

## THE SABBATH, SALVATION AND THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

The book of Hebrews in Chapter 3 says that the *Ruach HaKodesh (the Holy Spirit)* says-

*"Today, if you hear God's voice, don't harden your hearts, as you did in the Bitter Quarrel on that day in the wilderness when you put God to the test. Yes, your fathers put me to the test; they challenged me, and they saw my work for forty years! Therefore, I was disgusted with that generation- I said, 'Their hearts are always going astray, they have not understood how I do things'; in my anger, I swore that they would not enter my rest."*

The rest that the Spirit is referring to is the promised entering into the Sabbath rest for the people of God. In Chapter 4 (verse 3) Hebrews goes on to say –

*"For it is we who have trusted who enter the rest. It is just as He said '**And in my anger, I swore that they would not enter my rest**' He swore this though his works have been in existence since the foundation of the universe. For there is a place where it is said, concerning the seventh day '**And God rested on the seventh day from all His works**' and once more, our present text says '**They will not enter my rest**'."*

*"For it is we who have trusted that enter the rest"*. Many would say of this promise that- "Yes, there is a Sabbath rest that we will enter when the Messiah comes and rules and reigns for a thousand years". And, while this is unquestionably true, it is not the complete truth contained in these scriptures. The text above also says that God has rested from all His works and that His works have been in existence since the foundation of the universe. In the beginning God spoke all things into existence. The all things included the creation and every situation and circumstance until God shall speak again. He rested because He knew that every thing, situation and circumstance spoken would come about as He had ordered. This word that went out from God, in the proper time, became flesh and dwelled among us, and is Messiah Yahshua who holds all things together and will present the complete fulfillment (all things under His feet) to the Father in order that He may be all in all.

The Living Word of God (Messiah) now flows through the universe in time and circumstance, just as He has since the beginning, and will bring God's word into complete and perfect fulfillment. This spoken and Living Word of God is also the Sabbath rest promised to God's people. Messiah Yahshua says "Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest (Sabbath)". The Living Sabbath calls to us to rest from our own works just as God has rested from His and trust Him to bring all things into fulfillment. Therefore, there is a Sabbath rest for His people to enter into through complete and unfailing trust, and this entering into does not wait for the millenium reign of Messiah.

Hebrews chapter 4 (verses 1-3) gives a stern warning regarding the entering into this Sabbath. *“Therefore, let us be terrified of the possibility that, even though the promise of entering His rest remains, any one of you might be judged to have fallen short of it; for the Good News has also been proclaimed to us, just as it was to them. But the message they heard didn’t do them any good, because those who heard it did not combine it with trust. For it is we who have trusted who enter the rest”.*

The LORD of the Sabbath has told us how we are to live our lives in trust. In the Sermon on the Mount Messiah Yahshua tells us (Matt. 6:25-27) *“Therefore I tell you, don’t worry about your life- what you will eat or drink; or about your body- what you will wear. Isn’t life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds flying about! They neither plant nor harvest, nor do they gather food into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you worth more than they are? Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to his life?”* In verse 31 the Messiah also teaches- *“So don’t be anxious, asking ‘what will we eat?’, ‘what will we drink?’ or ‘How will we be clothed?’. For it is the pagans who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Don’t worry about tomorrow- tomorrow will worry about itself!”* Even in prayer, the Messiah teaches us about trust. In Matt. 6:7 He teaches us the “LORD’S PRAYER” and admonishes us not to pray like the pagans who pray without trust – *“And when you pray, don’t babble on like the pagans, who think God will hear them if they talk a lot. Don’t be like them, because your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.”*

As we further contemplate the text in Hebrews, we begin to understand something more. The LORD entrusted His Torah to the children of Israel, of whom He swore “they will not enter My rest”. In Hebrews chapter 8, verses 8-10, the LORD says *“ For God does find fault with the people when He says – ‘**See ! The days are coming, says ADONAI when I will establish over the house of Israel and over the house of Y’hudah a new covenant.’ ‘It will not be like the covenant which I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand and led them forth out of the land of Egypt; because, they, for their part did not remain faithful to my covenant; so I, for my part, stopped concerning myself with them, says ADONAI’. ‘For this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days says Adonai – I will put my Torah in their minds and will write it on their hearts; I will be their God, and they will be my people.”***

When we enter into that Sabbath rest that is Messiah Yahshua thru trust, we also enter into the Living word of GOD that is His Torah and allow Him to write it on our hearts and into our minds. We agree that everything He has said is good and righteous and able to be fulfilled in our lives. This is why Messiah Yahshua teaches in Matt.5:17 – *“ Don’t think that I have come to abolish the Torah or the prophets. I have not come to abolish but to complete. Yes indeed! I tell you that*

*until heaven and earth pass away, not so much as a yud or a stroke will pass from the Torah- not until everything that must happen has happened*". In other words, the Messiah is telling us that He, as the Living Word of God, as the Living Sabbath and as the Torah of God will bring all things to consummation in accordance with the will of the Father.

