

Chukat - Miracles!

Have you or are you disgruntled? How about Dissatisfied? This is a common emotion in congregations, societies, cultures, and nations! Dissatisfaction comes from false expectations and perceptions. We have an entitlement generation who are selfish, disrespectful, and feel they deserve whatever they desire without the sacrifice of work, sweat, tears to achieve it! We bear responsibility in this for giving them everything without having to work for it! This results in disrespect, entitlement, dissatisfaction, and rebellion. Sha'ul captured this profoundly in"

II Timothy 3:1-5. Moreover, understand this: in the acharit-hayamim will come trying times. ² People will be self-loving, money-loving, proud, arrogant, insulting, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, uncontrolled, brutal, hateful of good, ⁴ traitorous, headstrong, swollen with conceit, loving pleasure rather than God, ⁵ as they retain the outer form of religion but deny its power. Stay away from these people!

This serves as a profound warning about the shift in values and priorities that are occurring in the last days. As time progresses, there will be a tendency for people to become more self-centered, materialistic, and focused on seeking pleasure above all else. The verse cautions against the dangers of prioritizing one's own desires and wealth over virtues like compassion, kindness, and selflessness. Are we falling into the trap of becoming lovers of self, money, and pleasure? Are we placing our own needs and desires above the well-being of others?

We must remember the importance of humility, generosity, and empathy as antidotes to the love of self, money, and pleasure mentioned in this verse. We must remain vigilant to not retain outer form of religion but deny the Power! Were told to stay away from these people! This is very prevalent today in the greater body of Messiah! Our world seems to be unraveling and yet there is nothing new under the sun. The prophet Malachi stated in:

Malachi 2:10. Don't we all have the same father? Didn't one God create us all? Then why do we break faith with each other, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

The blood of Yeshua is what binds us together in covenant regardless of race, culture, or nationality! Divisiveness, murmuring, and grumbling desecrates that covenant! Entitlement and Dissatisfaction, when unchecked, becomes an intense desire of lust for material things of the world which leads to Sin. Lusting after the horses and chariots of Egypt, material things, idolatry, wealth, leisure, self-indulgence and self-loving resulting in arrogance, disrespect, haughtiness, and disobedience. Its apostasy from Adonai!

The Golden Calf incident at Mt Sinai was the result of entitlement and dissatisfaction! After 230 years of slavery where everything was provided Israel

couldn't wait 40 days- see the picture? It ended in grumbling! What happened to Moses? We deserve a God, we deserve to party, let's make a Golden Calf who will be our god..... When we lose sight of the many things for which we should be thankful, we become murmurers and complainers darkened by unholy thoughts of entitlement, dissatisfaction, and grumbling. God Has a Problem with Grumblers:

James 5:9. Don't grumble against one another, brothers, so that you won't come under condemnation - look! the Judge is standing at the door!

Even Yeshua's disciples were infected with murmuring. It's hard to comprehend the timing of when this occurs, right after a day of the supernatural. In John Chapter 6 we see that Yeshua took "five loaves of barley bread and two fish" and multiplied it to feed 5000 men. In traditional Hebrew culture, only the men are counted so if you take into account their wives and children that were there it was probably more like 10-15,000 people that were fed with twelve baskets of leftovers yet the Talmidim grumble when Yeshua said He was the bread of life that came down from heaven!

John 6:41-43. At this the Judeans began grumbling about him because he said, "I am the bread which has come down from heaven." ⁴² They said, "Isn't this Yeshua Ben-Yosef? We know his father and mother! How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" ⁴³ Yeshua answered them, "Stop grumbling to each other!

