Behold, your King is coming to you: Zechariah's Palm Sunday prophecy

(<u>Zechariah 9</u>; <u>Luke 19:28-48</u>) 5783 B"H

It is already nearly Palm Sunday and <u>Passover</u>! We still have snow on the ground here in the northwoods, but the joy of our Savior's <u>Resurrection</u> warms our hearts and helps us remember that the spring flowers are just about to burst forth.

- Zekharyah: God remembers
- Our Humble King, Owner of all things
- Luke describes the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem
- Shalom in Heaven and Glory in the Highest!
- Rejoice Greatly and Shout

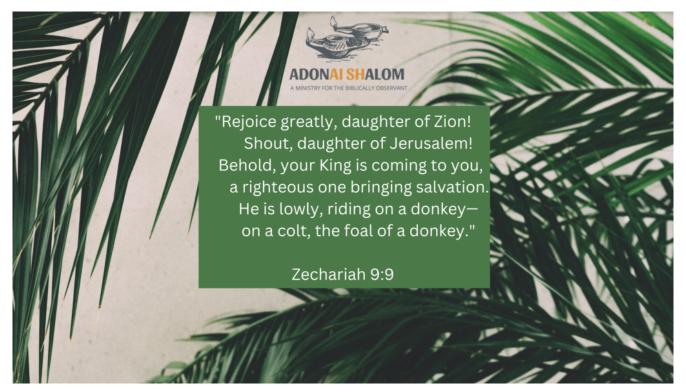
Zekharyah: God remembers

Have you ever read the full prophecy found in **Zechariah 9**?

The Hebrew name "Zekharyah" means "God remembers."

God remembers His people, He remembers His promises, and prophecy is fulfilled precisely because the LORD has spoken and His Word will not return void (<u>Isaiah 55:11</u>).

The chapter begins with judgment on Israel's enemies — highly appropriate given the promise of Zion's Coming King who would defeat evil. God remembered all that Israel had endured and reassured them that He would send the Righteous One.

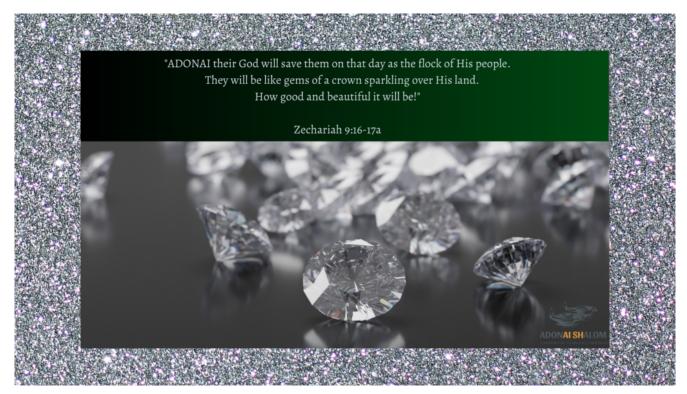


Zechariah 9:9-17 contains the prophecies that were fulfilled on Palm Sunday. Additionally, this passage prophesies that the coming King would speak shalom and salvation to the nations:

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Rejoice greatly, daughter of Zion!
        Shout, daughter of Jerusalem!
   Behold, your King is coming to you,
        a righteous one bringing salvation.
       He is lowly, riding on a donkey-
       on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
I will banish chariots from Ephraim
       and horses from Jerusalem.
        and the war bow will be broken.
   He will speak shalom to the nations.
   His rule will extend from sea to sea.
   from the River to the ends of the earth.
As for you also, by the blood of your covenant,
        I will release your prisoners from the waterless Pit.
Return to the stronghold, you prisoners of hope!
    Today I declare that I will restore twice as much to you.
I will bend Judah as my bow
        and fill it with Ephraim.
 I will rouse your sons, O Zion
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against your sons, O Greece.
   I will wield you like a warrior's sword.
Then ADONAI will be seen over them
   as His arrow flashes like lightning.
ADONAI Elohim will blow the shofar
   and march in whirlwinds of the south.
ADONAI TZVA'OT will defend them.
They will consume and conquer with sling stones.
They will drink and roar as with wine
       and be filled like a bowl,
       like the corners of the altar.
ADONAI their God will save them on that day
       as the flock of His people.
They will be like gems of a crown
      sparkling over His land.
How good and beautiful it will be!
   Grain will make the young men thrive
        and new wine the virgin women." Zechariah 9:9-17,
emphases added
Isn't this beautiful to picture?
"They will be like gems of a crown sparkling over His land."
Zechariah 9:16b
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He loves you so much you sparkle like a regal gem!



