

**ΚΟΣΜΕΩ**

# **The Beauty of a Gentle Spirit**

**The Courage of Esther,  
the Devotion of Ruth, and *you!***



***“...your inner self,  
the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit,  
...is of great worth in God’s sight.”  
I Peter 3:4 (NIV)***

by Deborah Jean Armstrong

## *The Beauty of a Gentle Spirit*

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Haddonfield, NJ 08033  
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(856) 993-2814

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# Chapter 1

## “Thou Art Come”

### The Courage of Esther

#### Opening Prayer

**Abba, we worship You for the privilege to come together in Your Name and in Your Presence to study Your Word. Transform our lives by what we read and hear and do today, as we make every thought submit to the Truth of Your Holy Word. In Yeshua’s Name. Amen.**

#### I Have Not Been Called

*It is written in Esther 4:11, “All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.” (KJV)*

This was not a king with an “open door” policy. It was definitely, “Don’t call me; I’ll call you.” In our times, if we call someone who doesn’t want to be called, they usually handle it by ignoring our voicemail. Not this king. He was inclined to make dead sure that person didn’t offend again.

Esther knew this, and she desired, understandably, to avoid unnecessary risk and live. The adversary's agenda was to use Esther's fear to keep her from fulfilling her life purpose and from becoming who God had created her to be – a queen not just in name, but in eternal reality.

## **Thou Art Come**

It is written in Esther 4:14b, “...*who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*” (KJV)

As Esther conquered her bondage to fear, she began to exercise her authority over principalities and powers for the good of her people and her own family. And, as Mordecai pointed out, her own personal safety lay in her willingness to risk her life for her people.

## **Fast Ye For Me**

It is written in Esther 4:15 and 16, “*Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer, Fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.*” (KJV)

Esther could have gone in to the king without fasting. She could have been obedient to Mordecai without fasting. But Esther wanted to be effective, as well as obedient. So she determined to fast herself, and she accessed the power of corporate fasting.



Esther knew how to ask for help. If she was being asked to risk her life for others, she was willing to ask all the Jews in Shushan to put their lives on the line with her in a three-day fast.

Esther had not always needed to ask directly for help. There was a time when she had inspired others to help her by how she was, by who she was, and by Whose she knew she was. Before her marriage, Hegai, the king's chamberlain, had favored Esther and had preferred her and her maidens to the best place in the house of the women. Esther had required nothing but what was given to her.

This was a new season. Now she needed to ask.

## **What Wilt Thou?**

*It is written in Esther 5:3, "Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom." (KJV)*

If a heathen king listened to the plea of his queen for her people, how much more will our Abba listen to us? He has already given us the greatest treasures of Heaven – Yeshua and His Holy Spirit and His Word.

It is as though each morning the King of Kings tenderly asks us, "What wilt thou? What do you want to see happen?" Not, "How are you feeling?" Not even, "What are you thinking?" But, "What do you want to see happen?"

This is similar to the question Yeshua asked the blind man who came to Him, “*What wilt thou? What do you want me to do for you?*” *Mark 10:51; Luke 18:41* (KJV, NIV)

If we focus on a desired outcome, we are much more likely to bring it about than if we allow ourselves to get mired down in our own thoughts and feelings.

## **A Call To Action**

**I invite you to take a moment to think about your answer to Yeshua’s question. If Yeshua/Jesus were to ask you right now, “*What do you want me to do for you?*” what would your answer be?**

We serve a King Who wants to hear us, who wants to see us! In fact, He wants us to stay continually in His Presence! He wants us to abide in Him so that He may bless us in all the ways that He longs to.

Under the law, the high priest could only enter the Holy of Holies once a year with the blood of the atonement. Yet even then God’s glory cloud abode over the tabernacle, and God communed with Moses Face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.<sup>1</sup>

How much more now do we have 24/7 access to our Abba, since Yeshua has brought His Own Blood into the Heavenly Holy of Holies, and the earthly veil has been torn!

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<sup>1</sup> Exodus 33:11

As Yeshua's Bride, we no longer need to veil ourselves from Him, no longer need to hide like Adam and Eve in the garden. Instead, we can receive His death for us and His forgiveness and gaze at Him like a Bride, moment by moment, and be transformed by His Beauty and by His Love for us.

## **What Is Thy Petition?**

It is written in Esther 7:2, *“And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition, queen Esther? And it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom.” (KJV)*

If we come to our Abba as little children, He gives us the whole kingdom, not half. Yeshua said, *“Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.” Matthew 19:14 (NIV)*

What did the mothers of the little children want for them? Words of blessing. What did Jesus want? To hold them while He blessed them.

## **“What Do You Want Me To Do For You?”**

It is written in Matthew 20:32 and 34 that Yeshua asked two blind men, *“What do you want Me to do for you?” (NIV)* When they asked for their sight, He “touched their eyes” and “they received their sight and followed Him.”

One answer to the question, “What do you want Me to do for you?” is to turn the question around, like the Apostle Paul did in Acts 9:6. After Paul saw a blinding

light on the road to Damascus, he asked, “*Lord, what do You want me to do?*”  
(NKJV)

Like Paul obeyed the Lord Jesus, Esther obeyed Mordecai, just as when she was brought up with him, for he had adopted her after her own parents died. It is written in Esther 2:20b, that, even though she was now a queen, “*she continued to follow Mordecai’s instructions as she had done when he was bringing her up.*”  
(NIV)

Yeshua also followed His Abba completely. It is written in John 4:34 that Yeshua said, “*My food...is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work.*”  
(NIV) And it is written in John 5:19 that Yeshua said, “*the Son can do nothing by Himself. He does only what He sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does.*” (NLT)

If the Son of God could do nothing by Himself, how much more do we need to depend on our Abba in everything we do!

May we say with Yeshua,

**Our Abba in Heaven, Your Presence is Holy. You reign. Reign in my life. May Your Kingdom come here. May Your will be done here on earth and in me as it is in Heaven. May I complete the work that You have given me to do. “Not my will, but Yours, be done.”**

It is written in Luke 22:42-43 that, when Yeshua prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, “*Not my will, but Yours, be done,*” Abba sent an angel to strengthen Yeshua to do His Abba’s will. (NIV)

## **Let My Life Be Given Me**

It is written in Esther 7:3-4a, “*Then Esther the queen answered and said (to the king), “If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish.”* (KJV, adapted)

It is written in John 10:10 that the adversary comes to steal from us, to kill us, and to destroy us. He seeks to do this in two ways.

First, he seeks to get ground in a life and gain leverage over someone by tempting them to sin and delay repentance.

Second, he seeks to deceive so that a child of God doesn’t know and use the Power and Authority that God has given to us in Christ Jesus.

But as we rest in the Eternal Truth of the Word of God, as we yield to Jesus and operate in His Authority, the adversary has no power over us. Therefore, I pray right now, and I invite you to pray along with me,

**Lord, I repent of every sin I’ve ever done. I thank you for dying for me so that Your Blood can wash away all my sins, and separate them from**

**me as far as the east is from the west, so that I don't pick those sins back up and start doing them again.**

**I worship You, Abba, for giving me the mind of Messiah. You have given me Your Holy Word, and as I yield to You and obey Your Word, You will fill me more and more with Your fullness so that I may know Your thoughts on everything that concerns me, and know how to respond effectively to every challenge.**

The adversary has another strategy. If he cannot stop someone from doing the King's business, then he wishes them to do it in an unworthy manner. If they do that, they send forth bitter water as well as sweet, and the bitterness makes it hard for other people to receive the sweet because something about their manner is distasteful.

So I pray with Esther to the King of Kings,

***“Let my life be given me at my petition.”*** May I live the life that **You** have planned for me to live in **this moment**. May I live and move and breathe in **this moment**, and execute **this** task, in the Way that brings You the Greatest Glory.”

Then I also pray with Esther,

***“Let...my people (be given me) at my request.”***

When we pray this way, for the lives and salvation and deliverance of our families and others in our care, we pray according to the will of our Abba, for Yeshua has come into this world to save us, and to restore our personalities, which are part of our soul. You may have noticed that people who spend time with God become more beautiful inside. Our Abba “*is not willing that any should perish*”, but that all should come to repentance, and follow Him, that together we might have “*abundant life*” in Him.

Back to our story: King Ahasuerus was immediately ready to defend and protect Esther, his queen. But who was the enemy? The king needed to know where to direct his righteous wrath.

## **Who Is He?**

It is written in Esther 7:5-6a, “*Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?*”

“*And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman.*” (KJV)

## **Then Was Haman Afraid**

It is written in Esther 7:6b-7, “*Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen. And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the palace garden.*” The king was giving himself a time out. Meanwhile, “*Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.*” (KJV, adapted)

*“Then was Haman afraid...”* Why not before then? There is a time for fear.

It is written in I Peter 2:17 that we are to *“fear God”* and *“honour the king.”* (KJV) Haman’s life was lost because he had no fear of God. How unfortunate for Haman and for his family! He was impaired in his ability to feel appropriate and timely fear in a way that could have saved their lives.

Far from honoring the king, Haman had sought closeness to the king to try to elevate himself. It is written in Esther 6:8 that Haman had made no secret that he was after the king’s horse, the king’s clothes, and the king’s crown. Now he had been discovered in a plot against the queen and her people.

## **Then The King Returned**

It is written in Esther 7:8, *“Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.”* (KJV)

We are told that *“Haman was fallen upon the bed where Esther was.”* The word translated “fallen” is the Hebrew word *nafal*, meaning to *fall* prostrate. It is written in Proverbs 16:18, *“Pride goeth before...a fall.”* (KJV) Haman had tried to fall upon the Jews in an evil attack, but instead he fell before them.

When the king saw Haman in this compromising position, he questioned Haman’s intent: *“Will he force the queen also before me in the house?”* The word translated “force” is the Hebrew word *kavash*, meaning to violate, to dominate, or to bring



into bondage. The king was accusing Haman of intending personal violence against the queen.

Like King Ahasuerus, we need to know who the adversary is. The adversary is not the person who has treated us poorly. That person we are commanded to love. The adversary is *hasatan*, satan, the accuser, and the promoter of evil in this earthly realm.

The adversary's ultimate goal is to destroy us and to keep us from walking into the fulfillment of all the good plans our Abba has for us.<sup>2</sup> One way the adversary seeks to do this is by tempting us to sin, so that he can get a foothold in our lives. How can we protect ourselves? Let's look at Esther's strategy.

## **Esther, the Intercessor**

1. Esther's first task was to take care of her beauty – physically, emotionally, and spiritually – not to behave in any way that would detract from the beauty of who she was. Similarly, our first task is to draw near to God, that the Beauty of the LORD our God may rest upon us, as it is written in Psalm 90:17a, *“And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands...” (KJV)*
2. Esther's second task was to speak wisdom. In her role as the king's wife, she was an unofficial adviser to the king. Truly she believed and found, as it is

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<sup>2</sup> John 10:10; Jeremiah 29:11

written in Proverbs 18:21, “*Death and Life are in the power of the tongue.*”  
(KJV)

3. Esther’s third task was to choose her timing.

Before she went in to the king:

- She humbled herself before God in fasting.
- She called on others to fast with her, including the women who were closest to her, and the people of the city.
- She spent three days fasting for a one-minute request – an invitation to dinner that changed history.

What was the result of Esther’s intercession?

## **The Jews Had Gladness**

It is written in Esther 8:16-17b, “*The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour. And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day.*” (KJV)

If you have been having some rough days, consider Esther’s path to days that are good for yourself and for others.

## **Closing Prayer**

**Yeshuah Adonai HaMashiach, our LORD and Messiah, we worship You at the privilege and honor You give us, as Your Bride, to come directly to You at any time. We do not need to wait to be called, for it is Your desire that we remain in ongoing Communion with You, and with Your Abba and ours.**

**Strengthen us by Your mighty Holy Spirit to live in this place of Communion with You, that we may say with King David in Psalm 27:4,**

***“One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in His temple.” (KJV)***

**We worship You for the power that You give us every day to humble ourselves and to pray and seek Your Face and to turn from our wicked ways, that You may hear from Heaven, and forgive our sin, and heal our land, the United States of America. We worship You for this Precious Promise.**

**Abba, send revival to us and to the nations. And bring all Your ancient people Israel to know and love Messiah. In Your Holy Name we pray, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

# **Thank You**

Thank you for participating in this study of the Courage of Esther! In the next chapter, Abba willing, we will look at the Devotion of Ruth.

## Chapter 2

### “Intreat Me Not To Leave Thee”

#### The Devotion of Ruth

#### Opening Prayer

**Abba, we worship You for the privilege of coming together in Your Name and in Your Presence to study Your Word. Your Word says that where two or three are gathered together in Your Name You are there in their midst. We thank You that You Are here with us. We worship that Your Heart is to strengthen us, to comfort us, and to encourage us, to draw us deeper into Your Love, and to deliver us from every lie of the enemy by Your Truth. Thank You that You will transform our lives by what we read and hear and do today. May Your Strength be made Perfect in our weakness. In Yeshua’s Name. Amen.**

#### I Went Out Full

It is written in Ruth 1:20-21a that Naomi said to her daughters-in-law, “... *Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me. I went out full and the LORD hath brought me home again empty...*” (KJV)

Naomi believed that, because the LORD had taken the lives of her husband and her sons, God had singled her out to drink a bitter cup. Her disappointment with God is

clear because she was not even recommending Him to her daughters-in-law. Instead, she was telling them to go back to the gods of their people.

What had happened to Naomi's faith? Going down into Moab in the hour of famine had looked like a good option, but it led to three bereavements, and left Naomi without the ability to support herself. It is written in Proverbs 16:25, "*There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end of that way is death.*" (KJV, adapted)

God had brought Naomi to a place of need so that she felt her need of His provision, and started back toward Him, so that He could begin to fulfill His good promises to her. The need, the sorrow, was not an end: it served a purpose. God wanted to make Naomi a mother of kings – of King David, King Solomon, and Yeshua, Messiah the King. In Naomi's preoccupation with her losses and her unmet physical needs, she couldn't see the big picture and had remained cut off from these good plans of God for her. God used bread – a physical need – to draw her back to Bethlehem.

Choosing Moab had been costly. It is written in John 10:10, "*the thief cometh not but to steal, kill and destroy.*" Naomi got bread in Moab – for a while – but it cost Naomi her husband and her sons. Naomi had prioritized physical bread over turning to God in her need, and staying in the place of God's blessing.

But, as we learned from Esther in the last chapter, bread is not always the most important thing. It is written in Psalm 145:15, "*The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food at the proper time.*" (NIV)

Moab was a long detour. God ultimately brought Naomi to a place of being willing to return to the Bethlehem, which actually means “House of Bread,” where Yeshua, the Bread of Life, would ultimately be born through Naomi’s line.

Boaz, unlike Naomi, had chosen to stay in Bethlehem, and God had prospered him to the point where Boaz was able to redeem Ruth. Boaz had clung to the promise of God, and had found, as Yeshua said in Matthew 4:4, quoting Deuteronomy 8:3, *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the Mouth of God.” (KJV)*

As she returned to Bethlehem, Naomi was still grieving the consequences that she had received at God’s hand, rather than focusing on His goodness, which was working itself out in her life even through circumstances she found very bitter.<sup>3</sup>

Truly, it was Naomi’s cumulative afflictions, which left her destitute in Moab, a country with a history of destroying the vulnerable, that prompted Naomi to return to her own country of Israel, where God had established in His law provision for the poor, including single women who had no income.

**Abba, Father, may I trust that Your good hand is working all things together for my good, even in circumstances that constrain me to seek Your Face and live, because I have nowhere else to turn. In Yeshua’s Name. Amen.**

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<sup>3</sup> Romans 8:28

## Turn Again

It is written in Ruth 1:11-13, *“And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? ...Turn again, my daughters, go your way...for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD is gone out against me.” (KJV)*

Sometimes our Abba combines a positive pull with a negative push to motivate His people to return to Him. If things had still been working out for Naomi in Moab, she might not have returned to Bethlehem even after she learned that the LORD had visited His People there, had reversed the famine, and was giving them bread. It could have been hard to uproot her husband and her two sons from their jobs, and from the security that they and their jobs brought her.

## Return Thou

It is written in Ruth 1:15 that Naomi said to Ruth, *“Behold, thy sister-in-law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister-in-law.” (KJV)*

Naomi was encouraging Ruth to go back to the gods of her people. What had happened to Naomi that she had become an advocate of false gods?

Did Naomi so devalue her own God, even as she walked back to Bethlehem toward Him? Naomi had apparently lost hope that God had good plans for her personally, although the practical hope of bread and freedom from starvation drew her back to



Bethlehem. At this point, she had minimal expectations of God, and was just hoping to share in His corporate blessing of relief from famine.

Thank God, Ruth chose to follow Naomi's footsteps instead of her bad advice!

## **Intreat Me Not To Leave Thee**

*It is written in Ruth 1:16-17, "And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me." (KJV)*

Something made Ruth more than willing to go with Naomi: Ruth clung to Naomi, who at this point was a self-declared embittered woman full of negative thoughts about herself and her future. Yet Ruth still believed that joining herself to Naomi and to Naomi's God was a better option than returning to the gods of Moab and her family-of-origin. Why?

We do not know all that was in Ruth's heart at that time. Clearly, Ruth loved Naomi and felt compassion for her. But, in addition to Ruth's obvious love and compassion for Naomi, Ruth came from a culture of child sacrifice, from a culture whose religion centered on the death of the most innocent and the most vulnerable. The God of Israel, on the other hand, taught against child sacrifice, and had legal provisions for the welfare of indigent women.

In response to Ruth's faith, God was about to heal Naomi's heart and restore Naomi's faith. Then, as Naomi recovered hope in Bethlehem, Naomi began to seek Ruth's wellbeing. <sup>4</sup>

Ruth's devotion to Naomi and Boaz' kindness to both of them were about to evict the lie that Naomi had drawn the short straw. Yes, God had taken Naomi's two sons, but the Word says that Ruth was better to her than seven sons. And a grandson was on the way, including, ultimately, through Ruth and her descendants, The Hoped-for Messiah, The Son of God!