Despite Yeshua's correction they persisted and continued to Grumble. Let's place this in perspective-these were not unsaved people. These were Talmidim, disciples who trusted, they believed in Yeshua, yet they were grumbling about what He had just said! They could receive the food and rejoice in the miracle but grumbled at the teaching that was coming from the master Himself, the Messiah! This is human nature and we've been doing it for thousands of years! Even as our 40 years of wandering in the desert was about to end there was still grumbling, entitlement, and dissatisfaction yet as Sha'ul states in Romans 8 God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called in accordance with his purpose. A plague breaks out against Israel at the end of the wilderness wanderings because of entitlement and grumbling:

Numbers 21:4-9. Then they traveled from Mount Hor on the road toward the Sea of Suf in order to go around the land of Edom; but the people's tempers grew short because of the detour. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moshe: "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt? To die in the desert? There's no real food, there's no water, and we're sick of this miserable stuff we're eating!" **(here's what they are really saying, we deserve better, were better than this)** ⁶ In response, ADONAI sent poisonous snakes **(nachash {naw-khawsh'}: Snake, serpent, to practice divination, divine, observe omens, practice fortunetelling)** among the people; they bit the people, and many of Isra'el's people died. ⁷ The people came to Moshe and said, "We sinned by speaking against ADONAI and against you. Pray to ADONAI that he rid us of these snakes." Moshe prayed for the people, ⁸ and ADONAI answered Moshe: "Make a poisonous snake and put it on a

pole **(Nes: something lifted up, standard, signal, signal pole, ensign, banner, sign, sail)** When anyone who has been bitten sees it, he will live." ⁹ Moshe made a bronze snake and put it on the pole; if a snake had bitten someone, then, when he looked toward the bronze snake, he stayed alive.

These are the same exact words Israel spoke at the Sea of Suf (Red Sea) after they departed slavery in Egypt and Pharaohs Chariots were chasing them! Moses spoke to them in Exodus 14:13 "Stand still and see the salvation (Yeshua) of Adonai". This time, decades later Adonai sends snakes with their associated poisonous spirits. Sha'ul in Acts 16:16 encountered a slave girl who had a Snake Spirit in her that enabled her to predict the future (fortunetelling, divination). Again, today we have Christian Fortune tellers, those who practice divination (speaking to the dead) on T.V and even in Congregations-it's a snake spirit-not of God!

When Israel repented for sinning against Adonai and Moshe, they plead for help. Moshe prays and Adonai orders Moshe to make a bronze serpent and lift it upon a nes so the people could look upon, fix their gaze upon it and live! The purpose of the image was miraculous; anyone bitten by a serpent could be healed by looking upon it.

Hebrew word for pole "nes" is not as simple as it seems. In other Scriptures, nes is translated "example" or "banner". In Isaiah 33:23, the word is translated as "sail," and another word entirely is used for the pole or mast upon which the sail hangs. Then, profoundly, supernaturally it all starts to make a connection as we see the same word used in Messianic Prophecy, in relation to Yeshua and the Messianic Reign:

Isaiah 11:1-2. But a branch will emerge from the trunk of Yishai, a shoot will grow from his roots. ² The Spirit of ADONAI will rest on him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and power, the Spirit of knowledge and fearing ADONAI

The trunk refers to a tree cut down. Judah would be invaded and conquered by Babylon and the Temple Destroyed bringing an end to Judah's reign of Kings for seventy years! But out of the stump of this cut down tree (Judah) a shoot will grow, Yeshua, Sone of God who will be born into the Second Temple period as Messiah with the Spirit of Adonai, wisdom, and understanding, counsel, power, and knowledge! People will be amazed and astounded by His teachings, authority, wisdom, knowledge, and miracles! Yeshua will bring salvation not only to Israel but as prophesied to the Nations:

Isaiah 11:10. On that day the root of Yishai, which stands as a banner **(Nes: A flag, something lifted up, standard, signal, signal pole, ensign, banner, sign, sail)** for the peoples - the Goyim will seek him out, and the place where he rests will be glorious.

