹ Now those who died in the plague were 14,700, besides those who died in the affair of Korah. ⁵⁰ And Aharon returned to Moses at the entrance of the tent of meeting, when the plague was stopped.” Numbers 16:1-50

When you first read this text, it's hard to believe that the people could actually rebel against Moses and Aharon after all they had been through. Wasn't it obvious that Moses and Aharon were chosen by YHWH?

If you look at it through eyes of flesh and “boots on the ground” it's easier to understand what was going on. The people weren't happy with the way things were going, and they weren't happy with the leadership of Moses and Aharon.

To the grumblers, it might have seemed like Moses didn't know what he was doing. Maybe he shouldn't be the only one meeting with YHWH. They wanted more information and maybe they suspected he wasn't being truthful with the congregation. Possibly he was trying to withhold power for himself and his brother.

Maybe it was time for some fresh leadership. How about a new priest from the Levites? Why not Korah?

Maybe a new priest could renegotiate with YHWH and get some better food. Maybe they move up the timeline so they could actually go into the Land instead of wandering for 40 years, wasting precious time.

They seemed to forget that their previous complaints had been resolved by YHWH in miraculous fashion through His chosen one Moses.

Nevertheless, many were unhappy with the way things were going. They particularly didn't like the fact that they couldn't go to the Promised Land.

It's important to understand that these people in the wilderness were waiting out their punishment.

It was a year for a day punishment. The representatives of the twelve tribes spent forty days spying out the Land. Ten gave a bad report concerning the giants and the people succumbed to fear. As a result, they would spend forty years in the wilderness. That's it. YHWH wasn't changing His mind.

Well, that didn't sit well with many people. They were getting justice and even mercy, but they wanted the Christian definition of grace. They wanted to say they were sorry and have YHWH just roll over and give them what they wanted.

They got their portion of grace. They sinned and they deserved punishment. YHWH was graciously allowing them to live out their lives, but that wasn't good enough. They weren't satisfied and they wanted change - hope and change to be precise.

They wanted a new order. A change in priesthood.

Remember that the Levites were set apart. They assisted with the Tabernacle, but certain functions were reserved for the High Priest alone. Aharon and his seed were chosen from the Levites for very special duties.

Many people rallied behind Korah, who was a Levite, but he was not a descendant of Aharon. There were also those from the Tribe of

Reuben who sought power. Remember that Reuben was the firstborn son in the flesh, but his firstborn status had been lost.

While the firstborn were the priests during the Passover in Egypt, those privileges did not allow them entrance into YHWH's house. And while the Levites were given the privilege of assisting the priests, the Levites were not the same as the High Priest.

So the people all wanted to be able to approach YHWH through avenues that YHWH did not approve. They wanted equal rights for all Yisraelites.

The thing is that the Kingdom of YHWH is not a democracy. It is a Kingdom with a King, and the King appoints the rulers in His Kingdom. The people didn't like that. They wanted a new order, but it was not YHWH's order.

The people probably saw Korah every day, while Moses spent much of his time on the mountain or in the presence of YHWH. He kept disappearing and he wasn't posting on his blog very much.

Korah was a man of the people. He was popular. He probably looked good and spoke well.

Remember how Moses described himself. *"I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."* Exodus 4:10

On the surface, Korah probably seemed like the right man for the job. The problem was that he wasn't qualified and he wasn't chosen by YHWH.

The actions of those challenging Moses and Aharon and trying to replace the rulers chosen by YHWH was a direct affront to YHWH. It

was also a violation of a Commandment that provided: *“You shall not revile Elohim, nor curse a ruler of your people.”* Exodus 22:28

The incident involving Korah, Dathan, Abiram and the 250 men of renown is the quintessential example of rebellion in the Torah.

In Hebrew, the word for “rebellion” is “meri.” It also means disobedience. (1 Kings 13:21) The severity of the punishment for rebellion against YHWH’s order was extraordinary and reveals how seriously YHWH takes this matter.

Sadly, this would not be the last time that a rebellious leader would be severely punished.

Remember Saul, the first King of Yisrael? He lost his reign because of rebellion.

We’ve heard a lot of talk about Amalek lately as Benjamin Netanyahu has tried to justify the annihilation of the Palestinians by referring to them as Amalek. King Saul was supposed to deal with that issue, but he did not follow the instructions of Samuel the Prophet of YHWH.

“¹ Samuel also said to Saul, YHWH sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Yisrael. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of YHWH. ² Thus says YHWH of hosts: I will punish Amalek for what he did to Yisrael, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. ³ Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey. ⁴ So Saul gathered the people together and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men of Yahudah. ⁵ And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and lay in wait in the valley. ⁶ Then Saul said to the Kenites, Go, depart, get down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the children of Yisrael

