

## TETZAVEH 2018 - Light Evidence that demands a Verdict

Our Jewish Sages always pointed the light in the earthly Mishkan (Tabernacle) toward to the Greater Light, the Messiah that would illumine our minds in revelation and understanding. Or, the Hebrew word for Light or orah the feminine form came to describe the Messiah from the well-known verse found in Beresheet/Genesis 1:4 *"And God saw the light that it was good. Puzzled by this good light that was actually created BEFORE the sun and moon, the Jewish Sages were drawn to another unique light, which David talks about when he says, "In Your light we see light". (Psalm 36:9)*

One Jewish Midrash in Pesikta Rabbati 36:

*"The assembly of Israel said before the Holy One, blessed be he, Master of the world, in the future I will be delighted in your light because of the Torah that you gave me, which is called "fountain of life" (Psalm 36:10). What is the meaning of "In your light we see light? For what light is Israel waiting? This is the light of Messiah as it says, 'And God saw the light that it was good.' This teaches us that the Holy One, blessed be he, observed Messiah and his deeds before the creation of the world and concealed his Messiah under this throne until his generation."*

*"Arise, shine, for your light has come" (Isaiah 60"1). Another Midrash comments: "Our rabbis taught when Messiah is revealed, he will stand on the roof of the Temple and say to Israel: Humble ones, your time of redemption has come. And if you cannot believe, see the light that has shone upon you, for it was said," Arise, shine, for your light has come." And only upon you he shone and not upon the nations of the world since it says: "For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and the deep darkness the people, but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you." (Isaiah 60:2)*

These interpretations suggest that this hidden light of Messiah can **only be seen by the righteous**, who will be the ones to enjoy his goodness, as it says: *"How abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you."* (Psalm 31:19). The Hebrew for "have in store" means "hidden; hence the conclusion of this Scripture is that this Good Light, the Light of Messiah is **hidden only** from those who do not want to see Him.

Therefore it makes common sense what the Apostle Paul, Shaul stated to the Corinthians: *"On the contrary, we are communicating a secret wisdom from God which has been hidden until now but which, before history began. ...It is to us, however, that God has revealed these things. How? Through the Spirit. For the Spirit probes all things, even the profoundest depths of God. No one knows the inner workings of God except God's Spirit. Now we have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit of God, so that we might understand the things God has so freely given us. Now the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God – to him they are nonsense! Moreover, he is unable to grasp them, because they are evaluated through the Spirit."* 1 Cor.2:7-16

Matthew reminds us in the parable found in 13:44- The Kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. A man found it, hid it again, then in great joy went and sold everything he owned and bought the field. This treasure is the redemption that is brought from the Light of Messiah, Yeshua.

It's recorded many parables in the Gospels. Matthew 13:34 makes it clear:

Matthew 13:10-17 Complete Jewish Bible (CJB)

*"Then the talmidim came and asked Yeshua, "Why are you speaking to them in parables?" "He answered, "Because it has been **given to you to know the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but it has not been given to them.** "12For anyone who has something will be given more, so that he will have plenty; but from anyone who has nothing, even what he does have will be taken away. "13Here is why I speak to them in parables: they look **without seeing** and listen without hearing or understanding. "14That is, in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Yesha'yahu which says,*

***'You will keep on hearing but never understand,  
and keep on seeing but never perceive,***

***"15because the heart of this people has become dull –  
with their ears they barely hear,  
and their eyes they have closed,  
so as not to see with their eyes,***

***hear with their ears, understand with their heart,  
and do t'shuvah, so that I could heal them.'***

*"16But you, how blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear! "17Yes indeed! I tell you that many a prophet and many a tsaddik longed to see the*

*things you are seeing but did not see them, and to hear the things you are hearing but did not hear them.*

*All these things Yeshua said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without using a parable. <sup>35</sup>This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet,*

***"I will open my mouth in parables, I will say what has been hidden since the creation of the universe."***<sup>13</sup>

