

A young Israelite slave girl's great faith and love + check out my Guest Post at A Child Shall Lead Them blog

5784 B"H

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About two weeks ago, I was so blessed to be invited to Guest Post for the [A Child Shall Lead Them](#) blog about the Israelite slave girl mentioned in [2 Kings 5](#). You can find that post at this [link](#).

[*The Israelite Slave Girl-Children in the Bible*](#)

Children in the Bible series

It was a neat challenge for me because I am not typically very involved in "children's ministry" per se.

But I *do* have children, so I do know that sometimes we need to break the Scriptures down into manageable segments for the youngest among us!

And sometimes, even we adults need the same.

Analyzing small segments of Scripture

Breaking down a passage into manageable segments does not have to mean missing out on the incredible depth and richness of Scripture!

In fact, **analyzing small segments of the Scriptures is actually a marker of careful study**, and provides such impactful results in the life of any follower of our Savior and Messiah Jesus.

If your schedule is super busy and you feel frazzled, this is great news for you! You don't have to read pages and pages of the Bible to learn and to study (although I will never discourage anyone from doing so!). Often, one single verse is enough to meditate on for days, even weeks when you invite the Holy Spirit (*Ruach haKodesh*) to illumine your mind and heart to the multifaceted meaning of the Word of God.

Scripture was written for you and for me. Those who were inspired by the Holy Spirit to record what they had seen and heard, like [Dr. Luke the physician](#) who authored the Gospel bearing his name, wrote so that you and I ["may know for sure the Truth of the words you have been taught."](#) ([Luke 1:4 TLV](#)). [Every single Word of the Bible is absolutely 100% inspired and perfect and without error.](#)

It is a privilege to be able to access the Scriptures in so many translations, so we should respond in great gratitude by studying and learning every day so we can continually grow in our relationship with God.

Like I said in that guest post, I love to learn about some of the lesser-known figures in the Bible. Though mentioned only in a single verse or two, their story and legacy is important enough they still made it into the pages of the sacred Scriptures!

One such individual is the young Israelite slave girl mentioned in [2 Kings 5:2-4](#). She only gets two verses! But two are at least two!

Don't ever think you are insignificant.



You might think you are making a very small difference, either in the life of your family or in your community, but if you are a person who seeks the LORD with all your heart and desire to serve Him each and every day, you are much more significant than you realize.

Naaman and a young Israelite slave girl's faith

"Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but a leper.

And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife.

Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy." And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel." 2 Kings 5:1-5, NKJV, emphases added

As I wrote in my guest post, Naaman the Syrian was a decorated soldier who served as the commander of the Syrian king's army.

We see in the Scripture passage that the king of Syria revered him, calling him "great and honorable" and the LORD even gave Naaman's country victory in battle.

I also pointed out that even the bravest and strongest of men can endure the greatest of difficulties: in this case, Naaman was suffering from leprosy.

At that time, leprosy was truly an isolating and painful condition, a disease seen as without remedy.

Yet the Bible shows us that when find ourselves quarantined and isolated, fearful and rejected, we are never without hope.

I imagine that Naaman was going through a dark time in his life. He was a conqueror, but now he probably felt like the disease was conquering him. It was something that would have damaged his reputation and his future goals. It was something that would have damaged his marital life. Perhaps Naaman had had to move out.

The Syrians had captured and enslaved the young Israelite girl mentioned in the passage, but surprisingly this sweet girl does not demonstrate any resentment. Instead, she chooses to be a witness in faith – she shows genuine concern for her master, Naaman!

The “If” of Faith

“If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy.” 2 Kings 5:3



If.

If only.

“If” is such a short word, but it can change an entire outcome and outlook.

“If” is a word for people who know how to dream, to look beyond what our natural eyes can see. “If only” there could be a change. “If only” I believe! “If only” our God will work on our behalf!

He will!

He absolutely will!

“If” becomes “Yes and Amen” when we believe.

“If” we dare to seek God’s vision in our lives, we will see results of our faith – we will begin to see healings and

miracles and walk in victory.

The Israelite slave girl knew that *if* a true prophet of God were around, surely Naaman could be healed. She didn't doubt – and did you notice? There's no “maybe” in that verse. It is a verse of faith. This young captive girl knew there existed hope for her master.

She was able to find love in her heart to care enough that her master receive a healing miracle.

