



# Covenant Branch

## Shabbat Shalom

Saturday, January 7, 2023, 2022

### A Journey Through Yohanan (John) – Part 2

As I stated last week, a little over two years ago, we had a short journey through the book of Yohanan (John).

I am feeling lead that it is time to take another journey through this most awesome book.

This book has a special place in my heart.

Since long ago, there are two very profound, passages from this book that have spoken loudly to me. That is Yohanan chapter 17 and Yohanan 12:24

Chapter 17 being the longest recorded prayer of Yeshua.

And Yohanan 12:24 being a verse that has stuck so hard to me though even today I am still learning what it truly means.

#### **Yohanan (John) 12:24**

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

We also viewed a scene from the movie “The Last Samurai” where the emperor asks Nathan Algren (Tom Cruise) in the last seen, ‘tell me how **He** died’ – But he replies, ‘I will tell you how **He** lived.’

The term **Samurai** was nominalized to mean 'those who serve in close attendance to the nobility'

## The Synoptic Gospels... That being Mattithyahu, Marqos & Luqas

Generally speaking, the synoptic gospels tell us what Yeshua said and did;

### Yoḥanan tells us who Yeshua is.

The synoptic gospels mostly focus on the signs and sayings of Yeshua; Whereas Yoḥanan emphasizes the identity of Yeshua.

### Unique features of Yoḥanan's Gospel:

- There are no parables in Yoḥanan.
- There are eight metaphors or figures of speech which are unique that Yoḥanan used to describe Yeshua.
- Only the gospel of Yoḥanan records the giving of the Comforter/Helper.
- Every chapter in Yoḥanan provides a separate portrait of who Yeshua is.
- Yoḥanan recorded very detailed conversations that Yeshua had with specific individuals:
- Over one-third of Yoḥanan's Gospel (chapters 12-19) cover the last week of Yeshua's life.
- The nine "I AM" statements of Yeshua:
- Yoḥanan is generally listed as the youngest emissary of Yeshua Messiah.
- Yoḥanan outlived the remaining emissaries and he was the only one to die of natural causes.
- Yoḥanan is the author of several books of the New Testament.
- He was believed to be first a disciple of Yoḥanan the Immerser.
- Yoḥanan lived on for another generation after the martyrdom of Ya'aqob, who was the first emissary to die a martyr's death.
- The disciple whom Yeshua loved.

## Yohanan (John) Chapter 1 verses 40 - 49

<sup>40</sup> Andri, the brother of Shim'on Kěpha, was one of the two who heard from Yohanan, and followed Him. <sup>41</sup> First he found his own brother Shim'on, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means the Anointed). <sup>42</sup> And he brought him to יהושע. And looking at him, יהושע said, "You are Shim'on the son of Yonah, you shall be called Kěpha" (which means a Stone).

<sup>43</sup> On the following day יהושע wished to go to Galil, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." <sup>44</sup> And Philip was from Běyth Tsaiḏa, the city of Andri and Kěpha.

<sup>45</sup> Philip found Nethan'el and said to him, "We have found Him whom Mosheh wrote of in the Torah, and the prophets: יהושע of Natsareth – the son of Yosěph." <sup>46</sup> And Nethan'el said to him, "Is it possible for any good matter to come out of Natsareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

<sup>47</sup> יהושע saw Nethan'el coming toward Him, and said of him, "See, truly a Yisra'eli, in whom is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup> Nethan'el said to Him, "From where do You know me?" יהושע answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

<sup>49</sup> Nethan'el answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of Elohim! You are the Sovereign of Yisra'el!" <sup>50</sup> יהושע answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? Greater than that you shall see." <sup>51</sup> And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, from now on you shall see the heaven opened, and the messengers of Elohim ascending and descending upon the Son of Aḏam."

### **Bereshith (Genesis) 28:12**

And he dreamed and saw a ladder set up on the earth, and its top reached to the heavens, and saw messengers of Elohim going up and coming down on it.

Notice He labels him a "true Yisra'eli," and notes his honesty.

**One possibility** is that Yeshua is making a blunt assessment of Nathanael, who in verse 46 certainly seemed willing to speak his mind.

**The second interpretation** is that Yeshua was making a friendly joke.

Yeshua was teasing Nathanael, responding to sarcasm with sarcasm.