As you can see, this Bible passage describes the overwhelming and awesome power of the LORD Most High. His arrows flash like lightning and shofars will sound and the LORD of the Armies will defend us. It is really impactful to dwell on this passage for a time. Meditate on God's Word! You will always be blessed.

Our Humble King, Owner of all things

Do you notice that the <u>Zechariah</u> passage ends with all such fanfare and victorious imagery, but it sure didn't start out that way. It tells about a lowly Man, riding on a donkey. But, despite the humbleness of the passage, it does make a bold announcement:

"Behold, your King is coming to you." Zechariah 9:9



What a statement!

The King was coming! And not just any King — your King. The One who will hold out His scepter of righteous forgiveness and allow you into His Presence with all-consuming love, mercy, and passion.

Do you need to hear that today?

Do you need to know that there is One who holds all Authority, the Majestic King of all kings, and He is coming once again? No one knows the day or the hour of Yeshua's (Jesus') Second Coming, but I can assure you this: He is coming back for His own.

As Zechariah records, Messiah Yeshua (Jesus Christ our Lord) is the Righteous One and He is bringing salvation. He will save you, deliver you, and set you free of your burdens and your sins and even the curse and sting of death. He will give you new life, if you will trust in Him today with all your heart.

<u>Luke</u> documented the fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy that the Messiah would ride on a colt. (<u>Luke 19:30ff</u>).

I love how the owners of the colt ask the two disciples in <u>Luke 19</u>, "Why are you untying the colt?" Luke 19:33

That was a reasonable question. The disciples didn't own the colt, but the Master, the LORD Himself can given them permission to take it! They were instructed to simply say,

"The LORD has need of him." (Luke 19:34, NKJV).

"The Master needs it." (Luke 19:34, TLV).

God owns everything, so He owned that young donkey, too.

The LORD needed the donkey because He was absolutely fulfilling in every minute detail the words of <u>Zechariah</u>'s triumphal prophecy.

Luke describes the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

Even though our LORD chose to use a lowly donkey as His transportation into Jerusalem, the events of that first Palm Sunday were far from lowly.

During what is commonly described as "the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem," there was now a full multitude of people who would consider themselves Yeshua's (Jesus') disciples. They were celebrating because they knew He was the Anointed One, the Promised King!

Scripture says that they praised God with a loud voice!

Do you, too, praise Him with a loud voice?

Do you let it be known that you and your household serve this King?

"When Yeshua came near the slope of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began to rejoice. They praised God

with a loud voice for all the miracles they had seen, saying,

"Blessed is the King who comes in the name of ADONAI!"

Shalom in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Some of the Pharisees from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples!"

But answering, Yeshua said, "I tell you that if these keep silent, the stones will shout out!"

As He drew near and saw Jerusalem, He wept over her, saying, "If only you had recognized this day the things that lead to shalom! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you when your enemies will surround you with barricades and hem you in on all sides. And they will smash you to the ground—you and your children within you. And they won't leave within you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation." (Luke 19:37-45).

Blessed is the King!

What has often become a repetitive custom to say, "Baruch habab'Shem Adonai" was in that moment the most powerful declaration of allegiance and praise!

Shalom in Heaven and Glory in the Highest!



Shalom in heaven!

Glory in the Highest!

Doesn't that reach the depths of your heart?

The joy of knowing the King of kings has come!

