



Acts Chapters 4 and 5:

Greetings / Thankful for support and kind words / Hope everyone had a beautiful Shavuot the beginning of this week.. we had a lot of great response from our Shavuot News Letter that we sent out earlier this week.

So moving through the last half of Acts chapter 4 and into chapter 5 this evening I want us to know and understand that as much as between 45, and 50% of the Brit Hadasha or the New Testament is Old Testament quotes.

So if you were to take all of the “Old Testament” quotes out of the “New Testament” it would only be half of it's normal size. And I want us to think about that for just a moment.

Just about half of the New Testament is really nothing more than Old Testament quotes.

And yet... even from the days of Marcion of Synope... men have done all they can to erase the God of the Torah and the Tanakh and the Old Testament, and replace him with the New Testament God they call Jesus. Jesus is God, God is Jesus so all we have to do is listen to Jesus.

And to that I say great! Wonderful! Because Yahshua Jesus told us to listen to and keep the commandments, laws, precepts, and appointments of his Father and what was written in the Old Testament Torah and Tanakh. So great.. LETS LISTEN TO JESUS!! I agree!

And then I often get this kind of deer in the headlight look. You see there are so many professing Christians out there that have been conveniently programmed by some man or woman standing behind a pulpit who they think knows the Word of God, but in reality they don't know anything more than what their man made, man created, man fabricated denominational charter of men has told them.

Because we've never really read the Word of God for ourselves.. we leave ourselves open to all kinds of man made, man created, man fabricated theologies, and doctrines that amount to nothing more than a heap of ancient pagan teachings originally taught by the Roman Catholic hierarchy that are deliberately designed to give one charter of men or another power over us as Gods people.

We are told from the beginning that we are required to follow the church leadership instead of following God and his scriptures and his Ruach Hakodesh.

Our own Messiah commands us not to follow after any man or charter of men in Matthew 23:8 through 11 because he knew that we would be lead astray by the teachings of men.

Now where does our Messiah say to follow after your church leadership. It's not there, and you can't find it, and the reason you can't find it is because it's not there. No where are we commanded to follow after ANY CHURCH LEADERSHIP PERIOD.

And because almost half of the New Testament writings are really nothing more than quotes from the Torah.. there really is no way to deny, or get away from the Torah.. the Law of God...if you're reading the Brit Hadasha also known as... the "New Testament".

For instance: Peter quoted the cornerstone that the builders had rejected in Acts chapter 4 verse 11. Where did he get that from? He got it from Psalms 118 which was a prophecy about the salvation of Yahshua the Messiah, and how he and his salvation.. would be rejected by his own people.

So hear again we see... as we often do... the Old Testament writings being quoted from. And once again... we see a prophecy concerning the salvation of Yahshua the Mashiach... the Messiah in the Old Testament writings.

And of course Psalms 118 was well known by the Jews of that time because it was part of the Hallel that was used in the Synagogue and as part of Festival liturgy. So they knew this verse well. You see they actually read scripture in their church services back then in the early church. What did James say in Acts chapter 15:21

Act 15:21 For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues."

So unlike our modern day churches.. the early church always read from the scriptures at every gathering. A convocation or gathering of the saints with out the scriptures being read was unheard of in the early church.

In Acts 4:11.. we see that Kefa Peter called these Pharisees and Saducees out as being the builders that had rejected the cornerstone that was Yahshua their Messiah. So once again we see... in the Torah.. also known by many as the "Old Testament" the prophecy of these very Saducees and Pharisees that Peter was standing in front of that very day being fulfilled.

Let me ask you this.. how important do you think this is to know and understand for today's modern day Christian?

Do you think it's important that we know that prophecies of our Messiah are found in the Old Testament writings? Christians today who believe that those Old Testament writings are all done away with?

Do you think its important to know that these things were prophesied about by David in the "Old Testament" before they came to be in Peters day?

You bet it is and yet I've heard Bible studies on the book of Acts over and over again and not one word of this is mentioned anywhere through out the whole study.

If today's modern day Christian knew these things... they might not be so quick so quick to proclaim that Gods laws, commandments, precepts, and appointments are all nailed to some tree somewhere would they?

And remember now... it was just about a month earlier that these same Saducees and Pharisees and their Sanhedrin... these builders that had rejected the cornerstone... had hung their own Messiah on a cross through the agency of the Gentile Roman leadership.

Who was guilty again of murdering our Messiah?... was it Jew or Gentile?... both Jew and Gentile were guilty. Remember it was through the agency of the Jewish leadership that caused the Gentile leadership to murder him.

