

Yom Teruah / Rosh Hashanah

Genesis 21–22

Numbers 29:1–6

1 Samuel 1:1–2:10

Jeremiah 31:2–20

In The Field

Tradition is an interesting thing. Is a tradition or maybe I should say legend right or wrong? In the end we really do not know as I have no way of proving it right or you proving it wrong. We should never base our lives on such a thing, but rather ponder them. I illustrate this with our dog Chayah. Any dog owner knows that as do children each dog has their own personality. Chayah is the most inquisitive dog I have ever seen. When something new is presented to her she will tilt her head and stare at it with a look of wonder as she is trying to process what has been presented to her. This is how I desire to approach new things, not by immediate fear and rejection, but rather wonder and amazement as I seek to discern whether it is from Yah or not.

This Hebrew month of Elul has been very interesting to me, much more than in previous years. Jewish legend is that during this month The King steps out of his palace and comes into the field to meet the workers face to face and ask how he can best help them in their work of the field. It has been called the 40 days of repentance, but I see it a bit different. Let's use our children for an example here. What if you saw your child working on a project and walked over to help them. When you approached them they just started repenting for being a terrible son or daughter? What would you think? What if this happened for 30 days in a row? Would you at some time consider something wrong with them or your relationship? You came to help them, but they could not get their eyes off themselves and their faults long enough for you to encourage and assist them in their work.

So if the tradition is true, during this month our King has stepped into our field and has come to help us so we may bring forth a greater harvest for Him. He knows who we are. He knows our faults, but He has brought us into His kingdom in spite of who we are. He has asked us to present Him our filthy rags and has clothed us in His righteousness. We need to accept that and focus on who He has made us instead of who we were.

On Yom Teruah it is said that the king turns and makes His way back to the palace. It is a day of sounding the trumpets to announce the event. Imagine with me, the king has just been standing next to you, talking with you and when the trumpet sounds you see him smile, nod in approval and appreciation of the work you are doing. He then turns and begins his walk. Would you just go back to your duties? I think not. You would be so in awe of the moment that you would watch his return in wonder, knowing that in just 10 days you will be asked to make that same walk to join him. How would your next 10 days of work be? Would you give it everything you have? As you harvest would you begin to choose the choicest of the harvest and set it aside for the gift you will be taking to him?

Consider that for the next few days He is still in the field and is standing with you. His desire is not to find out how bad you are, but rather to prove how good He is. He is asking how he can help you in the harvest he has called you to. Can we at this time trust Him with our deepest thoughts? Can we accept His answers when they are so out of the box that we would have never considered something like that? In just a few days he will be turning to go back to the palace. Spend these days asking and listening so when those shofars begin to sound on Yom Teruah we can stand in awe as we watch Him turn knowing that Yom Kippur is coming and in just a few days we will follow His steps and stand with Him in His throne room.

May your Feast days be filled with His presence.