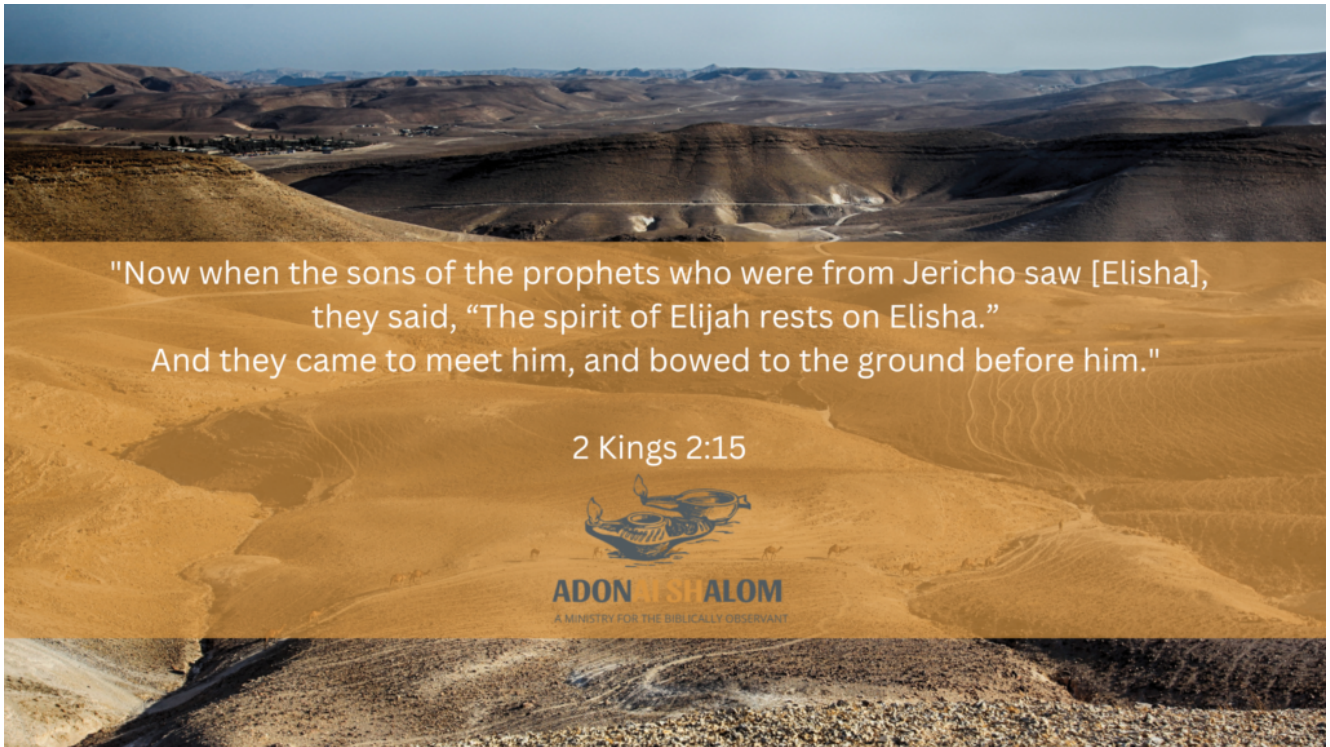
Elisha the Prophet and Miracle-Worker

I mentioned in my [post](#) for the [children's blog](#) that the Bible indicates that Elijah's successor, Elisha, was gaining quite a reputation in Israel – both as a prophet and miracle-worker. This Israelite slave girl had somehow either heard about or seen firsthand the wonders occurring in Israel through Elisha's ministry prior to becoming enslaved.

The sons of the prophets had witnessed Elisha's early miracle-working power.

Well, many of those sons would have had wives and children and so word would have quickly gotten around. Israel wasn't a huge place, after all. You know how fast rumors spread, and this rumor just happened to be true!

[“Now when the sons of the prophets who were from Jericho saw \[Elisha\], they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” And they came to meet him, and bowed to the ground before him.” 2 Kings 2:15](#)



Israel has always been such a unique place. Miracles were occurring, people were talking, and even a child like this slave girl had seen or witnessed the power of God.

It amazes me . . . *no, more like "dismays me"*! that there are many people who do not believe God is still working miracles today.

If He was willing to work in Israel in a miraculous way *before* the redemption won on the cross of Calvary by our Lord Jesus (Yeshua haMashiach), surely He is willing to work in miraculous ways today!

The slave girl may or may not have seen a miracle first hand, but she absolutely believed in miracles.

She knew a miracle could be waiting, even for her foreign master.

Do you have confident faith?

I love how this passage, short as it is, proves that the Israelite slave girl had confident faith.

It may be redundant to say “confident faith” because true faith *must* be confident!

But I urge you: be confident in the One in whom you have placed your trust!

Have great confidence in all of the promises that He has given you!

Trust and be confident – have a righteous certainty that the LORD God Almighty absolutely can and will work in your life and use you for His glory!

Be confident that even if you find yourself feeling bound or enslaved, He has the power to set you free and help you to love even those who have persecuted you.

What a mighty God we serve!

When you learn to love others, your own faith will grow, and like the servant girl, you will see the hand of God work in your life.

Love others today!

The Israelite slave girl concerned herself for the need of her master rather than her own predicament.

If I can give you one challenge today it is: love others. Be intentional. When someone crosses your path ... and maybe it's on the highway and you're upset about it, pray for them.

There may be someone who you would never expect to follow God or love Him, but maybe, just maybe, they will see the love of God in you, and want to follow after Him, too.

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob . . . and Nathanael

Parashat *Vayetzei* *[Vayetze]*
([B'reishit/Genesis 28:10-32:3](#)) 5783 B"H

*How does Jacob's life and story relate to Nathanael in [John 1](#)?
Find out in today's Bible study!*

A Dysfunctional Family

Yaakov (Jacob) wasn't the most honest guy in the Bible.

But he also wasn't from the most "righteous" immediate family. In fact, we could describe his family (like so many) as quite dysfunctional.

You do know that our families of origin do have some influence on our behaviors as much as we wish that weren't the case!

Now, we are not going to "excuse" Yaakov in this study.

Regardless of our upbringing, every single one of us must acknowledge our sinful behaviors and turn from those evil ways in repentance.

Yaakov's behavior was not righteous nor godly, yet we will discover that despite his failings, God chose to use him.