## **Abide Here**

It is written in Ruth 2:8, *"Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearest thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens."*

Notice how gentle Boaz' approach to Ruth was: he addressed her as *"my daughter."* So our Abba tenderly addresses us. As it is written in Romans 8:16, His Spirit *"bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."* (NKJV)

Like Boaz, the King of Kings invites us to abide with Him and to labor with Him in his harvest fields. It is written in Matthew 11:28-30 that Yeshua says, *"Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light."* (KJV)

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<sup>44</sup> Ruth 3:1-18

In response to His gracious invitation we may sing to Yeshua our Messiah the words of Ruth in Ruth 1:16b-17a, “*Whither Thou goest, I will go; and where Thou lodgest, I will lodge: Thy people shall be my people, and Thy God my God: where Thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried.*” (KJV)

It is a great paradox that, as we take up our cross daily, and follow Him, and lay down our lives with Him, for Him, and in Him, we enter in through the Narrow Gate into Life. Similarly, Ruth’s sacrificial pledge to Naomi led to Ruth’s marriage covenant with Boaz, to a lifetime of provision and protection as his bride, and to an enduring place in the line of Messiah.

May we have a passionate desire to abide in and with our Heavenly Bridegroom, Yeshua, to rise up when He does, and to rest when He rests. Yeshua’s resting place is “*in the bosom of the Father,*”<sup>5</sup> and this is where He desires us, each of us, to abide with Him.

**Oh, Yeshua, I want to lay down my life with You, for You, and in You. Thank You that in You I am dead to the world, the flesh, and the adversary. Thank You that in You my old life, my old way of being, lies dead and buried, and I arise to walk in newness of life with You. In Your Precious Name. Amen.**

Coming back to our story, Ruth’s life was about to change infinitely for the better as she continued in dialogue with Boaz. “*Abide here,*” he invited, as it is written in

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<sup>5</sup> John 1:18 (KJV)

Ruth 2:8b, 9b, *“fast by my maidens....and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, which the young men have drawn, and drink of that.” (KJV)*

And it is written in Ruth 2:10, *“Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?” (KJV)*

In our vernacular, Ruth was asking Boaz, “Why do you even care about me?” In the Gentile world Ruth grew up in, leaders lorded it over others, like Yeshua described in Luke 22:25: *“The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them...” (NIV)*

This may explain why Ruth was so greatly surprised that Boaz would even bother to speak to her and acknowledge her, let alone be so kind and welcoming. It appears that Ruth was not expecting Boaz to address her, and that Boaz needed to repeat his words, for it is written in Ruth 2:8 that he said, *“Hearest thou not, my daughter?”*

And it is written in Ruth 2:11-12, that Boaz continued, *“It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother-in-law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore. The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.” (KJV)*

Boaz was asking the LORD to reward Ruth, and he was about to become the answer to his own prayer!

Like Boaz, Yeshua invites us to abide in His Presence, and to drink from the Living Waters of His Spirit. It is written in John 4:10, 14 that Yeshua said, *“If thou knewest the Gift of God, and Who it is that saith to thee, Give Me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee Living Water....whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” (KJV)*

**Oh, Yeshua, may we hear and heed and receive Your gracious invitation!**

**Thank You, King of Kings, Yeshua, that You Yourself are our Reward, as Your Bride. Thank You that You have come to abide with us and in us Forever. Thank You that Your Holy Spirit is with us Now, and that we will see You Face-to-face and Live with You and in You Forever in new bodies like Yours. Hallelujah! Amen.**

## **Recompense**

Boaz prayed for Ruth to be “recompensed.” The word translated “recompense” is the Hebrew word *shalam*’, which also means to prosper.

**Thank You, Abba, that Your plan is to prosper us as we hold fast to You and to Your Love and take joy in Your Joy in us! Thank You that Your plan is that we take on only Your easy yoke, and do only what we see You leading us to do – to love You with all our hearts, with all our souls, with all our minds, and with all our strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

The word *shalam*’, which Boaz was praying for Ruth, also means to make secure or safe.

**Thank You, Abba, that as we yield to You and obey You and follow You and abide in You, You keep us secure and safe. Thank You that You Are our Rock of Refuge. LORD, may we abide in You Forever, and never leave. In Yeshua’s Name. Amen.**

The word *shalam*’ also implies to be friendly toward, to make someone a friend. Boaz was treating Ruth, not as a stranger, not as a servant, but as a friend. We know Ruth was not expecting Boaz’ greeting, because Ruth 2:7-8 tell us that at first she didn’t even hear Boaz. As kind and consistent as Ruth had been to Naomi, Ruth was not expecting to find kindness and consistency from others.

Yet Ruth’s temporary circumstances - widowed, separated from her family-of-origin, impoverished, on public assistance, living hand-to-mouth, and supporting a depressed, bitter, and dependent elder – were not her future. Her future was as the wife of a kind, consistent, loving, attentive, and wealthy landowner. Her future was to become the mother of Obed, the great-grandmother of King David, the great-great-grandmother of King Solomon, and a forebear of the Messiah.

## **Let Me Find Favor**

It is written in Ruth 2:13 that Ruth said, *“Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken friendly unto thine handmaid, though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens.”* (KJV)

It is written in Ruth 2:14 that Boaz responded, *“At mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers: and he reached her parched corn, and she did eat, and was sufficed.” (KJV)*

What had prepared Boaz to be so loving and so kind to Ruth? His own mother, Rahab, was a Gentile who had risked her life to save the two Israelis who came to spy out Jericho. As it is written in Matthew 1:5-6a, *“Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king.” (NKJV)*

Even though Jericho was destroyed, it is written in Joshua 6:25, *“And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.” (KJV)*

Rahab had the protective heart of a mother, and had saved the lives of the spies who came to her in Jericho by hiding them on her roof. It is written in Joshua 6:22-23 that the spies in return saved the lives of Rahab and her family when they returned with the Israeli army to take Jericho.

## **Where Hast Thou Gleaned Today?**

It is written in Ruth 2:19-22 that Naomi said to Ruth, *“Where hast thou gleaned today? and where wroughtest thou? blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee.” (KJV)*

And Ruth responded, *“The man's name with whom I wrought today is Boaz.”*  
(KJV)

Then Naomi said, *“Blessed be he of the LORD, my daughter, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and the dead. The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen. It is good, my daughter, that thou go out with his maidens, that they meet thee not in any other field.”* (KJV)

## **Shall I Not Seek Rest For Thee?**

After the harvest was complete, it is written in Ruth 3:1-5 that Naomi said to Ruth, *“My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee? And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley tonight in the threshing-floor. Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking. And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do.”* (KJV)

And Ruth said, *“All that thou sayest unto me I will do.”* (KJV)

Ruth obediently went down to the threshingfloor. The way up is down: humility precedes promotion. Ruth's ascent into the line of the Messiah was preceded by giving up the culture, the family, and the land in which she had been born. In her new country, Ruth took the lowest job available – gleaning. Gleaning in the fields after the harvesters, picking up what they left, was “temp” work: it was seasonal,



not steady. But gleaning provided a bridge for Ruth to support herself and her mother-in-law, who was apparently unable to do the work of gleaning.

## **Who Art Thou?**

It is written in Ruth 3:6-8 that Ruth *“went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her. And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down. Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet.”* (NKJV)

And it is written in Ruth 3:9-14, that Boaz said, *“Who art thou?”* (KJV)

And Ruth answered, *“I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman.”* (KJV)

And Boaz responded, *“Blessed be thou of the LORD, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich. And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman. And now it is true that I am thy near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I. Tarry this night, and it shall be in the morning, that if he will perform unto thee the part of a kinsman, well; let him do the kinsman's part: but if he will not, then will I. If he will not do the part of a kinsman to thee, then will I do the part of a kinsman to thee, as the LORD liveth: lie down until the morning....Let it not be known that a woman came into the floor.”* (KJV)

At least for this night, Boaz was providing Ruth with his protection, as a sign of his willingness to do more.

Thank God for Yeshua! He is the “Boaz” to Whom we can come for help and protection in our own need for a Protector – for Someone Who will take us for His Own, for Someone Who will love and tenderly care for us, and for Someone Who will faithfully look after us. We are “*blessed of the Lord*” when we seek Him instead of following after other pleasures, instead of seeking to pull what we need from other sources.

Night can be a good time to draw closer to God, apart from the distractions of the day. So we read in Mark 1:35 that Jesus rose up “*a great while before day,*” and went to meet with His Abba. (KJV)

## **Sit Still**

It is written in Ruth 3:18 that Naomi said to Ruth, “*Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day.*” (KJV) Truly, as it is written in Psalm 16:6, “*The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.*” (NIV) The boundary lines were about to fall to Ruth in pleasant places. By giving up the land that had belonged to her dead husband, Ruth was about to secure all that belonged to Boaz, and a son to inherit it.

**Oh, Abba, how I worship You that as I yield to You and to Your Holy Spirit, I secure in You all that I longed for, without the sorrow and struggle of trying to make things work out in my own way, and failing!**

The word translated “finished” is the Hebrew word *kalah*’, meaning also accomplished, completed. With slightly different vowel markings, *kalah*’ also means bride, betrothed. In this sense, Naomi’s words were prophetic, as if she was saying, Boaz will not rest today until he has made you his bride. And that is exactly what happened.

**Oh, Yeshua, how I worship that You did not rest from Your labors on the cross until You had secured Your Bride, and us as part of Your Bride! As it is written in Psalm 22:20, You delivered Your “*Darling,*” us, “*from the power of the*” adversary. (NIV)**

**How I worship that You completed the work of redemption from the cross in a single day, and declared in John 19:30, “*It is finished!*” Like Boaz, You set Yourself to accomplish our redemption, and You did not stop until You finished that work and Your Precious Body was taken down and laid to rest in the tomb.**

**Thank You for redeeming us to be part of Your Holy Bride. Thank You that our salvation and deliverance and wholeness and healing are complete in You. Thank You that we are complete in You. Thank You that, as it is written in II Peter 1:3, You have already placed within us all that we need to fulfill Your Good Plans and Purposes for us Today, that we may live godly through knowing You, Who have “*called us to Glory and Virtue.*” (KJV)**

It is written in Ephesians 1:6b, “...*He hath made us accepted in the Beloved...*” (KJV) The word translated “accepted” also means lovely, graceful, agreeable, and honored with blessings. That’s us in Him.

**Oh, Abba, thank You that in Messiah we are Lovely and Graceful!  
Thank You for honoring us with Messiah, Your Beloved Son, as our  
Bridegroom! Thank You for making us agree with Messiah as we bring  
every thought captive to Him and make it submit to Him!**

**Thank You, Abba, that Your kindness and Your delight and Your favor  
rest upon us! Thank You that we are a delight to You as we abide in  
You and in Yeshua! Thank You for equipping us for every good work  
as we follow You. Thank You that, through knowing You by walking  
with You in consistent obedience, we deploy what You have already  
placed inside us - Everything we need to fulfill Your Good Plans and  
Purposes for us Today. As it is written in II Peter 1:3, Your “*Divine  
Power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto Life and godliness,  
through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to Glory and Virtue.*”**  
(KJV)

**Thank You for letting your Splendor and Your Grace rest upon us in a  
way that is visible and brings You Glory! Thank You, LORD, that Your  
commands are radiant and give light to our eyes as we follow them! <sup>6</sup>**

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<sup>6</sup> Psalm 19:8 (NIV)

## Accessing God's Blessing

The LORD gave to Naomi and He took away from Naomi, and He gave again.<sup>7</sup>

Accessing what God wanted to give Ruth and Naomi required them to do five things:

- 1) **to return from Moab** in response to the good news that the famine was over and that He had provided bread in Naomi's hometown of Bethlehem;
- 2) accessing God's blessing required them to **comply with His law of gleaning** so that He could feed them and include them in the blessing of bread;
- 3) accessing God's blessing required them to **position themselves with godly others** – with Boaz and with his maidens and with his men;
- 4) accessing God's blessing required them to **ask for the right of redemption;**  
and
- 5) accessing God's blessing required them to **wait for the answer.**

**Thank You, Yeshua, that You are the Bread of Life. Thank You that You call me into Your harvest fields that You may bless me and others with the Bread of Life. Thank You that You position me with godly others as I seek You first. Oh, LORD Jesus, Yeshua, thank You that You have redeemed me for Your Own! Thank You that You have set me as a seal upon Your Heart!**

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<sup>7</sup> Job 1:21-22

**Thank You for this time to sit still in Your Presence, treasuring Your Holy Spirit, Who Is The Promise that You have sent, The Seal denoting All that is Coming, including You. *Bo, Yeshua!* Come, Lord Jesus!**

**Oh, Abba, we celebrate the love of Ruth for Naomi, and the love of Boaz for Ruth.**

**Most of all we celebrate Your Love for us, and the Love of Yeshua our Bridegroom for us.**

**In Yeshua's Name, we leave Moab, we accept Your provision of gleaning, we position ourselves with godly others, and we yield ourselves to You so that You may bring us under Your Protection and Abundance.**

**We wait on You for the fulfillment of all Your good plans for us, and Your good promises to us. Thank You for the examples that You have given us of how to love, most especially the example of Yeshua laying down His Life for us, His friends.**

**May we follow You as utterly as Yeshua surrendered to You in the Garden of Gethsemane, saying, "*Not My will, but Thine, be done.*"<sup>8</sup> May we follow You as devotedly as Ruth followed Naomi. In Yeshua's Name. Amen.**

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<sup>8</sup> Luke 22:42 (KJV)

## **Thank You**

Thank you for participating in this study of the Devotion of Ruth! In the next chapter, Abba willing, we will look at the Obedience of Sarah.

# **Chapter 3**

## **“Won Without Words”**

### **The Obedience of Sarah**

#### **Opening Prayer**

**Abba, we worship You for the privilege of coming together in Your Presence to study Your Word. Your Word says that where two or three are gathered together in Your Name You are there in their midst. Thank You that You Are here with us. We worship that Your Heart is to strengthen, comfort, and encourage us, to draw us deeper into Your Love, and to deliver us from every lie of the adversary by Your Truth. May we be transformed by the renewing of our minds through what we read and hear and obey today. And may Your Strength be made Perfect in our weakness. In Yeshua’s Name. Amen.**

*It is written in I Peter 3:1-2, "Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives." (KJV)*

#### **Won Over**

Won without words: what we teach by our behavior can be more powerful than what we say.



**Oh, Abba, may I so conduct myself to Your Glory in all things that others are won over to You by seeing the character of Messiah in me. In Yeshua's Name. Amen.**

## **A Fragrant Offering**

You may have noticed that Peter is addressing wives.

“But I am not married,” someone might say. “This word doesn't apply to me.”

Yet we are all - men and women - part of the Bride of Messiah. Therefore, this Scripture passage applies to every follower of Yeshua. We are all to submit to our Bridegroom Yeshua, to offer ourselves to Him as a fragrant offering, in response to His offering of Himself for us. As it is written in Ephesians 5:2, *“Walk in the Way of Love, just as Messiah loved us, and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” (NIV)*

Messiah was fragrant with a Love that led Him to give His Life for us. Psalm 45:8 speaks of the fragrance of Messiah: *“All Your robes are fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia; from palaces adorned with ivory the music of the strings makes You glad.” (NIV)*

It is written in Romans 8:34 that, from His Place in the Heavens, Yeshua continues to devote Himself to intercede for us: *“Who then is left to condemn us? Certainly not Jesus, the Anointed One! For He gave His Life for us, and even more than that, He has conquered death and is now risen, exalted, and enthroned by God at His Right Hand. So how could He possibly condemn us since He is continually praying for our triumph?” (TPT)*

The blend of myrrh, aloes, and cassia has been referred to as Messiah's fragrance, and as the King's fragrance. This blend of myrrh, aloes, and cassia, has also been called the Oil of Joy, or the Oil of Gladness, because it is written in the preceding verse, Psalm 45:7,

*“You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, Your God, has set You above Your companions by anointing You with the Oil of Joy.” (NIV)*

What causes God to bathe someone in Joy? Loving what is right and hating what is wrong.

It is written in II Corinthians 2:14, *“But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Messiah's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of Him, (the Fragrance of knowing Him,) everywhere.” (NIV, adapted)*

The fragrance of Messiah comes from knowing Him and staying close to Him, from putting on Messiah Yeshua just like you put on and wear your sweater, so that His fragrance and the fragrance of His clothes wafts from us. As we allow ourselves to be captivated by His Love, and yield to Him, we share in His triumph over the world, over our own flesh, and over the adversary.

The LORD tells us through Paul in II Corinthians 2:15a, *“For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Messiah.”*

As we follow Messiah, we do not just carry His fragrance. We are His fragrance. So here is a test:

**When Abba sniffs me, does He smell Messiah? If Abba does a sniff test of my life at various times today, how often will He smell Messiah? What do I need to be doing differently so that He smells Messiah more?**

We know the sweet smell of a baby after a bath. We also know the smell of a baby who needs to be changed. Bless God, it is written in Psalm 113:7 that when we need to be changed, He Himself lifts *“the needy out of the dunghill!” (KJV)*

## **The Oil of Joy for Mourning**

As Yeshua prepared to minister in His hometown of Nazareth, He read from Isaiah 61:1-3. He said He had come *“to bind up the brokenhearted...to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the Oil of Joy instead of mourning, and a Garment of Praise instead of a spirit of despair.” (NIV)*

**Oh, King of Kings, Yeshua, we worship that You Are here in the fullness of Your Spirit, that You Are anointed to preach the Good News to us who are poor, that You Are Here to bind up the brokenhearted, that You Are Here to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, that You Are Here Today to proclaim the Year of the LORD’s Favor, to give us clear vision, that You Are Here to comfort all who mourn, and to provide for those who grieve, to bestow on us a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the Oil of Joy for mourning, the robe of Praise instead of the spirit of heaviness, that we may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, for the display of Your Splendor and Your Glory and Your Goodness through**

**us! You Are Amazing, Abba, and we worship You that You do this for us!**

## **Won By Reverence**

It is written in II Peter 3:2 that a reverent life is so powerful that by it a woman may win another to Messiah without words. The word translated “reverence,” is the Greek word *phóbos*, from which we get the English word phobia. But not all fear is bad.