Joking about a "true Yisra'eli" having no deceit in him as a play on words.

All Yisra'eli are descendants of Ya'aqob, whom Yahweh renamed "Yisra'el" Ya'aqob would eventually become the father of the twelve men who founded the Twelve Tribes of Yisra'el.

Prior to his re-naming, Ya'aqob manipulated his brother in order to steal his birthright.

He tricked his father in order to steal his brother's firstborn blessing.

In verse 46, Nathanael had dismissed Yeshua because He was from Nazareth.

In response, Yeshua's joke points out the mistake of judging a person based on heritage.

**I am not all that sure that these interpretations are all that correct.**

The prophet Zechariah had prophesied about six centuries before, as the people of Yehuda returned from the exile in Babylon.

Do you think that these men might have known a little something about this?

### **The prophet Zechariah**

*He was encouraging the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem.*

*He spoke of a messianic figure, called the Branch.*

*And at one point he writes this:*

#### **Zechariah 3:8-10**

<sup>8</sup> Now listen, Yehoshua the high priest, you and your companions who sit before you, for they are men of symbol. For look, I am bringing forth **My Servant – the Branch**.

<sup>9</sup> See the stone which I have put before Yehoshua: on one stone are **seven eyes**. See, I am engraving its inscription,' declares יהוה of hosts, 'and I shall remove the guilt of that land in one day. <sup>10</sup> In that day,' declares יהוה of hosts, '**you shall invite one another, under the vine and under the fig tree.**' ”

So, Yeshua's reply to Nathanael is **“I saw you under the fig tree.”**

I think that Nathanael heard in that statement the fulfillment of that prophecy, **“I shall remove the guilt of that land in one day.”**

Notice, Yeshua does not say that Nathaniel was a man with no guilt.

He says that Nathaniel was a man with no **deceit**.

He is someone who is truly searching for the truth.

Could Yeshua speak these words of you?

Am I a true Israelite, in whom there is no deceit?

There for me is a returning back to events in the garden.

The covering of one's self, the nakedness with fig leaves.

#### **Bereshith (Genesis) 3:7**

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they **sewed fig leaves together** and **made loin coverings** for themselves.

## What did Messiah see in Nathanael?

How good **it is**, to look at my life in physical shadow types of my spiritual walk!  
How good **is it**, to look at my life in physical shadow types of my spiritual walk?

To question what it is that He, my Elohim, is bringing to teach me something, or to practice out what is good and pleasing to Him, by my reaction/behavior when situations arise.

Situations that might seem stressful, or uncomfortable. How will I respond?

Maybe these things are also to display Messiah in me for others to witness.

I totally believe my Father is so multi-faceted and that He does not work in singularities.

Scripture is a constant reminder to walk in His ways, to imitate Elohim, to follow (imitate) our Messiah and how He walked out all things.

The Torah and The Prophets are our instructions and commands on how He is telling us to walk and learn His righteous and perfect way.

We were made in Their image and likeness, so therefore I believe that entails us becoming like Him. That we may be as One in Him, as our Messiah states that He and the Father are One, and He continues in that prayer that we become one with Him and the Father.

My behavior should reflect His behavior.  
What is His behavior, His characteristics?

People should see that in me by the way I live, react, treat others, all people not just those that I think deserve kindness, because all mankind was created in His image and likeness, and He desires that ALL would be saved.

In order for me to learn this, I must pay heed to Who He is and how He loves me, and all His creation.

יהוה is not slow in regard to the promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward us, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

<sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for **all men**, <sup>2</sup> for sovereigns and all those who are in authority, **in order that we lead a calm and peaceable life in all reverence and seriousness.** <sup>3</sup> For this is **good and acceptable before Elohim our Savior**, **4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.**  
(1 Timothy 2:1)

<sup>11</sup> Beloved ones, I appeal to you as sojourners and pilgrims, to abstain from fleshly lusts which battle against the being, <sup>12</sup> **having your behavior among the nations** good so that when they speak against you as evil-doers, let them, by **observing your** good works, esteem Elohim in a day of visitation. (1 Peter 2: 11)

“Let your light so shine before men, **so that they see your good works and praise your Father who is in the heavens.** (Mat 5:16)

<sup>1</sup> In the same way, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that if any are disobedient to the Word, they, **without a word, might be won by the behavior** of their wives, <sup>2</sup> **having seen your blameless behavior in fear.** (1 Peter 3: 1-2)

I have a LONG way to go, and these scriptures continue to cry out to me.

