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Tsiyon News

Tsiyon Messianic Radio Newsletter Vol 6.3 - 11/17/6010 TAM - 01/21/2011

Curse of Canaan



*Why was Noah drunk?
What was Ham's sin?
Why Was Canaan cursed, not Ham?
Does Canaan's Curse
justify Slavery of Africans?*
Genesis 9:20-29

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Tsiyon News

Listener Q + A

Listener Comment - Which New Year?

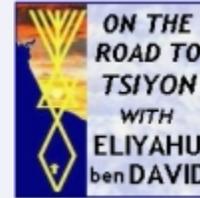
I was wondering .. you talk about the change in the calendar year and all the strange things that are happening. I thought the new year started when the barley is in Aviv around Passover? I may not be asking correctly but it's an understanding I had and the Biblical calendar vs mans. Seems like it would be more profound if it was happening around the beginning of the Biblical calendar. I do enjoy your teachings and listen often. There is so much and so many teachers but getting back to my Hebrew roots was a first step. Understanding started falling into place after I began studying Old Testament in addition to becoming more obedient to Father! Now I see Father and Messiah in everything and every teaching. Blessings to you and your ministry.

Tsiyon Answer - Which New Year

It's great to hear of the progress you have made in learning about your Hebrew roots. Now, to your question: You are absolutely correct that the Biblical new year occurs in the spring. However, what we are talking about are signs - and signs are a means of communication. Signs occurring according to the Biblical calendar are, have been, and will be, meaningful to those persons such as you and I who are attuned to the Biblical calendar. Let's face it though, that's a relative few people. Therefore, the messages communicated by such signs are generally lost to the vast majority of the world. On the other hand, signs meant to communicate a message to the world are better understood by the world when keyed to a time that is universally recognized by the world. Surely the world's New Year qualifies on that score like few other times would. Since the message sent by these signs is meant to get the attention of the world, using the world's timing for that is very appropriate. That is not to say there won't be other signs at other times, as I'm sure there have been and will be. YHWH is sure to use every opportunity to call all who will wake up and listen by every means possible, as we move ever closer to the end of the Age.

Listener Comment - Be fruitful and multiply?

After listening to your "After the Deluge" broadcast I have a question about my own life



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Our Israel Site



regarding God's call to "Be fruitful and multiply". I didn't get married until my late 30s, but even by then had long since decided that I am not parental material. Even now in my mid-40s I simply cannot imagine being someone's dad. However, after hearing your broadcast I have to wonder if my willful non-multiplication is offensive to YHWH. What is your opinion on believers who choose not to become parents? Is it okay to make this personal choice or do you think God sees it as selfishness or unfaithfulness?

Tsiyon Answer - Be fruitful and multiply

Let me start by saying that I don't believe it is my place to tell any earnest believer what family choices to make nor to judge anyone on the basis of those choices. There may be good reasons why some people do not have children - and none of those reasons are my business. Some reasons might be hereditary diseases, emotional factors, physical inability to pro-create, family instability etc. Some might even feel it inappropriate to bring children into the world because we are living in the last days. Any comments I have made or will make about this are not meant to argue with any prayed-through and well thought out choices already made. What I can do is state a few principles that are obvious from Scripture and history, and share a few observations from my experience.

We have several Scriptural factors very strongly in favor of believers not interfering with conception. Some of these are:

1. The command to "be fruitful and multiply." (Gen 1:22, 9:1, 7)
2. Children are given by the will of YHWH and are a blessing from Him. (Job 31:15, Psalm 127:3-5, Isa 44:2, 49:1,5, Psalm 139:13-14, Jer 1:5)
3. Childlessness is viewed in Scripture as an affliction. (Ex 23:25-26, Deut 7:13-14, Hosea 9:10-17)
4. Fruit of the womb is a distinguishing feature of the restored remnant of Israel. (Jer 23:3, Exe 36:9-12)
5. The only incident of interference with conception recorded in the Bible was viewed as evil. (Gen 38:6-10)