In Psalm 111:10a, it is written, “*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.*”<sup>9</sup> (KJV) There is wisdom in fearing the consequences of doing evil, particularly the break in fellowship with God, and a broken relationship with God.

In Hebrews 10:31, it is written, “*It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God.*” (KJV) And the LORD warns us in II Peter 3:11, “*Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness?*” (KJV)

## **Unfading Beauty**

It is written in I Peter 3:3-4, “*Your beauty should not come from outward adornment (from earthly things), such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, (your secret self,) the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth*

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<sup>9</sup> Proverbs 9:10 (KJV)

*in God's sight, for this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves." (KJV, adapted)*

Peter talks about the inner *"beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit."* The Greek word translated "inner" also means secret, concealed, or private. This word first appears in the New Testament in Matthew 6:4, 6, and 18, when Yeshua/Jesus tells His followers to **give in secret, to pray in secret, and to fast in secret**, and that Abba will reward them openly. Secret giving, secret prayer, and secret fasting, visible only to God, appear to be a secret of the beauty of the Bride.

Peter tells us that Sarah's beauty was unfading. The Greek word translated "unfading" also means something that will not pass away or deteriorate. Our beauty as the Bride of Messiah is an eternal beauty, the beauty of the LORD our God, and Messiah our King, that rests upon us as we align ourselves with the Living Word of God through obedience. This eternal beauty is part of the Bride's inheritance, our crown, that will accompany us through this life and into the Next.<sup>10</sup>

Sarah and the other godly women Peter described were manifesting the gentle Character of Messiah Himself. As we obey His Word, His Character and His Word come Alive in us. So another secret to Sarah's beauty and to ours is walking in obedience to the Word.

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<sup>10</sup> Romans 1:23; I Corinthians 9:25; 15:52; I Timothy 1:17; I Peter 1:4; 1:23.

## A Gentle Spirit

Peter writes of the beauty of a “gentle” spirit. We become gentle as we accept God’s dealings with us, and know that they are meant for our good. As we stop resisting Him and yield to His Spirit, we become gentle.<sup>11</sup> Yeshua modeled this for us by praying in Matthew 26:42, “*Thy will be done.*” (KJV)

When someone behaves toward you in an evil way, know that God can use your response to their behavior to purify you. Gentleness comes from trusting that God is good and from yielding to how He wants me to respond in every situation and to every provocation.

As we exercise our wills to return to God and to rest in Him, to separate ourselves from evil, to place ourselves under His Protection, we become free to be gentle. Gentleness is linked to abiding in the Secret Place with Him, where the adversary cannot touch us.

## Return and Rest

It is written in Isaiah 30:15, “*Thus saith the LORD God, the Holy One of Israel, In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength.*” (KJV)

There is great power in gentleness. The Greek word translated “gentle” also means humble. This word is first used in the New Testament by Yeshua/Jesus in Matthew

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?strongs=G4239&t=KJV>

5:5, where it is translated “meek:” *“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” Matthew 5:5 (KJV)*

These words of Yeshua confirm for us that gentle, godly women such as those described by Peter in I Peter 3 are going to end up inheriting nations and helping Messiah administer His Kingdom on earth. We start by making Him King in our own lives, by administering our own lives well.

## **A Quiet Spirit**

Our Abba tells us through Peter of the beauty of a quiet spirit. The Greek word translated “quiet” also means tranquil, peaceable. This word appears only one other place in Scripture, in I Timothy 2:2, where the LORD tells all believers (not just women) to pray *“for kings and for all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.” (KJV)*

It is written in Psalm 46:10-11, *“Be still, and know that I Am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth. The LORD of Hosts is with us: the God of Jacob is our Refuge. Selah.” (KJV)*

What is a gentle and quiet spirit? The Greek word translated “spirit” is *pneúma*, meaning also that part which thinks, feels, and decides. If I know that I am making good and godly decisions, then my spirit can rest and be quiet in the *Shalom*, the Peace of God, which passes all understanding. I can enjoy the richness of *“godliness with contentment,”* which Paul tells us in I Timothy 6:6 is *“great gain.” (KJV)*

The cost to maintain a gentle and quiet spirit is ongoing daily consecration, like Anna, who worshipped the Lord “*with fastings and prayers night and day*” in the temple.<sup>12</sup> As we each take up our cross daily to follow Yeshua,<sup>13</sup> it is written in Philippians 4:7, “*And the peace, (the Shalom,) of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Messiah Yeshua.*” (KJV, adapted)

## Of Great Worth

I Peter 3:4 tells us that this gentle and quiet spirit is “*of great worth in God’s sight.*” (NIV) The Greek word translated “great worth” means very precious, costly, of great price, extremely expensive, excellent, requiring very great outlay. Our Abba knows what it has cost holy women to secure this gentle and quiet spirit.

So it is written in I Peter 3:4b-5a, “*The unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit is of great worth in God’s sight, for this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves.*” (NIV)

## Holy Women

Peter describes these beautiful women as “holy.” This Greek word translated “holy” also means consecrated and pure. And it means saints. The Hebrew equivalent for the word “saints” is *kadoshim*, from the Hebrew word *kadosh*. We

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<sup>12</sup> Luke 2:37 (KJV)

<sup>13</sup> Luke 2:36-28; 9:23



are created to be *kadoshim*, to be holy ones, to be consecrated, to be pure, to be without spot.

Our Precious Yeshua helps clean us off as we yield to Him, singing over us, as it is written in the Song of Songs 4:7b, “*There is no spot in thee.*” (KJV)

We can walk in this spotlessness Now, as we repent moment by moment of those things that are not of Him, and choose His Way, and follow His next step for us. In each moment, with each breath, we can take in afresh the Holy Spirit, repent, forgive, receive His forgiveness, and have a brand new start.

**Thank You, LORD! Thank You, Yeshua, for Your Blood that covers all my sin and separates me from all my sin, so that I am no longer defiled and contaminated by it. I repent of everything that I’ve ever thought, said, or done that was not of You.**

**In Your Name, Yeshua, I forgive everyone who ever hurt me. Father, forgive them: they didn’t know what they were doing, and You are working everything together for my good.**

**You paid a Great Price for them and for me to be forgiven. Thank You. I receive Your forgiveness.**

**Thank You that I can walk in Newness of Life with You Right Now, yoked to You. Thank You that I can take the next step in sync with You. Oh, Abba, You are so good to me!**

## Radiating From The Inside Out

Peter says that our adorning is not to come from outside us, from earthly things, but from our spirits within.

The Greek word translated “adorn” is *kosméo*. From *kosméo* we get the English word “cosmetic.” But a cosmetic is something we put on over the top. Yeshua wants to do a deeper work inside us, so that we radiate from the inside out. It is written in Psalm 34:5, “*They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces were not ashamed.*” (NKJV)

*Kosméo*, adorn, also means to make ready, to prepare, to put in order. So we are to prepare ourselves for our Bridegroom’s Coming. Come, LORD Jesus! *Bo, Yeshua!*

The word translated “adorn,” *kosméo*, also means to trim a wick so that the flame will burn longer and more steadily. In Matthew 25:7 it is written of the 10 virgins, “*Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed (kosméo) their lamps.*” (KJV)

All 10 virgins, the five wise and the five foolish, had answered the invitation and committed themselves to serve at the wedding. All 10 had come with a light. All 10 of them arose when they were called in the night. All 10 of them trimmed their lamps. So each of us need to get rid of what’s not productive in our lives.

But just getting rid of the excess baggage is not enough. All 10 virgins trimmed their lamps. But only five of the virgins had planned ahead and brought enough oil.

## First Love

Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. *How do we store up enough oil so that we have enough on hand, and are ready to enter in with the Bridegroom to the Wedding Supper?* We can feast with Him continually even now, as we walk in the Spirit and in the Joy of unbroken relationship with the Son and with the Father, for it is written in Proverbs 15:15, *“A cheerful heart has a continual feast.”* (GW) And it is written in Psalm 16:11, *“At Thy Right Hand there are pleasures Forevermore.”* (KJV)

It is written in Jude 20-21, *“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”* (KJV)

So we keep ourselves in the Love of God by praying in the Holy Spirit, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, that we might take the next step in Him unto Life. Messiah means “anointed.” As we abide in Him, we have no lack of the anointing, no lack of the Oil of His Holy Spirit.

It is written in Revelation 2:5 that because the church at Ephesus had left their First Love, they were about to lose their Light. They had left their First Love for Yeshua to do other works which, although commendable, were not Yeshua’s first priority. The only works He values are those that grow out of intimacy with Him; He Himself remained in unbroken Fellowship with the Father and did only what He saw the Father doing. Yeshua Himself said only what He heard the Father saying. So how can we expect to bear the fruit of the Spirit apart from intimate, ongoing union and communion with Him, attending in obedience to His every Word? How

can we expect to please Him without the obedience to His commands that manifests our Love for Him?

Yeshua's ministry was His relationship with His Abba. Yeshua ministered His Love before daybreak to His Abba's Heart. As it is written in Mark 1:35, "*And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, He went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.*" (KJV) Then, sustained by His Love for His Abba, and by His Abba's Love for Him, He ministered His Abba's Love, healing, miracles, deliverance, and salvation to others during the day.

We already have the Holy Spirit through receiving Jesus Christ as our Saviour and LORD. But we can grieve the Holy Spirit by stubbornness, by disobedience, or by delayed obedience. Unrepented disobedience amounts to witchcraft, because it is written in I Samuel 15:23 that "*rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft...and idolatry.*" (KJV) If a person refuses to yield to Christ's Lordship over everything in their life, they stiff arm Him, hold Him at arm's length, and limit His ability to bless them in all the ways that He longs to.

## The Secret Place

It is written in Psalm 91:1, *“He that dwelleth in the Secret Place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”* (KJV) Psalm 91 is part of the law of the LORD and is a powerful legal contract. But all the blessings and protection of Psalm 91 are contingent upon our abiding by our obedience in the Secret Place with the Most High.

So we must abide in Yeshua, the Vine, and walk in His Holy Spirit. We abide in Him and walk in His Spirit by loving obedience to His Word, for it is written in John 14:15, *“If ye love Me, keep My commandments.”* (KJV)

Therefore, we store up oil by consistently walking with God, day after faithful day. In the temples of our bodies, we become, by obedience and surrender, like Anna in the temple in Jerusalem. It is written in Luke 2:37 that Anna *“departed not from the temple,”* (KJV) but set herself apart to minister to God’s Heart night and day in prayers and fastings. Truly this is the Narrow Gate of which Yeshua/Jesus spoke in Matthew 7:14, saying, *“Enter ye in at the narrow gate, for the way that leads to destruction is wide and spacious, and those who follow it are many; because narrow is the gate, and confined is the way which leads unto life, and there are few that find it.”* (JUB)

It is only as we **abide in Messiah in the Secret Place**, and continue to gaze on Him throughout the day, that we continue to reflect His Glory, and keep the oil running through the golden pipelines into and through our lives. <sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Zechariah 4:6, 12

**Oh, Abba, may I walk in Your Spirit all the time, consistently, not intermittently. Deliver me from being an intermittent stream, from flowing in Your Love one moment and not the next!**

**In Your Name, Yeshua, I turn away from all doublemindedness. I bring every thought captive and make it submit to You.**

**In Your Name, Yeshua, I focus on what is Most Important: YOU!  
Grant me a single heart to fear only You, to honor You, and to bring Glory to Your Name. Amen.**

## **Voluntary Yielding**

It is written in I Peter 3:5b-6b, “*They submitted themselves to (voluntarily yielded to, gave in to, and cooperated with) their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed (listened to, and conformed to) Abraham and called him her lord (her master).*”  
(KJV)

Notice how completely Sarah treated her husband as her lord. Think of what Sarah yielded to in the way of Abraham’s plans. She said she was Abraham’s sister and allowed herself to be taken into the houses of both Pharaoh and Abimelech. Sarah believed that it was important to fit in with her husband’s plans, even these plans. God honored Sarah’s obedience and Himself protected Sarah by intervening directly with both Pharaoh and Abimelech to deliver Sarah and restore her to her husband. <sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Genesis 12:10-20; 20:1-18

The word translated “submitted” also means to put under, to arrange themselves under authority like troops in the military subordinate themselves to a commanding officer and obey their commander. Our Bridegroom Yeshua, Who Is also our Commander, shares with us His very own armor. In order to be effective, we need to use every piece of the armor, for Paul admonishes us in Ephesians 6:11 to *“Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” (KJV)* As we learn to skillfully wield the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, by obedience to Him, we can fulfill the command given in I Timothy 6:12 to *“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life...” (JUB)*

The word translated “submitted” also means to carry a burden for another. So Yeshua, our Heavenly Bridegroom, says to us “all” in Luke 9:23-24, *“If anyone wants to come with Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of Me will save it.” (HCSB)* The precious paradox as we take up our cross, or yoke, is that Yeshua’s burden is also light, for He says in Matthew 11:30, *“My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (HCSB)*

The Greek word translated “lord” also means master, owner, the one who has control of another, the one who may decide things for them. A servant called his employer “master” as a way of showing respect.

**What might happen if I yielded that completely to Messiah today, as though He has Good Plans for me Today? As though it is Pleasing to be enthroned at His Right Hand? As though I know that my Safety and Protection are in allowing Him to decide things for me? As though He Is my Master and wants**

**to protect me? As though He Is my Owner, and His Will has become more important to me than my own will?**

**What if I asked Him, “What do *You* want us to do today?” What might happen if I fit in with *His* plans, instead of demanding His help with *my* plans?**

It is written in the Song of Songs 1:3, “*She ’men tu ’rak sheme ’kha,*” Oil poured forth Is Your Name. Yeshua’s Name and Presence are Fragrant Oil poured forth on those who draw close to Him.

## **Closing Prayer**

**Oh, Abba, may I conform to *Your* Will. May I let *Your* Word transform my heart and my mind and my life. May my life benefit, profit, and help *Your* little ones, *Your* lambs, *Your* sheep. And may I bring *You* Joy! In Yeshua’s/Jesus’ Precious Name. Amen.**

## **Thank You**

Thank you for participating in this study of the Obedience of Sarah! In the next chapter, Abba willing, we will look at the Song of Deborah.



## **Chapter 4**

### **“I Arose, A Mother in Israel”**

#### **The Song of Deborah**

##### **Opening Prayer**

**Abba, we worship You for the privilege of coming together in Your Presence to study Your Word. Thank You that You Are here with us to strengthen us, to comfort us, to encourage us, and to draw us deeper into Your Love. Thank You for the Power of Your Word to wash our thoughts clean as we meditate on You. Thank You that as we obey Your Word, You deliver us from every lie of the adversary by Your Truth.**

**Thank You for the Transformation that comes as we read and hear and obey Your Truth; thank You that we become like butterflies emerging from the cocoon of Your Love for us; thank You that we mount up with wings like eagles after being cocooned with You!**

**May Your Strength be made Perfect in our weakness. Thank You that You are Able to Keep us from falling, and to Present us Faultless before the Throne of Your Glory with Exceeding Joy. In Yeshua’s Name. Amen.**

## **I, Deborah, Arose**

It is written in Judges 5:7, “*The inhabitants of the villages ceased, they ceased in Israel, until that I, Deborah, arose, that I arose a mother in Israel.*” (KJV)

Normal village life in Israel had come to a halt. Even the simple task of going to the well for water had drawn sniper fire, had drawn arrows that could maim or kill if they reached their target. But life was restored to the villages after Deborah arose. That is the power of one woman of God to bring Life to a nation, like a mother bears new life into the world, like Mary bore Jesus into the world.

Deborah led by example. Before calling Barak and his men to battle, she herself answered the Lord’s repeated call to awake.<sup>16</sup> She spent time alone with God to receive His message of deliverance for His people and to hear His specific instructions and His timing, which she then passed on.

## **I Am Coming Back**

After Abba wonderfully opened the door for me to visit Israel a few years ago, He gave me a very simple summary of the book of Revelation. It was as if Yeshua, Jesus, was singing: “*I love you. I love Israel. I’m coming back. Get ready.*”

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<sup>16</sup> The call to Deborah to “awake” is repeated four times in Judges 5:12.

Judges 5:7 tells us that Deborah “arose.” The word translated “arose” is the Hebrew word *qum*. It is the same word that Yeshua, Jesus, used when he spoke to the dead girl, and raised her back to life, “Talitha, *cumi*.”<sup>17</sup>

The word translated “arose” is the same word used by the angel when he awoke Elijah from sleep after Elijah had collapsed in exhaustion and depression under a juniper tree. “Arise, *qum*, and eat,” said the angel. Elijah ate and God used that food to strengthen him for the 40-day journey to the mountain of God in Horeb.<sup>18</sup>

The word *qum* also means “to stand up, to become powerful, to come on the scene, to endure, to be proven, to persist.”<sup>19</sup> So it is as though the angel was also saying to Elijah’s spirit, “Arise. Stand up. Become powerful. Take your place on the scene of history. Endure to the end. Persist. Persevere. Respond to this trial in such a way that it proves you to be a man of God, and rest in God’s approval.”

What our Abba wants for us is nothing less than raising us from spiritual death that we might walk in the footsteps of Deborah and Elijah, beginning Now, that we may fulfill all His good plans and purposes for us in this lifetime, and bear much Fruit for His Glory, starting with the Fruit of the Spirit, especially the Fruit of His Love. As we Rest in His Love and abide in Him, our abundant fruit will draw those who are hungry for Righteousness, that they also may enter into Relationship with Him, and be filled with His Living Waters.

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<sup>17</sup> Mark 5:41

<sup>18</sup> I Kings 19:1-8

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?strongs=H6965&t=KJV>

**Oh, Abba, may I endure and persevere in all those things to which You are calling me. Thank You for giving me life and for buying me back from the adversary, that I may serve You, and complete All Your Good Plans and Purposes for me in this day and in my generation.**

**May I bring You Great Joy in every moment. May I repent quickly of anything that is not of You, so that I may rest continually in Your Love and Forgiveness. In Jesus', Yeshua's, Name. Amen.**

After God gave the victory, Deborah and Barak led the people in praise to the LORD for His deliverance. As it is written in Judges 5:2, *“Praise ye the LORD! for the avenging of Israel, when the people willingly offered themselves.” (KJV)*

## **A Willing Offering**

Abba promises to raise up those who humble themselves before Him. The LORD had already begun to raise Deborah up as she awoke to His call, listened to Him, and began to speak His Word to others. Things began to change on a national level when other people also willingly offered themselves to the LORD to fight His battle. In response to their willing offering, the LORD Himself fought for and avenged Israel.