**So let us review:**

- The Holy One, blessed be he, observed Messiah and his deeds before the creation of the world and concealed his Messiah under this throne until his generation."
- "Arise, shine, for your light has come" Humble ones, your time of redemption has come. And if you cannot believe, see the light that has shone upon you
- This hidden light of Messiah can only be seen by the righteous.
- The Light of Messiah is **hidden only** from those who do not want to see Him.
- The secret wisdom from God which has been hidden until now but which, before history began, is revealed through the Spirit. But not to every man or woman who does not receive the things of the Spirit of God – for them they are nonsense!
- Yeshua said, "Because it has been ***given to you to know the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but it has not been given to them.*** For they look ***without seeing*** and listen without hearing or understanding.

This explains why the hidden light of Messiah can only be seen by the righteous. For the righteous people search for the Light. The righteous are trimming their wicks and filling their lamps with the oil of the Holy Spirit. The righteous seek to do what's right, not wrong. The righteous people seek humility. The righteous seek truth. The righteous seek the narrow road that leads to eternal life and forfeit the wide road that leads to destruction.

The Light of Messiah shines the Evidence through us that demands a Verdict for all others to make. We either are followers of Yeshua, the Light of the World or we are self-seekers in religious deception! Where is the evidence that you are a believer of the Concealed Light of the Messiah? Can anyone see the radiance and smell the aroma of the Anointed One in your life. What's the verdict? Is there enough evidence in your life that separates you from the world? Is there enough evidence that you are Torah seekers of truth? Is there enough evidence that you are filled of His Holy Spirit that knows the depths of God Himself? Are there fruits of the Holy Spirit evident in your life? Are there gifts of the Holy Spirit that works in your midst for the

Kingdom of Heaven? Have you discovered the treasure and sold everything to enjoy it? Where is your light of Messiah?

Since the destruction of the Temple in 70 C.E. it has been a custom that a Ner Tamid, an eternal light, shines in the sanctuary of every synagogue. Both the continuing fire that burned in the Tabernacle in biblical times and the synagogue lamp that carries its name today are the **symbol of God's presence**. It has also been my understanding that the Ner Tamid, the Eternal Light, is not only an affirmation of the presence of God, but also a confirmation of the presence of a Messianic community. If there are not Jews tending to the Ner Tamid, the light will go out. In biblical days someone had to trim the wicks and bring the oil.

What is the reason for this light designated to shine from dusk to dawn?

- ❖ One thing is clear, the *Ner Tamid* was not meant to meet the needs of Hashem! Rather the light was meant to remind Israel of its reciprocal relationship of love with the Creator of the world, who redeemed them from Egyptian's bondage.
- ❖ Another understanding is that the *Ner Tamid* is an ongoing reminder of the presence of Hashem that went before Israel and could be seen by all who transversed the highways and byways of the Sinai wilderness.
- ❖ It is as though the perpetual flame was not only a reminder to Israel of God's love and protection for them, but also a sign to everyone of Hashem's covenant with Israel, a covenant grounded in love, grace, Spirit and Torah.

We are beyond blessed, praises and privilege to be able to see the Concealed Light of Yeshua our Messiah. Not many can see or find the road that leads to the light because they are not looking to do what is right in their lives. They are not looking to be righteous. What's the use of putting on the robe of righteousness if someone does not want to be righteous in the first place? This was the problem with Israel. God wanted to bring them into the Covenant God in righteousness, but they had to choose and say yes to the Covenant's commandments to pursue righteousness. If you are not pursuing right living, then the Commandants will not serve any purpose for you.

However, it is because we are seeking righteousness through the Covenant of Yeshua that we can see light in His Light. It is our challenge and responsibility as a Messianic community to demonstrate that we have found the Concealed Light, Yeshua. We continue to mature in that Light and continue to seek right behavior by applying the Commandments of God. As a result, others can give their verdict: Are we true followers of Yeshua or not. In the conclusion of this matter, "Let us "Arise, shine, for our light has truly come"!