On that day, the root of Yishai, Yeshua will be lifted up on the Nes, a sign, a banner, a miracle for Israel and all the nations! There is no other reference in the Hebrew Scriptures where something is lifted up on a nes. Except for the

bronze snake it is always the other way around. The nes is never the pole; it is always the object lifted up on the pole. But here with the story of the serpents in the wilderness, the bronze serpent is mounted on the "banner" or "example"-the nes. In other words, the bronze serpent hung upon an example (the nes, or pole). Could it be that this word was deliberately chosen to prophetically reveal that it was not the serpent Israel must look to for deliverance but the One behind the serpent, the Nes, the root of Yishai, the branch, the shoot, then when He is lifted up it will bring salvation? Could it be that the graven image on the pole is a test to see if the Israelites could see the Truth behind the truth?

This word, nes, has yet another meaning. Nes also means "Sign". A revelation of extraordinary and supernatural events which God brings about to demonstrate His power and will in situations, circumstances, and epochs of history when humanity needed convincing, influenced by Gods Kingdom. A sign can be given as proof of prophecy. Could the key lies in looking past the paradox of the bronze serpent to focus on the truth behind it? Can life be achieved through death? Yeshua said yes:

John 3:14-15. as Moshe lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up **(Hupsoo: to lift up, to exalt, to elevate)**; ¹⁵ so that everyone who trusts in him may have eternal life.

When we experience the miraculous, it becomes self-evident that there is a Divine force directing the path of our lives! A miracle, like a testimony cannot be refuted, reasoned, or brushed aside by reason or apologetics. Adonai's choice of the word "nes" to capture the supernatural and prophetic meaning behind these lifting up events of both the Serpent in the desert by Moshe and Yeshua on the stake should not be lost on us. Nes is comprised of the Hebrew letters Nun and Sameach! Nun represents downfall, suffering, and misfortune. The letter "samech," which in the alphabet, and in the word "nes," follows "nun," represents uplifting, salvation, and redemption. When we combine Nes (trials, downfall, tribulations, suffering and misfortune) with Sameach lifting up, salvation, redemption we see a miracle unfolding!

By the time of King Hezekiah, who cleansed Israel of Idols, addressed this bronze snake that had become an Idol.

II Kings 18:4. He removed the high places, smashed the standing-stones, cut down the asherah and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moshe had made; because in those days the people of Isra'el were making offerings to it, calling it N'chushtan.

"Nehushtan" is a pun on either the Hebrew word for "snake" (nāḥāš) or "brass" (nəḥošet), and thus may mean "The (Great) Serpent" or "The (Great) Brass. Snake cults had been well established in Canaan. The serpent symbolizes fertility and procreation, wisdom, death, and resurrection (due to the shedding of its skin, which is not akin to rebirth). The people are making offerings to it!

Additionally, the actions of “smashing the sacred stones and cutting down the Asherah poles” underscore Hezekiah’s bold stance against pagan rituals and objects associated with false deities.

Moreover, the act of “breaking into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made” highlights Hezekiah’s determination to prevent even objects with a holy origin from becoming idols of worship. This deliberate destruction of the Nehushtan serves as a poignant reminder that reverence should be reserved solely for God. The verse’s mention that “the Israelites had been burning incense to it” emphasizes the people’s propensity to elevate even well-intentioned symbols to objects of adoration, thereby diverting their focus from true worship.

Today, idolatry manifests not only in physical forms but also in the elevation of material possessions, power, or relationships above God. Hezekiah’s resolute actions prompt introspection, urging individuals to regularly assess their lives and eliminate any distractions that hinder genuine worship. How many believers worship the cross vice the one who died on it? The cross should not be venerated!

This should ignite a flame in our hearts to focus on those who will worship Adonai in Spirit and Truth! Those who will seek pure devotion to God. We must courageously, with great intentionality eliminate all distractions, all idols that block our path to a deeper connection with Adonai! To move in the supernatural!

Walking and living in the supernatural coupled with our love for one another is how the world will be radically changed and transformed. Yeshua gave us a mandate in His last words at the end of Mark before His ascension:

Mark 16:16-18. Whoever trusts and is immersed will be saved; whoever does not trust will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who do trust: in my name they will drive out demons, speak with new tongues, ¹⁸ not be injured if they handle snakes or drink poison, and heal the sick by laying hands on them."

