

Remembering the sojourner as you continue on your sojourn

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In the last message I discussed the importance of time when rehearsing the Appointed Times. Specifically, we have been examining the Passover and the need to alter our focus from a meal, to a journey that leads us to a destination.

Of course, if you think that you're home, then there is no reason to leave. That is why many people who celebrate Passover will simply share a meal with family and friends. They will recount a story from the past without any inclination of a future exodus.

Oh sure, most will end their seder by proclaiming "next year in Jerusalem" without any intention of actually going to Jerusalem. Like I said, it's just a meal filled with traditions for many.

For those in Covenant with the King, it is important to get yourself in the right frame of mind for Passover and the subsequent Appointed Times.

No matter how comfortable you may be in your present situation and no matter what you have planned for your retirement, Babylon is not your home. You are a sojourner.

Of course, that was the problem with the majority of the Yahudim who were originally exiled in Babylon. They forgot that they were simply sojourning in Babylon for a time. While Daniel was praying about a return after the seventy year exile was finished, most were planning the additions for their homes or thinking about retirement.

They were too comfortable to leave and return to the Promised Land. Their minds were on other things. Besides that, there were too many dangers and uncertainties awaiting them in the Land. So they stayed behind and only a remnant returned.

I addressed this in my [video teaching concerning Purim](#). Most people who celebrate Purim ignore the fact that the Yahudim who were being persecuted in the story were the ones who remained in Babylon and did not return to Jerusalem after the seventy year exile had expired.

Instead, Purim celebrations get kids all excited about dressing up in costumes and then glorify the slaughtering of their enemies. That type of conditioning is likely why certain Israelis had no problem dressing up in costumes and executing people point blank in their hospital beds in Jenin last week.

Instead of celebrating Purim, the Yahudim should be lamenting the fact that they failed to return to the Land and welcome their promised King. Of course, we may see that soon enough as the scenario for Zechariah 12 seems to be unfolding.

“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on

Me et whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.”
Zechariah 12:10

Did you notice the “et” (Aleph Taw) in that passage? They will eventually realize their mistake in rejecting the Messiah after things go very badly for them and the Nations turns against Jerusalem.

That is a future for that awaits the Yahudim, but for the moment let’s consider our response to the end of the exile over the House of Yisrael. It happened during this generation, and I addressed that in a previous newsletter titled [Time’s up . . . now what?](#)

The question for the lost sheep of the House of Yisrael is: Are you praying like Daniel did? Are you anxious to see a return from exile? Do you even care?

The prophecies are very clear that there will be a future gathering from all the Nations, and it’s going to be spectacular. I never learned that in Sunday School, or any Christian Church that I attended. So early on in life I set out to fulfill the American Dream and build my own kingdom in America.

Most of us were taught to do just that, and the prosperity component of western Christianity has fit neatly into that paradigm. As a result, most Christians are focused on prosperity, success and blessings.

Of course, while they are building their kingdom over here, they will surely be praying for Israel over there. Because we all know that “God blesses those who bless Israel.” Right? Hopefully by now, every reader of this message understands the fallacy of that distortion.

Well the simple fact is that we are all surrounded by incredible comforts and conveniences. Even the poorest of society can

experience what would be considered extravagance for ancient royalty. The comforts of our modern “Babylonian” existence make the comforts of the Yahudim in Babylon pale in comparison.

We have central air and climate control - on demand. Indoor plumbing with hot and cold water – on demand. Flushing toilets, refrigerators, freezers, appliances, laundry machines, electricity, grocery stores and so much more.

I can fly to Israel in half a day to celebrate an Appointed Time, and I can eat and sleep along the way!

It’s hard to imagine life without all of these modern comforts, and I fear that many westerners would have a hard time leaving it all behind and walking into the unknown.

Beyond the comforts and conveniences, we have been conditioned to plan and prepare for our futures. We want certainty, predictability and assurances. After all, most have planned and prepared for their “golden years” when they can finally enjoy the fruits of their labors. How can they just walk away from it all?

Well, like I said, His people need to be reminded of the fact that they are sojourners. Just as YHWH decimated Egypt, making it easier for the children of Yisrael to leave, He will likely do the same for His people scattered in the Nations. It may be a shock to many who are enjoying Babylon, just waiting to be raptured.

So my question is whether you have the mindset of a sojourner or a Babylonian?