I imagine the overwhelming experiential joy that the disciples must have been feeling at that moment!

The Pharisees missed the mark and wanted to hear a public rebuke.

But Yeshua (Jesus) knew the condition of their hearts.

He wept over the Holy City, knowing that despite their daily greetings to one another saying, "Shalom," they truly didn't understand shalom.

More than a greeting and more than a temporary condition, true shalom comes only from being in right relationship with the Holy One, learning to love and seeking His mercy. Keeping every jot and tittle of the law could not save the people. They needed to know the Lord of Shalom.

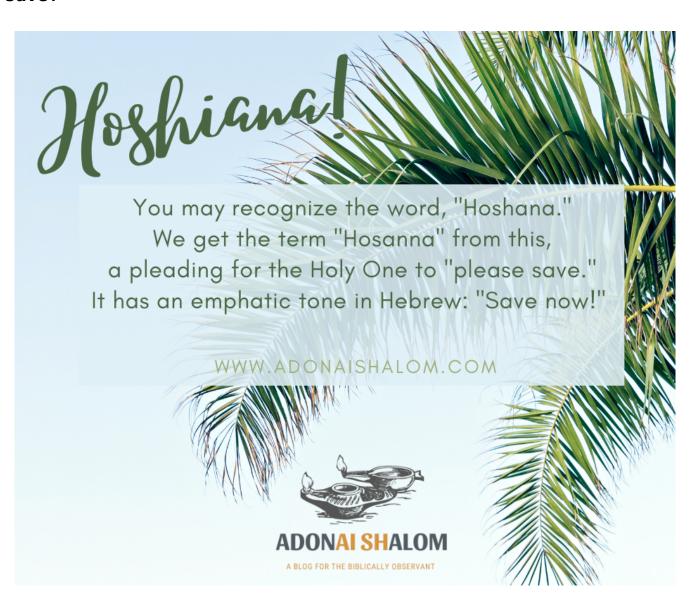
Rejoice Greatly and Shout

Zechariah 9:9 proclaims we are to rejoice greatly and shout because of the announcement of the Coming King!

As we enter this Holy time of Passover and celebrating the FirstFruits of the Resurrection, I pray you will rejoice greatly. That you will not be ashamed to shout praises unto God Most High!

The tomb is empty. Our King will return!

Celebrate! And may we pray for those who do not yet know Him. That they, too, would shout "Hoshiana!" (Hosanna!): Please, save!



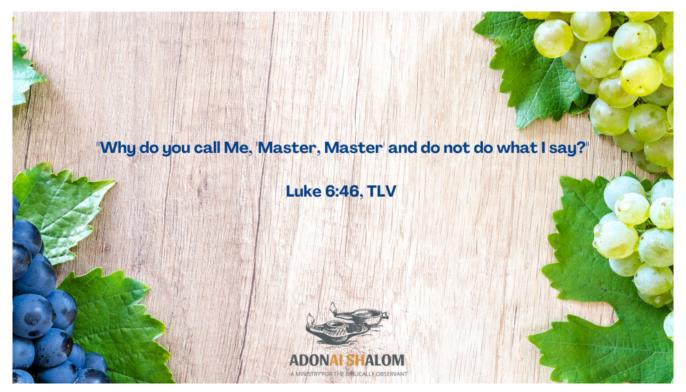
How firm is your foundation?

(<u>Luke 6</u>) 5783 B"H

<u>Luke 6:46</u> stood out to me today in my reading. It is part of the Sermon on the Plain, a fairly well-known passage that echoes the Sermon on the Mount, but goes beyond what we would call "beatitudes" and includes woes and warnings to ensure that God's people seek to build their faith upon a firm foundation.