It is written in II Corinthians 9:7, *“God loves a cheerful giver.” (NIV)*

**Oh, Abba, may I offer myself to You willingly and cheerfully in this moment! May I continue to yield to You moment by moment for the rest of this day and all through every day to come! In Yeshua's Name. Amen.**

It is written in Romans 2:7 that *“by patient continuance in well doing”* we seek God’s Glory. As we keep doing what is right, our Abba’s Glory is revealed in us. We honor Him by our obedience, and He honors us with Immortality and Eternal Life even Now, as we walk with Him, In Him, and in New Life, and *“the Beauty of the LORD our God”* rests on us.<sup>20</sup> What a Joy, that as I repent of all that is not of Him, and do the next right thing, I bring Glory to His Name!

It is written in James 1:12, *“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the Crown of Life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him.”* (KJV)

**Oh, Abba, enduring temptation is a way to show my love for You, and You always make “a way of escape.”<sup>21</sup> May I always take Your Way of escape. In Yeshua’s Name. Amen.**

**Oh, Abba, I repent of ignoring Your Way of escape. Thank You that Yeshua is The Way, The Truth, and The Life, and that as I hide myself in You, and choose to do what You would do, temptation cannot touch me. Amen.**

## **Let Him Deny Himself**

It is written in Luke 9:23, *“And He said to them all, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”* (KJV)

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<sup>20</sup> Psalm 90:17 (KJV)

<sup>21</sup> I Corinthians 10:13 (KJV)

**Oh, Abba, I need to be telling myself, my soul, my psyche, and my body. “No. No, my soul. No, my body. I know this is not what you want right now, but it is Wise to walk in the Fear of the LORD, and you will be exceedingly glad about this later.”**

**Oh, Abba, I need to be following Your Highest Calling every day, not taking days off. I need to stop letting myself be diverted; I need to stop laying down my cross to pick up other distractions.**

**Oh, Yeshua, I need to keep You in Sight and keep following You, for Your Yoke *Is* Easy and Your Burden *Is* Light, and I like who I am, and who I am becoming, in You.**

Not everyone in ancient Israel had willingly offered themselves to God. Some in Israel had chosen new gods and by doing so had made Israel vulnerable to her enemies.<sup>22</sup>

In contrast, the godly volunteers from Israel risked their own lives to deliver: 1) themselves, 2) their families, and 3) those in their nation whose rebellious choices had gotten them all in trouble with God.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Judges 5:8

<sup>23</sup> Judges 5:15-17

# I Will Sing

It is written in Judges 5:3, “*Hear, O ye kings; give ear, O princes; I, even I, will sing unto the LORD; I will sing praise to the LORD God of Israel.*” (KJV)

Deborah, in Hebrew *Devorah*, was a *neviyah*,<sup>24</sup> a woman who sang the Word of the LORD. Her role as she sang the Word of the LORD was to encourage God’s people to align themselves with God’s Heart, that He might give victory to His people. Deborah conveyed the commands, plans, and strategy of God for victory, and His timing, to Barak.

Even though Barak was afraid at first, his obedience led to victory in battle, and his faith is later praised in the book of Hebrews.<sup>25</sup> Barak’s first victory was his victory over fear. Victory in battle followed. The only obstacle between Barak and victory was the fear that could have kept him from obeying the LORD if he had allowed it. Even a person who has been troubled by fear can experience victory if they obey the Word of the LORD.

**Holy Spirit, I yield myself to You. I evict fear. I refuse all fear except the Holy Fear of the LORD. I embrace the Holy Fear of the LORD. Thank You for filling me with Your Peace, with Your *Shalom*, with Your Wholeness in my body, in my soul, in my mind, in my heart, and in my spirit. Thank You for giving me the Mind of Christ, the Mind of Messiah, that I may know Your thoughts on every situation.**

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<sup>24</sup> Judges 4:4

<sup>25</sup> Hebrews 11:32

**Thank You for removing a stony heart and for giving me a New Heart of flesh to follow You, a soft heart, a strong heart, a *lev sameach* (lehv sah-MEH-ahk), a Heart Full of Joy. Thank You that as I yield my will to You, You equip me by Your Holy Spirit to do *everything* that You envision me doing Today, for my good and for Your Glory, that I may be a blessing to You and to others. In Yeshua’s Name and Holy Presence I pray. Amen.**

It is written in Judges 5:6-7, that Deborah sang, *“In the days of Shamgar’ the son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were unoccupied, and the travellers walked through byways. The inhabitants of the villages ceased, they ceased in Israel, until I, Deborah, arose, arose a mother in Israel.” (KJV)*

## **A Mother in Israel**

What had happened to the inhabitants of the villages? The word “ceased” may also be translated “ceased to be.” It sounds as though the villages were so vulnerable to attack that people who had survived previous assaults took their families and left, and became refugees. But Deborah had stayed. She had refused to give up her land to the adversary.

Deborah’s name means “a bee.” A bee is a little thing, but powerful. About one third of our food supply – some fruit, almonds, and some vegetables - depends on pollination from bees working together.<sup>26</sup> One bee colony can pollinate millions of flowers in a single day.<sup>27</sup> As Deborah faithfully sowed the Word of the Lord into

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<sup>26</sup> <https://www.buzzaboutbees.net/honey-bee-pollination.html>

<sup>27</sup> <https://beesource.com/resources/usda/productive-management-of-honey-bee-colonies/>



the lives of the children of Israel, a harvest of righteousness and faith came forth, and God was able to work mightily.

Deborah knew that her presence and her position as a mother in Israel were decisive in the victory God was able to grant. She knew the national importance of her work of influencing others to obey God and follow His ways.

Parents, both fathers and mothers, had been given a special role in Israel, for it is written in Deuteronomy 6:6-7, *“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” (KJV)*

When Deborah sang that things had changed when she arose, she wasn't bragging. She was acknowledging her call and her obedience to the anointing of God upon her to set an example and so persuade others. As Harry Truman later said of his life and his support of the rebirth of the State of Israel, “I am Cyrus.” He knew who he was on the timeline of history. Negative beliefs, lies like, “I'm nobody; what I have to offer doesn't matter; I can't contribute,” are not from God.

As the diligence of a bee produces honey, Deborah's faithful walk with God resulted in a sweet outcome for those around her. Abba used her to restore village life, which had ceased under attack. She became a bringer of life.

In 2020, the virus and social distancing brought much in our world to a standstill. Yet even then, believers, modern-day Deborahs, arose and had an unprecedented opportunity to bring The Word, sweeter than honey, to those in need. Wycliffe Bible translators set a new record in completing New Testament translations after

translators became more available due to the impact of the virus on their other employment. As families in quarantine sought video resources, those sharing the Jesus film in more than 1800 languages reported that 30 million men, women, and children trusted Christ after they viewed the film.<sup>28</sup>

It is written in I John 3:8 that Jesus manifested Himself, The Living Word, living perfect obedience to the Word, to “*destroy the works of the devil.*” (KJV) So, too, God gave Israel victory over the adversary when they listened to His Word through Deborah. Together, Israel collaborated with the LORD to bring down the adversary. Faith in His Word was enough to bring the victory: the LORD Himself fought for Israel even though they were outnumbered and the enemy had superior weapons. The LORD turned the enemy’s seeming advantage of iron chariots into a liability in the rain and the mud that followed the rain.

Israel means “God prevails,” but God was not prevailing in Israel prior to this victory. The next verse tells us why. It is written in Judges 5:8, “*They chose new gods; then was war in the gates: was there a shield or spear seen among forty thousand in Israel?* (KJV)

## **They Chose New Gods**

How Israel got into her predicament becomes clear: “*they chose new gods.*” As a consequence, the LORD had allowed the enemy to come and disarm Israel. Israel’s conquerors no longer allowed them to have shields or spears.

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<sup>28</sup> Today, a total of over 500 million people have decided to follow Jesus since the Jesus film premiered in 1979.

The sentence “*They chose new gods*” can also be translated, as it is in the NIV, “*God chose new leaders.*” These are the two sides of one coin. If people choose to follow anyone other than the One True God, they will have new leaders. Either God will raise up godly leaders who can lead them to Repentance, to Victory, and to Peace, or they will fall under God’s judgment and become subject to oppressive leaders.

## **War In The Gates**

Deborah’s song tells us that there was “war in the gates.” Why was “war in the gates” so dangerous?

At that time, Jerusalem and some other cities in Israel were protected by thick, high walls. The walls had gates to allow people, animals, and vehicles in and out of the city.

But if an enemy got control of the gates, then the enemy had free access to enter the city. If the defenders of the city failed to protect the city gates, the thickest walls could no longer protect the people inside in the city.

It doesn’t matter how good your boundaries are if you have a breach in your defenses. I can be strong in many areas, but if I have a vulnerability, I need to fix it.

**In Your Name, Lord Jesus, I shut every gate of my life on the adversary. I shut my ears against listening to lies. I shut my mouth against speaking anything that does not line up with Your Word. I turn**

**my eyes away from anything, including any electronic image, or any so-called news broadcast or entertainment, that distracts me from You and from Your Highest Calling on my life.**

**I renounce ambivalence. I renounce double-mindedness. I renounce entertaining any thoughts that are not of You. I reject every lie and deception of the adversary. I cover myself with Your Blood, LORD Jesus, and I receive afresh Your Forgiveness for my sins with Great Thanksgiving. Thank You for the Power Right Now to do what is Right and to Experience Your Loving Presence and Your Joy in me as I obey Your Word. In Yeshua's/Jesus' Name. Amen!**

The gates of Jerusalem are not like a simple garden gate. Some of the gates are more like rooms. The Jaffa Gate, for example, is an opening in the wall that is 20 feet high, followed by a room-like passageway through the wall. There are three exits from this room: forward, backward, or up the stairs onto the ramparts. In a battle over this gate, there may seem to be only three options: 1) either I succeed and drive out the enemy, or 2) I die trying, or 3) I am myself driven back.

## **Up On The Rampart**

But in the Spirit, there is a fourth option, an “up” option, what I might call an “up”tion, up onto the ramparts to keep watch with Almighty God. Yeshua still calls us, as He called Peter, James, and John the Beloved, His three closest followers, to keep watch with Him in the Gethsemane night, and to surrender our wills with Him to our Abba. We can do so with Joy.

After the prophet Habakkuk poured out his heart to the LORD, he climbed up to his watchtower to watch and wait for the LORD's answer.<sup>29</sup> As we keep watch with our LORD on the ramparts, we rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, The Bride of Messiah, in the Spirit, and we may say with Nehemiah as it is written in Nehemiah 6:3, *"I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down."* (KJV)

## **Dare to Die**

It is written in Judges 5:18, *"Zebulun and Naphtali were a people that jeopardated their lives unto the death in the high places of the field."* (KJV) *"The people of Zebulun risked their very lives; so did Naphtali on the terraced fields."* (NIV)

The Hebrew word translated "jeopardated" or "risked" also means "betrothed." The men of Zebulun and Naphtali were so committed, so dedicated, that they were willing to fall in the field, to sow their bodies into the earth, to marry themselves to the land, in order to secure deliverance and a better life for those they loved.

## **No Greater Love**

Yeshua said in John 15:13, *"Greater love hath no man that this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."* (KJV) And Yeshua said in John 12:24, *"...unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."* (NIV)

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<sup>29</sup> Habakkuk 2:1

Zebulun and Naphtali were willing to go after the high ground, the “terraced field,” even though the process of taking the high ground made them more visible to the adversary and more vulnerable.

During the Six-Day War, Egyptian, Syrian, and Jordanian forces came against Israel from three directions. In the north, the Israelis were faced by 75,000 Syrians. The Israelis in the north had just four Israeli brigades against nine Syrian brigades.

At one point in the conflict, all 19 of the Israeli tanks and half-tracks had been destroyed. The surviving 25 Israeli soldiers climbed out of the useless vehicles and divided into two groups. They approached the Syrian fort on foot. One group came toward the fort from the north and one group from the south.

The Israeli soldiers who were approaching from the south came to a barbed wire barricade. In order that they might pass over the barricade, the first Israeli soldiers to arrive at the barricade laid down their bodies on the barbed wire, so that those following them could vault over their bodies. They laid themselves down for their friends.

The Israeli soldiers who were approaching from the north broke through into the fort in a few minutes, and emptied the Syrian stronghold. The Israeli commander who had ordered them to attack was killed, but they kept his command to keep on fighting and they won.<sup>30</sup>

Our Commander, Yeshua/Jesus, Who laid down His Life for us, has also left us with a command in Matthew 28:18-20, which may be paraphrased, “*All Power and Authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to Me. I am in charge of you and*

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<sup>30</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day\\_War#Israeli\\_attack:\\_first\\_day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day_War#Israeli_attack:_first_day)

*every being in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go, and by word and example teach people from all nations to follow Me. Abide in My Presence, so that you may immerse them in My Presence - the Presence of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them, both by Word and by setting an example, by your own complete and utter obedience to Me and to My Word. And I will be with you at all times and in all places.”*

## **The Land Had Rest**

It is written in Judges 5:31, *“So let all Thine enemies perish, O LORD: but let them that love Him be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might. And the land had rest forty years.” (KJV)*

Obedience in battle brought a generation rest. The battle did not go on forever.

The word translated “rest” also means “to be quiet,” to be tranquil, to be at peace, to “lie still, undisturbed.” Our Abba wants us, His little ones, to Rest in Him, and to follow Him beside the quiet streams of the Waters of Life, flowing, as they did for Deborah, in song.

**Oh, Abba, thank You for giving us, like Moses, 80 Days of Rest in You, and more, undisturbed, in this season of quarantine. You knew we needed to unplug from every distraction and Connect More Deeply with You.**

## **You Surround Me With Your Love**

It is written in Psalm 5:12, “*Surely, LORD, You bless the righteous, You surround them with Your Favor as with a Shield.*” (KJV)

And it is written in Luke 10:19 that Yeshua said, “*I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.*” (NIV) So we may sing to Him, “You surround me with Your Love as with a Shield. Nothing can harm me.”

### **Did You Know... ...that the *ENTIRE* Old Testament is a song set to music?**

The Masoretic text of the Old Testament is filled with musical notations above and below the Hebrew letters that have been decoded into beautiful melodies that some believe may have been sung by King David. If you like, you may listen to some of these melodies on YouTube at

<https://youtu.be/a38vuOmWcIs>. This free video is an 8-minute summary of the research from National Public Radio (NPR).

## **Closing Prayer**

**Thank You, Abba, that You fight for us, and that the battle does not go on Forever. Thank You for sharing Your Rest with us if we will receive it, every Sabbath, and every night, and every moment if we will yield to**



**You. Thank You that even in the midst of the battle we may experience sweet Rest in You.**

**Thank You that we may Rest in Quiet Awe and Adoration and Worship of You, even while we work and care for our homes and the families that You have given us. You are Wonderful, Abba, and we just want to Abide with You Now and Forever.**

**In Yeshua's / Jesus' Mighty Name. Amen.**

## **Thank You**

Thank you for participating in this study of the Song of Deborah! In the next chapter, Abba willing, we will look at The Precision of Priscilla.

# Chapter 5

## A More Perfect Understanding

### The Precision of Priscilla

#### Opening Prayer

**Abba, we worship You for the privilege of coming together in Your Presence to study Your Word. Your Word says that where two or three are gathered together in Your Name You are there in their midst. Thank You that You Are here with us. We worship You that Your Heart is to strengthen, comfort, and encourage us, to draw us deeper into Your Love, and to deliver us from every lie of the enemy by Your Truth. Thank You in advance for transforming our lives by what we read and hear and obey today. May Your Strength be made Perfect in our weakness. In Yeshua's Name. Amen.**

*It is written in Acts 18:24-26, "And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, Aquila and Priscilla took him unto them and expounded unto him the Way of God more perfectly. (KJV)*

## Little Ancient One

The name Priscilla comes from the Greek word *prisca*, meaning “ancient.”

Priscilla is a diminutive form of Prisca, much as we would call a little girl Debbie instead of her given name Deborah, or call a little boy Robbie instead of his birth name Robert.

So we could say the female name Priscilla means “little Prisca,” or “little ancient one.” I take heart from this, that our Abba can use us though we may be little and old. After all, He used Moses mightily from ages 80 through 120 to deliver Israel from Egypt. Deuteronomy 34:7 tells us that even when Moses was 120 years old, *“his eyesight was perfect, and he was as strong as a young man.”* (TLB)

## Lord, Give Me This Mountain

Our Abba used Caleb in the Promised Land when he was 85 years old to take Hebron away from the giants. The Word of God tells us that Caleb was as strong to go into battle at age 85 as he was when he was 40.<sup>31</sup> It is written in Joshua 14:14, *“Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb, because he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel.”* (KJV)

Thank God that neither old age nor youth nor lack of experience are obstacles to the Spirit of God! For example,

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<sup>31</sup> Exodus 7:7; Deuteronomy 34:7 (NASB); Joshua 14:10-11

- Jeremiah was a young man, called in Hebrew a *na'ar*, when God called him. The Hebrew word *na'ar* means boy, and is used for a newborn, and for a male child up to the age of about 20.<sup>32</sup>
- John the Beloved is believed to have been in his late teens when Yeshua/Jesus called him and his brother James to leave their father's fishing business and follow Him.<sup>33</sup>
- Mary may have been as young as her early teens when she became pregnant with Yeshua/Jesus, because young Jewish women of her generation could be betrothed as young as age 12.