With that question in mind, I decided to travel to Eagle Pass, Texas several days ago. It is the focal point of the immigration debate occurring in the United States, and I wanted to see what was really

happening, without all of the hype and the political commentary on the television.

The timing seemed quite ironic to me as we have been pondering the notion of leaving at a future Passover when people are desperately trying to get into this country.

A couple of months ago I was in Panama, and I spoke to a friend who saw numerous groups of military aged Chinese males passing through Panama City. I have even seen footage of known terrorists crossing over into Arizona.

The Mexican Border is essentially an open door in some areas. It makes absolutely no sense that the United States government would not control its border and keep out the bad characters. It is the responsibility of the Federal Government to secure and protect all borders and the blatant failure to do so is clearly planned and purposeful.

On the flip side, because the borders are wide open, many people have seen this as a green light to make a better life for themselves. There are a lot of honest and well-intentioned people bringing their families across.

I have watched numerous accounts of families traversing the Darien Gap to make their way north to a better life in America. They are allowed in and provided with money, lodging and transportation. So why wouldn't they come?

The U.S. Government is essentially inviting them to make the journey. Even though this is contrary to the law, this is what is happening. It can only be described as a glaring and bizarre contradiction.

I think it is fair to say that there are good people coming up from the south and there are likewise many people sneaking into the United States with ill intentions.

This “border crisis” is clearly an orchestrated event involving cartels, the United Nations, NGO’s (Non-Governmental Organizations) and other charitable organizations, agencies and individuals - even governments.

There are powers that want this chaos and it appears that America is scheduled for more difficult days ahead. I know many people who are in despair as they see the demise of this once great Nation.

It is definitely sad to observe the society you grew up in disintegrate around you. I have many fond memories growing up in America, and I have had a peaceful life that I am very thankful for. I am grateful for all of the things that I have been able to accomplish because of all of the opportunities that were made available to me.

Nevertheless, the realities are undeniable. And through it all, we must remember that America is a place we should be preparing to leave - eventually.

I understand MAGA and patriots and the desire to preserve the America that we grew up in, but what people don’t realize is that YHWH is not interested in making America great. Nations are only temporary, His Kingdom is eternal.

YHWH is great and greatly to be praised, not some temporal nation.

“Great is YHWH, and greatly to be praised in the city of our Elohim, in His holy mountain. ² Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Tzyon on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.” Psalm 48:1-2

He will make His set apart mountain elevated above everything else. YHWH is focused on making Tzyon Great, not the United States of America. Sadly, people have turned America into an idol, and idols get demolished by Elohim.

At present, YHWH is interested in humbling America and preparing His sheep contained in America to gather them home. It is the City of Elohim that we should call home, not America. Unfortunately, many of us have been steeped in nationalism all our lives, so it is hard to recognize where we truly belong.

In the summer of 1953 Martin Luther King, Jr. preached a three part series of teachings titled "False Gods We Worship."

He called the second false god "The god of Nationalism." Here is a portion of that teaching concerning nationalism.

"It affirms that each nation is an absolute sovereign unit acknowledging no control save its own independent will. The watchword of this new religion is: "My country right or wrong." This new religion has its familiar prophets and preachers. In Germany it was preached by Hitler. In Italy it was preached by Mussilini. And in America it is being preached by the McCarthy's and the Jenners, the advocates of white supremacy, and the America first movements. Strangely enough all of these nationalistic preachers have an amazing amount of homilectical skill, so much so that the number of their converts has risen to astronomical proportions.

The preachers of this new religion are so convinced of its supremacy that they are determined to persecute anyone who does not accept its tenets. And so today

many sincere lovers of democracy and believers of the christian principle are being scorned and persecuted because they will not worship the god of nationalism. We live in an age when it is almost heresy to affirm the brotherhood of man. And so the new god marches on. Yet, we all know of the great tragedies that have resulted from the worship of this false god of nationalism. More than anything else nationalism makes for war. And so long as this dogma obtains, men and nations will be plunged into the meshes of war. War, that dread force that leaves men physically handicapped and psychologically upset. War, that leaves our nations with orphans and widows. War, that piles our national debts higher than mountains of gold. War, that causes our moral standards to disintegrate. Such is the tragic consequence of nationalism.”