A Direct Question

"Why do you call me, '"'Master, Master' and do not do what I say?" Luke 6:46, TLV



Yeshua (Jesus) is our Master, our LORD. Many of us are familiar with the New King James translation:

"But why do you call Me 'LORD, LORD,' and not do the things

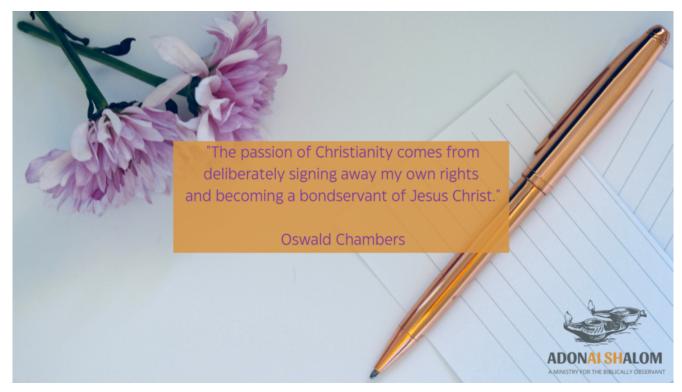
which I say?" Luke 6:46, NKJV

He is LORD, and we are not.

Therefore, as followers of our Almighty and Merciful Savior, we are to very intentionally become *servants* of our Master Yeshua (Jesus).

Deliberate Faith

<u>Oswald Chambers</u>, a Scottish Baptist-Holiness evangelist, used the term "deliberately" to describe the relationship we are to be in: "The passion of Christianity comes from deliberately signing away my own rights and becoming a bondservant of Jesus Christ."



Peter described himself this way:

"Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ . . ."
2 Peter 1:1

This is all remarkably countercultural, of course.

The world seeks increase, but as John would preach, we must

decrease (John 3:30).

Yeshua (Jesus) asks a very direct, but entirely fair question:

You call Me your LORD and your Master, so why don't you do what I tell you to do?

Why don't you do what I say?

Obedience

There are instances when we know we should have done one thing, but did another.

Times when we knew God was leading us in a certain direction, but we either ignorantly failed to really tune into His voice or we very deliberately or defiantly chose to ignore His leading.

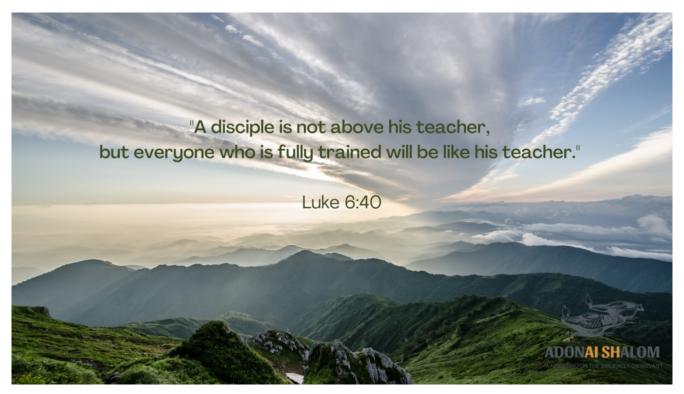
Yet our Savior Yeshua (Jesus) died so we could be in relationship with Him. He gave His life so we could confidently live our lives knowing this life is not the end.

He simply asks us to obey Him.

Our Perfect Teacher

He is our Master as well as our Teacher:

"A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher." Luke 6:40



There is great truth in that statement.

If you have been taught by God-fearing men and women, you will learn to emulate them.

If you have been taught by the arrogant, a twinge of that arrogance will probably brush off on you.

As followers of the Perfect Teacher, we should absolutely be hearing His voice and seeking to be just like Him. That His Words would be our words and we would speak Truth and Life, Love, and the message of Salvation.