## An Expositor

Luke tells us in the book of Acts that Aquila and Priscilla “expounded” to Apollos the Way of God more completely. The Greek word translated “expounded” also means to set out, or to exhibit. The word “expounded” is used in the New Testament of a type of teaching that moves chronologically through the data and highlights the fulfillment of prophecy in current or recent events.<sup>34</sup>

In other words, Priscilla and her husband Aquila laid out the Word of God for Apollos with examples. Since Apollos knew only the baptism of John, who came

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<sup>32</sup> <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?strongs=H5288&t=KJV>

<sup>33</sup> Matthew 4:21-22

<sup>34</sup> Acts 11:4; 28:23

before Messiah to prepare the way for Him, they explained to Apollos how Yeshua had fulfilled the prophecies about Messiah.

## **Followers of The Way**

Luke tells us that Priscilla and Aquila showed Apollos the “Way” of God. What is the “Way” of God?

Messiah had said, “I Am The Way.” Luke tells us in Acts that followers of Messiah were called followers of The Way.<sup>35</sup>

**Oh, Yeshua, You Alone Are The Way! No one comes to our Abba except through You.**

The word translated “way” also means progress.

**Oh, Abba, may we run with patience and perseverance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus. May we progress and grow in godliness and fulfill Your High purposes for us in every moment as we follow Messiah. In Yeshua’s Name. Amen.**

The word translated “way” also means “course of conduct,” a “way of thinking, feeling” and deciding, that gets us to a goal.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> John 14:6 (KJV); Acts 22:4

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?strongs=G3598&t=KJV>

**Oh, Abba, there is Only One Way to You, and that is through Messiah Yeshua. Let us hold fast to Him and to You. In Yeshua's Name. Amen.**

The word translated “way” is first used in the New Testament of God’s warning to the wise men to return home from Bethlehem another way, both to protect themselves and to protect little Yeshua from Herod. There is a course of conduct, a way to conduct our lives, that moves us safely toward the goal of “the prize of the high calling of God” in Messiah Yeshua.<sup>37</sup>

Messiah Himself is the Prize of Whom we partake as we abide in Him and fulfill His calling on our lives. As it is written in Genesis 15:1, *“Fear not...I Am thy Shield, and thy Exceeding Great Reward.”* (KJV)

Aquila and Priscilla explained the Way of God to Apollos “more perfectly.” The Greek word translated “more perfectly” means exact, or careful. It is used of those who are rigorous and who pay attention to small details.<sup>38</sup>

## **Small Beginnings**

Priscilla earned a place in Scripture and contributed to the effectiveness of the spread of the Word of God through Apollos. We know this because the Word tells us that Apollos became one of the three leading teachers of the early followers of the Way of Messiah, along with Peter and Paul.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Philippians 3:14 (KJV)

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?strongs=G197&t=KJV>

<sup>39</sup> I Corinthians 1:12; 3:4-6, 22; 4:6

It is written in Zechariah 4:10a, *“For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel...”*  
(KJV)

A plummet, a plumbline, is a small thing, a lead weight at the end of a piece of string, but it is used to establish vertical, and to ensure that a wall or a building is upright and “true to plumb.” Like a little plumbline, the more accurate understanding of the way of God that comes through obedience enables us to walk upright, in correct vertical relationship with Him. Obedience leads to increased understanding as we walk true to the Light that we have received. Understanding, in turn, makes us want to obey. We take in more deeply how Precious we are to our Abba, and to Yeshua, and how much they love us, and we want to draw near.

Yeshua drew those who were little, the little children, to Himself and taught that *“the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”*<sup>40</sup> God shares His Kingdom with little children. Not only that, He tells us through Paul that He gives governance in His Kingdom to those the world despises and thinks little of.

## **God Hath Chosen**

It is written in I Corinthians 1:27-29, *“But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound*

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<sup>40</sup> Luke 18:16 (NIV); Matthew 19:16-23 (KJV)

*the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: that no flesh should glory in His Presence.” (KJV)*

## **The Foolish Things**

The word translated “foolish things” is the Greek word *morós*, from which we get the English word “moron.” *Morós* can mean dull, imprudent, acting without forethought, and without learning. This means that God deliberately chooses those with limited intellectual capacity, the uneducated, and even those who have *not* been carefully considering their ways and the consequences – which at some point has been all of us in relation to the wisdom of God.

**Thank You, LORD, for choosing us! Let us choose wisely going forward! In Yeshua’s Name. Amen.**

## **The Weak Things**

Paul tells us that our Abba chooses “the weak things” to “confound” the mighty. The word translated “weak things” is the Greek word *asthenés*, from which we get the English word *asthenia*, meaning a lack of physical strength, or a loss of physical strength.

*Asthenés* also means impotent, feeble, and unable to do great things. Again, this is all of us without Messiah, for Yeshua said in John 15:4-5, “*Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the Vine, no more can ye, except ye abide in Me. I Am the Vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth*



*in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing.” (KJV)*

## **Abide In Me**

We abide in Yeshua by obedience as we follow Him and imitate Him. We feed His lambs by our obedient example of living the Truth, so that our lives match the Truth that we speak.

This is how we hide ourselves In Him, like David, who wrote in Psalm 143:9, *“Deliver me, O LORD, from mine enemies: I flee unto Thee to hide me.” (KJV)* David found safety and stability in the LORD, for it is written in Psalm 27:5, *“...in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion: in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me; He shall set me up upon a rock.” (KJV)*

Abba has chosen us to abide in Yeshua, because we are powerless without Him, so that we may bear much fruit. It is not just speaking the Truth of the Word that enables us to overcome the adversary, but coupling the Truth of the Word with a life of obedience to the Word.

John the Beloved writes in Revelation 12:11, *“And they overcame him by the Blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.” (KJV)*

The Greek word translated “testimony” is *marturía*, from which we get the English word martyr. It is obedience to the Word to the point of laying down our lives that generates a testimony. Even if we are not called to physical martyrdom, we are all

called by Yeshua in Luke 9:23, *“And He said to them all, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” (KJV)*

This is God’s Highest Calling on our lives, to lay down our lives daily in Love for our Greatest Friend, Yeshua, and for His friends, and to follow Him by utter obedience to His Word.

## **The Mighty**

Praise God that He chooses us, the weak things of this world, to confound the mighty. The Greek word translated “mighty” means strong, powerful, even violent.

When Peter, walking on the water, looked at the mighty wind, the strong, powerful, violent storm, he began to sink.<sup>41</sup> But we don’t have to sink if we keep our eyes on Yeshua, if we keep gazing at Yeshua instead of getting distracted by the storm. We can stay on course and run our race with patience as we keep looking to Yeshua.<sup>42</sup>

He Is our Strength, as Moses sang in Exodus 15:2a, *“The LORD is my Strength and Song, and He is become my Salvation,”* my Yeshua, My Jesus. (KJV) The word translated “salvation” here is the word *yeshuah*, which is also Jesus’ Hebrew Name.

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<sup>41</sup> Matthew 14:30

<sup>42</sup> Hebrews 12:1-2

**Oh, Yeshua, how we worship You that You, our God, became flesh,  
were born and named Yeshua/Jesus/Salvation, for us!**

## “Behold the Hand; Behold the Nail”

You may already know that when the word LORD is capitalized in the King James Version of the Bible, it represents the Hebrew word that is spelled *Yud Hay Vav Hay*, the Name of God by which He revealed Himself to Moses. You may also know that Hebrew letters represent words, as well as sounds. (This is similar to the English letter i, which is also the pronoun “I.”)

So the letters in the Name of God, *Yud Hay Vav Hay*, represent words:

*Yud* = hand  
*Hay* = window, look, behold  
*Vav* = nail

(You may verify these meanings on a [Hebrew letter chart](#), and at the website [Hebrew for Christians](#).)

Substituting these words for the Hebrew letters, *Yud Hay Vav Hay* becomes a sentence:

Hand Look Nail Look

or

***Behold the hand; behold the nail.***

I am in awe that this intimate, personal name of God, by which He revealed Himself to Moses, holds within it the mystery of redemption and Messiah’s sacrifice, not just for Israel, but for the world!

## Base Things

It is written in I Corinthians 1:28 that God has chosen “base things” to overthrow and bring to nothing things that are. The word translated “base things” means low born. All of us are low born, of the earth, earthy, and need to be born again from Heaven. <sup>43</sup> It is written in Philippians 2:7-8, 15 that the LORD Jesus humbled Himself to be born a man, “*made Himself of no reputation,*” and “*became obedient unto death,*” so that we “*might shine as lights in the world.*” (KJV)

The word translated “base things” also means cowardly. But even if we started out with fear or anxiety, we don’t have to keep hosting those feelings. For those who respond to the call of God’s Love, it is written in I John 4:18-19, 21, “*There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us....And this commandment have we from Him, that he who loveth God love his brother also.*” (KJV)

## Despised

It is written in I Corinthians 1:28 that God has also chosen those who are despised for His High Purposes. The Greek word translated “despised” also means treated as contemptible, treated as of no account, mocked. Yeshua understands when we are despised and mocked from His own experience, because that is how Herod treated Yeshua. <sup>44</sup> Even the apostle Paul was treated this way by some in the early church

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<sup>43</sup> John 3:3, 7; I Corinthians 15:47-49

<sup>44</sup> Luke 23:11; Acts 4:11

who looked down on his outward appearance, and called “his bodily presence...weak, and his speech contemptible.”<sup>45</sup>

## Things Which Are Not

God has chosen “things which are not” to accomplish His Will. The Greek words translated “are not,” mean things which don’t exist yet even in our thoughts. The LORD says in Isaiah 55:8-9, “*For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.*”

(KJV)

Even if we, like Gideon, may have thought that we don’t have anything going for us, that thought is not true, for if God is “*for us, who can be against us?*”<sup>46</sup>

## Little Grain of Wheat

Small beginnings may yield Eternal Treasure. Yeshua said in John 12:24, “*Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.*” (NIV)

**Oh, Abba, I’m Your little grain of wheat, falling into the ground and dying, so I don’t abide alone, but bear MUCH fruit!**

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<sup>45</sup> II Corinthians 10:7, 10 (KJV)

<sup>46</sup> Romans 8:31b (KJV)

For it is written in Zechariah 4:10, “*Who hath despised the day of small things?*”  
(KJV)

## **Devotion To The Word**

Priscilla was a student of the Word of God, a woman of the Word, careful to handle the Word of God with precision. By the time Yeshua/Jesus was a little boy, the synagogue system had been in place for several generations to teach little boys the Torah and the traditions. Therefore, Yeshua grew up in a generation in which old men, young men, and boys had learned the Word of God from childhood. Priscilla, although a woman, had diligently made the study of the Word of God her business also.

Priscilla’s devotion to both the written Word and the Living Yeshua had been foreshadowed by other women who devotedly followed Jesus during His ministry. It is written in Luke 8:1-3, “*And it came to pass afterward, that He went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the Kingdom of God: and the twelve were with Him, and certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, and Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.*” (KJV)

Although these women were not among the 12 disciples, they listened to and were obedient to Yeshua, the Living Word. Mary Magdalene’s love and devotion resulted in revelation, as Yeshua showed Himself first to her upon His Resurrection.

May we also become women of the Word as we read and obey the Word of God, day by day, and seek the leading of the Holy Spirit of God through His Word. May our Abba protect us from grieving the Holy Spirit through disobedience.

It is written in Ephesians 4:30, *“Don’t grieve God. Don’t break His Heart. His Holy Spirit, moving and breathing in you, is the most intimate part of your life, making you fit for Himself. Don’t take such a gift for granted.”* (MSG)

## **“How” Is Important**

Priscilla was a woman who had information that could benefit a man. She was also skilled in knowing how to impart that information in a home setting, like Timothy’s mother and grandmother, who had taught Timothy, so that he had known the Scriptures from childhood.<sup>47</sup>

Aquila and Priscilla taught Apollos as a team. This approach also offered moral protection against temptation, and was consistent with Paul’s teaching that a woman was not to dominate a man. The Word that Aquila and Priscilla expounded to Apollos carried its own authority, the authority of God. For either Aquila or Priscilla to try to dominate Apollos would have detracted from the authority of the Word itself.

Aquila and Priscilla were tactful in how they structured the teaching time. They didn’t confront Apollos publicly, but took him aside one-on-one. How a person

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<sup>47</sup> II Timothy 1:5; 3:15



teaches is as important as what they teach. Aquila and Priscilla were teaching to build up Apollos and to better equip him to teach, not to boss him.

In a different context, Paul writes in I Timothy 2:11-12 of public church meetings which were attended by both men and women, *“Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.” (KJV)*

## **Teach Diligently**

Even though girls and women weren't educated in the formal synagogue system when Yeshua was alive, they were instructed by Paul to learn from the congregational teaching, and from private tutoring in their own homes.

This is consistent with Deuteronomy 6:6-7, *“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” (KJV)*

Similarly, it is written in Joshua 1:8, *“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lip; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” (KJV)*

The LORD had instructed those who knew the Word to be meditating on it night and day, and to be speaking it when they sat down and when they rose up, in all their comings and goings, on the road and at home.

## Listening At Yeshua's Feet

In I Timothy 2:12, Paul instructed women to “learn in silence.” The Greek word translated “learn” means to understand, to be informed, and to “learn by use and practice.” It is as we obey and do the Word of God that it truly takes root in our hearts.

The Greek word translated “silence” also means quietness, or stillness, like Mary listening at Yeshua's feet. Stillness before the Lord is precious for both men and women. As King David wrote in Psalm 27:4, *“One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in His temple.”* (KJV)

## Hear The Word of God and Do It

Paul also instructs women to learn “with all subjection.” The Greek word translated “subjection” means obedience. Yeshua calls men and women alike to utter and complete obedience. As it is written in Luke 8:21, He calls us to *“hear the Word of God and do it.”* (KJV)

Paul apparently did not permit women to teach men in the public meetings of the congregation. The Greek word translated “teach” means instruct, or explain, and is first used in the New Testament of Jesus' teaching.<sup>48</sup> Yet clearly private exposition

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<sup>48</sup> Matthew 4:23

was permitted and had wonderful fruit as Priscilla and her husband Aquila privately expounded the Way of God to Apollos.

How does this fit with Acts 21:8-9, in which it is written that Philip had four daughters who prophesied? The word translated “prophesied” means to speak under divine inspiration, having received divine revelation. It is the same word used by Yeshua in Matthew 11:13 of the Old Testament prophets. The same word is used specifically of Isaiah in Matthew 15:7. Clearly these four women, Philip’s daughters, were voices for God, and clearly they were a fulfillment of the prophecy in Joel 2:28, as recorded in Acts 2:17: “*your sons and daughters shall prophesy.*” (KJV)

Part of the answer to this mystery seems to be heart attitude. Listeners, both men and women, were to be characterized by a quiet and receptive spirit, and marked by their obedience to the Word of God. They were to be devoted to learning to know the LORD and His Word better, and to growing.

## **“Usurp Authority”: What Does It Mean?**

Paul taught us that women are not to usurp authority. What does that mean? The word translated “usurp authority” is used only here in the New Testament. It means “one who with his own hands **kills** another or himself.” Can our words do that much damage to others, and simultaneously backfire on ourselves?

Orthodox Jews take the evil use of the tongue, which they call *lashon hara*, as seriously as murder. We see this in the story of Miriam. God had spoken Scripture in song through Miriam; she was a singing prophetess, a *neviyah*’.

Yet when Miriam gossiped with Aaron against Moses' Ethiopian wife, God struck Miriam with leprosy, and separated Miriam from the congregation for seven days.<sup>49</sup> God exonerated and vindicated Moses, but it was only by Aaron's repentance and intercession for Miriam that God healed Miriam.

To destroy another with words is ultimately to destroy the self, for it is written in Proverbs 26:2 that *“an undeserved curse does not come to rest.”* (NIV) So great is the power of the tongue that to abuse that power is to destroy the self. It is written in Proverbs 18:21a, *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.”* (KJV)

## **A Holy Tongue**

We are to have a consistently holy tongue. Every word we speak is to be consistent with the Word of God. The Spirit of God is Holy, and our tongues are to be holy, *kadosh*', also.

It is written in I Peter 4:11, *“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Messiah Yeshua, to Whom be praise and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”* (KJV, adapted)

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<sup>49</sup> Exodus 15:20-21; Numbers 12:1-15

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?strongs=H5031&t=KJV>

So our words need to minister the Heart of God to others. We speak in the Presence of a Holy God, and Yeshua has said that we will give account for “every idle word” we speak.<sup>50</sup>

## What Is An Autocrat?

The word translated “usurp authority” also means “one who acts on his own authority,” one who is autocratic. Yeshua tells us that the servant who tries to lord it over his fellow servants has denied Yeshua as his own Lord, and will be judged as an unbeliever if he does not repent.<sup>51</sup>

An autocratic parent requires a child to obey simply “because I say so.” This is not nearly as effective as parenting that combines clear instructions with high

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<sup>50</sup> “A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, that every idle word (*rhema*) that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.” Matthew 12:35-37 (KJV)

What someone may believe is a “*rhema*” word, a word from God, may actually be idle talk, and, if not repented, may result in that person’s condemnation for speaking it.

The word translated “idle” also means barren. Yeshua said in Matthew 7:16, 20 that we would know others by their fruit. It is written in Isaiah 55:11 that the Word of God is not barren; it always accomplishes the purposes for which it is spoken, and prospers.

The word translated “idle” also means “lazy, shunning the labor which one ought to perform.” I am supposed to be using my tongue to speak Truth and Life over myself and others. May we be like the noble believers at Berea, who, as we are told in Acts 17:11, “*searched the Scriptures daily*” to make sure that what they were being taught agreed with the Scripture. (KJV)

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?strongs=G692&t=KJV>

<sup>51</sup> Luke 12:45-48

expectations. **Yeshua gives us very clear instructions and a rationale in His Word, and expects us to obey them.**

The word translated “usurp authority” also means “an absolute master.” We have one Master, Messiah, and He calls us to serve like He serves, even to the point of laying down our lives for our friends.<sup>52</sup>

## **What Does A Wise Teacher Do?**

It is written in Proverbs 15:2a, *“A wise teacher makes learning a joy.”* (TLB)

The Holy Spirit is our Ultimate Wise Teacher, for it is written in I Thessalonians 4:9b, *“Ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.”* (KJV) Joy is One of the fruits that the Holy Spirit produces in us, for it is written in Galatians 5:22, *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”* (NIV)

And it is written in I John 2:27, *“You have an anointing. You received it from Him (God), and His anointing remains on you. You do not need any other teacher. But as His anointing instructs you in all the essentials (all the truth uncontaminated by darkness and lies), it teaches you this: ‘Remain connected to Him.’”* (VOICE)

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<sup>52</sup> Matthew 23:8, 10; Luke 22:24-27; John 15:13

## Abide in Me

It is written in John 15:4, *“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.”*  
(KJV)

As a man of God once told his listeners, it is more important for you to hear directly from God than to listen to me. One free tool that can help you hear more of the richness of what our Abba is saying to you directly by His Spirit are the many versions of the Bible available on BibleGateway.com. Another free tool are the Greek and Hebrew meanings available on BlueLetterBible.org through Strong’s concordance.

