

Our Unbelief, Our Idolatry, Our Lawlessness

As Yisraelites, we are a chosen people from the time of our father Avraham. As such we should be filled with hope in the knowledge of Elohim's unwavering faithfulness to Yisrael. Moreover, we have been called for a mighty purpose in His kingdom that is now coming. As members of the tribes of Gad and Manasseh, our future role is a very special one. For it is those tribes in particular that will play the major role in delivering Yisrael from her enemies and establishing the Law of Moshe in the land. We are to be warriors and judges in the kingdom of YHWH.

In order to enter into the kingdom that is coming, however, we first need to repent of our unbelief, our idolatry and our lawlessness. Concerning unbelief, we do not believe that we are the children of those same people that YHWH delivered from slavery in Mitsrayim (Egypt). Nor do we believe that it is to us that Elohim gave His commandments for all our generations. Nor do we believe what the prophets have said about our future, that in the latter days Elohim will regather His chosen people and restore Yisrael as His set-apart nation. We do not believe that the promises that YHWH made to Avraham, Yitzhak and Ya'aqob were promises that He made to us. Instead we cling to the evil doctrine that YHWH has rejected Yisrael and is now dealing with an entirely new people called "the Church." By this doctrine we are rejecting YHWH's promises, His faithfulness and even the work of His Messiah who came to redeem us. (Redeem means to "buy back" or to repurchase something you once owned in the past. Only a kinsman or a close relative had the right of redemption.) Unbelief is a terrible thing and we need to repent of it.

Mainstream religion, of which we are a part, is inherently idolatrous. Much of this idolatry is in the form of actual objects such as steeples, crosses, bells, festival eggs, chocolate bunnies, hot-cross buns, decorated trees.... the list is very long. Other forms of idolatry are in the very language of worship. Words such as cross, church, amen, holy, sacred, sanctified, glory, divine, deity, theos, herr, god, and lord all have their origins in paganism and the naming of pagan gods. Even the name that has been given to our Messiah, Jesus or *lesous*, has its roots in paganism. To quote C.J. Koster, "There is not a single authoritative reference source which gives the name Jesus or *lesous* as the original name of our Savior!" Credible sources link *lesous* with the name for the Greek goddess of healing *leso*, and the fuller form, IHSOUS, with Bacchus! In almost every instance of idolatry mentioned, whether through objects, in language or by name, the origins can be found in the ancient practice of sun worship! In that regard, sun-day worship is the most blatant form of idolatry, and that too is rooted in pagan religious practice. The depths to which we as Mennonite people have participated in these vile idolatries, and the magnitude of our sin against Elohim needs to be understood, acknowledged, and then repented of.

And lawlessness? He who has ears to hear, let him hear for great is the mystery of lawlessness! We do not believe that we are Yisrael and so it follows that the

commandments are not for us. Yet concerning the coming of our Master Yeshua, let us not be deceived. A falling away has to come first and the man of lawlessness is to be revealed. My brethren, the secret of lawlessness is already at work and when our Messiah comes, He will put an end to the lawless man with the Spirit of His mouth and by the manifestation of his being. Lawlessness is nothing other than the deception of Satan! Elohim has sent a strong delusion that we should believe The Lie and take pleasure in unrighteousness. (See 2 Thess. 2: 1-12). The day will soon be here when we no longer believe so wickedly that the Law has "nailed to the tree" or that the Law is "burdensome" or that we are "free from the Law." By the testimony of our Messiah and Savior Yeshua, no one who practices lawlessness will enter into His kingdom!

Mennonite brethren, let us not lose heart. Elohim will overlook the time of our ignorance. But, this does not lessen the call to repentance. As Yisraelites, we have the promise that He will take away our iniquity in the latter days. But this does not excuse us from continuing in our unbelief, idolatry and lawlessness for even another day! Our flesh is weak, but we can still acknowledge our unrighteousness. Our hearts may continue in our rebellion, but we can still confess His righteousness. I believe that so many of you are going to repent and return to the Elohim of Yisrael and be warriors and judges in Yeshua's kingdom.

Shalom