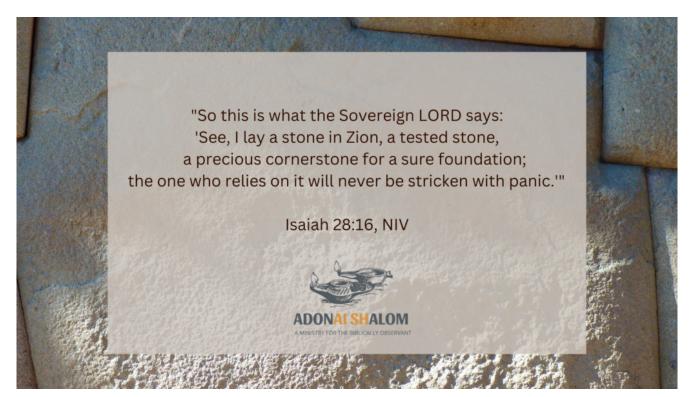
Yeshua (Jesus) taught using stories. This helps us visualize the lesson He is trying to help us to understand:

"Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin

A Firm Foundation

Throughout the Scriptures, the LORD emphasizes the need for us to have a solid <u>foundation</u>:

"So this is what the Sovereign LORD says:



As someone who fights an ongoing war with anxiety, I love the translation here in the NIV. We who rely on our Savior, our sure Foundation, will **never be "stricken with panic."** Our faith must help us win every battle! Anxiousness really has no place in the life of a believer so it is a battle we must fight and trust Him to help us win. "... God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7.



I am also a person who has a ton of faith. I've seen enough miracles to know His mighty power is still working today. Faith, built on a firm foundation will take you so very far and you will witness so many glorious works of the LORD.

Are you praying today for a loved one to be saved?

Trust in the LORD! Have faith!

Build your prayer life upon His promises and maintain a firm foundation.

No matter what comes up against you, you will prevail if you continue to build up your faith by reading God's Word, listening to His voice, and obeying Him!

Rebuilding the Foundational Wall of Jerusalem

When <u>Nehemiah</u> oversaw the rebuilding of the wall in Jerusalem, there was adversity:

"But it so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were

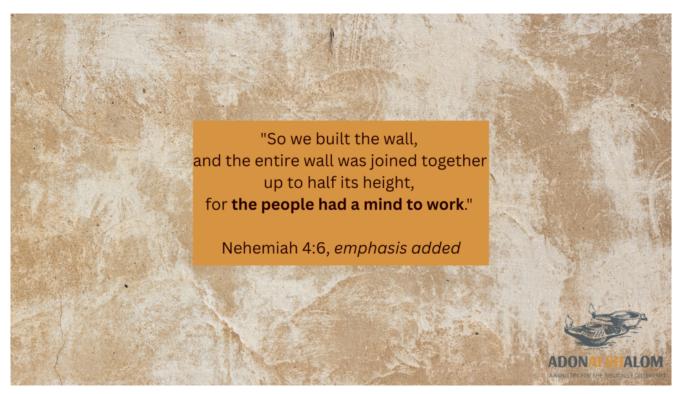
rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews. And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish—stones that are burned?" Nehemiah 4:1-2

Nehemiah was not deterred.

Nehemiah had a firm foundation, the anchor of his soul: he loved the LORD and wanted to do all he could to serve Him:

"So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work."

Nehemiah 4:6



The people had a mind to work.

When those who love the LORD set their minds to work for His Kingdom, amazing things can happen. Let those naysayers be, and keep working for the LORD. He will bless you and keep you safe from all harm because your foundation is found in Him.

Our Chief Cornerstone

"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit." (Ephesians 2:19:21, emphasis added)

Messiah Yeshua (Jesus Christ) is our Chief Cornerstone and our faith is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets.

When we are firm in our faith and understanding, we realize that we — together with God's people all around the world of every nation, tribe, tongue — we comprise the temple, spiritually now. Our body, the Body of Christ, the Body of Messiah, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, (1 Corinthians 6:19).

The Importance of Teaching our Children

"And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying: "Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe, and command them, saying, 'Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.' "

Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, one man from every tribe; and Joshua said to them: "Cross over before the ark of the Lord your God

into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever." Joshua 4:1-7 (emphasis added).

This account from Joshua (Yehoshua) is a perfect example of attention devoted to children. The Israelites were journeying, they were tired, they had to contend with their fears and foes, and yet the LORD inspired Joshua to instruct the twelve men to carry a stone that would serve as an object lesson "in time to come" when the children asked about the significance of the stones.