READ ACTS 4 STARTING WITH VERSE 25:

Act 4:25 By the Ruach HaKodesh, through the mouth of our father David, your servant, you said, 'Why did the nations rage and the peoples devise useless plans?

Act 4:26 The kings of the earth took their stand; and the rulers assembled together against Adonai and against his Messiah.'

Act 4:27 "This has come true in this city, since Herod and Pontius Pilate, with Goyim and the peoples of Isra'el, all assembled against your holy servant Yeshua, whom you made Messiah,

Act 4:28 to do what your power and plan had already determined beforehand should happen.

Act 4:29 "So now, Lord, take note of their threats; and enable your slaves to speak your message with boldness!

Act 4:30 Stretch out your hand to heal and to do signs and miracles through the name of your holy servant Yeshua!"

Act 4:31 While they were still praying, the place where they were gathered was shaken. They were all filled with the Ruach HaKodesh, and they spoke God's message with boldness.

Act 4:32 All the many believers were one in heart and soul, and no one claimed any of his possessions for himself, but everyone shared everything he had.

Act 4:33 With great power the emissaries continued testifying to the resurrection of the Lord Yeshua, and they were all held in high regard.

Act 4:34 No one among them was poor, since those who owned lands or houses sold them and turned over the proceeds

Act 4:35 to the emissaries to distribute to each according to his need.

Act 4:36 Thus Yosef, whom the emissaries called Bar-Nabba (which means "the Exhorter"), a Levi and a native of Cyprus,

Act 4:37 sold a field which belonged to him and brought the money to the emissaries.

So it's important to slow down here and understand that Peter was once again pointing back to the "Old Testament" writings. He was pointing back to Psalms chapter 2 as describing Herod and Pontius Pilate and the religious Jewish leadership of their day when David quoted from Psalms 2:

Psa 2:1 Why are the nations in an uproar, the peoples grumbling in vain?

Psa 2:2 The earth's kings are taking positions, leaders conspiring together, against Adonai and his anointed.

So it was these men who were in power these earthly kings that Peter was pointing to that had conspired together against Yahovah our Father and his son.

So let me ask you this... what happened to the Northern Kingdom of Israel when they rejected the prophets and disobeyed the laws, commandments, precepts, and appointments of Yahovah our Elohim? .. They were scattered among the nations were they not?

And what happened to Jerusalem shortly after they hung their own Messiah on a cross and rejected him? ... in 70ad they too were disbanded and scattered among the nations. Israel was no more a nation after that time but what did Yahovah say that he would do?

Eze 36:24 For I will take you from among the nations, gather you from all the countries, and return you to your own soil.

Did that Old Testament prophecy come true? It did in part.. back on May 14th 1948. Lets take a deeper look into what Ezekiel prophesied about the House of Israel:

Eze 37:21 Then say to them that Adonai Elohim says: 'I will take the people of Isra'el from among the nations where they have gone and gather them from every side and bring them back to their own land.

Eze 37:22 I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Isra'el; and one king will be king for all of them. They will no longer be two nations, and they will never again be divided into two kingdoms.

Now we can know that at least in part... this has taken place. Right now Israel is calling back the Jews to Israel...but what about the rest of Israel and the Israelite's? What about the "Lost Sheep of Israel" and the Northern Kingdom? Is Israel calling all Israelites back to the promised land or just the Jews only?

I would submit that there are people from the other 10 tribes there in Israel but what is Israel known for? Is Israel known as the home of the "House of Israel" or is it known for the home of the Jews? ... think about that for a moment

Right now it's all about the Jewish people... but Yahovah says that ALL OF ISRAEL will be gathered back into the land and that then they will be one nation again and that there will be one king for all of them, and that they will no longer be two nations.

Here's my question.. has that .. happened yet?

So the complete fulfillment of this prophecy has not come to fruition as of yet... but it will soon be completed according to Gods mandate... not mans.

Is it important to know these scriptures and these prophesies? Is it important to read them for ourselves and not to let someone else interpret them for us? You bet it is.

Okay now moving forward we see that in Acts 4:31 it says

Act 4:31 While they were still praying, the place where they were gathered was shaken. They were all filled with the Ruach HaKodesh, and they spoke God's message with boldness.

So was what kind of shaking was there?.. was it a literal earth shaking event, or was it a spiritual shaking... we don't know exactly, but we are told that the people were shaken, and that they were filled with the Ruach Hakodesh.