To look at myself, praying and pleading for His wisdom, and His strength to be found in me.

Always asking, “Father, what are you trying to show me?” when life becomes difficult, or perhaps it is because I am in the way, not getting my expectations met.

Why aren't they being met?  
Maybe my expectations are wrong, or self-centered.

I do not always know the answers, just tons of questions at myself.  
Not being preoccupied with others and what they do or do not do.

Not saying I have completely escaped that place in life, but I desire to.

Maybe my expectations are right or good, but the response I get from someone is not good.

Again, I have His word as a reminder that I am to behave righteously no matter what comes my way.

I am called to be a servant and emissary of Yeshua Messiah (1. a delegate. 2. *(specially)* an ambassador of the Gospel. 3. *(officially)* a commissioner of Messiah)

My behavior therefore should be a mirror of Him.

I am not to change my behavior depending on my ‘audience,’ i.e., if they are kind, I am kind, if they are unkind, then I am unkind.

I am to behave in such a way that is pleasing to Elohim in ALL circumstances and at ALL times.

Otherwise, I behave as the world and am making Him a liar.

I am casting judgment on people as to how I see them.

## What does Scripture say about Who Elohim is?

<sup>17</sup> “For יהוה your Elohim is Elohim of mighty ones and Master of masters, the great Ėl, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. <sup>18</sup> “He executes right-ruling for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and a garment. <sup>19</sup> “And you shall love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Mitsrayim. (Deut 10: 17-19)

<sup>34</sup> And opening his mouth, Kēpha said, “Truly I see that Elohim shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every nation, he who fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. (Acts 10:34-35)

<sup>18</sup> Servants, **be subject** to your masters with all fear, **not only to the good and gentle, but also to the crooked ones.** <sup>19</sup> For this is favor, if because of conscience toward Elohim anyone bears up under grief, suffering unrighteously. <sup>20</sup> For what credit is there in enduring a beating when you sin? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure, this finds favor with Elohim. <sup>21</sup> For to this you were called, because Messiah also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps, (again to imitate) <sup>22</sup> “who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth,” <sup>23</sup> who, being reviled, did not revile in return; suffering, did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; <sup>24</sup> who Himself bore our sins (Isa 53:4) in His body on the timber, so that we, having died to sins, might live unto righteousness – by whose stripes you were healed. (1 Peter 2: 18-24)

I, for one, cannot say that I have committed no sin!

And yet, my Messiah who committed NO sin took quite the verbal and physical beating during His walk in the flesh with us.

He committed Himself to Him, (His Father) to judge righteously, and yet He our Messiah took on our sins and died for us, so that we could have the ability to again return to our Elohim’s ways.

**Wow, just wow!!**

I am to love my neighbor, like He loves us.

Tall order that goes against my flesh, my ego, as I sit on my own throne.

And yet I say I love Elohim whom I have not seen.

And again, scripture brings me to my knees and makes me question, “Do I really love you, Father?”

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and are not doing the truth. (1 John 1:6)

The one who says, "I know Him," and does not guard His commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. (1 John 2:4)

<sup>20</sup> If someone says, "I love Elohim," and hates his brother, he is a liar. **For the one not loving his brother whom he has seen, how is he able to love Elohim whom he has not seen?** <sup>21</sup> And we have this **command from Him**, that the one loving Elohim should love his brother too. (1 John 4:20-21)

I pray to You, Father in all sincerity, that You will help me to overcome.

That through the Word You have given me, Your truth and through Your Ruach, and with any vessel You have chosen, that I will listen intently.

That only through the understanding of Your truth, I will become a good and faithful servant of Messiah Yeshua.

I thank You for those You have placed in my life, to grow me and to show me Who You are and how I am to become.

I know that I cannot do this without You.

Help me to be thankful, truly thankful, and not a complainer of everything You have given.

I never want to displease You, yet... I know I do daily.

I ask You for forgiveness, and that nudge always to remind me to see the times that I fail.

To repent, I turn in Teshuva and come back to Your ways and to Your desire.

Amein