Discover Your Calling Into Israel Part 5 of 5: Cost of Following Yeshua; Our Lives Like Exodus (1/30/2015)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at https://cornerfringe.com/media/7hwbr2k/discover-your-calling-into-israel-part-5

*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is <u>not verbatim</u>. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.

...calling into the natural olive tree, into the tree of Israel. If you look at this calling into Israel or calling to get back to our Hebraic roots of the first century church, and you take anything away from this study, take this; this calling begins and ends with Yeshua. He is the author and finisher of our faith. He is the first, the last, the aleph and the tav, and the beginning and the end. You don't have the luxury of taking your eyes off Him for even a millisecond!

One of the tragedies you find when people discover their Hebraic roots is as they start to acquire all this knowledge and learning things they had never learned before, this knowledge gets trapped in their head, and their head starts to get bigger, and bigger, and bigger, as though you would trap helium or hydrogen in a balloon. What does all this knowledge do? It lifts you off the ground, and you start floating around with your big head looking at everybody thinking how high you are above them, how much you know, and about how well you think you're keeping the commandments of God.

Well, if you know the story of the Hindenburg, that didn't work out so well. This is one of the tragedies that happen when people come into the Hebrew roots; they take their eyes off Yeshua. It is not being done out of love. Remember this old saying: What is the farthest distance between two points in the known universe? It is only 18 inches, from the head to the heart. That knowledge is supposed to go into our hearts.

Today I want to give you some warnings because I want to prepare you for what lies ahead. When you step out in faith and confess Yeshua, and when you begin to walk that faith out in obedience, clinging to Him, there are going to be some things that take place in your life which are going to threaten your journey. There are going to be some things that threaten your relationship with Yeshua.

When I observe people who are in the process of discovering their Hebraic roots, I often find that the process itself, the exposure to it, can be a little overwhelming. There are Christians who have been believers for 20 or 30 years, and suddenly, they're hearing things they've never heard before. They are seeing things in scripture they had never seen before, and the whole experience, while stimulating, enlightening, and invigorating, can also be humbling.

It can also be challenging for many Christians. We find that they've been told their entire life by their pastors, by their parents, by their teachers, and by their friends that the law of God is a curse. They have

been told Christ came to do away with the law. But when you come to that revelation, and you discover Yeshua didn't come to do away with the law, and you verify it through the scriptures and find it to be true, it can be traumatizing. Same thing happens when you take a good look at the teachings of Paul and find the law was not done away with; that can be traumatizing too.

All of it can be earth shattering. It changes everything in your world. It changes the way you read the Bible, the way you view the Bible, and the way you apply the principles you're reading in scripture to your life. It's a game changer!

For example, finding someone who's just found out they've been going to church on the wrong day of the week their entire life. That's something which can be quite disturbing to you. Frustrations begin to rise to the surface. Whether you're a new convert or whether you've been a believer in the church for 20 years, one thing I can promise you is when you come into the knowledge, and you're discovering your Hebrew roots through faith in the Messiah Yeshua, when you make that commitment, your life will never ever be the same again. It doesn't matter if you came from the outside and are unchurched, or if you've come from being in the church for 20 to 30 years, your life will never ever be the same again. B

y becoming a disciple of Yeshua you're going to find you must completely alter your lifestyle. You're going to have to alter your thought process and the way you reason things in your life is going to have to change. No longer will the dictates of your heart take precedence in your life.

No longer will you be numeral uno (number one). The heart you've become accustomed to is not going to rule your life; your world now revolves around Yeshua, the son of God. And when you make that decision to truly give Yeshua your all, when you're willing to change your important schedule for God's schedule, it's going to dramatically impact the way you live amongst a wicked world. A world, mind you, which does not follow God's commandments or schedule. A world that's going to attempt to get you to compromise your obedience to the Lord, your allegiance to Him, at every turn.

For you to be a disciple of Yeshua, it requires full submission to Him. You don't get to hold anything back. He doesn't want 99.999% of you. It must be 100%.

We read in Luke 14:33 that Yeshua tells us, So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple. What is the cost? The cost is everything; all of it. This means nothing can take precedence over Him, over serving Him. Everything else is secondary and is subject to this principle. We must be willing to forsake all no matter how great the cost.

How great is this cost? We find the answer in Matthew 10:34-36 where Yeshua says, Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but **a sword**. ³⁵ For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; ³⁶ and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' (Emphasis added).