We are currently seeing the fruits of Nationalism manifesting through wars all over the world. Russia is warring for the sake of “Mother Russia.” China is willing to invade Taiwan for the sake of their “One China” policy, and the modern State of Israel is willing to genocide an entire population of people to advance their vision of “Greater Israel.” They aren’t doing it so that they can serve YHWH and shine His light to the Nations. They are simply doing it under the premise that “Israel has a right to defend itself.”

Inserted within all of these wars and rumors of wars is America, the Nation that is ready to bomb the entire planet for the sake for spreading their national religion of democracy. Yesterday America bombed 85 targets related to Iran in Syria and Iraq for the killing of three American soldiers in Jordan. If that’s not a convoluted mess, I don’t know what is. Clearly, those who control the United State are itching for a fight with anybody and everybody. Everybody except Israel, of course.

MLK was correct in his observance that nationalism can be used to justify all sorts of violence and hatred. Nationalism divides, especially when those nations build borders and install concertina wire.

I have been all over the world and met all sorts of people. I was in Vietnam before the United States normalized relations with them. I witnessed the after-effects of our war with them that we inherited from the French. Amazingly, these people were so friendly and kind to this American.

I have seen this all over the world. Despite the fact that Nations have conflicts, most people just want to get along with one another. That is, unless they have been infected with Nationalism.

Over the past decade we have witnessed mass migrations that have clearly been orchestrated by globalists who seek to diminish the effects of Nationalism and unite people into a New World Order. They point out the problems associated with Nationalism and promote globalism as the solution.

That has its own set of problems that most of you are aware of. As a result, many who perceive the evil intentions of the global elite find themselves retreating back into the safety and security of nationalism for protection, but that is a trap.

In the days ahead, it is critical that we don't look at any particular Nation as home, since the Nations are only temporary. YHWH created them for a purpose after the rebellion at Babel.

They are wombs to hold and develop the people of Elohim until they can be birthed into Yisrael.

But here's the rub. You must be willing to come out of the womb if you want to be born again and live in the Kingdom intended for Yisrael.

Sadly, many people want to stay in the warmth and comfort of the womb. They don't want to be part of the birthing process, which can be painful. But it is primarily painful for the mother.

Remember the birthing process from Egypt? It involved ten plagues and the last seven were exclusively for the Egyptians that were not set apart. The text of Revelation describes the birthing process from the Nations, and the seven plagues (bowls of wrath) involved during that birth. (see Revelation 15)

Remember that after Yisrael was birthed from Egypt YHWH provided the basics of life, just like a newborn is fed by its mother. YHWH used the wilderness to teach the newborn Yisrael how to crawl and then walk through instructions, just like we were all taught the basics of life by our parents.

We are supposed to learn to trust YHWH for everything, just like a helpless infant needs to trust its parents. And we are supposed to be content with what we are given. We will talk about this more in future messages as we get closer to Passover.

Like I said, there are both the good and the bad making the journey into the United States. I have seen video footage of mothers and fathers carrying their infants through the jungle to bring their children to "the Promised Land" of the United States. Sadly, it's a myth that persists because human trafficking is big money. If you worship money, wealth and materialism, then I suppose that America is a great place to be, but not for long.

I have to say, it is quite moving to witness the determination, persistence, fortitude and the sacrifice that so many have demonstrated to traverse the wilderness of the jungle just to finally cross over the Rio Grande River.

I have even seen pregnant women carrying their children through the jungle with little to no resources. These people were willing to face death, rape, assault, kidnapping, starvation, robbery and so much more, simply for the dream of a better life.

The question is: What are we willing to face in order to follow YHWH? How far are we willing to go to cross over?

Remember that Abram heard all of the tales of giants in the Land of Canaan, but he decided to cross over and trust YHWH. He didn't witness "the Strong Hand and the Outstretched Arm of YHWH" like the Children of Yisrael did when they left Egypt. Abram, simply trusted and obeyed.

Amazingly, the Children of Yisrael who had personally witnessed the Strong Hand and the Outstretched Arm of Elohim ended up fearing the giants. Only Joshua and Caleb demonstrated the same faith as Abram.

Thankfully, YHWH promises to keep us and protect us on our journey out of Babylon, but He also lets us know ahead of time that we will be tested. The goal is that we pass the tests and not end up testing YHWH.

