

# Home is where your heart is

Written by: Todd D. Bennett

ShemaYisrael.net

November 6, 2021

Shalom all:

Today is Day 30 of Month 8 on the Creator's Calendar or November 6, 2021 on the Roman calendar.

November derives from the Latin root "novem", which means 9. As I have mentioned previously, portions of the Roman calendar actually hint to a more ancient method of reckoning time.

By no coincidence, tonight we anticipate seeing the first visible crescent of the renewed moon. This evening after sunset will mark Day 1 of Month 9. So, we will be in Month 9, just as the Roman calendar literally states, and despite the fact that they claim that November is the 11<sup>th</sup> month.

This is just another example of the delusion and deception that has been perpetrated upon mankind for centuries. Imagine literally naming a month "Nine" and then telling everyone that it is actually month "eleven", and nobody make a peep or questions the glaring contradiction.

I guess it's not much different than telling people the Hebrew Messiah had an English name, centuries before the English language, or the letter "J", came into existence. Or how about that we are in a

pandemic that necessitates every person on the planet taking an untested and ineffective shot?

We have been fed misinformation our entire lives. Some people are waking up and rejecting the lies, while others will fight to the bitter end defending them.

Last week I wrote about the way of the Philistines, and pointed out some examples how the overlords of religion attempt to influence our faith as well as our understanding of YHWH and His ways.

We live within a system that is focused on directing our attention away from YHWH.

For instance, YHWH created man to establish and perpetuate His Kingdom on Earth - period. Thus, the command to “be fruitful and multiply.”

The point was not to fill the earth with a bunch of self-centered individuals completely focused on “enjoying everyday life” and building their own kingdoms. The Sunday school version of the naked man and woman frolicking in the Garden of Eden and eating fruit all day is sadly deficient.

The man was given commandments and tasks to accomplish. He was told to “work” (abad) and “watch” (shamar). (Genesis 2:15) The work was hard, maybe even a little daunting. That is why he was given a partner.

Nevertheless, much of what we see being spewed from the pulpits these days is aimed at successful living and personal satisfaction - sprinkled with some happiness.

In fact, many church services are more about entertainment than they are actually worshipping YHWH. I wrote some messages about the difference between praise and worship a couple years ago, and I may hunt them down and send them again, because this is important.

I remember going to churches where people “loved the worship”, but they really just enjoyed the band, or the way the pastor preached. It was fun and exciting and they felt good.

I’m speaking from personal experience here. I have run the entire gamut of denominations during my Christian career – been there done that. If we aren’t careful, we all may end up going the way of the Philistines.

Oh yes, the Philistines may pray, but often it is to request YHWH’s assistance and provision in their efforts. This aligns well with the American dream and the prosperity Gospel, but not necessarily with the plan of YHWH - especially now.

The Hebrew word for “worship” involves prostrating yourself and bowing oneself in humility and submission.

If you want to get a true understanding of worship, look at the first usage in Genesis 22:5, when Abraham took his promised son to one of the mountains of Moriah to worship YHWH.

His worship involved killing the most precious thing that he had, the son he had waited for much of his life. He submitted to the Will of YHWH, and was willing to give YHWH anything that He requested in complete obedience.

That's a lot different than what people are doing in Church on Sundays. In fact, worship is not something you go to church for, it is expressed through how you live your life every day.

So, we have to be careful to use discernment and stay focused.

Earlier this week I was working on Chapter 21 of the Leaving Babylon book, and the emphasis was on the Covenant Land.

That is another one of those subjects that seems to get ignored or lost in modern Christianity. I suspect that if you asked most Christians where they go when they die, without hesitation the answer would be "Heaven". Where else? That Covenant Land, after all, is for the Jewish people. Right?

Well that's not what the Scriptures say. When we die, we go to Sheol – the grave.

When we are resurrected, we want to dwell with our savior Yahushua, but He is coming in the clouds to establish His Kingdom here on Earth in His Land.

The Land is for a people in Covenant with YHWH. So unless you are in the Covenant, renewed by the blood of the Messiah, you will not be a future permanent resident in that Land.