Have you invested time into <u>training up your children</u> to know the history of their faith?

Do you come from a blessed background in which you grew up knowing about Jesus?

Not everyone grew up with a firm foundation, but we can all work to change that for future generations.

When you children ask in time to come all the details of faith, may the story of Joshua be included, for those stones began to lay a foundation even there in the wilderness.

How firm is YOUR foundation?

Is your faith truly founded on the Rock who is our LORD?

Are you in true relationship with the LORD of all, the One who came to save you?

I love this hymn and want to share it with you today, that it would bless you. Take some time to pray and ask the LORD to confirm to you that your foundation is secure! May you be most especially blessed today, dear friend!

<u>Leviticus and Children's Ministry</u>

What will be written on the gates in New Jerusalem?

D'varim and Deliverance in Luke 4

(Luke 4; Va'etchanan (D'varim/Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11) B"H 5783

The Word of God provides for our deliverance from ha-satan's attacks. Today, we look at how our Savior used Scripture during the wilderness temptation in Luke 4 to cause the enemy to flee!

- The enemy's limited tactics: he waits for us to be weak
- Trials, tests, and temptation: augmented when hungry!
- How our LORD responded to temptation using D'varim
 - Attack/Temptation #1
 - Attack/Temptation #2
 - Attack/Temptation #3
- The devil was left speechless

The enemy's limited tactics: he waits for us to be weak

Have you ever noticed that the enemy of our souls preys upon us in our weak moments?

David certainly knew it:

"For the enemy has persecuted my soul;

He has crushed my life to the ground;

He has made me dwell in darkness,

Like those who have long been dead.

Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me;

My heart within me is distressed." Psalm 143:3-4, NKJV

When we are at our best, fully confident of our place as children of the Most High God because of what our Savior and Messiah Jesus (Yeshua) has done for us and we are walking in the anointing of the Holy Spirit (Ruach haKodesh) — it is much more difficult for ha-satan (satan) to attack. When we are physically healthy and strong, it is also more difficult for the enemy to attack because our alertness is at a peak — we are prayed-up and fighting off those enemy darts!

So why does the devil have difficulty attacking?

The devil is limited!

Unlike ADONAI Tzva'ot (the LORD of Hosts),

the devil is

not omnipotent

not omnipresent

not omniscient.

Like any mediocre warrior, the devil waits for **you** to feel weak, and then he strikes.

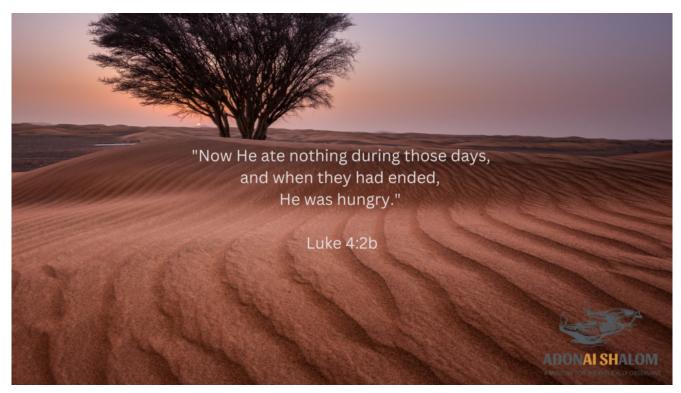
Trials, tests, and temptation: augmented when hungry!

It was no different when our Savior walked the earth.

Yeshua (Jesus) was led by the Holy Spirit (Ruach haKodesh) into the desert wilderness for forty days.

Notice that <u>Luke</u>, a <u>trained physician</u>, mentions the physical hunger that Yeshua (Jesus) was experiencing:

"Now He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He was hungry." Luke 4:2b



Our LORD Yeshua (Jesus), fully-God, fully-man was experiencing true physical hunger.

How do you feel when you are hungry?