The first test is that you must be willing to trust Him enough to let go of your attachments that provide you with comfort and protection. You must reject all fear and worry. Simply obey and "follow Him." That is the repeating theme of the Scriptures.

Remember when Yahushua called His disciples and said “follow Me.” They dropped their nets and left their boats, which were the source of their livelihood and sustenance. None of them died of thirst or hunger.

After He was resurrected they went back to their boats and nets. They went fishing because that was their comfort zone. Yahushua came to the shore and provided them with food. He was reminding them of the former miracles and the 153 fish reminded them that they were called to be “fishers of men,” not simply fishermen. (see John 21)

Well, there are a lot of fish washing up on the shores of the mighty Rio Grande.

Setting aside the why and the how they got there, the question that remains for Americans is how we treat these people.

I’m intrigued to see how many conservative Christians respond to the situation. They supposedly follow the teachings of the Messiah, but they typically want to build a wall and keep them all out.

Well, this is a great time to ask WWYD - “What would Yahushua do?”

I can tell you what He would do. He wouldn’t be afraid of them. He wouldn’t reject them and treat them like the enemy. He wouldn’t be concerned about making America great either. He would feed them, clothe them and give them shelter them.

How do I know this? Because He told us to do just that as one of His final instructions. *“³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.”* Matthew 25:35-36

By the way, the “stranger” (xenos) in that passage is a foreigner or an alien. It is the same as a “ger” in Hebrew.

Now I’m not saying that everyone who crosses over should get a free pass, a debit card, a cell phone, a hotel room and a plane ticket to their city of choice. There’s something very strange going on with that.

And I’m not saying that America should not monitor and control it’s borders. That is an issue that the United States of America must decide if they are going to stay “united.”

It seems there is always talk of succession in Texas, because Texas was an independent nation before it joined the United States. As a result, Texans have their own form of nationalism and pride that they need to grapple with. I fear that Make Texas Great Again is just another derivation of MAGA.

Immigration issues are national issues that all Nations grapple with, but followers of Yahushua must be very careful how they respond. It is important not to get caught up in the politics, because the way we treat the stranger is a very important issue to YHWH.

The problem with the current narrative is that we are being conditioned to view the foreigner and the stranger as hostile invaders, and that is not always the case. That is not necessarily a Scriptural response, and that can set us up in opposition to YHWH.

There is a difference between a small family seeking a better life and terrorists seeking to infiltrate a country to destroy it. The open border policy of the current administration seems hell bent on mixing them all together which results in the current quandary. We haven’t even discussed the drugs and the illicit human smuggling.

I certainly don't want a criminal knocking on my door threatening the safety of my family, At the same time, I don't want to turn away the hungry or someone in need simply because they trespassed on my land.

Consider the final lines of the poem that is inscribed on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty.

"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Aside from the pagan origins of the statue, the idea of helping the homeless of the Nations is noble one. In fact, America was supposed to be the antithesis of Nationalism because it involved a mixing of the Nations – a melting pot.

Over time, the Constitution became the torah for a new religion perfected and advanced through America called democracy. America has sent missionaries around the world spreading this religion through its currency, political influence, subterfuge and when all else fails, at the end of the barrel of a gun.

I have taught for years that America is simply a continuation of Rome as can easily be seen from the great image given to Nebuchadnezzar in a dream. Of course, the vision was given to Nebuchadnezzar, because the head of the great image was Babylon. (see Daniel 2)

We have all heard of "facial recognition" which has become increasingly powerful through the advances in Artificial Intelligence. Well, you always identify someone through their face, not their legs,

feet or toes. So even though we can see the current progression of the Beast through time, we understand that it is still Babylon.

America is just an extension of Rome, which is part of Babylon. So, instead of worrying about protecting and preserving your little slice of heaven in Babylon, maybe try focusing on your tribal allotment in the Promised Land. The great image is destined for destruction. (see Daniel 2:34-35)

Therefore, if you want to be a prudent investor, invest in the Kingdom of Heaven, not the kingdoms of this world. But that all depends if you really believe the Messiah or not.