I am excited about what our Abba can do in us by His Spirit as we learn to yield to Him moment by moment and to abide in His Presence more and more, and to let Him transform us by renewing our minds in His Word, and in the Truth of His Love for us.

## Closing Prayer

**Oh, Abba, we rejoice in Your Lovingkindness to us. Thank You for making it possible by Your Holy Spirit, as we seek and obey You, for us to abide in Your Presence all day long, and all night, too.**

**Thank You for giving us Your Word, and for giving us Your Holy Spirit to teach us and to bring Your Word Alive in our lives. May we be faithful in obeying Your Word moment by moment. In Yeshua’s Name. Amen.**

## **Thank You**

Thank you for participating in this study of the Precision of Priscilla! In the next chapter, Abba willing, we will look at the Yielding of Rebekah.



# **Chapter 6**

## **“I Will Go”**

### **The Yielding of Rebekah**

#### **Opening Prayer**

**Abba, we worship You for the privilege of coming together in Your Presence to study Your Word. Your Word says that where two or three are gathered together in Your Name You are there in their midst. Thank You that You Are Here with us. We worship You that Your Heart is here to strengthen, comfort, and encourage us, to draw us deeper into Your Love, and to deliver us from every lie of the enemy by Your Truth.**

**Transform our lives by what we read and hear and implement today. May Your Strength be made Perfect in our weakness. In Yeshua’s Name. Amen.**

#### **I Will Go**

*It is written in Genesis 24:58, “And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go.” (KJV)*

Rebekah’s willingness to go with Abraham’s servant made possible her marriage to Isaac. Our wills, our ability to choose, determine our destiny. We can use our

wills to choose to do what we know is right. We can use our wills to override mixed feelings and conflicting thoughts.

**Oh, Abba, may I yield utterly, moment by moment, to Your Holy Spirit, Your *Ruach*, that You may cleanse me and prepare me for my Bridegroom Yeshua. Thank You that You already see me without spot or wrinkle, that You say, “*Umum en bakh*; there is no spot in thee.”<sup>53</sup> May I walk, like Abraham’s servant, in utter obedience to You. In Yeshua’s Name. Amen.**

Abraham had forbidden his servant to take Isaac to Rebekah. The only Way that Rebekah could obtain the Promises made to Abraham and Isaac was to follow the servant step by step back to Isaac.<sup>54</sup>

**Oh, Abba, it is only as I yield to the Righteous Service of Your Holy Spirit to comfort me, to strengthen me, to teach me, and to encourage me that I am equipped for the next steps on Today’s Journey to the New Jerusalem.**

**In Yeshua’s Name, I release myself to You that You may fill me afresh with Your Holy Spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and strength, reverence and obedient fear of the LORD, the Spirit of sonship whereby we call, Abba, Father. Amen.**

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<sup>53</sup> Song of Songs 4:7 (KJV)

<sup>54</sup> Genesis 24:5-8

## She Went Down and Came Up

It is written in Genesis 24:16 that Rebekah “*went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up.*” (KJV)

The word translated “went down” also means descend, march down. So Yeshua committed Himself to laying aside His Glory and coming down to earth to save us.

The word translated “went down” can also mean lay prostrate, be brought down, or be taken down. So Yeshua laid Himself down in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. Then He laid Himself down on the cross to be nailed to it, and was taken down from the cross after His death, and laid prostrate in the tomb.

**Oh, Abba, it is only as I prostrate myself before You and say, “Thy Will be done,” that You can raise me up by Your Holy Spirit to walk with You in Newness of Life. May I bring You Glory by my obedience to Your Will and to Your Word. May I do only and always those things that please You. May I be able to say with Yeshua, “I do always those things that please Him.”<sup>55</sup>**

After Rebekah went down to the well, she came back up. The word translated “came up” is the Hebrew word *alah*’, meaning ascend, climb. The word *alah*’ is related to the Hebrew word *Aliyah*’, which refers to Going Up to Jerusalem, the heart of which is Mount Zion. Because protective mountains surround Jerusalem, reaching the city always requires going up and over the mountains.

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<sup>55</sup> John 8:29b (KJV)

How, in the Spirit, do we pass up and over all that would separate us from the New Jerusalem?

It is written in Psalm 24:3-5, *“Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who shall stand in His Holy Place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.”* (KJV)

We cannot be good enough. Yeshua Alone is our Righteousness, the Narrow Way, the Door through Whom we enter.

**Oh, Abba, how I look forward to the day when You will take me up and into the New *Yerushalayim*, the New Jerusalem! How I look forward to the Day, Yeshua, when You will return to deliver Israel and reign from Jerusalem!**

**In the meantime, Abba, I worship You that, as it is written in Ephesians 1:20-21 and 2:6, You have already raised us up in Messiah Yeshua even Now, and seated us at His right hand in our Heavenly Home, far above all principalities and powers, that we may Rest in Your Presence, and see everything on earth from Your Perspective, then respond to each person and each situation as You would respond!**

**Oh, Yeshua, how I worship You that You have created us and called us and chosen us, like Rebekah, to be part of Your Bride! Thank You that**

**You have brought us to Your Banqueting House. Thank You for Protecting us with Your Love.<sup>56</sup>**

**Help us to look continually to You and to our Perfect Destination in You. May every step we take lead us higher in Your Perfect Will for us, and into Your Highest Calling on our lives. May Your Living Water flow unimpeded through us. In Your Holy Name we ask this. Amen.**

## **Have You Consecrated Your Pitcher?**

The word translated “filled” also means consecrated.

**Oh, Abba, when Messiah returns, “every pot in *Yerushalayim*” will be consecrated to the LORD.<sup>57</sup> Oh, Abba, may we consecrate ourselves as willing vessels to You Now, that we may be vessels for honorable purposes Now, and fulfill Your Highest Calling on our lives.<sup>58</sup>**

**May we run like Rebekah to the wells of Yeshua, to draw Living Waters with Joy “from the wells of salvation.”<sup>59</sup> Fill us up to overflowing with the Truth of Who You Are, and with the Truth of who we are in You.**

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<sup>56</sup> Song of Songs 2:4

<sup>57</sup> Zechariah 14:21 (NIV)

<sup>58</sup> II Timothy 2:20-21

<sup>59</sup> Isaiah 12:3 (KJV)

## Have You Filled Your Pitcher?

It is written in Genesis 24:16 that Rebekah “*filled her pitcher.*” (KJV) The word translated “filled” means completely full, even overflowing. There is no room for anything else in a full pitcher.

**Oh, Abba, may we be so devoted to You that there is no room in our lives for anything that is not of You. May we flow in the sweet, fragrant oil of Messiah and in the intoxicating wine of Your Holy Spirit, and overflow with Your Love.**

## She Hasted and Gave Him Drink

It is written in Genesis 24:17-18, “*And the servant ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher. And she said, Drink, my lord: and she hasted, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink.*” (KJV)

Rebekah gave a drink of cold water to a thirsty stranger. She freely sowed one drink of cold water – and reaped a place in the lineage of Messiah, Who freely offers Salvation and Living Waters to Israel and to the nations.

**We worship You, LORD, that, just as You rewarded Rebekah’s willing choice, You promise to reward our godly choices! You promise, Yeshua, in Matthew 10:42, “*And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple [of one who***

*follows Yeshua], verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.” (KJV)*

## **She Hasted and Drew For All His Camels**

It is written in Genesis 24:19-20, “*And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking. And she hasted, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again unto the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels.*” (KJV)

As you may know, when a camel is thirsty, he might drink as much as 30 gallons of water within a quarter of an hour.<sup>60</sup> If Rebekah could carry the equivalent of two or three gallon jugs of water at a time, that would still be 10 or 15 trips of water uphill per camel.

Rebekah was energetic and enthusiastic about watering the camels. The word translated “hasted” also means speedily, swiftly, quickly, immediately, and promptly.

**Oh, Yeshua, may we be as swift to share Your Living Waters as Rebekah was. Thank You that as we Rejoice in You, and in the privilege to Love and Serve with You, we persevere and don't tire, for Your Joy is our Strength.**

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<sup>60</sup> “Because of the fat stored in his hump, a camel can go several months without food and several weeks without water. Normally weighing between 1,600 and 1,800 pounds, a camel can survive a loss of up to 40 percent of his body weight. A camel can adjust his body temperature to the ambient temperature to help him maintain his hydration level and his urine output.”  
<https://animals.mom.me/how-much-water-can-a-camel-drink-5708718.html>

**Abba, we confess that we have been rushed and hurried about so many things, when what we need is to be hurrying daily to You and to Your Wells of Salvation, making multiple trips down to Your well, so that we have something of You to share with others. We submit to Your correction, LORD. Correct our priorities by Your Holy Spirit. In Yeshua's Name. Amen.**

## **Worshipping At Abba's Answer**

It is written in Genesis 24:26-27 that, after Rebekah had watered the camels, Abraham's servant *"bowed down and worshiped the LORD, saying, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not abandoned His kindness and faithfulness to my master. As for me, the LORD has led me on the journey to the house of my master's relatives." (NIV)*

**Oh, Abba, how we worship You that You Yourself welcome us Today into Your Family.**

**How we worship You that, in Your Spirit, we are already safely Home with You and with Your Family in Heaven, where everybody loves us, and where the adversary and every problem are way, way down under our feet. What can we do but join Abraham's servant in worshipping You for bringing us safely Home!**



## She Saw Her Bridegroom Coming

It is written in Genesis 24:64 that “*Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and... saw Isaac*” coming in the field to meet them.

**Oh, Abba, may I live my life seeing Yeshua Coming in Your Harvest Field to meet me, and conduct myself accordingly. May I veil myself from the world, cover myself, and remain under the covering of Your Love.<sup>61</sup> May I follow the Cloud of Your Glory, and walk in purity so that Your Glory is my Rear Guard.<sup>62</sup>**

**May I live, Yeshua, gazing at You.<sup>63</sup> How I worship You that You endured both the cross and the opposition of sinners for the Joy of securing me!**

**Oh, Abba, may I remove from before my eyes all distractions, and anything and everything that would interfere with me keeping my gaze**

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<sup>61</sup> “...vediglo alai ahava...” Song of Songs 2:4

<sup>62</sup> “*Depart, depart, go out from there!  
Touch no unclean thing!  
Come out from it and be pure,  
you who carry the articles of the LORD’s house.  
But you will not leave in haste  
or go in flight;  
for the LORD will go before you,  
the God of Israel will be your rear guard.*” Isaiah 52:11-12 (NIV)

<sup>63</sup> “*Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; who for the Joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the Throne of God. For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.*” Hebrews 12:1-3 (KJV)

**on Yeshua, and contemplating Him. I reserve my heart for You Alone.  
In Yeshua's Name. Amen.**

## **Deception Is A Choice**

Rebekah did not always yield. There came a day when she decided to lie to her husband. It was a costly decision, because she then sent her son Jacob away for his own protection, and never saw him again in this lifetime.

It is written in Genesis 27:9-10 that Rebekah said to her son Jacob, *“Go out to the flock and bring me two choice young goats, so I can prepare some tasty food for your father, just the way he likes it. Then take it to your father to eat, so that he may give you his blessing before he dies.”* (NIV)

By itself, this request seems harmless. But Jacob quickly became part of a plot to deceive his father and take his brother Esau's blessing. Rebekah took Esau's clothing and gave it to Jacob to wear, making Jacob a possessor of stolen property. With Jacob's agreement, Rebekah put dead goatskins - a covering of death - on Jacob so that Jacob would seem as hairy to his father's touch as Esau was.

Jacob had allowed himself to be persuaded to bring dinner to his father, and yielded to a deception that quickly led to deeper involvement in a string of lies, to the point where lies began coming out of his mouth as he professed to his father that he was indeed Esau.

Lies and deception are the M.O., the *modus operandi*, of the adversary. Lies are the way he operates.

The adversary will also use a seemingly harmless distraction to get a person just enough off course so that they are more easily tempted. But it is like veering off the freeway onto an exit: the turn may be gradual at first, but then it diverges more and more, until the driver may be going in the completely opposite direction from where she needs to go.

Whatever strategy the adversary starts with, he seeks to involve a person in more sin than the person initially agreed to. But we can exercise our wills in Messiah to choose what we do and what we say, and even what we think.

**Thank You, Abba, that You have given us the ability to stop our tongues from sounding lies!**

## **The Adversary Wants To Mute You**

A harp has a lot more strings than a guitar. But you can make a harp sound like a guitar if you stop some of the harp strings from sounding.<sup>64</sup> This is called “muting” the strings.

Muting is a technique the adversary tries to use on us to keep us quiet. How does the adversary do this? In Mark 9:25, Yeshua spoke of a mute spirit that could only be evicted after fasting prayer.

But it wasn't just a mute spirit. It was a “deaf and mute spirit.” The deaf and mute spirit kept the man's son from hearing Messiah, and from asking for help for

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<sup>64</sup> <https://youtu.be/8O5zUTOUu-g>

himself. So, too, the adversary tries to keep us away from the Word of God, deaf to the Word of God, away from daily time in the Word with God, and away from the preaching of the Word. If we are already attached to the Living Word and walking in obedience, the adversary tries to tempt us away, to get us to detach even a little.

## **We Overcome By The Blood of The Lamb and By The Word of Our Testimony**

The adversary knows that we overcome by the Blood of the Lamb and by the word of our own testimony.<sup>65</sup> The Blood of the Lamb has already been shed, and the adversary can't reverse that, so he seeks to silence us, to mute our testimony to others, and to get us to cut ourselves off from the Vine, so that we don't have a current testimony to share.

The adversary desires that we mute our voice with God, that we stop talking with God about things. This is what Adam and Eve did after they sinned; they didn't want the daily walk and talk with God, and they tried to hide from Him.<sup>66</sup>

But we have a Resource that Adam and Eve didn't have – the Blood of Yeshua/Jesus! We can agree with God about our sins and shortcomings and receive the Blood of Yeshua for our cleansing.<sup>67</sup>

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<sup>65</sup> “They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.” Revelation 12:11 (NIV)

<sup>66</sup> Genesis 3:8-10

<sup>67</sup> I John 1:9

## **Sweet Water and Bitter**

If the adversary can't mute us, and we are starting to share our testimony, he may try to get us to contaminate our words with other words or behavior that are not from God,<sup>68</sup> so that we send mixed messages, so that both sweet water and bitter water are flowing from us.

**Oh, Abba, deliver me from myself today. May I crucify the flesh and die today, this moment, right now, so that no bitter water flows from me today to contaminate the outflow of Your Love to those who need and long to see someone walk consistently with Messiah. I long to see myself walk consistently with You.**

**In Your Name, Yeshua, I repent of all doublemindedness and hypocrisy. I repent of fouling the stream where Your lambs and Your sheep need to drink.**

**Thank You that the Blood of Yeshua Messiah cleanses me from all sin. Please forgive me and separate all my sins from me so that I don't pick them up and start doing them again. In Yeshua's Name. Amen.**

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<sup>68</sup> I John 3:18-19, 21

## **Mute The Bitter Water**

Muting is a technique that we can actually use *for* God. We can mute the bitter water that has been flowing out of our mouths; we can stop the gossip, and we can stop listening to gossip.<sup>69</sup> We can stop the negative rumination of rehearsing over and over in our minds the evil that was done to us. We do this by bringing every thought captive to Messiah and making it submit to Him.<sup>70</sup>

## **Fill Up With The Truth**

After stopping a negative thought, I need to fill up with the Truth, so that there is no room for the negative to creep back in.

I am indebted to the Christian counselor who taught me to find the lie, the negative thing that I had been believing about myself, and lift it up to the LORD for what He would want me to know about myself instead. I learned to ask, “Abba, Lord Jesus, what do You want me to know about myself instead of this lie?”

When Yeshua speaks His Truth, the lie stops feeling true, my distress level goes down, and I feel His Peace, His Shalom. For example, if someone speaks evil against me, I may start to believe, “They’re right. I am that awful thing they said.” Now if there is any truth in what the person said, I need to confess that part of it to Yeshua, and receive His forgiveness.

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<sup>69</sup> James 3:8-12

<sup>70</sup> II Corinthians 10:5

But if the rest of what the person said is not true, or if all of it is not true, then I lift those lies up to the LORD for His Truth. The Truth is that, left to myself, I am capable of far worse than whatever the person alleged. But thank God, I am not left to myself!

If I am walking in repentance, and have confessed all my sins up to this very minute, I read in I John 1:9, *“If we confess our sins, He is Faithful and Just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

I read in I John 1:7, *“But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the Blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.” (KJV)*

**Thank You, Abba! What a Miracle – that as I yield to You, You can change me!**

The LORD says in Isaiah 43:4, *‘You are Precious and Honoured in My Sight, and...I Love you...’ (NIV)*

## **Closing Prayer**

**Oh, Abba, we rejoice in Your Lovingkindness and in Your Mercies to us. We worship You for Your Favor resting on us and abiding upon us as we follow You.**

**Thank You for making it possible by Your Holy Spirit, as we obey and seek you, for us to abide in Your Presence all day long, and all night, too.**

**Thank You for giving us Your Word, and forgiving us Your Holy Spirit to teach us and to bring Your Word Alive in our lives. May we yield to You and be faithful to obey You moment by moment so that we may walk in all the Freedom and all the Joy that You long to pour out on us Today. In Yeshua's Name. Amen.**

## **Thank You**

Thank you for participating in this study of the Yielding of Rebekah! In the next chapter, Abba willing, we will look at the Consecration of Mary.