It often depends on the day or the circumstances, but I observe that hunger can cause all sorts of issues:

tiredness

irritability

inability to think clearly without distraction

generalized weakness

Symptoms of hunger can make a person susceptible to giving into temptation.

Have you ever promised you would fast, and the first thing that happens when you begin is someone offers you the most decadent dessert or invites you out to eat?

Or maybe something less spiritual.

Maybe you simply want to keep a diet.

You commit to eating your salad greens and limiting your consumption of deep-fried deliciousness, but as soon as you get out of your car when you are heading to work or school you smell the most wonderful scent of fried chicken or some other fast food you love.

The devil knows this. As soon as Yeshua (Jesus) had completed his forty day fast in the wilderness, *hasatan* jumped at the opportunity to tempt *Ben-Elohim*, the Son of God.

How our LORD responded to temptation using D'varim

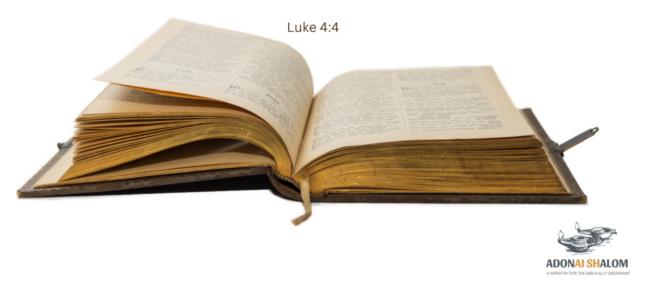
Attack/Temptation #1

"And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." Luke 4:3

Our LORD Yeshua (Jesus) responded using His knowledge of *Torah* (Pentateuch) and more precisely, the book of "*D'varim*," which translates as the book of "Words." (We know it as "Deuteronomy"):

"But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' " Luke 4:4

"But Jesus answered him, saying,
"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word of God.'"



The LORD Yeshua (Jesus) quoted the Words:

"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." D'varim/Deuteronomy 8:3, emphasis added

Attack/Temptation #2

"Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." Luke 4:5-7

How did our Wise and Holy Savior Yeshua (Jesus) respond? Again with a passage from *Torah*, specifically Deuteronomy:

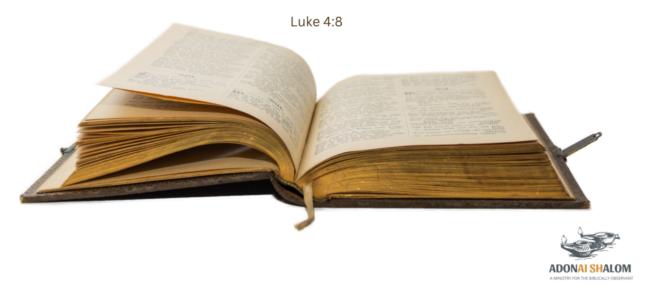
"And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan!

For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.' " Luke 4:8, emphasis added

"And Jesus answered and said to him,

"Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written,

'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

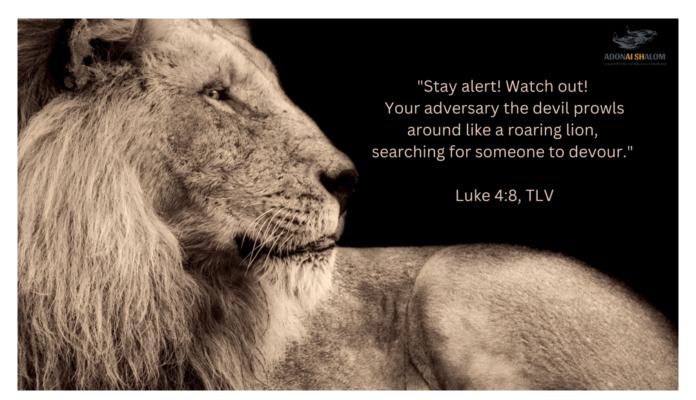


But notice here: **before quoting Scripture this time, our Messiah addressed the devil directly, ordering him to "Get thee behind."**

This is important for us today because the devil continues to be a bother.