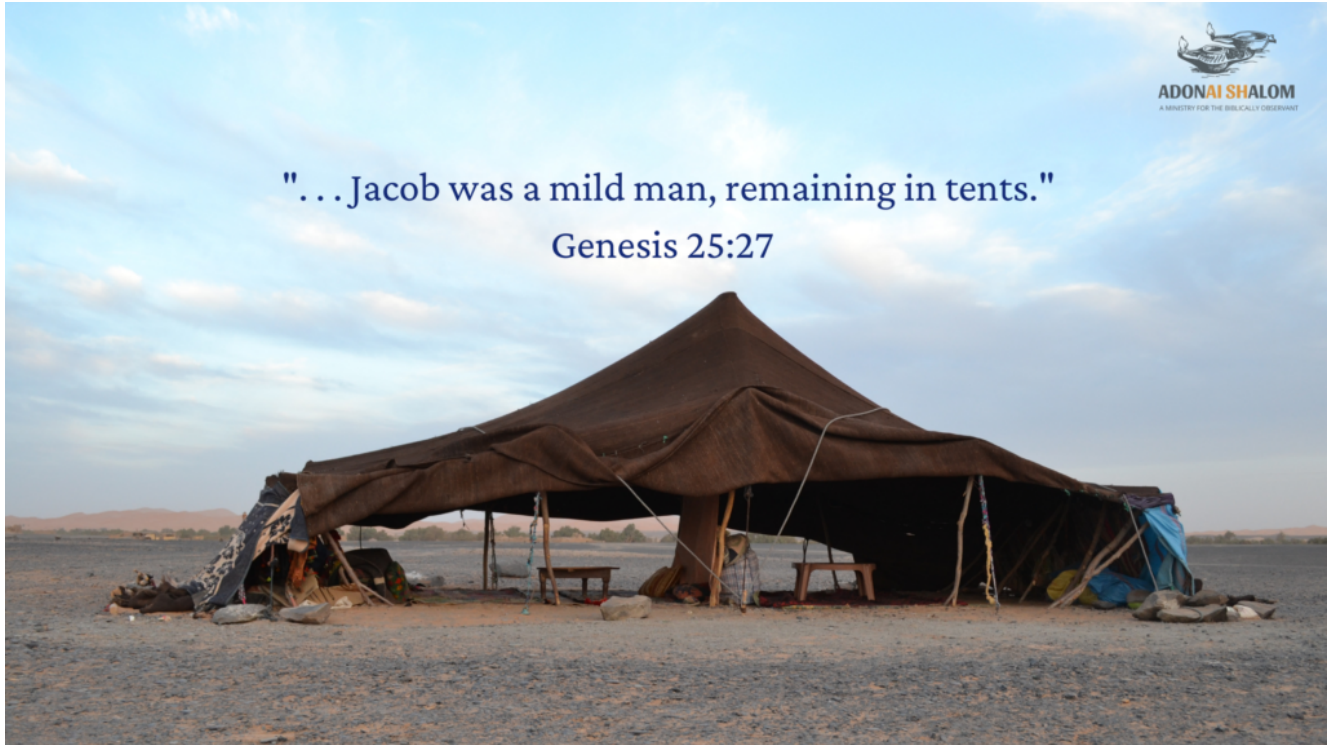
So, just know this – no matter what, God can use you, too, my friend.

Twins with little to nothing in common

The Bible describes Yaakov (Jacob) as a "mild man," who "remain[ed] in tents." ([Genesis 25:27](#)).

In modern language, we'd say Yaakov was a "homebody."

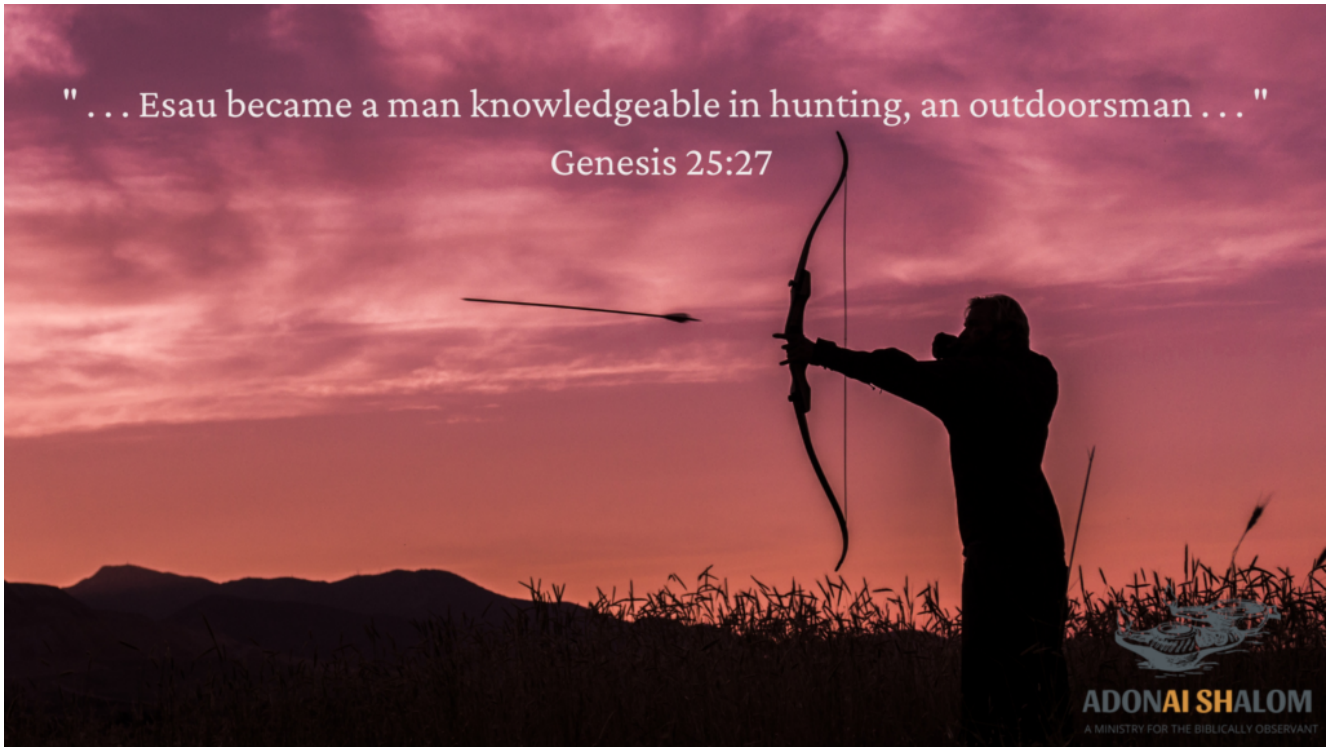
Yaakov (Jacob) was a quiet guy who preferred the comforts and quiet of home much more than heading out looking to kill the night's dinner.