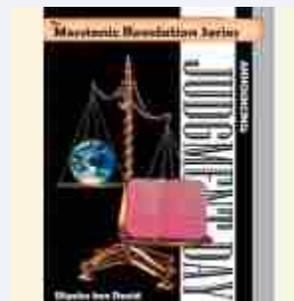
Weighed against these Scriptural factors, we have verses like these: Matthew 19: 11+12, 1 Cor 7:28-35. Here both Messiah and Paul speak of the advantages for the Kingdom of remaining single, for those who are gifted with celibacy. Singleness is not presented as the proper choice for everyone, but only for those with the gift. This gift is exceptional and is not for most people. Of course, those who are gifted for singleness do not have the concern regarding family and children, so are free to devote their whole attention to Kingdom interests, which is great for them. On the other hand, people like me who are meant to be married to the woman of Yah's choice, are empowered through that marriage and family to glorify God beyond what they could do alone. A marriage and family that is centered on Him is still the most powerful social unit possible on planet earth and has the potential to glorify God like nothing else I know of. Now, bringing this back to our subject, the Scriptures seem to offer the choice of singleness or marriage. They don't seem to even consider married believers actively interfering with conception. At least, I am not aware of a single instance of this in Scripture, other than the unfavorable case of Onan cited above (Gen 38:6-10). The general tenor of Scripture seems to be that marriage includes the possibility of children, which are given as YHWH pleases, when He pleases, as a blessing to the family. If anyone sees a Scriptural argument to the contrary about this I remain open to it. All I'm saying is I haven't seen that in Scripture.

It is also of interest that the historic position of virtually all Christian churches, until the Lambeth conference of 1930, has been that interference with conception is sinful (NPF or Natural Family Planning is not included in "interference with conception" as used here - see more info on NPF [here](#)). For example, John Calvin, an early Protestant leader, expressed this view: "Deliberately to withdraw from coitus in order that semen may fall on the ground is a doubly monstrous [thing]. For this is to extinguish the hope of the race and to kill before he is born the hoped-for offspring. This impiety is especially condemned, now by the Spirit through Moses' youth, that Onan, as it where, by a violent abortion, no less cruelly than filthily cast upon the ground the offspring of his brother, torn from the maternal womb. Besides, in this way he tried, as far as he was able, to wipe out part of the human race. If any woman ejects a fetus from the womb with drugs, it is reckoned a crime incapable of expiation and deservedly Onan incurred upon himself the same kind of punishment, infecting the earth by his semen, in order that Tamar might not conceive a future human being as an inhabitant

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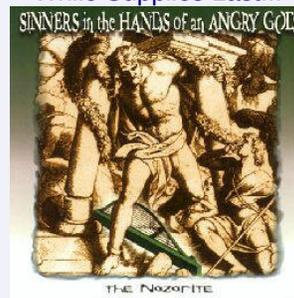
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of the earth." (Calvin's Latin Commentary on Genesis - 38:10)

Today, the opposing view to the historic majority opinion exemplified by Calvin is that Onan's act in itself was not wrong, but only his selfish motive was wrong. That opinion is given to support the claim that interference with conception in itself is not wrong - but is only wrong if done with a selfish motive. Some people see it that way, others feel that modern opinion is a cop out. Where a believer comes down on that question will probably be a big indicator of where they stand on birth control issues. To that I can only say, what does the Spirit say to you about it? Listen to the Spirit speaking to your inner man and you will not go wrong.

As to the "not parental material" question: I would have to say, most men fall into that category before they have children. Most guys have fears about that too, especially men who did not have a good experience with their own father. They even worry that maybe they won't bond properly. Others worry about the responsibility of supporting and raising a child for 20 years, seeing that as a sort of bondage. I should tell you I started out feeling just like that - I didn't want to have children and really didn't feel well equipped for the job. The good news is that men of faith who start out feeling this way are often amazed when their first child is born into the world and they find themselves completely changed by the experience. That was me. I also found out that having a family is God's way of turning boys into men. Yes, it can be a process fraught with struggle, as your inner being is rearranged to take on that fatherhood responsibility. All I can tell you is this: with His help you can do it, and in the process you can develop into the fullness of the man He made you to be. You will make some mistakes in getting there, and experience some struggles along the way (as we all do), but that's all part of the experience we call "life." What you lose is insignificant in comparison to the blessings of godly children. You will be amazed at how much you will love your children and how important they will be in your life. Stuff that may be fulfilling for you now will pale in comparison to your love for your family. Now, I admit that my opinion is probably biased, since I'm totally nuts about my family. I can't imagine any one of my children not being alive on this planet. Each of them DESERVES to be here and God's world is better off because they are! I know I am better off, and thankful for each of them.

From Eliyahu

It seems that dealing with the early chapters of Genesis is bringing up a number of controversial issues. Here at Tsiyon we strive to tell you the truth of Scripture, whether popular or not. This continues with our latest program on the Curse of Canaan. What does the Scripture actually say about this? The Scriptures on this are much clearer than all the opposing theories would leave one to believe. Verse by verse, and sometimes word by word, we untie this Gordian knot in this new message. Be blessed as you hear it.

Blessings and Shalom,

Eliyahu ben David

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