Immersed in Yeshua, filled with Power in the Ruach HaKodesh we are super conquerors, spiritual warriors, vessels of the Supernatural, walking in signs and wonders, in miracles! Driving out demons, no weapon formed against us prospering, speaking in tongues, healing the sick....Today most of the world doesn’t know us or Yeshua because were not walking in miracles! It’s easy to point the finger, to accuse and judge! We all can see and recognize sin, even those engaged in it! But were not called to accuse, that’s HaSatan’s job! Like Yeshua were commanded move in the supernatural, to heal, restore, and set captives free! A return to miracles is required to see the revival of Israel, the land and the people.

I Corinthians 1:22-24. For Jewish people ask for signs and Greek people seek after wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Messiah crucified—a stumbling block to Jewish people and foolishness to Gentile people, ²⁴ but to those who are called (both Jewish and Greek people), Messiah, the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Our people were well versed in the Tanach, we looked for miraculous signs as evidence of God's presence and power-this is the key to Jewish Revival. On the other hand, Greeks place a high value on wisdom, knowledge, and intellectual pursuits. Sha'ul is highlighting this contrast to emphasize that even with different cultural perspectives and expectations, the message of the "Good News" remains consistent and relevant.

We must engage and utilized the Dunamis (Miracle working power) of God! Yeshua is the source of that power and he gave it to us to do even greater works than He did!

John 14:11-14. Trust me, that I am united with the Father, and the Father united with me. But if you can't, then trust because of the works themselves. ¹² Yes, indeed! I tell you that whoever trusts in me will also do the works I do! Indeed, he will do greater ones, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ In fact, whatever you ask for in my name, I will do; so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me for something in my name, I will do it.

This reveals the limitless potential that lies within each one of us through our faith and trust in Yeshua. It's a challenge to think outside the box of our physical reality, beyond our perceived limitations and embrace the extraordinary, supernatural possibilities in the Spirit realm that can be unlocked when we fully trust in Him. Whan an incredible impact we can make in the world when we operate in faith and obedience to Yeshua by even greater works than Yeshua did! Performing miracles, signs and wonders, healing the sick, and bringing the dead back to life, just like Yeshua himself did!! To understand and grasp this our potential is limitless and boundless. This is a mandate, a call to action for all believers to step out in boldness, trust in the power of Yeshua, and carry out His work with confidence and conviction.

Yeshua said in Verse 14 "If you ask me for something in my name, I will do it." This holds a powerful promise for us. It reveals that when we approach Adonai in prayer and invoke the name of Yeshua, our requests will be heard and answered. This emphasizes the critical significance of praying in alignment with the teachings Yeshua and God's word! We acknowledge His authority and seek His will to be done in our lives by asking in Yeshua's' name.

Asking in Yeshua's name means praying with his authority, in alignment with the Kingdom of God. It involves approaching God the Father through the acknowledgment of Yeshua as the mediator between us and Him. Believers express their trust in Yeshua as the way to the Father and rely on his intercessory role on our behalf by praying in Yeshua's name. This practice signifies an acknowledgement of Yeshua's power and his unique relationship with the Father.

When we pray in Yeshua's name, we are seeking to honor and glorify him. It signifies a humble submission to his will and a desire to see his purposes fulfilled in the requests brought before God.

When the Talmidim were told 'And these signs will accompany those who do trust, they went out, preached, taught, shared the Good News with miracles signs and wonders following them because they trusted, Its not you or I, it's Yeshua who we are immersed in, Yeshua within us working through us! It's Yeshua confirming His Messiahship through us by our working Miracles, signs and wonders! Kefa, Peter in POWER told thousands on Shavuot after the upper Room infilling of the Ruach HaKodesh in Acts 2 Yeshua from Natzeret was a man demonstrated to you to have been from God by the powerful works, miracles and signs that God performed through him in your presence. 3,000 that day was saved! It's time tonight for a revolution!