So many people ignore the fact that the Covenant Land is our ultimate destination - more specifically Mount Tzion if you are His Bride.

Now I hope we can go there soon, when we are still alive. I would love it if we could all be part of the greater Exodus described by the prophets. The important thing is that we must only go in His timing.

We cannot be like the Ephraimites who went the way of the Philistines, and departed early for Egypt. While the way of the Philistines was the fastest way to get to the Covenant Land, it was not the path that YHWH chose.

Ultimately though, the destination for the people in the Covenant renewed by the blood of Yahushua is a specific piece of Land that YHWH selected, described and promised to the descendants of Abraham – ie. those who worship YHWH as Abraham did.

Regrettably, not everyone who wants to go will make it. Only those who have sufficient oil in their lamps to make their way through the darkness. (Matthew 25:1-12)

Indeed, in order to make it successfully to the Feast, Yahushua warned us to *“watch, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of man is coming.”* Matthew 25:13

By the way, that was the same command given to Adam in the Garden. (see Genesis 2:15)

Sadly, those who have been raised in modern Christianity, especially American Christianity, are in for a big surprise if they don't wake up soon.

You see, Americans have been steeped in the mantra of “baseball, hot dogs, apple pie and Chevrolet” – the American dream. We have been raised and cultivated to be consumers.

Consumers of entertainment, consumers of food, consumers of products. We are taught to constantly acquire and accumulate stuff. Shopping is even part of American “Holy Days”, also known as Holidays.

Have you seen the boom in storage facilities in America? We have so much stuff that we don't have enough room to hold it all. As a result, some people buy or build bigger houses as they, and their stuff, outgrow their homes.

Now contrast that with the patriarchs for a moment. We have mentioned Abraham already. He was wealthy, but he lived in a tent all of his life as far as we know.

Isaac lived in a tent, and Jacob lived in a tent most of his life as well.

Moses went from a palace, to a fugitive, to a shepherd tent dweller.

It was not until YHWH brought His people into the Land that they dwelled in houses that were already built and furnished. They came fully equipped with dug wells and vineyards that were already planted. (Deuteronomy 6:10-11)

Hundreds of years later, when Yisrael and then Judah were exiled, the Land fell into ruins.

The House of Judah was given an opportunity to return, but most chose to stay in Babylon. Why?

Because they had built new houses and established lives there. They had planted roots and settled down. They were comfortable.

The remnant that did return lost focus, and their restoration efforts stalled. Why?

Because they focused on building their own houses, and lost their enthusiasm for building the House of YHWH.

*“<sup>2</sup> Thus speaks YHWH of hosts, saying: This people says, ‘The time has not come, the time that YHWH’s house should be built.’ <sup>3</sup> Then the word of YHWH came by Haggai the prophet, saying, <sup>4</sup> ‘Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this House (the Temple) to lie in ruins?’” Haggai 1:2-4*

In other words, they had their priorities all wrong. They were putting their own wants and needs ahead of YHWH. They were building their houses while the House of Elohim was in ruins.

As a result, YHWH warned them to consider their ways. *“<sup>6</sup> You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and he who earns wage earns wages to put into a bag with holes. <sup>7</sup> Thus says YHWH of hosts: ‘Consider your ways!’” Haggai 1:6-7*

Now is the time for all of us to consider our ways. Do we have our priorities straight?

Consider our Messiah. Yahushua finally came as the King of Yahudah, yet He didn’t move into a palace. We don’t know if He even had a tent.

In fact, He specifically stated: *“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 9:58

Yahushua did not have a house during His time of ministry, and that is an important message He was sending that many people miss. In fact, the western Christian Church that focuses on prosperity completely ignores it, because it doesn’t fit their paradigm.

Maybe that's why they prefer the treats of Halloween over the inconvenience of dwelling in tents during Succot. Not too long ago we celebrated Succot. It was a rehearsal and a reminder for us, and it is supposed to be an annual wakeup call.

