

For The Jews

Let us pray.

BAR-CHU et Adonai ham'vorach. Baruch Adonai ham'vorach l'olam vaed. Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech ha-olam, asher bacher banu mi-kol ha'amim, v'natan lanu et Torato. Baruch Atah, Adonai, notein ha Torah.

BLESS ADONAI who is blessed. Blessed is Adonai who is blessed now and forever. Blessed are You, Adonai, our God, Sovereign of the universe, who has chosen us from among the peoples, and given us the Torah. Blessed are You, Adonai, who gives the Torah.

Amen.

Isaiah 40:3 A voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord".

These are the very end of days. The last of days. The days of preparation for the coming of Messiah and the Kingdom of God on Earth.

I would like to speak here mostly to those who are Jewish. Although, as with all my writings, everyone is invited to read. But I would like to add the next step to the simple question 'what must we do to be saved?'

And this step is especially important to the Jews because this is something that has been missing in Jewish life that God has been promising through His prophets.

Let's go back to the exchange of the rich Jewish ruler and Jesus, but this time let's look at the story from Matthew.

Matthew 19:16-22 Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments." "Which ones?" he inquired. Jesus replied, "You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself." "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?" Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

We have discussed how keeping God's Torah, the original Torah handed down at Mt. Sinai to Moses will give eternal life if you are of God's people the Jews.

Leviticus 18:5 Keep my decrees and laws, for the person who obeys them will live by them. I am the Lord.

Jesus answered his question about eternal life simply – keep the commandments. He has kept the commandments he has eternal life. But he still felt that he was missing something. "What do I still lack?" What was he looking for? Jesus knew the answer and told him the solution. "Sell your possessions and come and follow me." Because what the man was searching for was a personal relationship with God. Not simply eternal life by following the commandments.

And the solution to a personal relationship with God is to follow Jesus.

When I arrive in Israel, I can feel God's presence when I get off the plane. His Shekhina. It gets stronger when I get to Jerusalem and then stronger again when I enter the Old City. As I walk through the Jewish Quarter it is even stronger. And when I arrive at the Kotel or Wailing Wall it lingers there.

That feeling is just His presence His Shekhina. Now imagine having that inside your heart and having it grow. That is accepting Jesus. Jesus is His Word, His Torah, His Living Torah. In your heart.

The next step is a personal relationship with God.

Let us pray,

BARUCH atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech ha-olam, asher natan lanu Torat emet, v'chayei olam nata b'tocheinu. Baruch Atah, Adonai, notein ha Torah.

BLESSED ARE YOU, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who has given us a Torah of truth, implanting within us eternal life. Blessed are You, Adonai, who gives the Torah.

Amen.

Thank You,

A Voice in The Wilderness