

Traveling the Ancient Path

It is the glory of God to conceal a word; it is the glory of kings to search out a word.

Pro. 25:2.

Thus saith YHWH: Stand in the ways and see; and ask for the ancient paths, where is the good way; and walk therein. And you will find rest for your souls.....
Jer 6:11

Thus saith the Lord: Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths of the Lord; and see what is the good way, and walk in it, and ye shall find purification for your souls.... Jer 6:11 (Septuagint translation)

I am the way and the truth and the life; no one cometh unto the Father but by me.
Jn 14:6

The first Adam was placed in the Gan to dress and keep it, but, because of disobedience, he was cast out; he could not do the job, and the Cherubim were placed at the entrance to take over the guarding of The Way to the Tree of Life, keeping back all who would go therein.

Now, the Second Adam has come and, because of HIS obedience, HE has been placed in the Heavenly Gan, replacing Adam and the Cherubim, and HE is now guarding, keeping The Way to the Tree of Life, doing what Adam could not, keeping back those who cannot yet enter therein and leading back those first who can come back in.

This path that is written of as 'The Way' must be a very special path, with great importance, if keeping it was the first job given to Adam, and then required the services of the Cherubim to guard afterward; and, now, for Yeshua YHWH, Himself, to have taken over the duties, is an astounding thing. It is then very appropriate for us to ask, "What is this Way spoken of, and where is it, and to where does it lead?" Indeed, this is the very thing the Lord tells us to do in the verse from Jeremiah that opened this writing; HE specifically commands us to ask about this path, and, as we do so in obedience to HIS guidance, HE shows us The WAY.

The burden of this writing is to set forth some of the things Yeshua has shown this fellowship about the Ancient Path- what it looks like, where it is, where it goes, and, just as importantly, what it is not. As you will find as you make the journey through these pages and beyond, the Way is not a what, it is really WHO. In this discovery within the bounds of this writing, the LORD will have us remain in Genesis, examining some of the typical experiences of Adam and Noah. These two have much to show us about the Ancient Path, upon which the LORD is placing many.

Come now, if the Lord allows, and travel along, and we shall examine what HE has revealed of the Ancient Path. But beware! This is not a path for the timid or the confident; neither is it for the hesitant or the hasty, and it cannot be traveled by the multitudes. It is a Holy Path, very strait and narrow, and must be walked carefully, with great trepidation. It can only be walked at HIS invitation, and HIS direction and guidance are required at all times to remain thereon. If you are one to whom the invitation has been extended, if you have been given eyes to see and ears to hear, then by all means, come along! Come and see.

Showing the Way: Adam

For those to whom some insight has been given to this Path, it is tempting, indeed, at times overwhelming, to want to show the way to this walk, and to do so in one's own strength or wisdom. And to do so is only natural, because once one sees the Ancient Path for himself; he naturally wants others to see it as well. But this cannot be. This writing cannot set forth the Path as a formula, nor can we describe it so that others can find it for themselves. We do not issue forth a call to join in its walk. The purpose of this writing is to set forth what Yeshua has told and shown us to write, as HE is the ONE who does the inviting, and HE decides who will and will not join in the walk. And HE has given us a place to begin.

The place to start is with scripture; and the first place in scripture to go is Genesis, where the types for all that is set forth for what will happen within the bounds of Creation and beyond is first given. The same is true for the Ancient Path. We first encounter it here, with Adam, though we are not given its name nor do we recognize its existence when we first read this account. But it is there. Let us look more closely at this portion of Adam's life to see its hidden form.

Adam was formed from the dust of the ground, and then God breathed life into his nostrils. Only after this was accomplished, was he taken and placed in the Gan that God had just earlier created within Eden. The order in which these events occurred is very important for us to keep in mind as we examine this portion of the Genesis account, and we will return and remark on this order later in this writing. First, though, we will find it most helpful to take a closer look at the Hebrew words used here.

Gan is the Hebrew word translated in English as 'garden.' This literally means 'enclosed garden', but it also comes from a root word 'ganan' which means 'to defend, cover, surround'. And the joining of these two definitions gives us the true meaning of gan, an 'enclosed, covered, defended garden.' Thus, we see that it was very special, secluded place into which none could go except that God placed him there, for that is exactly what HE did with Adam. And we note that Adam was there to abad 'dress, labor, serve' and shamar 'keep, guard, protect,

restrain' it. Adam could do neither, for he was not equipped to do so, and he was cast out. Man, in his original, perfect relationship with God was not able to carry out the only two tasks given to him in this special place! And here is the first and most important lesson with regard to the Ancient Path, for it was on that Path that Adam found himself in the gan, on the Ancient Path; he was the first to walk it, and the first to be removed; but notice that he could not place himself on that walk, God had to do that, and, once there, neither could he keep himself there because he could not serve and protect it in the correct way. We will see in Noah's case, as well, that only God, HIMSELF, can do that!