In the Sermon on the Mount, beginning in Matt. 5:21, the LORD begins to teach us about the Torah and writing it upon our hearts:

- **Murder** – “You have heard that our fathers were told, ‘Do not murder,’ and that anyone who commits murder will be subject to judgement. But I tell you that anyone who nurses anger against his brother will be subject to judgement”.
- **Adultery** – “You have heard that our fathers were told ‘Do not commit adultery.’ And I tell you that a man who even looks at a woman with the purpose of lusting after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”
- **Revenge** – “You have heard that our fathers were told ‘Eye for eye and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you not to stand up against someone who does you wrong. On the contrary, if someone hits you on the right cheek, let him hit you on the left cheek too.”
- **Love** – “You have heard that our fathers were told ‘love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies! Pray for those that persecute you! Then you will become children of your Father in Heaven. For He makes the sun shine on good and bad people alike, and He sends rain to the righteous and the unrighteous alike. What reward do you get if you love only those that love you? Why, even the tax collectors do that! And if you are friendly only to your friends, are you doing anything out of the ordinary? Even the Goyim do that! Therefore, be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”
- **Giving** – “Be careful not to parade your acts of tzedakah (giving) in front of people in order to be seen by them! If you do, you have no reward from your Father in heaven.”
- **Praying** – “When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites, who love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners, so that people can see them, yes I tell you that they have their reward already! But you, when you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to the Father in secret. Your Father, who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”
- **Fasting** – “ Now when you fast, don’t go around looking miserable, like the hypocrites. They make sour faces so that people will know they are fasting. Yes, I tell you, they have their reward already! But you, when you fast, wash your face and groom yourself, so that no one will know you are fasting – except your Father who is with you in secret.”

- **Wealth** – Do not store up for yourself wealth here on earth, where moths and rust destroy and burglars break in and steal. Instead, store up for yourselves wealth in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and burglars do not break in or steal. For where your wealth is, there your heart will be also.”
- **Trust** – “Therefore I tell you, don’t worry about your life.”
- **Judgement** – “Don’t judge, so that you won’t be judged.”
- **The Truths and Revelations of God** – “ Don’t give to dogs what is holy, and don’t throw your pearls to the pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, then turn and attack you. Keep asking and it will be given to you; keep seeking, and you will find; keep knocking, and the door will be opened to you.”

**Living and Conduct** – “ Always treat others as you would like them to treat you; that sums up the Torah and the prophets. Go in through the narrow gate; for the gate that leads to destruction is wide and the road broad, and many travel it; but it is a narrow gate and a hard road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

- **Wariness** – Beware of the false prophets! They come to you wearing sheep’s clothing, but underneath they are hungry wolves! You will know them by their fruit.”
- **Foundation** – “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, only those who do what my Father in Heaven wants.”

As we allow Messiah to write the Torah upon our hearts, there is a fruit bearing that occurs. Messiah said that we would know false prophets by their fruit. A description of this fruit bearing is also taught by Messiah in the Sermon on the Mount (Beatitudes) and leads us quickly to the correction of the sins of the children of Israel in the wilderness. In our text in Hebrews (chapt.3, verse 10) the Lord teaches “*Therefore I was disgusted with that generation- I said ‘Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not understood how I do things’;*” LORD, let us not be guilty of the sin of not knowing how you do things. In the beatitudes, the Lord begins to describe the recognizable fruit and define the word “you” that will be utilized beginning in verse 11 (Matt. Chpt 5):

*How blessed are the poor(distressed) in spirit! For the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.*

*How blessed are those who mourn! For they will be comforted.*

*How blessed are the meek! For they will inherit the Land!*

*How blessed are those that hunger and thirst for righteousness!  
For they will be filled.*

*How blessed are those that show mercy! For they will be shown  
mercy.*

*How blessed are the pure in heart! For they will see God.*

*How blessed are those who make peace! For they will be called  
the sons of God.*

*How blessed are those who are persecuted because they pursue  
righteousness! For the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.*

*How blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you  
and tell all kinds of vicious lies about you because you follow me!  
Rejoice, be glad, because your reward in heaven is great- they  
persecuted the prophets before you in the same way.*

After defining whom the you is that he is about to single out and  
how we will know them, the Lord gets to the central issue of the  
Sermon on the Mount and how He does things.

*You are salt for the land. But if salt becomes tasteless, how can it  
be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything except  
being thrown out for people to trample on.*

*You are light for the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.  
Likewise, when people light a lamp, they don't cover it with a  
bowl, but put it on a lampstand, so that it shines for everyone in  
the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, so  
that they may see the good things you do and praise your Father  
in Heaven."*

There it is. The truth of how God does things. We are to enter into  
the Sabbath rest of the Father which is His living word, the  
Messiah, through trust, and cease from our own works. As  
Messiah writes His Torah upon our hearts there will be a fruit  
bearing. Because of this fruitbearing, which we are incapable of  
bringing forth through our own works, we become salt and light  
and thus people praise our Father in Heaven.