when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. ⁷ And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt. ⁸ He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. ⁹ But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed. ¹⁰ Now the word of YHWH came to Samuel, saying, ¹¹ I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments. And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to YHWH all night. ¹² So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal. ¹³ Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, Blessed are you of YHWH! I have performed the commandment of YHWH. ¹⁴ But Samuel said, What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear? ¹⁵ And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to YHWH your Elohim; and the rest we have utterly destroyed. ¹⁶ Then Samuel said to Saul, Be quiet! And I will tell you what YHWH said to me last night. And he said to him, Speak on. ¹⁷ So Samuel said, When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Yisrael? And did not YHWH anoint you king over Yisrael? ¹⁸ Now YHWH sent you on a mission, and said, Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed. ¹⁹ Why then did you not obey the voice of YHWH? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of YHWH? ²⁰ And Saul said to Samuel, But I have obeyed the voice of YHWH, and gone on the mission on which YHWH sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. ²¹ But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to YHWH your Elohim in Gilgal. ²² So Samuel said: Has YHWH as great delight in burnt

offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of YHWH? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. ²³ For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of YHWH, He also has rejected you from being king. ²⁴ Then Saul said to Samuel, I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of YHWH and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. ²⁵ Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship YHWH. ²⁶ But Samuel said to Saul, I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of YHWH, and YHWH has rejected you from being king over Yisrael. ²⁷ And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. ²⁸ So Samuel said to him, YHWH has torn the kingdom of Yisrael from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. ²⁹ And also the Strength of Yisrael will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent. ³⁰ Then he said, I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Yisrael, and return with me, that I may worship YHWH your Elohim. ³¹ So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul worshiped YHWH. ³² Then Samuel said, Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me. So Agag came to him cautiously. And Agag said, Surely the bitterness of death is past. ³³ But Samuel said, As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women. And Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before YHWH in Gilgal. ³⁴ Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house at Gibeah of Saul. ³⁵ And Samuel went no more to see Saul until the day of his death. Nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul, and YHWH regretted that He had made Saul king over Yisrael.” 1 Samuel 15:1-35

What a sad story. Saul heard the Command, but he listened to the people rather than the word of YHWH. They took the best so that they could throw a party. Sure, they would sacrifice the livestock to YHWH, but they would also feast on those sacrifices. It was going to be a victory barbeque.

We know that Saul was a man of tall stature. He really looked the part of a king and people followed him as a people so often do. Saul, was apparently not confident in his calling. Unlike Moses, he felt that he needed to please the people. He lost focus on his mission.

Saul's "rebellion" was not necessarily defiant, but it was willful disobedience. He lost the kingship as a result. Even though he regretted his mistake, he was going to be punished.

He was like the generation of Yisraelites in the wilderness. He received mercy, but he was going to be replaced by another generation - a shepherd king.

YHWH is not interested in charm or charisma. He is interested in obedience. That is why he chose the youngest son of Jessie to replace Saul. David was a shepherd with no real inheritance awaiting him. He was the last and YHWH made him the first.

While he was a faithful king who obeyed YHWH, his son rebelled which caused the Kingdom of Yisrael to be divided. Eventually both houses were expelled due to rebellion.

I previously mentioned Ezekiel's references to the rebellious house. Ezekiel gave that prophecy while in Babylonian exile. He was there because of the rebellion of the House of Yahudah.

As we approach Passover, the focus is first upon our individual homes that we are going to leave. We leave our individual houses to join a greater community - the House of Yisrael.

Rebels won't make it through the wilderness. They might not even leave the comfort and safety of their homes.

As a result, this is an important subject to address before it's time to leave. We don't want to be described as our predecessors in the Covenant. We need to heed the words of the Psalms that exhort the people of Elohim to *"⁷ . . . set their hope in Elohim, and not forget the works of Elohim, but keep His commandments; ⁸ and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to Elohim."* Psalm 78:8

We don't want to fall into this category of people described by Moses. *"For I know how rebellious and stubborn you are. Behold, even today while I am yet alive with you, you have been rebellious against YHWH. How much more after my death."* Deuteronomy 31:27

Can you discern the frustration in Moses' words? The Yisraelites were rebellious through the wilderness and he knew their rebellion would only get worse.

We see that rebellion described through Ezekiel and other prophets. Despite all the warnings, the people continued in their stubbornness and rebellion.

They were so stubborn that by the time the Messiah arrived they couldn't even receive Him. Yahushua was treated the same way that Moses was treated. Despite the miracles, the elders were not happy with Him.

He didn't look like a King. He didn't fit their paradigm of how the Messiah was going to deliver them from Roman oppression. He wasn't giving them what they wanted, and He wasn't fulfilling their expectations.

As a result, they rejected Him and even sought to kill Him – just like the Yisraelites did with Moses. They literally rebelled against their King sent by YHWH.

Forget January 6th. What we read about in the New Testament texts concerning the conspiracy against Yahushua was an insurrection and sedition.

It really hasn't changed. Even with the advent of Christianity, people continue to reject the Messiah of Yisrael. Instead, they have created a lawless christ named Jesus. People always have a tendency to find someone or something that fits their paradigm.

How many Christian's today are looking for Trump to save them, rather than King Yahushua? They want to make America great again now. They don't want to wait around for Yahushua to restore the Kingdom and all of Creation.

It's no different in the Messianic movement, the Hebrew roots movements or the Torah movements. People want to follow a person or a ministry. They want new podcasts and messages on a regular basis.