# **Chapter 7**

## **“Be It Unto Me According To Thy Word”**

### **The Consecration of Mary**

#### **Opening Prayer**

**Abba, we worship You for the privilege of coming together in Your Presence to study Your Word. Your Word says that where two or three are gathered together in Your Name You are there in their midst.**

**Thank You that You Are here with us. We worship that Your Heart is here to strengthen, to comfort, and to encourage us, to draw us deeper into Your Love, and to deliver us from every lie of the enemy by Your Truth.**

**Transform our lives today by what we read and hear and do. May Your Strength be made Perfect in our weakness. In Yeshua’s Name. Amen.**

#### **The Handmaid of The LORD**

It is written in Luke 1:38a, *“And Mary said,” Behold the handmaid of the Lord.”*  
(KJV)

The word translated “behold” also means to see, to look at. The equivalent Hebrew word would be *Hineh!* This was Isaiah’s response to the LORD, when he heard the

LORD ask, “*Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?*” Isaiah said, “*Hineni! Here am I. Send me.*”<sup>71</sup> (*KJV, adapted*)

The word translated “handmaid” can mean bondmaid or slave. It can also mean one who serves voluntarily, one who submits to and yields authority to another. This word for “handmaid” only appears three times in the New Testament, and is used twice by Mary. This is how she saw herself, as a sold-out servant of the LORD. Although she was of the royal line of David, she did not cling to that as a privileged status, but yielded herself to the Word of the King of Kings.

Surely Mary knew her pregnancy could be responded to with slander and false allegations, and possibly jeopardize her marriage to Joseph. But Mary’s primary relationship was with the LORD, and this was more important to her than even her engagement to her husband-to-be.

**Oh, Abba, may I, like Mary, serve You with my whole heart, and yield moment by moment to Your Authority in my life, even if it means temporary suffering. May I trust You to work out everything and yield to You continually. In Yeshua’s / Jesus’ Precious Name. Amen.**

## **Be It Unto Me According To Thy Word**

It is written in Luke 1:38a, “*And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it unto me according to thy word.*” (*KJV*) There is an Infinite Power in the Word of God to bless us when we yield to what He speaks over us.

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<sup>71</sup> Isaiah 6:8 (KJV)

**Oh, Abba, may I yield to Your Word, and obey You, moment by moment, and Treasure Your Presence and Your Love. Thank You that as I obey You and take the next step, You make clear the next step after that.**

**Oh, Abba, I adore You. You Are God, and You love me. In Messiah's Name and Presence. So be it.**

## **Fear Not**

It is written in Luke 1:26-27, 30, *“And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary; for thou hast found favour with God.” (KJV)*

The word translated “fear” is the Greek word *phobéo* (*foe-BAY-oh*), from which we get the English words phobic and phobia.

**Thank You, Abba, that we do not need to give way to any fear, except the Holy Fear of the LORD. We receive Your Promise through John the Beloved that Your Perfect Love evicts fear.<sup>72</sup> In Yeshua's Name. Amen.**

Mary's Hebrew name was *Miryam*, which means rebellion. Scripture is silent about Mary's childhood, so we do not know whether she actually was rebellious

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<sup>72</sup> I John 4:18

when she was younger. But Scripture reveals clearly that at this point she was a devoted follower of God.

## **There Is No Spot In Thee**

Mary found favor with God. The Greek word translated “favor” also means grace. In other words, God was pleased with Mary, and delighted with Mary, and found joy in her, despite her birth name.

How comforting to know that we are not necessarily what others may have called us! In Yeshua, we are no longer what we may have been in the past.

The word translated “favor” also suggests that God found Mary sweet and lovely. This is consistent with the words of the Heavenly Bridegroom to us, His Bride: it is written in the Song of Songs 4:7, *“Thou art all fair, My Love; there is no spot in thee.” (KJV)*

## **My Little Dove**

Mary yielded to the Power of the Highest, to her Creator, to the God Who sang His Love over her in the Psalms and in the Song of Songs, to the God Who had called Himself the Husband of Israel. She allowed the angel’s words to shape her for the next nine months as she became pregnant with the Son of God.

Whose words have you been allowing to shape your life? Are they Words of Life? Are they words spoken in blessing over you by those who have come from the very Presence of God? Are they words of Eternal Truth? Do you allow only God’s good

Promises to you in the Scriptures to shape your thoughts and behavior? Or have you been living in reaction to the lies of the adversary, the father of lies?<sup>73</sup>

**Thank You, Abba, that it pleases You to be forming in us the Character of Your Son, Yeshua / Jesus. Thank You that it pleases You to come in Your Love and Power in us with the Glory of Your Holy Spirit.**

**Thank You for revealing to us who we are in You, daughters of the King of Kings. Thank You for adopting us into Your Royal Family. Please help us to fulfill Your purpose for us in this generation, like King David did in his generation, for You have brought us into the Kingdom of the Son of Your Love for such a time as this.**

**Thank You, Abba, that as we become women of the Word, women who know and obey Your Word, we walk into more and more clarity about Who You Are, and about who we are in You. Thank You that You make clear to us what we are here to accomplish, and strengthen us to do it as we rely on You.**

## **Get Thee Behind Me**

James, the half-brother of Yeshua, warns us that even a follower of Yeshua could yield her tongue to the fire of hell, so that out of her mouth would come both “blessing and cursing.”<sup>74</sup> Even Peter was vulnerable to this. As long as Peter spoke in accord with what God had revealed to him, he was blessed. It is written in Matthew 16:17, “*And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou,*

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<sup>73</sup> John 8:44

<sup>74</sup> James 3:10 (KJV)

*Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.” (KJV)*

But just a few verses later, Peter’s speech sounded hellish, and he began to contradict Yeshua and rebuke, chide, judge, reprove, and censure Him. Peter was finding fault with Yeshua; Peter was calling Yeshua wrong. Yeshua confronted Peter, and turned away from him. It is written in Matthew 16:23 that Yeshua *“turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind Me, satan: thou art an offence unto Me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.” (KJV)*

Have you been letting your focus on a few lying words preoccupy you, or delay you? Evict those lies now, and run after all the fullness of what God has for you! Don’t let lying words keep you from continuing to pursue all that God has for you.

Choose whose words you put yourself under. Put yourself under the Word of God and the Living Word, Yeshua.

## **My Soul Doth Magnify The LORD**

As Mary began to see the fruit of the Living Word being formed in her body, it is written in Luke 1:46 that Mary said, *“My soul doth magnify the LORD.” (KJV)*

It is written in Luke 1:47-48 that Mary *“rejoiced in God”* her *“Saviour, for He hath regarded the low estate of His handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.” (KJV)*

**Oh, Abba, may we jump for Joy in You, and in You, Yeshua, for You Are God our Saviour.**

For Mary to see the fruit of her faith, she had to persevere through nine months of pregnancy. So, too, we may need to persevere in faithfulness day after day to see the results that God has promised to those who continue in well-doing.

## **Let Us Not Be Weary In Well Doing**

It is written in Galatians 6:9, *“And let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” (KJV)*

**Thank You, Abba, that as I persevere by Your Holy Spirit, You form the Character of Yeshua / Jesus in me, and fill me to overflowing with Your Love, Your Joy, Your Peace, Your Patience, Your Gentleness, Your Goodness, Your Faith, Your Humility, and Your Holy Self-Control.**

## **With God Nothing Shall Be Impossible**

It is written in Luke 1:49 that Mary continued, *“For He that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is His Name.” (KJV)*

The word translated “mighty” is the Greek word meaning strong, able, the One with Whom all things are possible. It is related to the English word dynamite.

The word translated “great things” also means magnificent things, excellent things, splendid things, wonderful things, wonders. It is equivalent to the Hebrew word *pe’le*, used in Isaiah 9:6, where Messiah is spoken of as a Wonder.

**Oh, Abba, how we worship You that all things are possible in You!  
Thank You that You are about to do wonders in us as we yield to You,  
that You are willing to accelerate our growth and progress in Messiah  
beyond anything we have ever seen before for the Glory of Your Name!**

**How we adore You for setting Yourself apart for us so that, as Mary  
bore Yeshua within her, we may bear Your Presence Today to a world  
desperately in need of Your Love. Love Your children through us,  
Messiah, for we are Your Bride. In Your Precious Name we ask this.  
Amen.**

## **His Mercy Is on Them That Fear Him**

It is written in Luke 1:50 that Mary continued, *“His Mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation.” (KJV)*

The word translated “mercy” also means active divine compassion, “kindness, or good will towards the miserable and the afflicted, joined with a desire to help them,”<sup>75</sup> and clemency in providing salvation.

The word translated “fear” means reverence, the holy “fear of the LORD” that Psalm 111:10 tells us “is the beginning of wisdom.” (KJV)

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<sup>75</sup> <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?strongs=G1656&t=KJV>



**Thank You, LORD, for Your Mercy, for Your active compassion towards us, for Your kindness towards us in our misery and affliction, even when we've brought it on ourselves, and for Your desire to help us! Thank You for providing Yeshua for our Salvation, to deliver us from ourselves! Teach us to reverence You, to obey You always, and to repent quickly.**

## **He Hath Showed Strength with His Arm**

It is written in Luke 1:51 that Mary continued praising, *“He hath shewed strength with His Arm; He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.”*  
(KJV)

The word translated “strength” also means to exercise power or dominion. It also means vigor to complete a work. As He grew to manhood, what strength Yeshua would show with His Arms, as He spread them out on the cross to suffer and die for us!

Yeshua's total surrender of Himself to the nails looked like utter weakness, but in His yielding to crucifixion He perfectly completed the work of our salvation. As we receive and walk in all that He has done for us, His Love constrains us to lay down our lives for Him.

## For The Love of Christ Constraineth Us

As it is written in II Corinthians 3:14-15, *“For the love of Christ constraineth us, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again.” (KJV)*

**How we worship You, Abba, that in Yeshua “...the weakness of God is stronger than human strength!” How we adore You for Your completed work in Messiah.**

**LORD, we yield dominion over our own lives to You. It is our reasonable service to You in response to All You have given for us.<sup>76</sup>**

## He Hath Exalted Them of Low Degree

It is written in Luke 1:52 that Mary continued, *“He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.” (KJV)*

The word translated “mighty” is related to the English word dynasty, which means a ruling family. In that sense, Mary’s words were prophetic, for the Herodian dynasty, including Herod the Great who would try to kill the infant Jesus, died out in A.D. 100.

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<sup>76</sup> I Corinthians 1:25b (NIV); Romans 12:1-2

The word translated “put down” may mean with or without visible force.<sup>77</sup> It is written in Acts 12:21-23 that Herod was smitten by an (invisible) angel of the LORD and eaten by worms and died after receiving from men worship that belonged to God alone. The word translated “put down” also means destroyed, pulled down, removed, demolished, or refuted.

**Oh, Abba, we worship You for refuting all the adversary’s lies! We thank You for the divine power You give us to demolish his strongholds! May we exercise it daily, and bring every thought captive and make it submit to Messiah. In Whose Name we pray. Amen.**

The word translated “of low degree” also means humble, or those depressed and brought low with grief. It is written in Matthew 26:37-38 that Yeshua / Jesus sorrowed in the Garden of Gethsemane, in great distress and anguish. Yet it is written in Hebrews 12:2 that for “*the Joy that was set before Him,*” for the prize of us as His future Bride, He “*endured the cross.*”

So Mary’s words, “*He hath...exalted them of low degree,*” were also prophetic in reference to the Messiah, who humbled Himself,<sup>78</sup> and was then raised, first on a cross for our sins, then in the Glory of the Resurrection, then in the Ascension, as He was literally lifted “up on high,” and Enthroned at the right hand of God the Father in dignity and honor.”<sup>79</sup>

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<sup>77</sup> God doesn’t need to use force to remove the mighty. If He wills it, it will happen. So Alexander the Great of Greece fulfilled the prophecy of Daniel by conquering Persia, never losing a battle despite being outnumbered, then dying at age 32; because he had no heir at the time of his death, his kingdom was divided among four leaders, as Daniel had foretold.

<sup>78</sup> Philippians 2:5-11

<sup>79</sup> <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?strongs=G5312&t=KJV>

**Oh, Abba, how we worship You that as we raise up Yeshua in our lives, and enthrone Him, the Man of Sorrows, we are His Joy. We worship that You have raised us up with Him to dignity, honor, and happiness, and seated us in Him at Your right hand.**

**We praise You that You bring us to the point where we are willing, like Mary, to submit ourselves to You, and to say, “Behold, the bonds slave of the LORD. Be it unto me according to Your Word.” Let Messiah and His Character be formed in us for Your Everlasting Glory. In Your Precious Name. Amen.**

## **He Hath Filled the Hungry with Good Things**

It is written in Luke 1:53 that Mary continued her praise, *“He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He hath sent empty away.” (KJV)*

The word translated “hungry” also means desiring, eagerly seeking. As the Bride, filled with longing for her Beloved, says in the Song of Songs 2:5, *“Strengthen me with raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am faint with love.” (NIV)*

Our Abba and Yeshua delight in our love and obedience, and in our seeking Them. They promise filling and blessing to those who seek Them. As it is written in Proverbs 8:17, *“I love them that love Me; and those that seek Me early shall find Me.” (KJV)*

And in Matthew 5:6 it is written, *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.” (NKJV)*

And in Psalm 34:8 it is written, *“Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man that trusteth in Him.” (KJV)*

The word translated “hungry” in Luke 1:53 also means famished, pining, needy, lacking, or craving. This word for “hungry” is first used in the New Testament of Yeshua in Matthew 4:2 after His 40-day fast.

The Scripture doesn’t say what He was hungry for. The adversary wanted Him to make and eat bread, but even if He was hungry for bread, He was hungrier for the Words of God.

**Oh, Abba, I am pining for more of You. What I am really famished for is You.**

**In Your Name, I empty myself of all that is not of You, that You may fill me to overflowing with Your Love and Your Grace and Your Forgiveness and Your Joy and Your Glory.**

## **Soul Hunger**

We know that the stomach, the esophagus, and the gastrointestinal tract bypass the physical heart. The gastrointestinal tract also bypasses the soul, the *psyche*.

It is written in Psalm 127:2 that *“it is vain...to eat the bread of sorrows,” (KJV)* to eat out of sadness or disappointment or frustration. Those sorrows come because

there is distance between the soul and the things hoped for; there is an emptiness in the soul, the *psyche*.

Filling the belly does not fill the soul. A soul hunger cannot be satisfied with physical food. As it is written in Isaiah 55:2, “*Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to Me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare.*” (NIV)

The word translated “hungry” in Luke 1:53 also means “with pinching toil.”<sup>80</sup>

**Abba, how long I have exerted myself, even to the point of emotional and physical and spiritual exhaustion, because I believed the lie that simply completing more tasks would bring me closer to You. But the focus on tasks may actually be a turning away from gazing at You. Help me learn to gaze continually at You, and to do only those things that I see You doing.**

**The answer to sorrow of heart is communing with You, my Lord, talking with You about everything, and experiencing Your Loving Response, the Truth of Who You Are, and the Truth of how much You love me.**

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<sup>80</sup> <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?strongs=G3983&t=KJV>

## **Do Whatever He Tells You**

When the wedding planners ran out of wine at the wedding in Cana, Mary came to Yeshua, apparently hoping He might solve their problem. He put her off. Mary responded to Yeshua's initial refusal by yielding her authority to Him. She went to the servants who drew the wine, over whom she apparently had some authority.

It is written in John 2:5 that Mary said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you." Then Yeshua stepped in, addressed the situation, and performed His first miracle.

## **Closing Prayer**

**Oh, Yeshua, I want to do whatever You tell me, immediately and continually, to hear Your Word and do it, so that I may abide in Your Love and so that I may bring Glory to You, and so that You may bring Glory to Yourself in me, and through me, and so that others may glorify God because of what they see You doing.**

**May I be like Stephen, gazing on You, reflecting Your Glory, with my face alight like an angel with the Light of Your Love and Your Truth and Your Joy and Your Holy Spirit. May I set my whole heart and my whole mind and my whole will and my whole soul and my spirit and my whole body – my whole being – to be one of Your Holy Ones, Your *Kadoshim*. May I never turn back, but bring You Joy and Pleasure and Delight all my days.**

**In Your Name, Yeshua, I repent of being double-minded. Let me flow in Your Love for the rest of my earthly nights and days. Amen.**

## **Thank You**

Thank you for participating in this study of the Consecration of Mary! In the next chapter, Abba willing, we will look at the Heart of Mary Magdalene, and complete these chapters on **The Beauty of a Gentle Spirit.**



# Chapter 8

## My Master

### The Heart of Mary Magdalene

#### Opening Prayer

**Abba, we worship You for the privilege of coming together Today in Your Presence to study Your Word. Your Word says that where two or three are gathered together in Your Name You are there in their midst. Thank You that You Are Here with us. We worship that Your Heart is Here to strengthen us, to comfort us, and to encourage us, to draw us deeper into Your Love, and to deliver us from every lie of the enemy by Your Truth.**

**Transform our lives by what we read and hear and implement today. And may Your Strength be made Perfect in our weakness. In Yeshua's Name. Amen.**

It is written in John 20:11-12 that after Mary Magdalene let Peter and John know that Jesus' tomb was empty, "Mary arrived *back at the tomb*, broken and sobbing. She stooped to peer inside, and through her tears she saw two angels in dazzling white robes, sitting where Jesus' body had been laid—one at the head and one at the feet!" (TPT)

## Woman, Why Weepest Thou?

It is written in John 20:13-16 that the angels said to her, “*Woman, why weepest thou?*”

Mary said to them, “*Because they have taken away my LORD, and I know not where they have laid Him.*”

“And when she had said this, she turned herself back, and saw Yeshua standing, and knew not that it was Yeshua.”

Yeshua said to her, “*Woman, why weepest thou? Whom seekest thou?*”

Mary Magdalene, “*supposing him to be the gardener,*” said to Him, “*Sir, if thou have borne Him from here, tell me where thou hast laid Him, and I will take Him away.*”

Jesus said to her, “*Mary.*”

Mary turned and exclaimed, “*Rabboni! Master!*” (KJV, adapted)

## She Turned

It is written in John 20:16, “*Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto Him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.*” (KJV)

Mary turned when she heard Jesus speak her name. The word translated “turned” also means to convert, to change a course of conduct.