So I want us to understand something here. The Ruach Hakodesh does not jump in and out of people, that power is always with you, but any believer who has the Ruach Hakodesh will tell you that there are times when the spirit manifests himself more strongly than other times.

When the Ruach has something to say and he stands up to raise the sword of truth with in us.. it can be a very powerful experience. When we hear truth... the Ruach Hakodesh rejoices with in us and we know down to our boots... that we've just been blessed with more truth than what we had before.

I've seen Christians break down in tears on their knees... just from simply hearing the truth.. a truth that they never had or had never seen before. Because they knew right there, at that minute

that they had been blessed to be able to see and hear it and know it was truth.

Those who do not have the Ruach can not decipher between truth and lie's, good and evil, right and wrong. Only those of us who do have the promised indwelling of the Ruach Hakodesh... that only our Messiah can send upon us, have a distinct hunger for the truth. We seek only the truth of Yahovah's word and nothing more.

Deu 12:32 "Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it.

This presents of the Ruach Hakodesh, with in us is what leads us and guides us to all truth, and this same Ruach Hakodesh is what gives us the courage, strength, and power to stand boldly and to proclaim the truth of his holy sanctified Word.

Have you ever met anyone who was to shy to even speak the name of Yahshua, or Jesus in public?.. someone who was just to embarrassed to pray in public? There just to embarrassed to even mention there Messiah by name or to show any hint.. that they might be a believer. In their heart them may know he exists, but their spirit is to afraid to mention his name out in the presents of the world.. why?

Because they do not have the infilling of the Ruach Hakodesh. The power of the Ruach has not yet fallen upon them and so they are weak and feeble and unable to stand, but when the Ruach Hakodesh falls upon them, you'll see a difference in that person...

And this is why James told the circumcision group to get the new converts to do four easy things from the law in Acts chapter 15. He said lets get them to avoid idols, stay away from things strangled, stay away from blood, and from sexual immorality at first. Then he said the law of Moses is read every Sabbath in the Synagogues.

So in other words don't trouble these new converts to be circumcised right off the bat. Lets get them to begin to follow the milk of Gods word, and then as they hear the law of Moses being read in the synagogues every sabbath they will be filled with the Ruach Hakodesh and they'll be lead to be circumcised on their own.

And so Paul took Timothy and circumcised him and both of them set out to deliver the judgment of James to all the churches in the beginning of Acts chapter 16.

Only the person that has been filled with the Ruach Hakodesh will have a boldness to speak the name of their Messiah, a boldness to teach and to preach the truth of his gospel message, a boldness to defend him and his names sake, a boldness to contend for the faith and to rebuke people sharply so that they may be sound in the faith, and not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth. (Titus 1:13)

You see a true Christian must hold firm to the Word of God as taught so that they may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and to also rebuke those who contradict it. (Titus 1:9)

You simply can not do these things with out... the Ruach Hakodesh... what did our Messiah say?

ESV:

Joh 14:15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

Joh 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

Joh 14:17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

Joh 14:18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Once that power is with you and dwelling in you it will not leave you as long as you continue to love him and keep his commandments. And this same power.. this same spirit, this same Ruach Hakodesh... is what stood up in the people that day and shook them down to their very boots, the very pillars of their being were shook.

I want us to remember how Peter himself was with out the Ruach Hakodesh when he denied Yahshua 3 times before the cock crowed just as Yahshua prophesied that he would... and now this same Peter was standing up boldly in front of these same men who had Yahshua hung on a stake and we find him pointing directly at them boldly proclaiming that it was they who had hung his Messiah on a stake.

This is the same Peter who told Messiah that he would die for him, the same Peter who drew his sword and cut the ear off of the High Priests servant Melekh in John 18:10.. who had cowered and denied his Messiah not once, not twice, but three times.. out of the fear of men, because he was afraid that they would kill him too!

So clearly we can see a huge change in Peter since Shavuot also known as Pentecost when he received the the power of the Ruach Hakodesh. Peter was no longer timid about the name of Yahshua or his gospel message, even unto the point of death. He knew that these same men had the power to kill him too if they desired to do so, and by the way... they did desire to do so, and we can see that plan and clear in Acts 5 verse 33.

A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS:

Now... with the power and the indwelling of the Ruach Hakodesh the laws of Yahovah had been written in the hearts and minds of those who believed, and so they began to go back and do the things that Yahovah had required of them at first, and so they began to live together as a

community sharing what they had with those who had nothing, and we see in Acts 4:34 through 37 that no one among them was poor since those who owned lands or houses sold them and turned over the proceeds to the emissaries to distribute to each according to his need.