What was it from which the gan was to be protected, and what was Adam's fault that caused him to fail in his task of serving and protecting it? We might be tempted to think that Satan was the enemy, but that is not the case. It was actually something far more sinister and terrible that is the true enemy-it was actually Adam's walking in his own strength and knowledge that caused him to be cast out, for that is what eating of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is really about. He did things in his own strength, rather than relying on God through the Tree of Life. And we see in this account, that ultimately, the gan had to be protected from Adam, himself. And it is so with the Ancient Path today; man in his own strength and wisdom is never allowed on it. Never!

None can enter that Walk except that God places him on the Path, and, once there, one cannot resort to natural strength or wisdom in any way or at any time; he must rely fully upon the Tree of Life to keep him there, lest he, as Paul writes, 'become shipwrecked', cast out as was Adam. It is an eye-opening experience to see in this portion of scripture where Adam tried to enter and stay on the Path in his own strength and was cast out, and to this other type we now turn.

Showing the Way: Noah

Noah's time in the Ark shows us much about what the journey on the Ancient Path is like; and we find here, as with Adam, unless the Lord has opened our eyes, we cannot recognize Noah's journey as being on the Ancient Path. But, once that enlightening has happened; we examine this account of the Flood with much profit for where we have been placed today. Let us begin this examination with Noah as God's choice.

As with Adam, Noah was first chosen by God for his task and place before anything could come about. Noah had no part in the choice or timing of the events. We are given to know that God was dissatisfied with all flesh and brought judgment upon it, just as HE has shown us today that no part of our flesh can please HIM and has brought judgment upon it, as well; that former flesh had no part on the ark, and neither can present flesh be given any place on the Ancient Path.

Noah's building of the ark is typical of the Father's constructing salvation in Yeshua, something of which we had no part. But we take up our examination when Noah was instructed to enter the ark, and we are told that God closed the door behind him. Note the part that God played in the entire process- HE controlled it all. Nothing of the journey was left to Noah: he had control over neither the timing of the entrance nor of the journey once the rains came and the waters rose. The ark was built without a steering mechanism, meaning that the occupants were left to the mercies of God in their guidance upon a stormy sea that had completely destroyed the occupants of the earth. Their course, speed, destination, time at sea- all were completely in God's hands; and, if they left the protection of the ark at any time, for any reason, they would perish. All these facets of Noah's journey are true of the walk on the Ancient Path; our entrance, course, speed, and destination are completely out of our hands. Only in Yeshua do we have life, and only when we are truly in HIM do we find ourselves on the Path. Outside of HIM, there is only death.

The ark was built with a window on the upper level, but it was not given for locational ability nor for direction. Noah had nothing but an endless horizon of water and sky to look at; he could not determine where he was by relating to any known features- there were none to go by. And this is one of the most important points we are to take with us from this study: when we are on the Ancient Path, we cannot tell where we are by looking at the things around us in the natural. There is nothing in Creation by which we can establish our location or direction in the Lord, regardless of what or how well we think we see. Only by listening to HIM by the Spirit can we know what to do and where to go and when to do so. Whether Noah saw storm or sunshine from his place in the ark, it gave him no direction or location. And, with us today, there is nothing in our natural lives by which we can gain knowledge of where the Lord is leading us. All direction we think we take from such observance is false; nothing in the natural can give us a sense of location on the Ancient Path.

While he was inside the ark, Noah had a regular set of duties to perform; daily meals had to be prepared, the animals needed tending, and he and his family went about their daily lives as well as they could from within its confines for the duration of the voyage. And it is the same with us today- while on the Ancient Path, we have our regular lives to live, as surprising as that may seem. On the one hand, we are living in the natural, but, equally true, at the same time, we are engaged on a journey in Spirit even more real and much more important than the world around us. Only the Lord can make sense of such a paradox in our lives.

The ark came to rest on the top of the dry mount, but, even here, Noah could not leave the protection of the ark until God told him to do so. When he came out, he entered upon a world that had changed completely from the one he

knew when he went in. The flesh that was abhorrent in God's eyes was gone, the face of the earth had been completely remade, and even the weather system had been altered. Then he was told to go forth and replenish/fill the earth.

We have not yet reached this point in our walk. We still remain on the Ancient Path, and we have not been given a knowledge of how long it shall be before the time to come forth has arrived. Only God knows this timing, and HE will tell us to go forth only when the proper time has come; we are still being prepared for that final day.

But, when it does come, we, too, as with Noah, will be called to replenish the earth.

A few more observations will be required before we have finished our examination of Noah's journey and its application to our lives. We note that when Noah arrived at his destination, he rested upon the top of a high mountain- he was on much higher ground here than when he started his journey. This is exactly what will happen on the Ancient Path- the journey here will be the sojourner into a higher spiritual dimension than when he started; and the journey upward will never stop.

