

RaYBaSH's The Weekly Way
Parashah #8 Vayishlach: He Sent
B'reshit (Gen.) 32:4-36:43
Obadiah 1, Hosea 11:7-12:12
Matt. 24:13, Philippians 4:13, Rom. 9:13
By: Yehudah ben Shomeyr – Kris Shoemaker

Peace is not blind or stupid. Peace is sweeter and way more desirable than war. Peace is encouraged to be made if at all possible, but not at the cost of life or limb. There is no sense or use of “turning the other cheek” when you know the person that wronged you, said they were sorry and wished to make up and yet you see the knife they attempt to hide behind their back. Precaution precedes peace. Jacob prepares to meet Esau and no doubt hopes for a peaceful reunion but takes no chances. Showing “Christ like love, forgiveness and acceptance” does not mean being stupid and checking your brain at the door in the name of peace and reconciliation; all available measures of safety and precaution needs to be made.

There is also wisdom in knowing that sometimes peace will never be made and parties must agree to disagree agreeably and part at least on peaceful terms, never to voluntarily meet again. This is the example left to us by Jacob meeting with Laban.

Before Jacob could make peace with his brother he first needs to make peace with himself and God. To do this, one must be alone with no distractions.

Jacob wrestled to overcome his doubts and fears and grappled to understand God and why He allowed his life to be such that it is. His wrestling match with the Divine Being proved his tenacity and unbreakable spirit. That he wouldn't quite until he got what he needed and desired. He clung till the very last moment and endured to the end.

Hosea 12: 3-5 He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and by his strength he had power with God: Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him in Bethel, and there he spake with us; Even the LORD God of hosts; the LORD is his memorial.

To be at peace, true peace, one must return to the Source, like Jacob returning to Bethel. This is a version of, and a component of repentance. For the Hebrew word

for repentance is to return to the Source. We must revisit, be reminded of and renew our pledge we made with God and rededicate ourselves and our whole being anew.

This doesn't mean life will be all hunky-dory, it only means we will have what it takes to weather and make it through the crises in life which falls to everyone at one time or another.

Because of Jacobs wrestling and returning he was able to make it through the rape of his daughter, the death of his beloved wife and father.

Even when peace is not fully achieved, a temporal peace can be made in order to come together with ones enemy for a mutual greater good. No matter what unresolved issues exist between Jacob and Esau, they were set aside in order to bury their father (Gen. 32:29). The greatest sacrifice for peace on behalf of others is pride and is the sweetest smelling sacrifice we can offer up to God.

Because of Jacob's unmovable fortitude and being one never to give up, and because of Jacob's willingness to trust, submit and surrender to the Source (YHWH/God) we read this about him.

Obadiah 1:18 And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken it.

Why does it say Jacob I loved and Esau I hated (Rom. 9:13)? Because no one, not even God likes a quitter. That's why it says, "Those who endure to the end will be saved (Matt. 24:13)." Never give up because...

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:13)

Shabbat Shalom and Shavuah Tov!
-- Yehudah