Here is part of the instruction concerning the Feast of Succot. *"<sup>42</sup> You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Yisraelites shall dwell in booths, <sup>43</sup> that your generations may know that I made the children of Yisrael dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am YHWH your Elohim."* Leviticus 23:42-43

So, every year we are instructed to move out of our houses, and move into temporary dwellings called sukkas for seven days. Most people ignore this Command, because it's too inconvenient. But that is the entire point.

For one full week we leave the comforts of home behind as a reminder of where we came from, and where we are going. It is an extremely important lesson – and rehearsal.

In fact, it is for our own good. YHWH specifically takes us out of our houses because our houses can be an enormous distraction.

He is a specific warning that He gave to His people. *"<sup>11</sup> Beware that you do not forget YHWH your Elohim by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, <sup>12</sup> lest - when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; <sup>13</sup> and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; <sup>14</sup> when your heart is lifted up, and you forget YHWH your Elohim who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; <sup>15</sup> who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out*



*of the flinty rock; <sup>16</sup> who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end.” Deuteronomy 8:11-16*

So when we build beautiful houses and dwell in them, and acquire all kinds of stuff, it can cause us to forget YHWH. Isn't that exactly where America and most modern cultures are today?

Of course it is, and it is evident when we look at the correlation between prosperous western cultures and their declining spirituality. As the fleshly comforts increase, the spirituality declines.

That is why you generally see spiritual individuals leaning toward asceticism. They live simple lives, in poverty. That is the way Peter chose to live according to The Recognitions of Clement.

The bottom line is that the bigger our houses become, the more stuff that we have. The more stuff we have, the more cluttered and complicated our lives become. It all becomes an enormous distraction from the way YHWH wants us to live.

I'm speaking from experience by the way. I was steeped in the American dream for the first half of my life. I was taught to acquire, consume and accumulate.

That, after all, was a sign of success, and success was the goal. It was not only about keeping up with the Jonses. The goal was to surpass the Jonses. That was a sign that you were blessed by God.

Well, we all know where that leads. Yahushua was very clear about the danger of riches when He instructed the rich man to sell all that he had in order to follow Him. The man just couldn't let go of his stuff.

Here is the account. <sup>18</sup> Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>19</sup> So Yahushua said to him, Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, Elohim. <sup>20</sup> You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and your mother.' <sup>21</sup> And he said, All these things I have kept from my youth. <sup>22</sup> So when Yahushua heard these things, He said to him, You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me. <sup>23</sup> But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. <sup>24</sup> And when Yahushua saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of Elohim! <sup>25</sup> For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Elohim." Luke 18:18-25

It all comes down to whether you will enter the Kingdom of Elohim. That rich ruler missed his opportunity due to the fact that he was not willing to give up his cherished possession. He did not understand worship as Abraham did.

We may all have to make a similar choice when YHWH tells us it's time to leave.

In fact, Yahushua told us not even to worry about material things. <sup>31</sup> Therefore do not worry, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear? <sup>32</sup> For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of Elohim and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:31-33

Did you catch the issue? The Gentiles are busy shopping for their needs and wants, while the people of Elohim are supposed to be seeking His Kingdom first.

That was the lesson from the Exodus. YHWH can provide bread from heaven and water from a rock. He can even make it prevent our clothes from wearing out. He will provide all our needs if we seek Him first.

Last week we looked back at the premature Exodus by Ephraim, and the correct Exodus led by Moses.

YHWH was actually merciful with Yisrael during the Exodus, because He decimated Egypt, making it much easier to leave. There was no attraction left for the Yisraelites to stay.

In fact, they plundered the Egyptians and left with a bunch of treasures. That wealth ended up leading them into trouble as they built an idol out of the gold. The goods were ultimately intended for the House of Elohim.

When the children of Yisrael left Egypt, the first place that they camped was Sukkot. (Exodus 12:37) Why?

It was a reminder that they would dwell in temporary structures until they entered into the Promised Land.

It was a reminder that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob all lived in tents until the fullness of the Covenant.

Only when Jacob received his new name Yisrael, and crossed over into the Land, did he build a house.