His twin brother, Esav (Esau) on the other hand, was a total outdoorsman. He was "a man knowledgeable in hunting" ([Genesis 25:27](#)) so he was far more adventurous than Yaakov.

"... Esau became a man knowledgeable in hunting, an outdoorsman ..."

Genesis 25:27



Did these brothers talk much?

Was there communication between these two seemingly polar opposites?

Esav would go out for long hours and I imagine Yaakov would spend quite a bit of time with their mother, Rivkah (Rebekah) because he stayed around the home.

Poor parenting

This is the same Rivkah (Rebekah) who married Yitzhak (Isaac) when she was very young. In fact, she showed some signs of youthful immaturity based on her very quick acceptance of the marriage proposal and [her falling off her camel when she saw Yitzhak for the first time!](#) Yes, the culture was different so perhaps her eagerness to marry was perfectly normal, and yes, Yitzhak might've been just that good-looking to cause her to fall off her camel, but it is fairly safe to assume Rivkah was quite young.

[*Falling in love: Rivkah's tumble off a camel, head-over-heels for Yitzhak \[Rebekah & Isaac\]*](#)

Indeed, some scholars believe the “young woman” Rivkah ([Genesis 24:57](#)) would have been younger than about 13 years old at the time of their engagement.

One clue:

She still had a *nanny*! ([Genesis 24:59](#))

So if we wanted to give Rivkah a benefit of the doubt, we could posit that she herself had not been parented long enough to know how to appropriately raise Esav and Yaacov (Esau and Jacob) in a godly manner.

We could **assume** Yitzhak (Isaac) and Rivkah (Rebekah) must’ve gotten married too young.

But if we are careful to study the Bible, we will realize this is **not the case**, at least not for Yitzhak (Isaac)!

[Genesis 25:20](#) says Yitzhak (Isaac) was **40** years old when he finally took Rebekah to be his wife!

Now, we do not know the age of Rebekah at this point. It wouldn’t have been uncommon in the Middle Eastern culture for Yitzhak to have been quite a bit older than Rebekah, but nonetheless, it would seem that even Rebekah would have had had enough time to observe motherhood and learn how to be a faithful wife and mother.

But Rivkah (Rebekah) played favorites and schemed not only against her oldest son, but ultimately against her dying husband!

Favoritism

Now, lest we let Yitzhak (Isaac) off the hook, the Bible reports that *both* of these parents showed favoritism.

[“Now Isaac loved Esau because he had a taste for wild game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.” Genesis 25:28](#)

It was a recipe for disaster.

Yaacov (Jacob) and his mother plotted a scheme to trick Yitzhak (Isaac) into blessing Yaacov.

Foolishness

Scripture says Esav came back exhausted one day from being out in the field ([Genesis 25:29](#)). Exhaustion coupled with hunger must've contributed to Esav not thinking straight.

Esav wasn't savvy enough to realize how valuable his birthright was so he agreed to pledge it to Yaacov.

The red-haired twin agreed to give up his *birthright* in exchange for a bowl of red lentil soup.

Just a bowl of soup!

The man was hungry, but here is an extreme case of foolishness for giving into the stomach's demands. He reasoned that he would die soon ([Genesis 25:32](#)) so the birthright would be useless to him.

Yaacov (Jacob) the Deceiver

Yaacov (Jacob) earned himself the reputation of "deceiver." Some would like to soften this up a little and say he was merely a good negotiator or an astute businessman, but there is no denying that Yaacov acted with ***deception***.

How is it then, that Yaacov is the one we remember?

How can it be that we talk about the God of Abraham, Isaac, and *Jacob*?

Why did God grant Yaacov (Jacob) a dream of a stairway to heaven? ([Genesis 28:10ff](#))

Because God is merciful.

And He also honors words of blessing.

Yaacov had been blessed by Yitzhak, and there was no annulment.

Yaacov's trip to Charan and encounter with the One True God

If you have been studying *B'rieshit*/Genesis with us, you will recall that [Abraham's father, Terah, had reached a place named "Charan"](#) and stayed there. It was a place of rest.

[*Led by the One True God: Abram & his father, Terah*](#)

It was the same place where later Abram would hear the voice of God.

Now, it would be the **same place** Yaacov (Jacob) would dream of the stairway to heaven.