You know what - I don't think that Moses would have had a lot of subscribers because he didn't post that often.

Yahushua would probably have had a lot of "thumbs down" because He offended so many people.

Neither of them had the appeal that the masses were looking for. They weren't slick and savvy influencers interested in getting a lot of views and likes. We all must be careful that we don't bring our desire for bread and circuses into our walk with Elohim.

Nowadays, people want a smorgasbord of teachings that they can chose from. I regularly see people who are simply trying to find teachings and beliefs that appeal to them and that fit within their paradigm. They chase after signs and exciting teachings even from proven false teachers who can satisfy their appetites. They share a lot in common with the ancient Yisraelites.

These same people will then operate inside the camp, like Korah, Dathan and Abiram, and stir up and promote rebellion against the witnesses of YHWH.

The calendar is an obvious example of the rebellion. Clearly, YHWH only has one calendar. He's not schizophrenic. Regardless, there are people teaching and promoting false calendars that don't even meet the minimum requirements found in Genesis 1:14. When you point out this simple truth, they don't seem to even care.

It seems like every year someone comes out with a new calendar to promote as "the true Calendar."

Despite the fact that the Scriptures are crystal clear that the sun and the moon are the two witnesses designated by YHWH for time and Appointed Times, I regularly see people who simply refuse to follow those witnesses created and appointed by YHWH.

The sun and the moon stand witness before Yisrael, just like Moses and Aharon were witnesses to Yisrael. Sadly, many people simply reject them and rebel against them. They want something more. They want barley or they want to be in unity with the Pharisees by using the Rabbinic calculated calendar.

Some want a perfect 360 day "prophetic year" to fit into this corrupted creation because that is their desired paradigm. They will

ignore the Torah and they will scour the internet until they find what they are looking for.

Remember that Korah and Saul were popular and eloquent. They probably had slick videos, websites, teachings and lots of subscribers, but that didn't mean they were correct. I hope you get the point.

Yahushua said that it is a narrow path that leads to life and few will find it. It is important to make sure you are on that path and that you stay on that path for the entire journey.

So, while the error may seem obvious when we read about the rebellions of the Yisraelites, it is an entirely different thing to discern the seeds of rebellion in your own life.

Don't think you are immune from any of the sins that plagued the rebellious house. As long as we remain in these containers of flesh, we are subject to the sins of the flesh.

That is why we need to be filled with the Spirit as described by Ezekiel, the one who prophesied against the rebellious house. We need the Spirit to enter into us, lift us up and set us on our feet before we begin the journey. (see Ezekiel 2:2, 3:12, 3:14 and 3:24)

Remember the warning from Jude: *"Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion."* Jude 1:11

Here's the thing, people who are rebellious don't usually consider themselves to be rebellious.

Many rebellious people actually think they are doing the right thing. And that is typically the problem. They are operating by what they think, instead of by what YHWH commands.

Maybe Korah and the people who followed him thought they would help improve things for the Yisraelites. Saul probably thought his change in plans was harmless, and motivating for his people.

At the heart of rebellion is disobedience. A rebellious person is one who defies YHWH, His instructions and His order.

It usually involves pride and stubbornness, as well as a lack of humility and an inability to submit to the will of YHWH and His messengers.

Here is the advice that YHWH gave Yisrael at Sinai as they were about to go to the Promised Land.

“²⁰ Behold, I send a Messenger before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. ²¹ Pay careful attention to him and obey his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression, for My name is in him. ²² But if you carefully obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.” Exodus 23:20-22

This is good advice to remember for the prophesied future Exodus.

There will surely be challenges. The point of those tests is to determine what lies in your heart. If and when things don't go the way that you expect them to go, how will you respond?

Will you murmur, complain and rebel? Or will you humbly submit to the Messenger of Elohim.

I can assure you that in the future exodus YHWH will not tolerate any rebellion in His camp.

In fact, He specifically states this through the prophet Ezekiel.

“³³ As I live, declares Adonai YHWH, surely with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out I will be king over you. ³⁴ I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and with wrath poured out. ³⁵ And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will enter into judgment with you face to face. ³⁶ As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you, declares Adonai YHWH. ³⁷ I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the Covenant. ³⁸ I will purge out the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me. I will bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they shall not enter the land of Yisrael. Then you will know that I am YHWH.” Ezekiel 20:33-38

Don't be surprised if you find yourself following someone who you don't like. Someone who pushes your buttons or just doesn't appear to be qualified - someone who doesn't look or act the part. That may just be the one that YHWH has chosen.

It is important that we don't fall prey to rebellion and instead stay focused on YHWH.

This is an important part of our Passover preparation - discerning and repenting from any rebellion and making ourselves ready to follow directions as we sojourn out of Babylon.

While we have the self-centered desire to be delivered, it is not about us - our desires, our expectations and our appetites. It is about Him. And the goal is not to just leave. We want to actually make it to the destination.

There is no sense going into the wilderness, if you aren't ready to pass under the rod. Those who carry the seeds of rebellion may actually make it out of Babylon, but they'll end up dying in the wilderness.

Your observance of Passover begins in your house. Make sure that it isn't a rebellious house.