

Study of Acts 4
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Acts 4:1 is very important to us who want to speak and live YHVH's **TRUTH**, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life..

As Peter and John spoke of Messiah and the resurrection, the priests, (who are a picture of the pastors, priests and evangelists of today) and the captain of the Temple (who are a picture of the deacons and the elders of today), and the Sadducees who preach their **OWN DOCTRINE** that there **IS NO RESURRECTION** (who are a picture of all those who spew out their own man made **DOCTRINE** rather than the pure Word or Doctrine of YHVH), came upon them.

Can we, who are trying to live a Torah obedient Life and teach others that they ought to do the same and learn to live by and follow our heavenly Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life expect any different treatment from church leaders or synagogue leaders of today? These people who came upon Peter and John to try to **FORCE** them to **STOP** teaching the Pure Word of YHVH, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, were **NOT APPOINTED** by YHVH to be priests, for the majority of the leadership of the priesthood during the time of Messiah had been bought at a price from the Romans, and the Sadducees are the forerunners of the religious leaders of today, those that have **NOT BEEN** appointed by our heavenly Father, for the priesthood was given to Levi's Son Aaron and his descendants as an everlasting Covenant and nowhere has YHVH ever rescinded His promise of that everlasting priesthood to the sons of Aaron and neither has He rescinded His promise to the Levites that the service of the Tabernacle and the Temple would be done by them. The evil spirit of the **RELIGIOUS SYSTEM** that was in place in Israel at the time of Yeshua **IS STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE in the houses of YHVH TODAY**. The Sadducees sort of disappeared after the destruction of the Temple and the Pharisees who are the fore-runners of the Rabbinical system then took over. Today, all or most of Judaism **IS** based on the rabbinical system except possibly for the Karaite Jews.

Verse 4 IS very encouraging to me. Although the religious leadership of the day did **NOT** believe what Peter and John were teaching, they still wanted Peter and John to **STOP** preaching and teaching their message, stop preaching Messiah's Gospel, Messiah's Torah, **BECAUSE** the people **responded well to their message**, they **responded well to the Gospel of Messiah**, which of course **IS** YHVH's **TRUTH**, His Torah of Life. *Ephesians 1:13 In whom you also trusted, after you heard the Word of TRUTH, the GOSPEL of your salvation.*

Acts 4:4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word BELIEVED; and the number of the men was about five thousand. The fact that there were about five thousand I believe is an allusion or reference to the Torah of Moses, and I believe that the number **FIVE** in this case is further indication that Peter and John were teaching the Words of Torah of Moses, which of course **IS** the first **FIVE** books of our Bible.

Now this body of priests put Peter and John on trial of sorts and demanded to know by what **power** or by what **Name** they had healed the lame man. We are told that Peter stood up to speak, but I truly believe that although the words came out of Peter's mouth, that it was **NOT** Peter who spoke, **BUT**

that it was our Heavenly Father who spoke through him. YHVH says through Peter that Yeshua, the Messiah, of Nazareth whom **YOU CRUCIFIED**, and whom Elohim raised from the dead, **IS** the **NAME** by which this man **IS HEALED**.

Our Heavenly Father continues to talk directly to the priesthood through Peter who **IS** filled with the Spirit of YHVH (*verse 8*).

I want you to understand what the Scriptures mean when it says that Peter was **FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**, because there is a **LOT** of misunderstanding as to what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit of YHVH, according to Scripture. We have to understand that when something **IS FILLED** with a substance, then **THERE IS NO ROOM LEFT FOR ANYTHING ELSE**, therefore, when Peter **IS FILLED** with the Spirit of Elohim, then that means that there was no room for Peter's **SELF**, no room for his own **WILL**, because he had willingly surrendered His will to our heavenly Father and was **NOW FILLED** with the Holy Spirit of the Father.

Now when someone **IS FILLED** with the Spirit of YHVH and that someone speaks, it is indeed the person's voice that speaks, but his words are **NOT** his own, they are of the Words of the Holy Spirit of YHVH, whom he **IS FILLED WITH**. That **IS** the reason that the Scriptures tell us that Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit so that **WE WILL PAY VERY CLOSE ATTENTION TO WHAT IS BEING SAID**, for it comes directly from our heavenly Father.

Now our Heavenly Father says of Yeshua, our Messiah, He **IS** the cornerstone, the headstone which the builders **REJECTED**. Messiah, **THE LIVING WORD** of the Father **IS** the only way to salvation, *for according to Scripture, there is no other Name given among men, whereby we must be saved*. Please understand that the Name whereby we must be saved, **IS NOT JESUS, NOR IS IT YESHUA, IT IS YHVH**.