When the Bible talks about what is often translated as a "stairway" or "ladder," think about it like a ziggurat. It was probably a multi-leveled tower common in that region at that time that was described by translators as a stairway.

In the dream, Yaacov (Jacob) saw angels going up and down and ADONAI, the One True God, standing on the top of the structure. The LORD spoke to him and promised to bless him.

Perhaps it was here that Yaacov genuinely converted? Maybe he repented of all his deceptiveness? We know that he confessed that ADONAI would be his God ([Genesis 28:21](#)).



Yaacov (Jacob) recognized that he was in the Presence of the Almighty and he felt he had seen the “gate of heaven.” ([Genesis 28:17](#))



[“So he was afraid and said, “How fearsome this place is! This is none other than the House of God–this must be the gate of heaven!” Genesis 28:17](#)

In [Genesis 35](#), God appeared to Jacob and told him he would

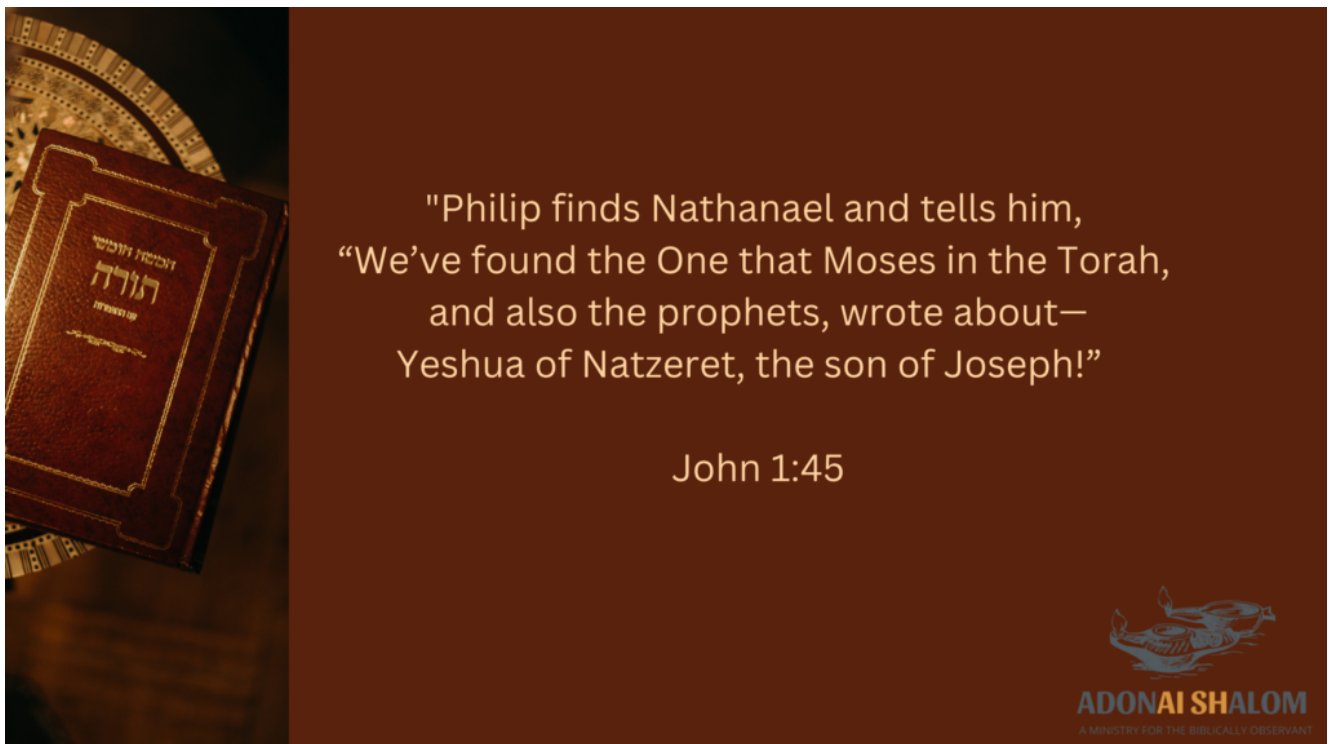
have a new name: Israel.

An Israelite in whom there is no deceit

When God sent His Son, Messiah Yeshua (Jesus Christ) to minister on the earth, those who first realized that they had encountered the Messiah were filled with joy and enthusiasm.

Read what happened right after Yeshua (Jesus) called Philip to be a disciple:

[“Philip finds Nathanael and tells him, “We’ve found the One that Moses in the Torah, and also the prophets, wrote about—Yeshua of Natzeret, the son of Joseph!” John 1:45, emphasis added](#)