Here Yeshua tells us that committing to Him may cost me my own family, my blood relatives, those who are closest to me, those whom I cherish and desperately love. Are you kidding me? You must ask yourself this question; are you willing to pay the price, that you are going to be required to pay, to become a disciple of Yeshua?

Reading this passage years ago was frightening to me. This opened my eyes to what the Lord requires of me. I can cling to nothing in this earth. I must keep my eyes and my hands fixed firmly on Yeshua and be willing to give anything.

And upon closer review of this passage, what is it that sets a man against his father and a daughter against her mother? What would set all this in motion? What causes the division Yeshua tells us about? It's the sword. It is the sword which causes that division. And what is the sword? We're told in Ephesians 6:17, And take the helmet of salvation and the **sword** of the spirit which is the word of God. (Emphasis added).

What is the sword? It is the word of God. You will find this imagery used in scripture often where the word of God is likened to a sword. In Hebrews 4:12, we find, For the **word** of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged **sword**. (Emphasis added).

The word of God is the law of God. It is the commandments of God. And guess what's going to divide you. Your application of that word. You are grabbing on to the righteous commandments, to the holiness, of God. Changing your life; that is going to separate you. That's how powerful the word of God is.

When you begin to discover your Hebraic roots, this might confront you. This is something you may experience. A division may formulate based upon your full submission to Yeshua. This is not to say it's going to happen to all of us. Yeshua is not saying that. But He is warning you this is what it might cost you. How many of you are truly willing to forsake all and follow Him?

Yeshua goes on to say in Matthew 10:37-39, He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸ And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁹ He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. We must make a decision!

May I offer a suggestion? Make this decision today because you are not guaranteed tomorrow. You are not guaranteed the rest of today.

Do you remember when Moses came down from Mount Sinai after receiving the stone tables? What did he find Israel doing? Sinning. There are some very prolific things which took place as he came down from the mountain; things which people study out. Things which make people be in awe. For example: as he came down, what happened? He cast the tablets of stone, the Ten Commandments, out of his hands. The Ten Commandments were broken; the stone tablets were broken. That is prophetic!

We find out he grinds up this calf of gold, which they made, and throws it in the water. He makes the people Israel drink it. That is also prophetic. But there is something Moses said that rises above the rest; something which has always struck me more than anything else that took place at this time. We find this in Exodus 32:25-26, Now when Moses saw that the people were unrestrained (for Aaron had not restrained them, to their shame among their enemies), ²⁶ then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, "Whoever is on the LORD's side—come to me!" And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him.

It doesn't get more intense than this, Whoever is on the LORD's side—come to me! Moses drew a line in the sand; the call went out, come to me those who are on the LORD's side. I am telling you the line has been drawn in the sand!

We can go to Revelation 18:4 and find the same call, And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. If you don't come out of her, you're going to die. That is the line in the sand; it has been drawn. Who is on the LORD's side? Will you make that decision? Are you going to be on His side?

Going back to Exodus 32:27-28, this is how things went down, And he said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.' " ²⁸ So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day.

That is amazing! What happens? Those who chose to be on the LORD's side were separated from their very own brethren. Those who did not choose to go to the side of the LORD, that's when the line was drawn in the sand. What happened to them? They were killed.

Matthew 10:21, Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. All of this because of the word of God; because of your obedience of clinging to His commandments. One thing you quickly realize in discovering your calling into Israel is just how hard the road is. You discover just how hard it's going to be, how much you're going to have to sacrifice, and how much you're going to have to suffer. It's going to take every ounce of your strength to continue on the narrow path, which is why Yeshua tells us this in Matthew 7:14, Because narrow is the gate and difficult [not easy] is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Not many are going to find the narrow path.

In John 16:33, Yeshua tells us, ...In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. What are the expectations that have been set? We are going to have tribulation. When you really commit to walking in the will of God, keeping His commandments, it's at that point you really discover how difficult the way is because suddenly persecution begins to rise up against you that never existed before. But when you altered your lifestyle to choose God's ways, suddenly persecution rises up. Persecution from friends, from family, and those in your workplace. It is going to come at you from every direction. And for many of you, this is going to be challenging and for many of you, if not all of you, it's going to be emotionally draining. I can't possibly see how it wouldn't be because we just read Yeshua said—difficult is the way.