And we see another lesson to be learned in the beginning of Acts chapter 5... so lets read Acts Chapter 5:

READ ACTS CHAP. 5:

Act 5:1 But there was a man named Hananyah who, with his wife Shappirah, sold some property

Act 5:2 and, with his wife's knowledge, withheld some of the proceeds for himself; although he did bring the rest to the emissaries.

Act 5:3 Then Kefa said, "Why has the Adversary so filled your heart that you lie to the Ruach HaKodesh and keep back some of the money you received for the land?"

Act 5:4 Before you sold it, the property was yours; and after you sold it, the money was yours to use as you pleased. So what made you decide to do such a thing? You have lied not to human beings but to God!"

Act 5:5 On hearing these words, Hananyah fell down dead; and everyone who heard about it was terrified.

Act 5:6 The young men got up, wrapped his body in a shroud, carried him out and buried him.

Act 5:7 Some three hours later, his wife came in, unaware of what had happened.

Act 5:8 Kefa challenged her: "Tell me, is it true that you sold the land for such-and-such a price?" "Yes," she answered, "that is what we were paid for it."

Act 5:9 But Kefa came back at her; "Then why did you people plot to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The men who buried your husband are at the door. They will carry you out too!"

Act 5:10 Instantly she collapsed at his feet and died. The young men entered, found her there dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

Act 5:11 As a result of this, great fear came over the whole Messianic community, and indeed over everyone who heard about it.

Act 5:12 Meanwhile, through the emissaries many signs and miracles continued to be done among the people. United in mind and purpose, the believers met in Shlomo's Colonnade;

Act 5:13 and no one else dared to join them. Nevertheless, the people continued to regard them highly;

Act 5:14 and throngs of believers were added to the Lord, both men and women.

Act 5:15 They went so far as to bring the sick into the streets and lay them on mattresses and stretchers, so that at least Kefa's shadow might fall on them as he passed by.

Act 5:16 Crowds also gathered from the towns around Yerushalayim, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits; and every one of them was healed.

Act 5:17 But the cohen hagadol and his associates, who were members of the party of the Tz'dukim, were filled with jealousy.

Act 5:18 They arrested the emissaries and put them in the public jail.

Act 5:19 But during the night, an angel of Adonai opened the doors of the prison, led them out and said,

Act 5:20 "Go, stand in the Temple court and keep telling the people all about this new life!"

Act 5:21 After hearing that, they entered the Temple area about dawn and began to teach. Now the cohen hagadol and his associates came and called a meeting of the Sanhedrin (that is, of Isra'el's whole assembly of elders) and sent to the jail to have them brought.

Act 5:22 But the officers who went did not find them in the prison. So they returned and reported,

Act 5:23 "We found the jail securely locked and the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened it, we found no one inside!"

Act 5:24 When the captain of the Temple police and the head cohanim heard these things, they were puzzled and wondered what would happen next.

Act 5:25 Then someone came and reported to them, "Listen! The men you ordered put in prison are standing in the Temple court, teaching the people!"

Act 5:26 The captain and his officers went and brought them, but not with force; because they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

Act 5:27 They conducted them to the Sanhedrin, where the cohen hagadol demanded of them,

Act 5:28 "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name! Look here! you have filled Yerushalayim with your teaching; moreover, you are determined to make us responsible for this man's death!"

Act 5:29 Kefa and the other emissaries answered, "We must obey God, not men.

Act 5:30 The God of our fathers raised up Yeshua, whereas you men killed him by having him hanged on a stake.

Act 5:31 God has exalted this man at his right hand as Ruler and Savior, in order to enable Isra'el to do t'shuvah and have her sins forgiven.

Act 5:32 We are witnesses to these things; so is the Ruach HaKodesh, whom God has given to those who obey him."

Act 5:33 On hearing this, the members of the Sanhedrin were infuriated and wanted to put the emissaries to death.

Act 5:34 But one of the members of the Sanhedrin rose to his feet, a Parush named Gamli'el, a teacher of the Torah highly respected by all the people. He ordered the men put outside for a little while

Act 5:35 and then addressed the court: "Men of Isra'el, take care what you do to these people.

Act 5:36 Some time ago, there was a rebellion under Todah, who claimed to be somebody special; and a number of men, maybe four hundred, rallied behind him. But upon his being put to death, his whole following was broken up and came to nothing.