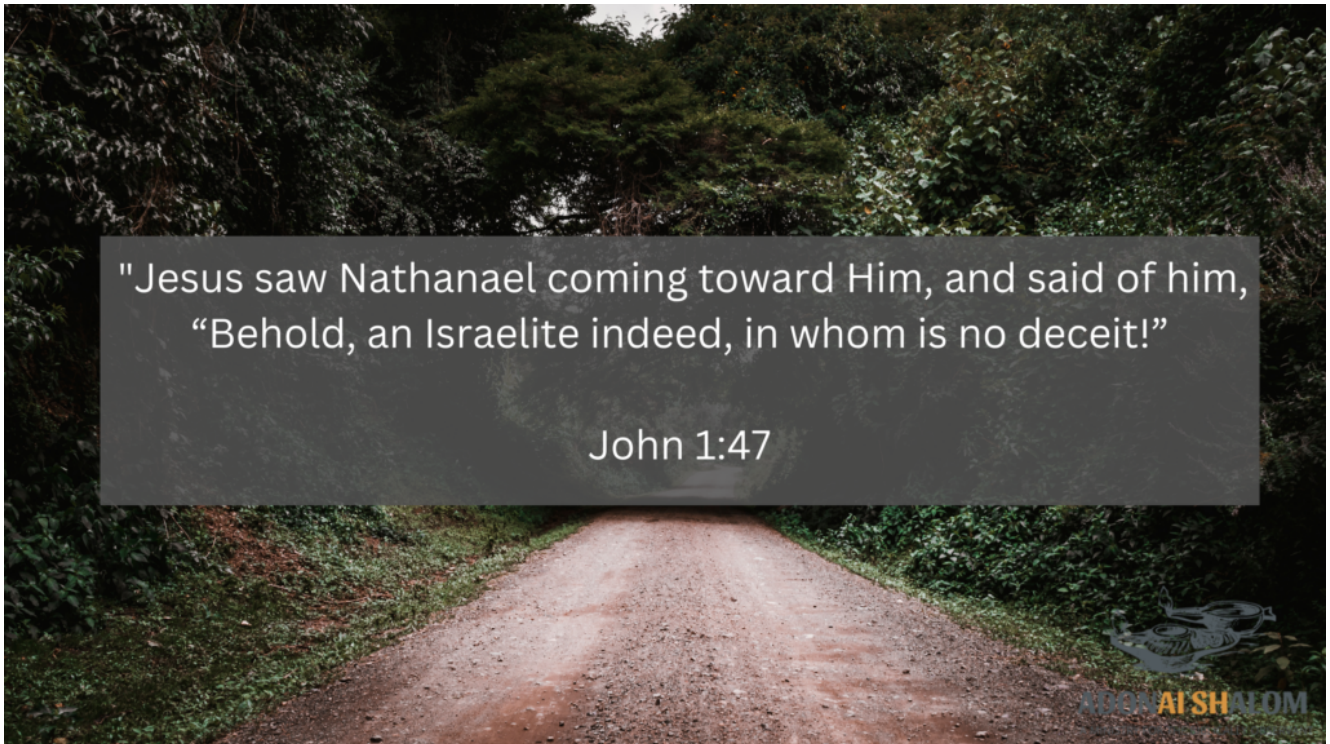


Philip convinced Nathanael to come and see and Yeshua (Jesus) makes a very interesting comment:

[“Yeshua saw Nathanael coming toward Him. He said, “Look, a true Israelite! There’s nothing false in him.” John 1:47, TLV, emphasis added](#)

I think the *New King James Version* will help us connect this a bit more easily:

"Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, **Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!**" John 1:47 NKJV, emphasis added



Do you see that our Savior was making a reference here to *Yaacov (Jacob)*?

Nathanael was being compared to Jacob, who had been renamed as Israel: here Nathanael is called a true *Israelite* – not a *Yaacov (Jacob)* who practices falsehoods.

Quite appropriately, Nathanael was surprised by what Yeshua (Jesus) said and asked Him, how did He know him? This is when Yeshua told him that he saw him under the fig tree even before Philip had gone to get him. ([John 1:48](#))

What was Nathanael doing under the fig tree?

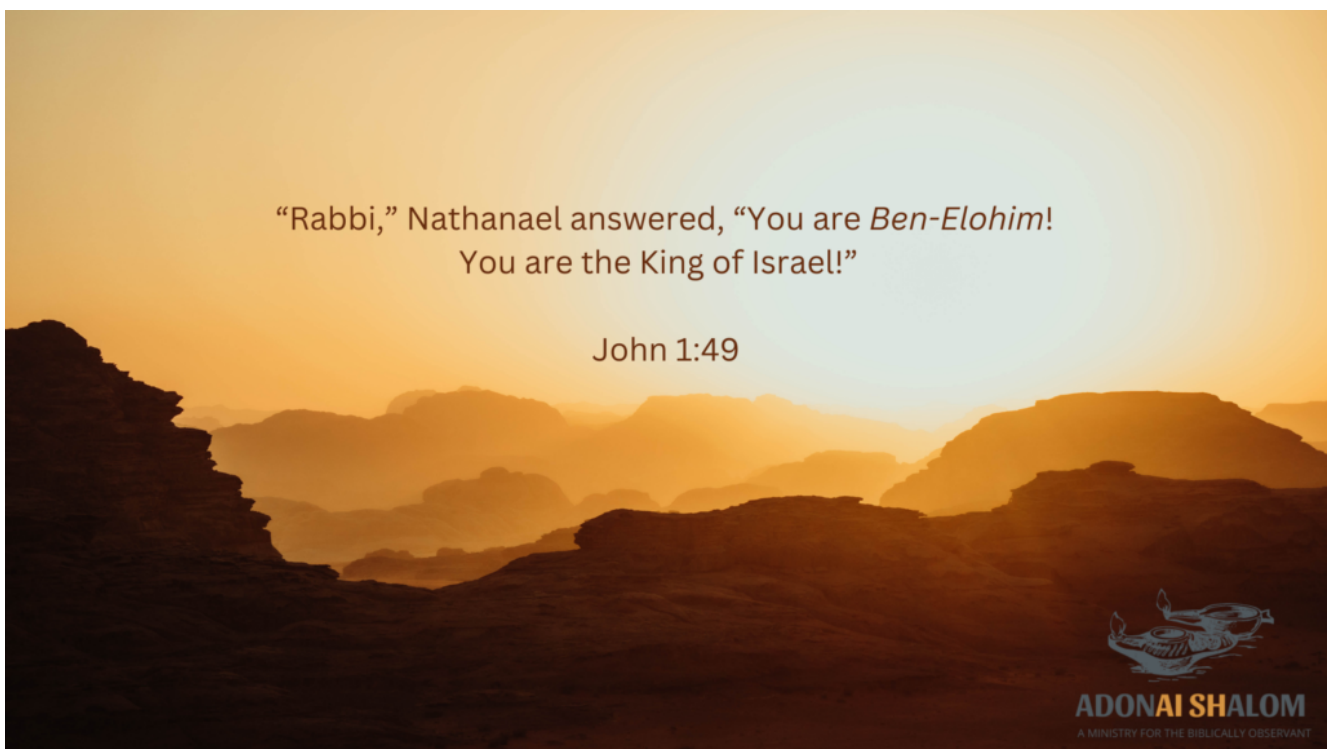
While it became more common *after* the destruction of the [Second Temple](#), young Rabbinical students used to sit and study