In Matthew 10:22 he says, And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. Only those who endure to the end are going to be saved. There is another expectation that has been pointed out; you're going to be hated by all. Expect it!

In Revelation 14:12 we read, Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. That's what it means to endure; they have faith in Yeshua and they keep the commandments of God. This is the endurance; this is the perseverance. Make no mistake, as you journey in your faith with Yeshua, there's going to be tribulation and persecution. Expect it is going to happen.

The Apostle Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 3:12, Yes, and all who desire to live however they want in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. That is not what it says. It says, Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. (Emphasis added). This is so amazing how careful and how articulate the Apostle Paul is here. Those who live godly in Messiah Yeshua; those are the ones who are going to suffer persecution. Paul doesn't just say, "If we believe."

I want to take you back to the Torah and show you how Israel's exodus out of Egypt really serves as a template, as a picture, for us of our calling into Israel. If we go back to the Book of Exodus, early in the book we find Israel is in bondage to the Egyptians. There's a deep spiritual significance here to the story which applies to our own walk, and that is this: Egypt is in fact representative of this world. As Israel was in bondage to Egypt, so too we once were in bondage to this world.

Now we all know how the story goes, right? The LORD sends Moses with the assistance of Aaron to deliver the children of Israel from the hand of Pharaoh, from the hand of bondage. What ends up happening here is the wicked King Pharaoh, (who is symbolic of the leader of this wicked and evil age, he is symbolic of Satan), refuses to let the children of Israel go, even after the LORD sends plagues of great destruction upon Egypt. When I say that, I'm referring to the first nine plagues God rained down.

What I find so fascinating about this event is that despite all the fury God pours out upon Egypt and upon Pharaoh, we find the children of Israel are not released from bondage; they are not released from the hand of Pharaoh. You see, it wasn't until the Passover Lamb's blood was shed and applied that the children of Israel were released from the hand of Pharaoh, they were released from bondage.

It is the same with us. It is Yeshua's blood that releases us from the hand of Satan. It is through faith in Yeshua that the blood is applied, and because of it we are released in the same way we find Israel released from Pharaoh.

I want you to think about something going back to the Exodus and Moses. God instructed Moses to tell the people to kill a lamb, grab some hyssop, take the blood, and put it on the doorpost and lintel of their house. If they did that, the firstborn in their house will be spared certain death.

I wonder how many Israelites were blinking at the time thinking, really? I'm going to kill a lamb and apply some blood to the door of my house, and that is going to save me from certain death? What did that require? Faith! They had to believe what He, God, spoke was true.

It is the same with us. Even though you and I have not seen Yeshua as the Apostle Paul and the other disciples had, what do we do? We apply the blood believing. We move in faith knowing it's going to come to pass. He said it, so it is good enough for me.

So, we have Israel being released from the hand of Pharaoh, from the bondage of the Egyptians, by the blood of the lamb. Now what happens? Immediately after being set free by the blood of the lamb, we find they are baptized by going through the red sea. We find the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 10:1-2 utilizes this imagery, and he tells them—...all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, ² all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

Do you see how this is symbolic? This is amazing! You have redemption by the blood of the lamb; they come out; they're released from bondage. What is the first thing they do? They are baptized by going

through the Red Sea. Do you see how this follows the pattern of salvation? Then we find they are brought to the wilderness of Sinai; they're brought to Mount Sinai, and what are they given? They are given the instructions on how to live.

The same goes for me. I've been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. I've been baptized, and now the Lord is revealing His instructions for my life and how I am to live. I am reborn; I am born again through what He has done for me.

Now upon being given these holy commandments, the Torah, at Mount Sinai, were they instantly teleported into the Promised Land? Poof, there you are; you are in the Promised Land. No. That did not happen. What did the LORD do? He left them in the wilderness. Why would He leave them in the wilderness? We are told in Deuteronomy 8:2, And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, (Why?) to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart,....

The LORD put them in the wilderness to test them. What was it He was seeking to discover in their heart? Keep in mind salvation is a matter of the heart. What was God seeking to find in their hearts or find missing from their heart? What was He looking for? He was looking to see—whether you would keep His commandments or not. It's a matter of the heart!

So, when you're having a conversation with your fellow believers, and they're not interested in the commandments, and they tell you, "It's a matter of the heart," tell them, "I agree. It is a matter of the heart. That's why you keep His commandments. It has always been a matter of the heart." That is the test.