Here is financial advice from the Messiah Himself: *“¹⁹ Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.”* Matthew 6:19-20

Remember that a baby comes out of the womb naked – with nothing. Are you willing to be birthed out of the womb of Babylon and pass through the waters with nothing? Are you willing to be born again into the Kingdom of YHWH? If so, just remember that you won't be bringing anything from Babylon with you. If you try, you will end up like Achan and his family at the Valley of Achor. (see Joshua 7)

My little journey to the Southern border this past week may seem like a digression from our ongoing discussion of the New Covenant, but it really was not. Most of the people crossing over the Rio Grande arrive soaking wet with barely the shirts on their back. They are demonstrating great faith through their actions, and I admire that faith.

All of the patriarchs were taught what was meant to be a stranger and a sojourner. While they were given promises of a future Land, they had to learn how to wait and to trust. They lived in tents.

Are we any better than them?

Are we better than our Messiah who proclaimed: *“Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”* Matthew 8:20 and Luke 9:28

He told His disciples to go and He expects us to go as well.

Now we were all born in exile, and like our predecessors, we were instructed to settle down, build houses and have families.

That’s the American Dream and that is advice for a people in exile, as we saw from Jeremiah. (See Jeremiah 30)

But it is critical to understand that it is only temporary advice for those in diaspora. It is no longer applicable when it is time to come out of exile.

I believe that is the lesson for our generation as we have specifically received the renewed revelation concerning the Appointed Times.

They are no longer just “Jewish Holidays” for the Jewish People. We understand that they provide our path of redemption fulfilled through Yahushua who died on Passover and sent the Spirit on Shavuot. We now anticipate another cycle of fulfillments at a future Passover flowing all the way through to Shemini Atzeret – the eighth day.

Discovering the relevance of the Appointed Times to our lives was like discovering a treasure map. And the thing about a treasure map

is that you need to follow it until you reach the “X”. The X represents the location of the treasure, and as the saying goes - “X marks the spot.”

How interesting that the “taw” in ancient Hebrew looks exactly like an “X.”

Those of us who follow Yahushua understand that He was not the Greek Alpha and Omega as many English Bibles describe. (Revelation 1:8, 1:11, 21:6 and 22:13) Rather, He was the Hebrew Aleph and the Taw.

The “aleph” is the first letter of the Hebrew aleph-bet and looks like the head of a bull. It represents strength. The “taw” is the last letter in the Hebrew aleph-bet and represents a mark - a covenant.

Yahushua is the strength of the Covenant that He repaired through His shed blood. Just like the blood of the Covenant would be marked as a taw (X) on the doorpost using hyssop, Yahushua has placed His mark (X) of blood on the Covenant.

He perfected the Covenant through His blood and He tells us to walk perfect.

I understand that the people trekking through the Darien Gap follow markers through the Jungle - blue plastic bags tied to branches. They camp at filthy spots filled with human debris and waste. It is a lawless, miserable and dangerous journey.

Thankfully, that is not how our journey through the wilderness is scheduled to occur. Not if we follow the treasure map that begins with the aleph and ends at the taw.

Those who haven't been rehearsing will be completely caught off guard. People who are expecting to be raptured at any given moment won't be prepared for a journey. Others who leave may not be prepared for an extended journey. Some won't have enough oil to light the way, others won't even know how to go to the bathroom without toilet paper.

There isn't any toilet paper in the wilderness and there won't be any depends.

Did you know that the Torah tells us how to deal with that issue? YHWH tells us that we are supposed to have an implement to bury our waste in order to keep the camp clean. That is a specific commandment for those who desire to go camping with YHWH.

He likes a neat and orderly campsite, and He doesn't want to see, smell or step in our waste. No pooping inside the camp.

Here is the Command: *"¹² You shall have a place outside the camp, and you shall go out to it. ¹³ And you shall have a trowel with your tools, and when you sit down outside, you shall dig a hole with it and turn back and cover up your excrement. ¹⁴ Because YHWH your Elohim walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and to give up your enemies before you, therefore your camp must be holy (set apart), so that He may not see anything indecent among you and turn away from you."*
Exodus 23:12-14

It's a very simple and practical part of learning to be set apart. So make sure you pack a little trowel in your "knapsack." (see Luke 22:36)

It may sound odd and even funny to read such a thing. Those of us who have been raised in Christianity tend to want to spiritualize everything in the future.

Thinking about where and how we go to the bathroom seems so far removed from the rapture mentality, but we were placed in these containers of flesh to learn to be perfect.

We need to crawl before we walk and it's important to master the basics.