*“And Jacob journeyed to Succoth, built himself a house, and made booths for his livestock. Therefore, the name of the place is called Succoth.” Genesis 33:17*

He built a house for himself and his animals dwelled in Succot.

There will come a time for us to dwell in houses, and our animals to dwell in succas - at least those who reside in the Land.

Those who come from the nations will need to dwell in succas.

*“<sup>16</sup> And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, YHWH of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Succot. <sup>18</sup> If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which YHWH strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Succot. <sup>19</sup> This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Succot.”* Zechariah 14:

So, the nations will be compelled under threat of plague to celebrate Succot. Why?

Because the ultimate dwelling is the Renewed Jerusalem that Yahushua is building for us.

In fact He said: *“In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.”* John 14:2

That is wedding language. Yahushua went to build a house for His Bride, and He is going to bring that House here for His Bride.

It will descend from the heavens, but it won’t remain in heaven. After the heavens and earth are renewed, it will rest here on Earth. (Revelation 21)

Until that time, the lesson is that everything is just temporary.

Indeed, when YHWH designed His house, it was a Tabernacle - a tent. It was temporary and portable.

It was only when man designed a Temple that YHWH moved into a permanent structure.

While men desire to live in beautiful houses, YHWH does not want people gazing at His House. He wants them looking at Him instead. That is why the Tabernacle was essentially unattractive. Have you read the description of the exterior? Ram skins dyed red and a covering of badger skins. (Exodus 26:14)

When He restores His people, He will raise up the et-succa of David.

*“On that day I will raise up the et-succa of David, which has fallen down, And repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, And rebuild it as in the days of old.” Amos 9:11*

David originally dwelled in caves and tents, until he moved in to the City of David. We spoke last week about his failed first attempt to transport the Ark, like the Philistines.

On the second attempt, he followed the proper procedures, and the priests carried the Ark on their shoulders. When it arrived at the City of David, the Ark was placed in a tent (ohel).

It was only after he built himself a mansion that he saw the contrast and the problem.

Instead of moving back into a humble abode, he planned on building a mansion for Elohim. YHWH eventually allowed Solomon to build the Temple. He tolerated a building, but ultimately let it be destroyed - repeatedly.

He will once again reside in a succa and interestingly, that event is linked with a migration – an exodus.

Last week I talked about the fact that the Philistines were not indigenous to the Promised Land, they migrated from the Island of Crete. Remember that we also discussed the Assyrians who supplanted the Babylonians.

These people migrated when YHWH judged their nations, and that is how YHWH is going to get the House of Yisrael back to the Land.

Here is the text from Amos in context.

*“<sup>7</sup> Are you not like the sons of the Cushites to Me, O children of Yisrael?” says YHWH. Did I not bring up Yisrael from the land of Egypt, the Philistines from Caphtor (Crete), and the Syrians from Kir?<sup>8</sup> Behold, the eyes of Adonai YHWH are on the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the face of the earth; Yet I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob, Says YHWH. <sup>9</sup> For surely I will command, and will sift the house of Yisrael among all nations, as grain is sifted in a sieve; Yet not the smallest grain shall fall to the ground. <sup>10</sup> All the sinners of My people shall die by the sword, who say, The calamity shall not overtake nor confront us. <sup>11</sup> On that day I will raise up the et-succa of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old; <sup>12</sup> That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and all the Gentiles who are called by My Name, says YHWH who does this thing. <sup>13</sup> Behold, the days are coming,” says YHWH, When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, And all the hills shall flow with it. <sup>14</sup> I will bring back the captives of My people Yisrael. They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. <sup>15</sup> I will plant them in their*

*land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them, says YHWH your Elohim.” Amos 9:7-15*

Probably the most prominent son of Cush was Nimrod. Remember that Nimrod was the perpetrator of the rebellion against YHWH and the Tower of Babel.

That building was the centerpiece of man’s rebellion against YHWH. It led to the creation of nations and the separation and scattering of the people. That is where the House of Yisrael is currently located – scattered among those nations.

