

Mennonite Brethren: The Second Exodus

All across North America and in various places throughout the world, great happiness came down on those who kept Sukkot. Sukkot is the last of YHWH's seven annual festivals. Often called the Feast of Booths, it is a time of celebration, remembrance and rehearsal. For seven days, those who keep this commanded festival stay in temporary dwellings, have their meals together in fellowship, and worship the Elohim of Yisrael. Being the last festival of the year, it is also the most joyful. The festival is commanded in Vayiqra (Leviticus) 23:

"And you shall observe it as a festival to YHWH for seven days in the year - a law forever in your generations. Observe it in the seventh month. Dwell in booths for seven days; all who are native Yisraelites dwell in booths, so that your generations know that I made the children of Yisrael dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Mitsrayim (Egypt). I am YHWH your Elohim."

My brethren, most (if not all) of you, have never experienced this time of great spiritual blessing. This is highly regrettable. Furthermore, your hearts have not yet been awakened to know that you are Israel, the literal descendants of those who came out of Mitsrayim. You may very well be praising Elohim for this great miracle of deliverance; but by not understanding that these were our ancestors, the personal relevance of this experience is missed entirely. Even more, the prophetic nature of our deliverance from Mitsrayim has not yet rooted itself in your soul. For in the keeping of the Feast of Booths our future deliverance is also anticipated. Those who keep Sukkot are rehearsing a still greater deliverance that is yet to come.

We, as the children of Yisrael were once slaves to Pharaoh in the land of Mitsrayim. The story of how our ancestors had to make bricks for Pharaoh's building programs is well known. So are the great miracles that Elohim did to bring them / us out of Mitsrayim. That history typifies our future because it is prophetic. For just as we were once the physical slaves of a foreign potentate, so now we are the spiritual slaves of the nations into which Elohim has scattered us. Moshe wrote of this in Debarim (Deut.) 28:

"And it shall be, if you do not obey the voice of YHWH your Elohim, to guard to do all His commandments and His laws which I command you today, that all these curses shall come upon you:.....YHWH shall bring you and the sovereign whom you set over you to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other mighty ones, wood and stone. Thus you shall be an astonishment, a proverb, and a mockery among all the peoples to which YHWH drives you.....And YHWH shall scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other mighty ones, which neither you nor your fathers have known, wood and stone." (15, 36-37, 64).

The reality of a present spiritual bondage is something that my brethren find very hard to except. Yet in truth we no longer keep YHWH's Sabbaths or festivals. Instead we worship as the nations around us and, contrary to Moshe, keep their annual festivals. That we bring dishonor on YHWH's seventh day Sabbath by working, shopping or attending sporting events is nothing less than an abomination. There is no easy way to say that we are sinning. But brethren, we are, and our denial is simply the proof of our spiritual bondage. We have ears that hear not and eyes that see not just as Yeshua testified to the Yisrael of His day. Today it is unthinkable that the commandments we received from Moshe were for all our generations, and so we go on sinning and sinning and sinning. By decree, because of the iniquity of our forefathers, our Elohim has given us over to the bondage of the cultures around us. The next great miracle, a miracle even greater than our deliverance from Mitsrayim, will be our deliverance from spiritual bondage.

"Therefore see, the days are coming," declares YHWH, "when it is no longer said 'YHWH lives who brought up the children of Yisra'el from the land of Mitsrayim,' but, 'YHWH lives who brought up the children of Yisra'el from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them,' For I shall them back into their land I gave to their fathers.....For My eyes are on all their ways; they have not been hidden from My face, nor has their crookedness been hidden from My eyes." (Yirmeyahu 16:14-17).

These prophecies are being clearly understood now that we have entered into the latter days. YHWH is going to remove the descendants of Ya'aqob (Jacob / Israel) from the countries of their modern captivity, return them to the land of Israel, reunite them with the tribe of Judah, and take away their sin. Shaul (Paul) spoke directly to this issue in Romans 11:26-27, "And so all Yisra'el shall be saved, as it is has been written, "The Deliverer shall come out of Tsiyon, and He shall turn away wickedness from Ya'aqob, and this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins."" (The Deliverer is Yeshua Ha Moshiach).

Brethren, our Elohim has given me a ministry to turn Mennonite Israel from her sin. In Sukkoth, we remember that we were slaves in Egypt, celebrate our deliverance, and rehearse for the spiritual Exodus that is yet to come. The joy of Sukkot is a foretaste of the joy that will follow our release from spiritual slavery. Brethren, rend your hearts before you rend your behavior.

Shalom