Now I know that YHWH surely has a sense of humor, because as I was writing this message I realized that my recent project over the past week involved plumbing and replacing the toilets in our RV. I spent enough time dealing with excrement that I could really appreciate the notion of keeping it out of sight.

RV toilets are not the same as indoor toilets, but a luxury just the same.

Speaking of the basics, that is what I try to instill with the calendar each week.

If you want to follow the Covenant "treasure map" that leads us to the New Jerusalem you need to learn the Master's time using the sun and the moon.

To drive the point home I thought it was interesting how YHWH tied certain promises of "the strength of the Covenant" with the sun and the moon.

Remember that David was the King who united the two houses of Yisrael. He began ruling over the House of Yahudah first, and then after seven years, He was anointed by the House of Yisrael.

Read how YHWH compares the everlasting throne of David fulfilled through Yahushua with the sun and the moon - the two great lights.

*“²⁰ I have found David, My servant; with My holy oil I have anointed him,
²¹ so that My hand shall be established with him; My arm also shall
strengthen him. ²² The enemy shall not outwit him; the wicked shall not
humble him. ²³ I will crush his foes before him and strike down those
who hate him. ²⁴ My faithfulness and My steadfast love shall be with
him, and in My name shall his horn be exalted. ²⁵ I will set his hand on
the sea and his right hand on the rivers. ²⁶ He shall cry to me, ‘You are
my Father, my Elohim, and the Rock of my salvation.’ ²⁷ And I will make
him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. ²⁸ My steadfast
love I will keep for him forever, and My Covenant will stand firm for him.
²⁹ I will establish his seed forever and his throne as the days of the
heavens. ³⁰ If his sons forsake My Torah and do not walk according to
My judgments, ³¹ if they violate My statutes and do not keep My
commandments, ³² then I will punish their transgression with the rod
and their iniquity with stripes, ³³ but I will not remove from him My
steadfast love or be false to My faithfulness. ³⁴ I will not violate My
Covenant or alter the word that went forth from my lips. ³⁵ Once for all
I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David. ³⁶ His seed shall
endure forever, his throne as long as the sun before Me. ³⁷ Like the moon
it shall be established forever, a faithful witness in the skies. Selah”
Psalm 89:20-37*

*Now consider the promise of the New Covenant that would be
strengthened and made great through Yahushua - the aleph tau.*

*“³¹ Behold, the days are coming, declares YHWH, when I will make a
new Covenant with the House of Yisrael and the house of Yahudah, ³²
not like the Covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I
took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My
Covenant that they broke, though I was their Husband, declares YHWH.
³³ For this is the Covenant that I will make with the House of Yisrael
after those days, declares YHWH: I will put My Torah within them, and
I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their Elohim, and they shall*

*be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know YHWH,' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares YHWH. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. ³⁵ Thus says YHWH, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar – YHWH of hosts is His Name: ³⁶ *If this fixed order departs from before me, declares YHWH, then shall the seed of Yisrael cease from being a nation before Me forever.*” Jeremiah 31:31-36*

So the sun and the moon are powerful witnesses for both the promised King and the New Covenant.

It is no coincidence then that the sun and the moon were the two witnesses providing the sign of the birth of the Messiah - the aleph tau - the strength of the Covenant.

“And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.”
Revelation 12:1

The sun and the moon, from our perspective, encapsulated constellations of the Woman and the 12 Stars (Bethula and Ariel).

Most clear nights I walk outside and marvel at the vast universe that is displayed in the heavens.

I think of the Psalms.

*“The heavens declare the glory of Elohim,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.”*
Psalm 19:1

“The heavens declare His righteousness,

for Elohim himself is judge! Selah”
Psalm 50:6

There is so much being communicated in the sky, but He only commands us to use the two great lights for now. If we don't get the basics of time understood, we are going to have a hard time following the map. In fact, we are doomed from the start if we don't begin our journey by following the two witnesses.

Sojourners need to know directions and they need to know how to discern the time.

As sojourners, we must be mentally prepared as well as being physically and spiritually prepared for our journey. You should consider all of these factors as part of your rehearsal.

It's not a competition. In fact, we want to be prepared so that we can help others. The worst thing a person can do is try to help others when they can't even help themselves. When Janet and I went for hurricane relief in Florida we made sure that we had enough to meet our needs as well as having supplies for others.