There will be a time for us to build permanent structures and plant for the long term, when we are planted in the Land. First, we must be sifted from among the nations.

Sifting is an important part of the harvest process, after the wheat has been cut and the heads have been removed from the stalk through threshing. The sifting separates the wheat from the chaff. (Matthew 3:12)

That appears to imply that we will be harvested and separated while we are in the Nations.

So, it is critical that we stay focused on our original purpose, and remember that we dwell in succas until He brings us home.

Currently my family is living in what I affectionately call our “succa on wheels.” It is a far different way of living than we were used to in New York in terms of size and space.

It has been a wonderful opportunity to experience some threshing, and learn some important lessons for the future.

We are living in an amazing time of change. While the forces of evil are orchestrating their Great Reset, YHWH is using this time to prepare His people.

We are being inundated with confusion and deception. Every day the world seems to be slipping into more chaos. People are scared and confused, and it is especially important that we keep our priorities straight.

Everyday, I prepare a “To Do” list just so I can keep my focus, otherwise “stuff happens”. The question each day is whether YHWH makes it on the list, or not.

That begs the question: Do we put Him on our daily “To Do List”? Is He a priority, or just an afterthought? Do we look to Him as our reason for existence, or simply there to give us the things we want and need.

These are tough questions, and I’m only asking because I’ve asked them of myself first.

Here’s another tough question. Are you prepared to leave everything today or have you planted roots so deep in Babylon that you are stuck?

We know that the rich man seeking salvation failed, but the disciples responded differently. When Yahushua’s disciples heard the words “Follow me”, they didn’t know where they were going, whether they were staying at the Jerusalem Ritz-Carlton, or what they would even eat.

Yahushua will likely expect nothing less from us. Are you ready to step into the unknown and follow Him? Are you ready to leave your



preps and your survival food with a 25 year shelf life? Are you ready to leave Babylon tomorrow? Do you even want to leave Babylon?

Yahushua will likely not make the request when it is a convenient time for you. I talked about that in a video titled [\*Let the Dead Bury the Dead.\*](#)

Like with Moses, Yahushua will lead us on the path to the Covenant Land, because that is the place where He and His Bride will eventually call home.

We have all heard the saying “Home is where the heart is.” Where is your heart? Is it in Babylon or in the Promised Land?

I have been prohibited from visiting home for nearly two years now due to the vaccine requirements. I must say, it has been sad for me and I dearly miss visiting the Land. My hope is that my next trip is more than just a visit. I want to be planted there.

As an interesting note, did you know that the land of Yisrael called Samaria, currently occupied by the Palestinians, is littered with empty houses and mansions?

I often point it out to groups as we travel through the Mountains of Yisrael.

I don't know if they are part of the future plan of YHWH, but it is a definite reminder that YHWH can and will provides dwelling places for His people. Maybe He already has them ready and waiting for us, like He did when the Yisraelites were brought out of Egypt.

We just have to examine our hearts, and decide where we call home.

Shalom

Todd

www.shemayisrael.net

P.S. – While the Republicans appear to be gaining strength as people wake up to the tyranny and deception that is going on in America, I wouldn't put much hope in a political solution. In case you are unaware, there are countries currently instituting draconian measures using the alleged pandemic as a guise. China for sure, but Australia and New Zealand are shocking, and there are many fellow believers being subjected to extreme measures, such as green passes and Covid passports that border on the Mark of the Beast. They need our prayers and we all need to stay vigilant regarding the plans and schemes of the enemy.

The brethren at UnitedinYah are reaching out to those who call upon the Name of Yah to fast and pray on November 28, 2021. If you would like to participate, that would be wonderful. Those desiring to coordinate with them can reach out through their email address: [unitedinyah@unitedinyah.com](mailto:unitedinyah@unitedinyah.com).

Shema Yisrael (Hear O Yisrael) are the words that Yahushua spoke when asked what was the First Command.

*“The first of all the Commandments is: ‘Hear, O Yisrael,  
YHWH our Elohim, YHWH is one.’”*

*Mark 12:29*

*“He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”*

*Matthew 11:15*

