



~ *Test The Spirits* ~

By Rabbi Reuel Dillon

“Beloved, don't believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” – 1Yochanan (1John) 4:1

A confession of belief in Yeshua (Jesus) alone doesn't qualify if a spirit is from God or not. In Mattityahu (Matthew) 7:21-23 Yeshua The Messiah tells us, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" . What lawlessness could Yeshua be speaking of here? The only scripture that was available to God's people was the Torah and The Prophets. Therefore, to practice “lawlessness” is to practice “Torahlessness”. 1Yochanan (John) 3:4 states, “Everyone who sins also commits lawlessness. Sin is lawlessness”. How can someone that practices a Torahless life be a Prophet and Teacher from God? Will God even communicate His revelations to such a person, or even hear their prayer?...Mishlei (Proverbs) 28:9 says, "He who turns away his ear from hearing the law (Torah), Even his prayer is an abomination” .

It then follows that the Torah and The Prophets play a central and essential part in testing the spirits, as to whether they are truly from God or not. 1Yochanan (1John) 2:3-6 states, "This is how we know that we know him: if we keep his commandments. One who says, "I know him," and doesn't keep his commandments, is a liar, and the truth isn't in him. But whoever keeps his word, God's love has most assuredly been perfected in him. This is how we know that we are in him: he who says he remains in him ought himself also to walk just like he walked”. Just in case someone wants to say that the “commandments” spoken of in this passage are not the ones found in the Torah...all we need to remember is the context of the passage as it says that, “he who says he remains in him ought himself also to walk just like he walked”. And, we can be assured that Yeshua The Messiah was completely Torah observant.

Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 8:20 gives us another witness to this foundational aspect of testing the spirits as they want to share teaching and doctrine with us. It states, “To the Torah

and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them". Mishlei (Proverbs) 6:23 tells us, "For the commandment is a lamp, And the Torah is light...". If a so-called "prophet" or "teacher" doesn't speak in accordance with the Torah and The Prophets than God's light and truth hasn't even begun to dawn upon them.

In Acts 17:10-11 we see how Shaul (Paul) prefers his own teachings and writings to be tested. We also see the order of interpretation demonstrated here. The Torah and the Prophets were to qualify if Shaul's writings were of God or if they were valid, and not the other way around...."Then the brethren immediately sent Shaul (Paul) and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so". It should be noted that the "scriptures" spoken of here were not the Apostolic writings, or Shaul's writings. Shaul was not saying that he thought it was "more noble" for people to test his writings by his own writings and teachings.

It saddens me to see someone whom calls himself a "Christian" or a believer in Messiah so disconnected with the scriptures. It is also disturbing to see so many twisting the scriptures to their own destruction (2Kefa/Peter 3:16-17). If we are students of the Scriptures and we consider them to have authority in our lives...we should be responsible in handling them and understand that scripture cannot be broken (Yochanan/John 10:35).

In Devarim (Deuteronomy) 12:32-13:1-4 God tells us, "Whatever thing I command you, that shall you observe to do: you shall not add thereto, nor diminish from it. If there arise in the midst of you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and he give you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spoke to you, saying, Let us go after other gods, which you have not known, and let us serve them; you shall not listen to the words of that prophet, or to that dreamer of dreams: for ADONAI your God proves you, to know whether you love ADONAI your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after ADONAI your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and you shall serve him, and cleave to him."

Should we therefore believe someone that comes and claims that any of God's commandments have become null and void? Do we dare? Before accepting the claims of any individual that claims to be a believer in Messiah, and such an individual claims to be a Prophet or to "hear from God", or wants to teach us something from scripture, (especially if it involves the Torah in some way)...we must question if that person is actually a disciple of our Rabbi Yeshua. Our Master Yeshua would have never rebelled against His Heavenly Father and would have never contradicted His Father's Torah. If we are truly disciples of Messiah we will interpret scripture through His words as apposed to interpreting His words through that of His disciple's teachings. Our Rabbi teaches His disciples the following in Mattityahu (Matthew) 5:16-17, "Even so, let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. "Don't think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets. I didn't come to destroy, but to fulfill".

And, of course, our Rabbi agrees with Deuteronomy 12:32-13:1-4, as seen in our previous passage. It is amazing when “Christians”, or people whom claim to believe and represent Messiah (and of whom they call “Lord”), so quickly disobey Him and in-turn give heed to doctrines of demons so readily. He says, “Don’t think” and they turn around and do the exact opposite. Adonai says, “you shall not” and they do. For those whom practice lawlessness and come and teach us to do the same...Adonai will use them to test us and to prove whether we are His or not, as the scripture we read earlier states, “for ADONAI your God proves you, to know whether you love ADONAI your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after ADONAI your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and you shall serve him, and cleave to him”.

Historically, when Jewish Rabbis debated with each, and if they thought that each other had misinterpreted or misapplied the Torah, they would accuse each other of “destroying the Torah”. But, when Yeshua spoke to the Jewish people he assured them that He didn’t come to “destroy the Torah or the Prophets”, or diminish them in any way...If He did, He would have been a false prophet according to Deuteronomy 12:32-13:1-4, and therefore wouldn’t be Messiah.