You can't help a drowning person in open water unless you know how to swim yourself. And, it's hard to feed the hungry or clothe the naked when you're starving and penniless.

Maybe before the dollar collapses and becomes worthless, spend some of those Ben Franklins on something that can help someone else. Maybe cloth or feed a stranger. Like Yahushua said, invest in the Kingdom.

As we rehearse and prepare, we should be doing it with a selfless desire to attend to our family, but also to help the stranger and our fellow sojourners along the way.

And as we look at the aliens and the strangers crossing jungles, riding trains, climbing fences and forging rivers, try to remember that you too are a sojourner who may be heading out on a journey yourself.

Don't covet what you have, but be willing to share it with someone in need.

Some people call it karma, but it's actually a very simple principle built into Creation - "You reap that which you sow."

There are a lot of passages that amplify this point, but it is interesting to consider the first time that reaping is mentioned in the Torah.

"⁹ When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. ¹⁰ And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the stranger: I am YHWH your Elohim." Leviticus 19:9-10

This same command is repeated in Leviticus 23, between the instructions concerning Shavuot and the Appointed Times of Month Seven.

"And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the stranger: I am YHWH your Elohim." Leviticus 23:22

So, YHWH makes special provision for the poor and the sojourner.

Implicit in these commands is the fact that alien and strangers were allowed into the land. Yisrael did not build a wall that kept everyone out.

Interestingly though they weren't given handouts. They were expected to harvest grain, and work for their food. They would have to gather, thresh, winnow the grain that they collected and grind it into flour that they could then make into bread. They needed to go out and collect the fallen grapes and olives that they wanted to eat if they were hungry.

So, they were given the opportunity but they were not given handouts, unless it was a last resort. They were expected to work while they were in the Land, and they were also expected to obey the rules of the Land.

When Joshua and the tribes of Yisrael entered into the land and renewed the Covenant at Shechem, he wrote a copy of the Torah on stones so that they could be read by anyone who came into the Land.

Those stones were essentially a type of Mezuzah at the "port of entry."

Foreigners had to abide by the fundamental Commandments, and definitely could not profane the Land while they were there.

"One Torah shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you." Exodus 12:49

"One Torah and one custom shall be for you and for the stranger who dwells with you." Numbers 15:16

If the stranger did not obey the Torah they would be punished and ejected, just like what would happen to a native Yisraelite born in the Land.

Therefore, it is not unreasonable to vet sojourners that come into a country, give them laws to comply with and expect them to obey the laws of the land.

This is the example we were provided through Yisrael and it is reasonable that any country would do the same.

In fact, people would go to Egypt during types of famine and seek refuge there. Egypt did not turn them away. They allowed refugees as a matter of course, although the ingress and egress of aliens was monitored and controlled. We saw with Abraham and Jacob. Remember also that Jeroboam, the prophesied leader of the House of Yisrael, fled to Egypt until the death of Solomon. (see 1 Kings 11:26-40) This was an example of political asylum.

So, nations surely need to welcome and receive the refugees, immigrants and those fleeing persecution.

As we saw, YHWH provides a specific command for the stranger in the midst of the roadmap of Appointed Times. I hope to discuss the prophetic implications of that in a future article.

For now, I wanted to remind you concerning the treatment of the sojourner and remind you that you are a sojourner as well.

Imagine yourself like Abraham, sitting near a cold spring in the desert making camp. The camels that carry your supplies have drank their fill. Your tent is up and you are cooking a delightful meal around a warm fire. Night begins to fall and a stranger wanders into your camp.

Will you welcome the stranger by your fire and show him hospitality? Or will you send him away or shoot him because you're afraid he'll take your stuff?

If you are a follower of Yahushua, then the answer is easy.

Remember how He summed up the Torah and the Prophets.

“³⁷ . . . You shall love YHWH your Elohim with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the first and great Commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two Commandments hang all the Torah and the Prophets.” Matthew 22:37-40

The second is like the first? How can any Commandment compare to loving YHWH with your entire being?

Well, the second Commandment that Yahushua quoted is found in Leviticus 19, and it involves the stranger - not your next door neighbor that lives in your gated community.

Here is the Command:

“³³ And if a stranger dwells with you in your land, you shall not mistreat him. ³⁴ The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am YHWH your Elohim.” Leviticus 19:33-34

I think that speaks for itself.