Torah under fig or olive trees. Nathanael may have simply been resting there, or he may have been studying the Word of God. Imagine if he had been reading about Yaacov just moments before Messiah makes the comparison between them!

Regardless of Nathanael's reason for being under the fig tree, **his heart was in the right place and his Messiah knew it.** Nathanael believed just because Yeshua told him he saw him under the fig tree ([John 1:50](#)).

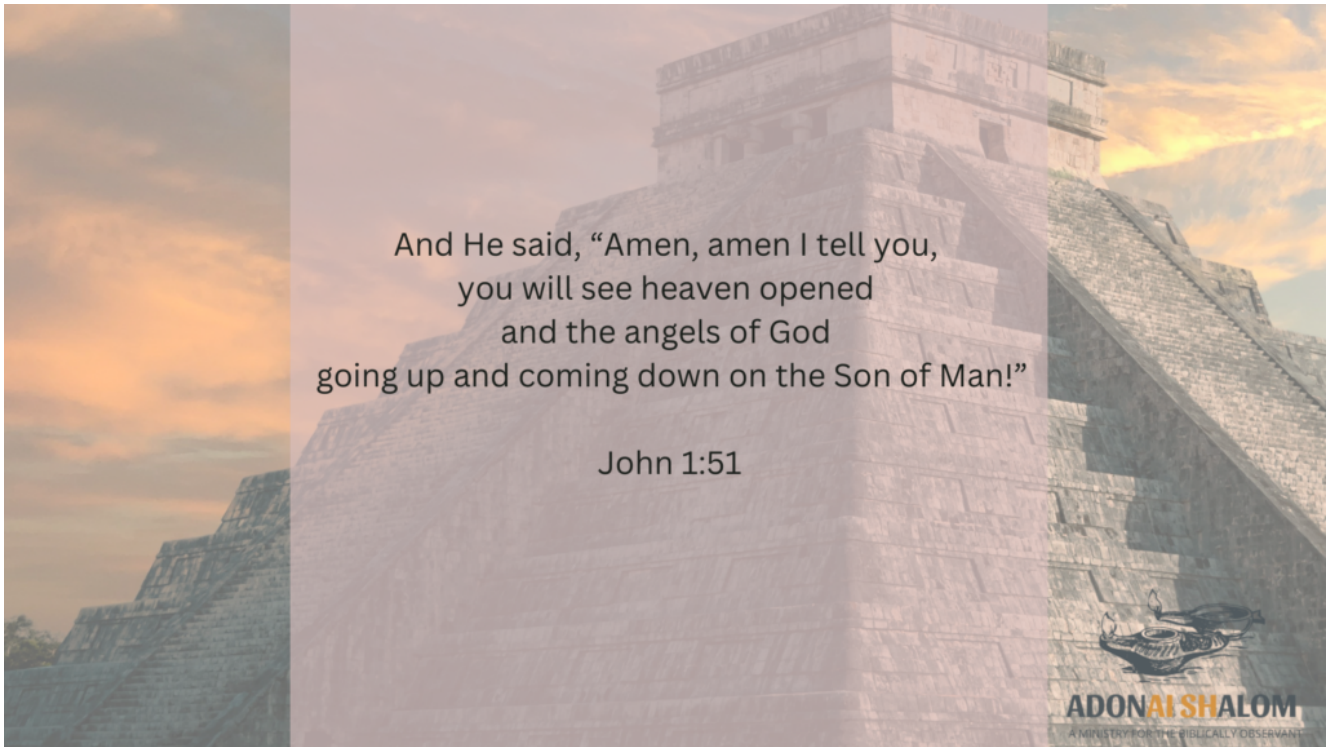
Nathanael immediately recognized that he was encountering the very Son of God.

[““Rabbi,” Nathanael answered, “You are *Ben-Elohim* \[the Son of God\]! You are the King of Israel!” John 1:49](#)



As though that is not enough, Yeshua (Jesus) promised that even more would be revealed to Nathanael. ([John 1:50](#))

Yeshua (Jesus) made another allusion to Yaacov (Jacob): “And He said, “Amen, amen I tell you, **you will see heaven opened and the angels of God going up and coming down on the Son of Man!**” ([John 1:51](#), emphasis added).




And He said, "Amen, amen I tell you,
you will see heaven opened
and the angels of God
going up and coming down on the Son of Man!"