This is something that “believers” should consider before they think it acceptable to “practice lawlessness”, or teach others to do so. Instead of contradicting and diminishing from His Father’s Torah, Messiah Yeshua came to fulfill it. He came to bring the Torah to it’s full expression. Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 42:21 confirms that this is what Messiah would come and do. It states, “ADONAI is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the Law (Torah), and make it honorable”. Our Lord came to exalt and magnify the Torah, not diminish it. He came to rightly interpret it and teach it as it was intended.

Our Rabbi goes on to state in Matthew 5:18 the following, “For most assuredly, I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not even one smallest letter or one tiny pen stroke shall in any way pass away from the Law (Torah), until all things are accomplished”. Just in case we didn’t catch His first few statements...Yeshua breaks it down for us. Until heaven and earth pass away - you shouldn’t think that even one of the smallest parts of the Torah and the Prophets has been diminished or done away with. All we need to do is go outside every now and then to see that this hasn’t happened. Also, please note that all scriptural prophecy has not been fulfilled yet - lest someone claims that Yeshua’s statement was only good until His death on the execution stake. For a scriptural reference as to when one could even begin to consider that the smallest pen stroke should be diminished from the Torah, or to what Yeshua means by “until heaven and earth pass away”, or when all scriptural prophecy will be accomplished...we need only to read Revelation 21:1-6,

"I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth have passed away, and the sea is no more. I saw the holy city, New Yerushalayim, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready like a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice out of heaven saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with people, and he will dwell

with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away from them every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; neither will there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain, any more. The first things have passed away." He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." He said, "Write, for these words of God are faithful and true." He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alef and the Tav, the Beginning and the End. I will give freely to him who is thirsty from the spring of the water of life."

Yeshua goes on to say to us in Mattityahu (Matthew) 5:18, "Whoever, therefore, shall break one of these least commandments, and teach others to do so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven; but whoever shall do and teach them shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven". Therefore, our Master reiterates and magnifies the warning found in Devarim (Deuteronomy) 12:32-13:1-4. If therefore someone attempts to convince us that Yeshua came and changed (in the sense of diminishing) – any - part of the Torah, we should cling to Messiah's words and to the words of Adonai, and we should swiftly and firmly reject the false teacher or prophet. The scripture says that we are not to entertain or even suffer such an individual... "you shall not consent to him, nor listen to him; neither shall your eye pity him, neither shall you spare, neither shall you conceal him" (Devarim/Deut. 13:8). In other words, gentleness and longsuffering is not scripturally mandated for such individuals.

Rather, the scripture tells us the following, "Those who sin, reprove in the sight of all, that the rest also may be in fear". And, it doesn't matter if the offender is a brother, your son, your daughter, your wife or your friend who is as your own soul (Devarim/Deut. 13:6). You are to love God and cling to Him above all else.

The scripture clearly tells us that an anti-nomian (anti-Torah) message is one that comes from a false prophet and teacher. And, we are told that this type of message comes from someone whom is least in the Kingdom of Heaven (Mat. 5:18). Should we receive sound doctrine from such individuals? Or, should these type of people be considered leaders and teachers in the Kingdom of God?? I think not! Even if someone convinced me that Shaul (Paul) taught against the keeping of Adonai's Torah, I would sooner throw out Shaul's writings than I would the Torah and The Prophets. If someone convinced me that Yeshua diminished from Adonai's Torah, and taught or caused others not to keep even a small stroke of the Torah, and I believed it...I would reject Yeshua as The Messiah. The anti-nomian (a person that takes a stand against Torah observance) should understand that this would be the fruit of their endeavors (if they were successful).

But, I am confident that the anti-nomian is gravely mistaken and that both Shaul (Paul) and Yeshua taught God's people to keep the Torah with the right Spirit and heart. But, one should also understand that the rejection of Messiah Yeshua over the last two thousand years has largely been do to the work of the anti-nomian "Christian". Indeed, this has been the fruit that has been born in the hearts of myriads of Jewish people over the centuries. Many Jewish people whom take scripture seriously and whom have rejected Messiah because of the anti-nomian message that has been taught by much of Christianity have not actually rejected the scriptural Messiah. But, many Jewish people have rejected a man of lawlessness that many in Christianity have preached. Much of

Christianity has preached another Yeshua (Jesus), and one that the scriptures do not communicate. How sad! Both for the Jewish people whom were given a false “Good News”, and for the “Christians” whom have to give an account to God on judgment day.

As for me and my house, I am certain that my Rabbi Yeshua has taught me to keep the Torah and teach it to others (Mattityahu/Matthew 5:19). And, that is exactly what I will continue to do until His coming. And, at that time He will magnify the Torah upon the Earth. Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 2:2-3 states, "It shall happen in the latter days, that the mountain of ADONAI's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be raised above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. Many peoples shall go and say, "Come, let's go up to the mountain of ADONAI, To the house of the God of Ya`akov (Jacob); And he will teach us of his ways, And we will walk in his paths. For out of Tziyon the Torah shall go forth, And the word of ADONAI from Yerushalayim”.

I can only hope and pray that many that call themselves “Christians” will soon wake up to the lawless doctrine being fed to them by HaSatan (The Enemy of their souls), and that Yeshua The Messiah will not have to say to them, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”. If you are listening to teachers that prescribe a Torahless life, or you are teaching this to others...after reading this article - you should be concerned. Once we understand the basic concepts of Biblical hermeneutics (interpretation) spoken of here...we will then be able to rightly interpret scripture and test the spirits as they come.

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