Our time here on earth is our wilderness. Make no mistake, as Israel was tested, you will be tested. And He is looking for your heart. What is He looking to discover? Whether or not you will keep His commandments. 1 John 2:3, Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

We continue in Deuteronomy 8:3, So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

Do you want to make it through this wilderness? Do you want to make it through this life of testing? You're going to need to realize your true sustenance is none other than the word of God. It is Torah. Isaiah 2:3, ...For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. It's that breath, those words that came from His very own lips, that He spoke, that you will be sustained by. It is the test.

It's interesting in the wilderness He allowed them to hunger, to suffer, and to thirst. It was there He fed them with manna, when they didn't know what manna was. Manna is the bread from heaven.

Yeshua likened Himself to the bread from heaven. John 6:41, ...I am the bread which came down from heaven. John 6:35, ...I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. Yeshua is our sustenance.

Let me bring this down into a practical real-life application. When people discover their Hebraic roots, and they discover the truth about shabbat. God's requirement is to keep that day holy. It's as if someone had grabbed a gun for the race; shot and fired that gun; and said let the testing begin. Because you want to have your faith tested... put your job on the line. You want to have your faith tested... put your employment in jeopardy.

Unfortunately, something you're going to find out... as you're all fired up, you're rejuvenated, and you've discovered you're calling into Israel but one of the things that you can discover is not everybody's as excited about it as you are. That's a drag and really lets you down because here you've got this precious pearl, the kingdom of heaven, and you sold everything for this precious pearl. You want to show everybody this pearl and nobody's interested. It's a very sad situation. The people are not going to be interested in your observance of shabbat, especially your employer.

Your employer wants you to work on Saturdays. Those projections need to be met and we've got to please the people of the world. Perhaps you own your own business like I did, and your clients feel that you should be serving them instead of God on shabbat. I can't tell you how many thousands of dollars I lost. But of course, I don't consider it a loss, it was a gain, because I did not compromise shabbat for the world. I did not compromise the commandments of God for the sake of men and their desires.

What do you do when your employer threatens to let you go unless you come to work? Are you going to obey God or are you going to cave to the pressures of the wilderness? Are you going to compromise your faith? You are being tested. What if you stand your ground and then suddenly things get bad, and you lose your job because of your allegiance to God? What if times get tough and you begin to suffer financially? Are you going to cave? Are you going to rely on God Who you're seeking to obey? Or will you obey the world? What is the price you are really willing to pay? One thing I can tell you is God is going to find out how far you're willing to go.

We all may be willing to go so far, but He's going to find out those of you who are not willing to go all the way and to lose everything. What are you going to do when your own family starts to put pressure on you? Let's just say (again utilizing the sabbath for our example), what are you going to do husbands when your wife has tears in her eyes because you refused to go to work on Saturday and you just lost your job? Are you going to cave to the pressures of the wilderness or are you going to stand up and be a spiritual leader?

Maybe it's not the sabbath you struggle with, and your employer is just fine with you keeping the sabbath holy. However, what do you do when they ask you to do something else that is contrary to the word of God. What if what they ask would compromise being a light to the world? An example, for you teachers who are out there, what are you going to do when the system starts requiring you to promote homosexuality in the school systems? Are you going to cave? Are you going to compromise your faith? What are you going to do? Are you going to compromise and roll over and snuff out the light and you keep your job? Are you going to gain the whole world to lose your soul?

We don't want to be like Esau. Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of stew. For fleshly sustenance he sold his birthright. Are you going to sell your birthright for employment? Are you going to sell your birthright for your friends or family? How far are you willing to go? Because make no mistake you're going to be tested. Have we really become so perverse in our faith that we believe our sustenance, our provisions come from our employers? Do we really believe that? Do we really believe our sustenance comes from our clientele or even from the diligence of our own hands rather than the grace of God?

You say, Daniel you don't understand we kept the commandment. We kept the shabbat. We would not compromise the rest of the commandments, the immorality, idolatry, covetousness and guess where it got us. We lost our jobs and now we're losing our house and thanks a lot, now we're losing our friends too. We've lost our money, basically we're losing our ever-loving minds. We've lost everything and we have nothing left.