Act 5:37 After this, Y'hudah HaG'lili led another uprising, back at the time of the enrollment for the Roman tax; and he got some people to defect to him. But he was killed, and all his followers were scattered.

Act 5:38 So in the present case, my advice to you is not to interfere with these people, but to leave them alone. For if this idea or this movement has a human origin, it will collapse.

Act 5:39 But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop them; you might even find yourselves fighting God!" They heeded his advice.

Act 5:40 After summoning the emissaries and flogging them, they commanded them not to speak in the name of Yeshua, and let them go.

Act 5:41 The emissaries left the Sanhedrin overjoyed at having been considered worthy of suffering disgrace on account of him.

Act 5:42 And not for a single day, either in the Temple court or in private homes, did they stop teaching and proclaiming the Good News that Yeshua is the Messiah.

Okay now there are a multitude of things to consider here in Acts chapter 5 and we won't get to it all here today but lets take a close look at this event with Hananyah and his wife Shappirah who were struck dead for lying to the Ruach Hakodesh.

Many Christians fail to understand exactly what happened here to Hananyah and his wife, and it may seem like cruel and unusual punishment for a man and his wife to be struck dead for not giving all their money to the community so I want to clear the air, and help us to better understand what happened here in the first part of Acts chapter 5.

So once again we have a lot of different Christian denominations and charters of men out there in the world claiming that the ruthless "Old Testament" God has been done away with and the loving kind, and forgiving new God called "Jesus" has replaced him with the Brit Hadasha or the "New Testament", and this misunderstanding ushers in a lot of contention and denominational divides where there really doesn't need to be.

So lets understand what happened here between Hananyah and his wife, and Peter and the community, because by better understanding this event... we'll be able to get to know and understand our Father a lot better than many of us already do.

In the Torah... the "Old Testament Writings" there is a law known as "Herem" and the law of vows. So to get a better grasp of this we need to take a look at the book of Deuteronomy chapter 23:

Deu 23:22 "When you make a vow to Adonai your God, you are not to delay in fulfilling it, for Adonai your God will certainly demand it of you, and your failure to do so will be your sin.

Deu 23:23 If you choose not to make a vow at all, that will not be a sin for you;

Deu 23:24 but if a vow passes your lips, you must take care to perform it according to what you voluntarily vowed to Adonai your God, what you promised in words spoken aloud.

Now of course many of our modern day Christian denominations will teach that the Torah and the "Old Testament" is all done away with, it's just a dusty old book, and the laws of God are all nailed to a tree somewhere and you really don't need to pay attention to that old dusty first half of your Bible.

But here in the book of Acts chapter 5 we see very clearly that the laws of God have not been done away with, nor are they nailed to some tree some where. We see clearly.. that Hananya and his wife Sappirah had broken the law of Yahovah God when they made a vow to sell their land and give the proceeds to the community and then decided to turn around and only give part of the proceeds to the community and keep the rest.

For any professing Christian... to proclaim that all of Gods laws are nailed to some tree somewhere and that we can just go ahead and “do as we wilt”... is a sin in itself. These people are leading Yahovah's people away from him, they are lying to Gods people and they will be punished accordingly for what they're doing and saying.

When you preach and teach the Word of God you'd better be sure that what your saying is true and just, because if it's not... you will pay the price for spreading deception, and going against the commandments, precepts, laws, and appointments of our Father.

Hananyah and his wife Sappirah had lied to the Ruach Hakodesh, and by doing so they had lied to Yahovah our Father, and of all the people to lie to... you do not want to lie to the Father.

And I want us to notice what Peter says to them:

Act 5:4 Before you sold it, the property was yours; and after you sold it, the money was yours to use as you pleased. So what made you decide to do such a thing? You have lied not to human beings but to God!"

So in other words Peter is telling them the land was yours and so was the money if you wanted to keep it you could have, but instead you made a vow to give it to God and then were caught in a lie when you stole what was Gods.

You see according to Deuteronomy 23:22 through 24, once they had promised to give something to God it then at that second becomes Gods property.

They didn't have to vow it to the community and to Gods people but they did, and then turned right around and chose not to after vowing it to God. They had literally stolen what belonged to God and not only that... but they had lied on top of it.

Gods laws... still stand to this very day, and the moral of this story is simply this:... As Gods people... we need to understand what the fear of God is.

Pro 9:10 The fear of Adonai is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of holy ones is understanding.

Pro 9:11 For with me, your days will be increased; years will be added to your life.

Pro 9:12 If you are wise, your wisdom helps you; but if you scoff, you bear the consequences alone."