The devil's attacks are vicious and he looks for whom he may devour:

"Stay alert! Watch out! Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, searching for someone to devour." Luke 4:8, TLV



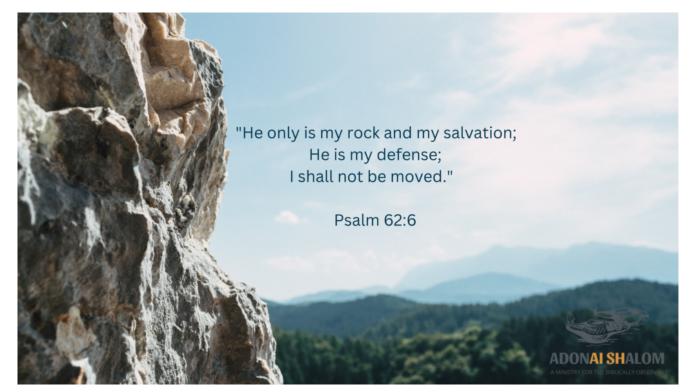
It is critical to put on the armor of God!

Keep it shined up and ready for battle, not rusting away in a closet somewhere!

"Put on the full armor of God, so that you are able to stand against the schemes of the devil." Ephesians 6:11

Deliverance is dependent upon confessing trust in the Liberator — the God of Israel and His Son Yeshua (Jesus) — and upon knowing the Word and how to use it! Remember, the LORD is your defense and He has provided His Incarnate Word to lead us to victory.

"He only is my rock and my salvation;
He is my defense;
I shall not be moved." Psalm 62:6



Another point of note: during the second temptation, hasatan adds pressure to his demand by citing his own (limited) authority. This tactic is further augmented in the third temptation as we will see.

Attack/Temptation #3

"Then he brought Yeshua to Jerusalem and placed Him on the highest point of the Temple. He said to Him, 'If You are Ben-Elohim, throw Yourself down from here.'" Luke 4:9

If you noticed that the devil cited his own authority in the second temptation, notice that in the third temptation he goes so far as to cite the *LORD's* own authority by using Scripture, specifically Psalm 91:

"For it is written:

'He shall give His angels charge over you,

To keep you,' and,

'In their hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' " Luke 4:10-11

The devil is desperate!

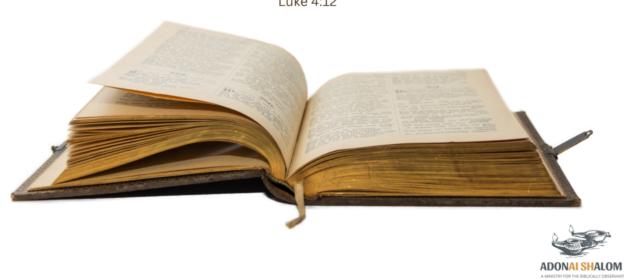
Surely, the devil doesn't appreciate Scripture because he knows his future is sealed.

Yet hasatan (satan) will do absolutely anything and everything just for the chance to make a person fall into sin and destruction, and ultimately death.

The LORD again cites <u>D'varim</u>. <u>Deuteronomy 6:16</u>:

"And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.' " Luke 4:12

"And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.' "



Luke 4:12

You shall not tempt the LORD your God.

Yeshua (Jesus) is reaffirming that the LORD is God and that even the devil must acknowledge that Truth.

The devil was left speechless

Do you notice that after each Scriptural response, the devil had no comeback?

That ugly serpent couldn't come up with a suitable

counterargument.

So he left. Only for the time being, but the point is — the devil had to flee because he is put to shame by the power of the Word of God.

So be sure to study the Word for yourself!

Here is a wonderful song that can help you memorize Psalm 62:

When the devil wants to come against you, stand firm on the Truth of Scripture and he will have to leave you alone.

Let us look to our Almighty Savior for the best example of what to do when the devil wants to confuse us or twist Scripture for his own benefit. Know the Word for yourself and stand firm in your faith!