On that journey in the ark, he traveled with only the members of his immediate family; no one else could join them. And this is equally true of our walk today- the multitudes are not allowed, and, indeed, we will travel most often alone or with amazingly few around us. All others have to be left behind, and our attitude regarding the situation matters not at all.

A path completely controlled by God, with no visible directional markers, no visible destination, no known time of travel, with few or no companions with which to travel, none except HIM, and with death awaiting us outside the path. This is that knowledge with which we are to come away from our study of Noah's passage in the ark. This is the Ancient Path.
Welcome aboard.

A Last Word

In the study of Noah and his journey in the ark, there is a great deal of understanding to be gained about our journey on the Ancient Path, and we have explored some of it in the foregoing account. But, our examination is not quite complete. There is one more area the Lord would have us to contemplate, and to that, we now turn our attention.

What was Noah's attitude as he floated on the surface of the waters for that long period? What went through his mind, and how did he spend his time for the duration?

Those questions had occurred to this writer in the past, but no answers came forth. Scripture dealing with the direct account of the Flood is silent about this area, and we might think that any information here is beyond our reach; but we must not forget about the ability of God to communicate through the power of the Spirit. While finishing the last part of this writing, the Lord illuminated this whole account so that I believe that we can know more of what took place at that time—and the knowledge transmitted is breath-taking, to say the least. Consider the following:

There have been many learned men of science that have had a reverence for the Word of God and a keen desire to know something about the Ante-deluvian world, and, through contemplative searching, they have put together a remarkable account of some of the conditions that existed at that time. Many are convinced that, in the past, before the windows of heaven were opened, our atmosphere contained much more water in the form of vapor than we experience today; some have even formed the opinion that it did not rain in those days as it does now. They have also concluded that the atmosphere then shielded the surface of the earth from the amount of direct sunlight and UV rays and reduced the amount received compared with the amount we receive today.

If an atmosphere existed that filtered the sun's rays in such fashion, it is reasonable to assume that starlight from outside the atmosphere was also reduced then as compared with what we are able to receive today. That means that the stars that God placed in the firmament, and which HE used to preach the gospel in the heavens, both then and to this very day, were probably not as visible to the pre-Flood world as they were afterward, and are now to us, when the heavens, after dropping the water suspended there in vapor form, undoubtedly became much more transparent to starlight.

If this were the case, we can then imagine Noah, sealed in the ark, floating on the surface of the waters that had just destroyed all other flesh on the earth, taking his first look out the window, or from the deck of the boat, and seeing the heavens opened to man's first real view of the vastness of the universe and the overwhelming number of stars not seen before. With what awe would he have beheld the magnitude of the witness he saw there? He undoubtedly knew of the gospel and promise written in the heavens, for tradition and history tells us that this record was available even to Adam, though in reduced visibility, if our understanding is correct. How would that overwhelming sight have strengthened his faith in God to bring him through the trial!

Are we to even to imagine that such a thing happened in that way? Dare we believe that God would put such an immensely important message in the heavens from the beginning of Creation and then withhold its fullness from the eyes of men, until HE decided that the time had come to open it wider? Does this seem like something God would do?

Well, if this concept bothers us, let us remember another time, much later in the course of human history, when it pleased HIM to place the Fullness of the Godhead and the Spirit without measure into one Man. And, after this placement, HE sent this Man into the world to live, walk, and speak to those around him, speaking of the Kingdom in much greater detail than had ever before happened. And was not this Fullness that had never been placed upon the Earth before kept veiled from the eyes of most with whom he lived and talked? Was it not revealed to only a few, and then only in the smallest measure, until the time came when judgment fell upon HIM and HIS flesh was rent, and the glory was subsequently released and given for all to see in due time?

Is it then so small a leap of faith to understand that HIS message in the heavens could have been given in the past in the same way - present in the heavens in its fullness, yet veiled to most; but, after the judgment had fallen and all flesh was destroyed, revealed in its fullness for those who remained to see?

With that comparison having been made, it is much easier for this writer to see Noah disembark from the resting ark, and make his way around the top of the mount on which they had come to rest. And, on that day, as his foot rested upon the solid rock of the mount and his eyes looked heavenward to encompass the brilliance of the promise written in the sky, in that one typical moment we see the firmness of the foundation below and the brightness of the glory above united within one man, foreshadowing the uniting of heaven and earth that would take place in Yeshua years later, and in like manner in the Manifested Sons, at a time yet to come.

This is the promise and the goal of the Ancient Path on which we have been placed. It is this toward which our faces have been turned. And the prayer of this writer is for the Lord to complete what HE has started in us all.

May God be glorified in and by this writing.