Well certainly, I don't want you to lose any of these things, but it may be the price you pay to serve Yeshua. I don't know how far He's going to test you and what He's going to expect from you. But one thing I know is we will all have tribulation and every one of us must give 100% of ourselves to Him. There is no compromise. When something conflicts with the word of God or with His commandments let it go and instead of complaining about it like the children of Israel did in the wilderness, turn and give God praise.

I'm really working on this, me not complaining about the little stuff, like about the tech stuff. I'm working on it. Choosing instead to just give God praise. Moses sets a great example for us in Hebrews 11:24-27 it reads, ²⁴By faith Moses when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. ²⁷By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seen Him who is invisible.

Take a lesson from Moses. He forsook Egypt. You are called to forsake the world. He looked for the promises that are going to be. The ones he was assured of. He had faith and he wasn't worried about the wrath of the king. Do not crumble to the fear of what is happening in this country right now. We are not to be children of fear. Power, love, and sound mind, these are the things we are to stand on.

I want to take you back to Israel's journey in the wilderness because I want to give you an update to see how they're faring. In Numbers 21:4-5 it reads, Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people (pay attention) became very discouraged on the way. ⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses. "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread."

You see what's happening here? Israel is losing heart. They're becoming discouraged and impatient. God is not doing what they think He should be doing. Things are not going well. Though the children of Israel had been redeemed by the blood they weren't experiencing this great land flowing with milk and honey as they were promised. Here we see they're complaining they do not have food or water. How many of you have food and water? I think we all do. The LORD tested Israel in the days of the wilderness and we will be tested in our wilderness this day.

Make no mistake, the LORD's testing is the LORD's testing. Why were these things written? According to Paul in Romans 15, they were written for our didascalia, for our learning, our doctrine. The things that were written before are written for you. The way we're reading it today is the intent of Torah was to have scripture work in our lives.

Let's look further at Israel's journey. I'm going to take you to Numbers 14 and we're going to find how the wilderness was getting the better of them. Numbers 14:2-4, ²And all the children of Israel

complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! ³Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" ⁴So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt."

It's horrifying! They are caving to the pressures of the wilderness. They have had everything stripped from them. All the wonderful things they had in Egypt; the melons, the leaks, and so on, all taken from them. And what did they want? Did they want to persevere to the LORD? They wanted to turn back to Egypt. This is what's going to happen as you come to discover your Hebraic roots, you're calling in Israel; Satan is going to seek to get you back. He wants you back and he's going to draw you out. When you're going through all the hardship and tribulation, he's going to tell you, "you don't need this, just come back, go take that job". That job which asks you to compromise your faith in God.

How'd that work out for Lot's wife? She was moving out. She was not supposed to even turn her head and look back. But because her heart was back there, it was back in Sodom, He killed her. She's dead because she turned back. We can never turn back, no matter how bad it gets. And I'm going to tell you, this is my own opinion, I think it's going to get bad in this country really fast.

You need to be prepared and you need to understand, it's going to cost us. You need to understand there's going to be tribulation and hardship. There's going to be tears of sorrow. In Luke 9:62 we read, But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Let that sink in. Lot's wife took her hand off the plow and she looked back. She looked back because her heart was back in Sodom, and she longed for that which the LORD took her out of. The LORD gave her grace. The LORD showed her mercy, but she looked back.

The children in Israel looked back to Egypt. We can't look back because there is no back. I'm going to close with this statement found in Deuteronomy 6:20, ²⁰When your son asks you in time to come, saying, "What is the meaning of these testimonies, the statutes, and the judgments which the LORD our God has commanded you?" It's interesting, this is the way it should be. Your children should be asking you, "Why are you doing these things." "What is the meaning of keeping Pesach? Why do you keep sabbath? Why do you not commit adultery? Why do you not commit sexual immorality? Why are you not doing these things?" They should be prompted. Why? Because their parents are setting an example. We learn in verses 21-25, then you shall say to your son; "we were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand; ²²and the LORD showed signs and wonders before our eyes, great and severe, against Egypt, Pharaoh, in all his household." ²³Then He brought us out from there, that He might bring us in, to give us the land of which He swore to our fathers." ²⁴ "And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day." ²⁵ "Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments before the LORD our God, as He has commanded us."

This is it. We should be teaching our kids about the commandments. They should be asking us why we do these things, and we tell them because Yeshua died for us. We were redeemed by the blood of Yeshua, and we were baptized. Now, because of what He did, we keep His commandments. And what does Yeshua say, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." (John 14:15)