**Oh, Abba, how I worship You for drawing me to You, and for turning me away from the darkness and the pit to Yeshua! Thank You that when I see You, Yeshua, my tears stop. May my conduct going forward bring Great Glory to You. In Your Name I ask it. Amen.**

## **Rabboni!**

The word translated “Rabboni” is from the Aramaic, *rabbouní*, and also means master, chief, or prince. Isaiah tells us that Yeshua is our Sar Shalom, our Prince of Peace. The Bride in the Song of Songs calls Her Beloved the “chiefest among ten thousand.” Yeshua taught us that we have One Master, One Rabbi: Him, our Messiah. Therefore, “Rabboní” is a “title of honour and reverence” due to Yeshua.<sup>81</sup>

**Oh, Yeshua, may I, like Mary of Magdala, seek You early and continually. May I yield to You always in reverence, honoring You as my Master, my LORD, my Beloved, Chiefest Among Ten Thousand, and my *Sar Shalom*, my Prince of Peace. May I obey You immediately and completely for Your Glory and for my good. In Your Name I ask this. Amen.**

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<sup>81</sup> Isaiah 9:6; Song of Songs 5:10; Matthew 23:10; Thayer’s Greek Lexicon, <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?strongs=G4462&t=KJV>

The title *Rabbouní* is used only one other place in Scripture. Bartimaeus, a blind man, sat begging outside Jericho as Yeshua exited the city.<sup>82</sup> When Bartimaeus heard that Yeshua was passing by, he began to call out repeatedly, “*Yeshua Ben David! Jesus, Son of David! Yeshua Ben David!*” Even after he was rebuked by the crowd, Bartimaeus kept calling until he got an answer, until Yeshua answered.

Bartimaeus’ was not calling loudly from a place of disrespect, but from a deep longing to connect with Yeshua. We know that Bartimaeus did not intend disrespect because when Yeshua responded, Bartimaeus addressed Him with this reverent title, *Rabbouní*.

Bartimaeus’ initial desire was to have his physical sight restored. And Who he saw was Yeshua, Jesus.

After Yeshua restored Bartimaeus’ vision, Yeshua said, “Go thy way.” But Bartimaeus’ integrity is shown in his follow-through. Even though Yeshua freed him to go his own way, it is written that **Bartimaeus instead “followed Jesus in The Way.”**

We learn in the book of Acts that what later came to be called the Christian faith or the Messianic faith was originally called “The Way.”<sup>83</sup> So it appears that Bartimaeus received not only physical sight, but spiritual sight, and the faith to follow Yeshua/Jesus.

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<sup>82</sup> Mark 10:46-52 (KJV)

<sup>83</sup> Acts 9:2 (NIV); 19:9, 23 (NIV); 24:14, 22 (KJV, NIV)

**Oh, Yeshua, what good is my sight unless I use it to look to You, and to follow You in Your Way of Uprightness, Godliness, and Honour, and so bring Glory to Your Name?**

## **Come Early**

*It is written in John 20:1, “The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the tomb.” (KJV)*

For those who will come early, for those who will seek the LORD early, there is an adorning. It is written in Psalm 93:5b, *“Holiness adorns Your House, O LORD, Forever.” (NIV, KJV)*

We are His House, His temples, His vessels, and there is an adorning that comes as we set ourselves apart for our Beloved.

## **Master!**

*It is written in John 20:16, “Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto Him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.” (KJV)*

The word translated “Master” is related to the English word “didactic” and also means teacher or instructor, as well as doctor.

**Oh, Yeshua, may I immerse myself in You and live and abide in Your Presence. May I listen to You and to Your Holy Spirit as my Teacher.**

**May I heed and follow You, and obey all Your teaching and all Your instructions to me quickly and promptly!**

**Thank You that as I obey You and abide in Your Presence, You are my Teacher, my Doctor, and my Healer. Thank You that You heal my heart, my mind, my body, my soul, and my spirit from all pain and hurt and trauma and oppression.**

**Thank You that Your Holy Spirit guides me into all Truth and away from any thoughts or behavior that would hurt me or other people. <sup>84</sup> In Yeshua's/Jesus' Name. Amen.**

It is written in Matthew 28:9b that Mary Magdalene and the other Mary ran with great joy and fear to tell the men that Yeshua had arisen from the dead. While they were on their way, Yeshua suddenly met them and greeted them, and *“they came and took hold of His feet and worshipped Him.” (MEV)*

## **The Twelve Were with Him, and Certain Women**

It is written in Luke 8:1-3, that, as Yeshua traveled, preaching, *“the twelve were with Him and certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities,*

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<sup>84</sup> It is written in John 16:13, *“Howbeit when He, the Spirit of Truth, is come, He will guide you into all Truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come.” (KJV)*

It is written in I Chronicles 4:10, *“Then Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, ‘Oh, that You would indeed bless me and enlarge my territory, that Your hand might be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that it may not bring me hardship!’ So God granted what he asked.” (MEV)*

*Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, and Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto Him of their substance.” (KJV)*

It is also written in Matthew 27:55-56 that “many women” were at the crucifixion, women who had followed Yeshua the 80 miles from Galilee to Jerusalem, a walk of one to two weeks, serving Him along the way.

The women who followed Yeshua most closely, and who ministered to His needs from what they had, were those who had been healed of sickness and delivered from demons. Luke tells us that this group specifically included Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, “and many others.”

Yeshua did not despise to be followed and served by those with a broken past, as long as they had turned to Him and were now adhering to Him.

In the preceding chapter, Luke 7, Yeshua had received the love, the tears, the kisses, and the costly gift of a woman who poured myrrh from an alabaster jar on His feet. So, too, Yeshua received the faithful service and the gifts of these formerly oppressed women – Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna - who Now followed Him.

From these women we learn the following steps to growing deeper in relationship with Yeshua:

1. Turn from all distractions to Yeshua.
2. Receive His forgiveness.
3. Receive His healing and deliverance.

4. Follow Him.
5. Listen to Him.
6. Serve Him with the life, time, and possessions that Abba has given you.

By following Yeshua so closely, by yielding their lives and their wealth and their possessions to Him, and ministering to Him, Mary Magdalene and the other women put themselves under His Protection. Although the rich young ruler had walked away from Yeshua when asked to give up his possessions, these women recognized that their possessions came from God their Creator and devotedly dedicated both themselves and their possessions to Yeshua, the Son of God.<sup>85</sup>

Yeshua honored their love and devotion by appearing to them first after He stood up alive again from the dead and entrusting them first with sharing the Gospel, the Good News of His Resurrection.

## **Out of Whom Went Seven Devils**

It is written in Luke 8:2 that seven devils had gone out of Mary Magdalene. How did seven devils get into Mary Magdalene? We are not told.

However, we are told by Paul that sinful expressions of anger, or anger held in overnight, can give the devil a foothold. It is written in Ephesians 4:26, *“In your anger do not sin: do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.” (NIV)*

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<sup>85</sup> Matthew 19:21; 25:14



Had Mary Magdalene's possession by seven foul spirits been preceded by sin? Had she given the devil a foothold? If so, as Yeshua had said of the sinful woman who anointed His head and feet with costly and fragrant myrrh in Luke 7:47, "*She has been forgiven of all her many sins. This is why she has shown Me such extravagant love. But those who assume they have very little to be forgiven will love me very little.*" (TPT)

Most of us would agree that physical aggression and violence give the devil a foothold. But so do verbal aggression, gossip, and slander. And according to this Scripture, anger held in overnight in fuming or negative rumination also gives the devil a foothold.

It is not that anger itself is a bad thing. God Himself "is angry with the wicked every day."<sup>86</sup> Fortunately for us, He is also patient and longsuffering and merciful and delays judgment to give us time to repent.<sup>87</sup> But He Is Just, and ultimately needs to judge unrepented sin. We can avoid putting God in the position of needing to judge us by living in speedy repentance.

Anger needs to be handled with in accord with the Word of God. Proverbs tells us that the principal thing is to get wisdom and understanding, that they are better than silver and gold, and that they start with the Fear of the LORD.<sup>88</sup>

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<sup>86</sup> Psalm 7:11 (KJV)

<sup>87</sup> Romans 2:4; II Peter 3:9

<sup>88</sup> Proverbs 4:7; 16:16

It is written in Psalm 111:10, *“The Fear of the LORD is the beginning of Wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do His Commandments.”* (KJV)

Understanding follows obedience.

## **In Your Anger Do Not Sin**

What precedes anger? What is anger about? Anger is often an indicator that a person has been feeling hurt or frustrated by some outside circumstance. Sometimes anger is righteous indignation.

Anger can motivate us to act to remedy a situation. But how we go about responding to the situation is crucial. It is written in Psalm 4:4-5 that David said,

*“Tremble and do not sin  
(or, In your anger do not sin);  
when you are on your beds,  
search your hearts and be silent.  
Offer the sacrifices of the righteous  
and trust in the LORD.”* (NIV)

What are the steps that David recommends?

1. Don't sin, even if you are shaking with anger. Let the Fear of the LORD keep you from responding to an evil situation in an evil way.

2. “Be still upon your bed.” (TPT) The word translated “bed” can mean couch, but it primarily means a bed, a place for lying down. The word translated “bed” is also used as a euphemism for intimate contact between a husband and wife.

So our first response to a situation that has evoked anger needs to be to seek our LORD in the Secret Place, to get alone with Him, instead of reacting, or rushing to take action. It is as if He says, “The only response that I Am interested in is the one that grows out of intimacy with Me.”

3. Search your heart. What are you feeling? What do you want to see happen?
4. Quiet yourself.
5. Lift up any desire to react to the LORD and lay it on the LORD’s altar.
6. Do the right thing.
7. Rely on the LORD.

**Lord Jesus, I need to repent of all anger every day before sundown. It seems to me that the best way to do that is to talk it over with You and release it to You right away, not wait, because sundown can come quickly in the winter, even before I am done with work.**

**I know that You want to give me, Your Beloved, restful and restoring sleep. In order for You to be able to do that, I need to have acknowledged and released all anger to You.**

**Abba, I worship You that in every circumstance, even those over which I have become the angriest, You have been working for my good, because I love You and because I am called to fulfill Your Purpose for me.<sup>89</sup> I worship You that You Are using every circumstance to draw me closer to You.**

**In Yeshua's Name, I repent of being angry at You for allowing or ordaining circumstances that I did not want. Your Ways are Higher than my ways, and many of the things that I thought I wanted at the time I can see now would have been extremely difficult for me, and would have brought me great hardship, and would have detoured me away from fulfilling my life's Purpose in You.**

**Thank You for protecting me, so many times, from things that I thought I wanted. Thank You for freeing me to focus on You and on fulfilling all the good works that You have ordained in advance for me to do.<sup>90</sup> Thank You that You give only good gifts to those who ask You!<sup>91</sup>**

**Thank You for filling me up more and more with the Fragrant Oil of Your Holy Spirit as I seek You, like filling up the gas tank of a car, so that I may get where I need to go in Your Spirit, and respond to each situation like Yeshua would, and bring You Joy.**

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<sup>89</sup> Romans 8:28

<sup>90</sup> Ephesians 2:10

<sup>91</sup> Matthew 7:11; Luke 11:13

**Yeshua, You said, “My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work.” I find lasting satisfaction and fulfillment only in following You and obeying You. May I do ONLY “those things that please” You. In Your Precious Name. Amen.**<sup>92</sup>

## **Let Him That Is Athirst Come**

It is written in Revelation 22:17, “‘Come,’ says the Holy Spirit and the Bride *in divine duet*. Let everyone who hears *this duet* join them in saying, ‘Come.’ Let everyone gripped with *spiritual* thirst say, ‘Come.’ And let everyone who craves the gift of Living Water come and drink it freely. ‘*It is My gift to you! Come.*’” (TPT)

It is written in Mark 15:41 that Mary Magdalene was close enough to the tomb to see where the body of Yeshua was laid. After He died, after others had left and gone home, she lingered for one more sight of His precious body.

The writer of Hebrews tells us to be “looking unto Jesus,” and Mary Magdalene took that literally. So can we. As it is written in Hebrews 12:2, “*We look away from the natural realm and we fasten our gaze onto Jesus Who birthed faith within us and Who leads us forward into faith’s perfection. His example is this: Because His Heart was focused on the Joy of Knowing that you would be His!*” (TPT)

John the Beloved records the reward for Mary Magdalene’s devotion to Yeshua in John 20:11-18 – Mary Magdalene was the first to see the Risen LORD. This is confirmed in Mark 16:9, “*Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the*

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<sup>92</sup> John 4:34; 8:29 (KJV)

*week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven devils.” (KJV)*

We know from Hebrews 12:2 that *“His Heart was focused on the Joy of knowing”* that Mary Magdalene and all the Rest of His Bride, including every one of us who follow Him, were Now His Forever.

## **God Sings Over You**

Zephaniah 3:17 tells us that God sings over us. We know from the Masoretic text that the entire Old Testament, not just the Psalms, was set to music.<sup>93</sup> The whole Old Testament was written to be sung.

And the Word of God is Eternal. It abides. So the love song that the Eternal Word sang over Jeremiah applies to Mary Magdalene and to you.

It is written in Jeremiah 1:5, *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you. Before you were born I set you apart...” (NIV)*

## **Paid In Full**

When you pay off a mortgage, the bank sends you a copy of the original loan note, marked PAID IN FULL. The debt that Mary Magdalene and each one of us owe God for giving a foothold to the adversary, for giving away our Abba’s property to the devil, is impossible for us to repay.

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<sup>93</sup> Cf. The Music of the Bible by Suzanne Haik-Vantoura; <https://youtu.be/a38vuOmWcIs>.

Our souls are of infinite value, and there is no way that we can earn enough and pay enough to convince the devil to let us go. So Yeshua paid it. When we receive Yeshua as the Payment for our debt, He marks the debt PAID IN FULL.

**Thank You, LORD!**

**Oh, Yeshua, how I worship You for the Price You paid to set me free from myself, from my sins, and from the devil! How I praise You that as I take up my cross daily and follow You, I can crucify the flesh, so that the things that used to bother me lose their power over me, and don't bother me anymore.**

**Thank You that in You I am impervious to the world, the flesh, and the adversary, and that You have deprived the world of the power to harm me.**

**May I abide in You, and in the Loving Presence of our Abba, and Never Leave! May I accept Your Loving Invitation, like the invitation that Boaz offered to Ruth, to abide in Your Field, close by You and by others who love You, where You have promised that I will not be harmed, and where You Yourself feed me from Your Hand.**

**In Your Precious Name I ask this. Amen.**

## **Many Who Are Last Will Be First**

In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Mary Magdalene is repeatedly placed first in the lists of those women who were at the cross, of those women who saw

Yeshua buried, and of those women who came early to the tomb on Sunday morning to anoint His body with sweet spices.<sup>94</sup> What is the significance of Mary Magdalene being mentioned first in these passages?<sup>95</sup>

Unlike James and John, she wasn't looking for a top position over the other disciples. She wasn't looking to be preeminent. She just wanted to be close to Jesus, and to where she had last seen Him. Yeshua had told His followers in Matthew 19:30, "*But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.*" (NIV)

So Messiah chose Mary Magdalene as His first witness to the Resurrection. She had previously been last on the list of success stories, having become seriously oppressed by devils and too weak to deliver herself.<sup>96</sup>

In the natural, Mary Magdalene was an unlikely choice for Messiah's messenger. First, because of her past. Mary Magdalene had been delivered from her past, but the disciples had not yet been delivered from their bias against her, based on what they knew of her past. The disciples knew her past and wrote off her testimony that Messiah had risen.

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<sup>94</sup> Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1; Luke 24:10

<sup>95</sup> Matthew 27:61; Mary Magdalene is also mentioned first in the two lists that appear in the Gospel of Mark 15:37-47.

<sup>96</sup> I Corinthians 1:27-29



Second, at that time, based on Jewish tradition, but not on Scripture, the testimony of a woman was not recognized under Jewish law, even though Scripture records that Deborah was a judge who knew and administered the Law of God.<sup>97</sup>

So why did Yeshua choose Mary Magdalene, a woman with a history of such great problems, as His First Witness, knowing that His disciples would not believe her?

- ♥ It was a sign that Yeshua's Blood had covered and atoned for Mary's past, and that He saw Mary Magdalene as a New Person without a past. In this she represented all the Rest of His Redeemed Bride, the Apple of His Eye.
- ♥ It was a sign of the New Covenant in which, as Peter and Paul later wrote, women and men share equally in the Gift of Salvation and in their need for a Relationship with the Living Yeshua.<sup>98</sup>

## Apple of My Eye<sup>99</sup>

It is as though Yeshua now sang over Mary Magdalene and the Rest of His Bride, including us: "Little One, I love you dearly. You're the apple of My Eye."

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<sup>97</sup> Matthew 15:3; Mark 7:9, 13;  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.15650/hebruniocollannu.82-83.119?seq=1>;  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Testimony\\_in\\_Jewish\\_law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Testimony_in_Jewish_law);  
<https://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/legal-religious-status-of-jewish-female>;

<sup>98</sup> Galatians 3:28; I Peter 3:7

<sup>99</sup> It is written in Psalm 17:8-9, "*Keep me as the apple of Your Eye; hide me under the shadow of Your Wings from the wicked who oppress me, who are out to destroy me, from my deadly enemies who surround me.*" (NIV, KJV)

As David wrote in Psalm 51:8, we may now sing, “*Make me to hear Joy and Gladness, that the bones which You have broken may rejoice.*” (*KJV, adapted*)

## **Thank You**

Thank you so much for participating in this study of the Heart of Mary Magdalene! It has been a delight to share these chapters with you, and I thank God for each one of you.

## **Closing Prayer**

**Abba, You have promised that Your Word will not return to You void, but will accomplish what You please. Thank You in advance for bringing forth fruit a hundredfold in the lives of each of us as we study and obey Your Word, and for marking us with the Beautiful Character of the LORD Jesus, and for baptizing us with Your Holy Spirit and Your Holy Fire. In Yeshua’s Name. Amen.**

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