John 1:51

The promises made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would be fulfilled. Nathanael would take part in God's revelation to humanity that a Son had been given:


"For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of His government and peace
There will be no end,
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice
From that time forward, even forever.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

Isaiah 9:6-9



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ISAIAH 9:6-7



Search the Scriptures

There is a divine continuity in the Scriptures. Just as Nathanael knew to search the Scriptures and to put His faith in the King of Israel, so, too, we must do the same. When we recognize that what the Bible says is true, and we study and learn who God is and who is His Son, we see that His faithfulness has lasted throughout every generation, and we are now living in the last days. Our Messiah will soon return, and we must be ready to recognize Him and delight in Him! Philip and Nathanael exhibited such great enthusiasm and excitement because the Messiah was standing before them. Now, we have the Spirit of the Living God dwelling *in* us!

["Now because you are sons, God sent the *Ruach* \[Spirit\] of His Son into our hearts, who cries out, "Abba! Father!" Galatians 4:6](#)

I encourage you today to seek the One who came to rescue and save the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Allow your eyes to be opened to the Scriptures and to the Messiah of whom the Scriptures speak. The King of all kings, Messiah Yeshua, Jesus

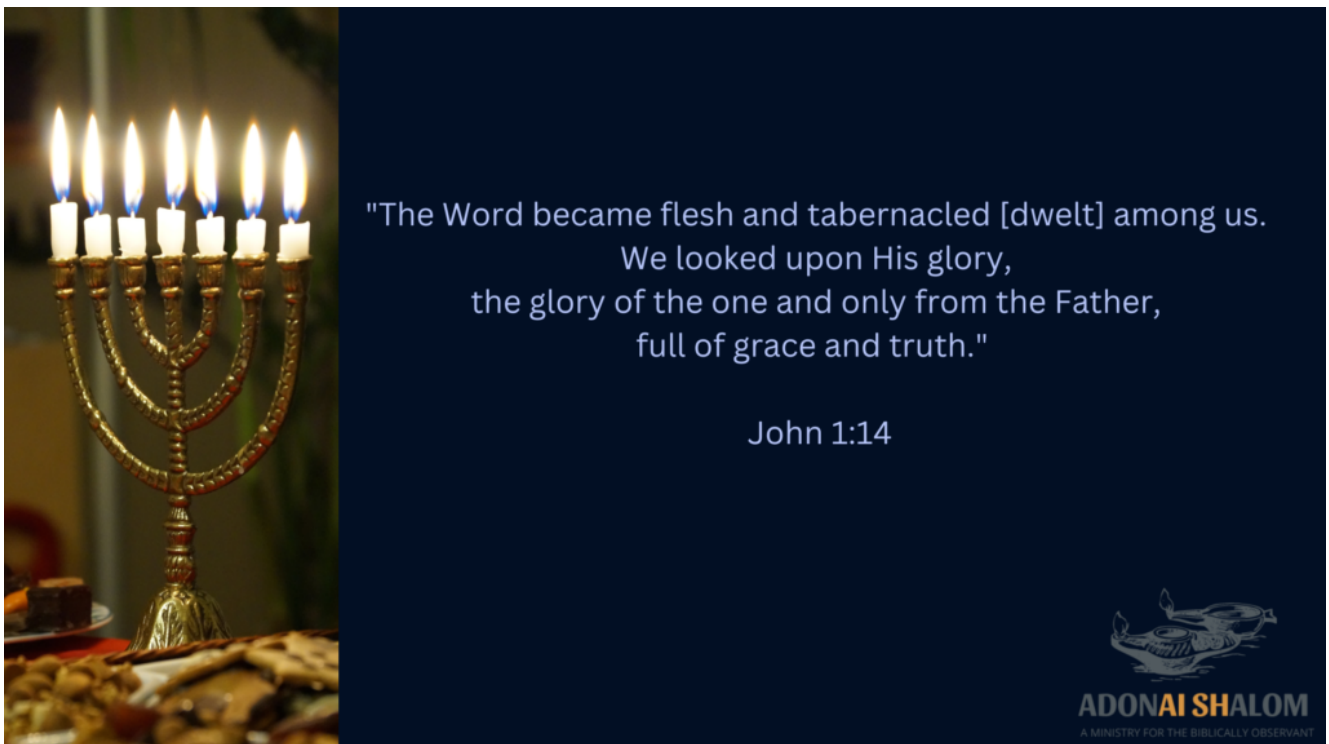
the Christ, the Son of God has come. He has demonstrated His authority, His omniscience, and His omnipotence.

Will you be like Nathanael who so eagerly followed the LORD?

Will you reject the spirit of deception and choose honesty as a true member of the household of God?

Will you live in the promises given to the descendents of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

John testified that ["The Word became flesh and tabernacled \[dwelt\] among us. We looked upon His glory, the glory of the one and only from the Father, full of grace and truth."](#) [John 1:14](#)



Have you encountered this Savior? Have you looked upon His glory?

Perhaps you didn't grow up in the most faith-filled or loving family. Don't let that be a deterrent. God sees you where you are, whether you spend time under oak, pine, or fig trees;

whether you live in the desert, the jungle, a large urban center or a farm; He is omnipresent – He is with you and He sent His Son to be Emmanuel – God with us.

Put your trust in Him today, and please, let us know about your decision! We love comments and would love to hear from you so we can pray for you. May the LORD use you, that all the nations would know that salvation has come!