These two statements are repeated throughout the Apostolic Scriptures in different forms. But here **IT IS** pronounced by YHVH Himself through Peter, who **IS FILLED** with the Spirit of our Heavenly Father.

Now we have to understand what the Holy Spirit of YHVH will do **IF**, like Peter and John, we willingly choose to surrender our wills to His. In *Ezekiel 36:26-27* it says *A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put MY SPIRIT WITHIN YOU, and CAUSE YOU to walk in MY STATUTES, and you shall KEEP MY JUDGMENTS, and DO THEM.*

What are the **STATUTES** and the **JUDGEMENTS** of YHVH? We are told in *1Kings 2:3* what the **STATUTES and JUDGEMENTS** of YHVH **ARE**, *1Kings 2:3 And KEEP the charge of YHVH your Elohim, to walk in His Ways, to KEEP His STATUTES, and His Commandments, and His JUDGMENTS, and His Testimonies, AS IT IS WRITTEN IN THE TORAH, THE LAW OF MOSES, that you may prosper in all that you do, and wherever you turn yourself:*

As you can see for yourself, to be filled with the Holy Spirit of YHVH means that a person **IS** being **WILLINGLY LED** by the Holy Spirit of YHVH to **KEEP and DO** ALL the Words of YHVH's Torah of Life, the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His directives for everlasting life, called **His Ways, His STATUTES, His JUDGEMENTS, His Commandments, His Testimonies**. There is absolutely **NO WAY TO DISPUTE THIS FACT**, THAT **IF** a person claims to be relying on the **DOCTRINE** of Messiah, then that person is relying on the Words of YHVH's

TORAH of Life, the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His directives for everlasting Life. However **IF** instead, a person relies on man made doctrines such as Catholicism, Christianity and or Judaism have, and continue to do so, **THEN** based on their man made doctrines, they believe that a person can somehow deny **THAT FACT**, they can refuse to follow, obey and **DO** the Words of the Father's Torah, and **still profess** somehow, that they are following and obeying the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, even though they **ARE NOT DOING SO according to Scripture**.

Here in *Jeremiah 4*, the Priesthood of the day and those that follow and obey this religious body, reply in a manner typical of what you will get from the leadership of the churches and synagogues of today. *Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were UNEDUCATED and UNTRAINED men, they marvelled. And they realized that they had been with Yeshua— and that they were unlearned and ignorant men.*

This **IS** how far away from the Word of YHVH that this religious body had strayed, for they did **NOT RECOGNIZE** when the Elohim of the universe spoke to them through someone such as Peter the servant of YHVH. They perceived them as **UNLEARNED and IGNORANT!** In their minds they believed that **IF** Elohim were to speak to His people, **SURELY** He would choose the High Priest or one of them, and **NOT THOSE UNLEARNED AND IGNORANT MEN**.

Has the religious systems that govern the houses of Elohim today, changed? Or are they still of the same state of mind as the religious leaders of Peter's day were, where they actually **MISSED** the day of their visitation, **BECAUSE** they relied on their man made doctrines, and theologies rather than the Pure Words of the Torah of YHVH? What **IS** the very first thing that church leaders ask **IF** you want to speak or preach in their church or talk to their congregation? They want to know, what kind of seminary degree you have? They want to know what seminary you attended. If you do not have the proper credentials **THEN** you are **UNLEARNED and IGNORANT** according to them, and they **WILL NOT LISTEN TO YOU NOR LET YOU SPEAK TO THEIR CONGREGATION**.

Now Peter comes up with the words that should be the **CREED** of **ALL** believers. The leaders had conferred together and they could **NOT** deny that the lame man had truly been healed for he was standing there with Peter. So they decided instead to order Peter and John, in *Acts 4:17 But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this NAME*.

Many years prior to this event the leaders of Judaism made it a crime, punishable by death, to utter or mention the name of Yahweh; and here in *Acts 4* it is quite evident that Peter **WAS** using the Name of Yahweh to bless the people with, as Yahweh commanded us to do in *Numbers 6:22-27 where YHVH says: And YHVH spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying, On this manner, you SHALL bless the children of Israel, saying unto them, YHVH bless you, and keep you: YHVH make His Face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: YHVH lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace. And they SHALL put My Name, Yahweh upon the children of Israel; and (when they do that) I will bless them.*

Acts 4:19-20 But Peter and John answered and said to them, Whether it is right in the sight of Elohim to listen (shemah) to you (to your doctrine) more than to Elohim (the Words of His Torah, His doctrine), you judge. FOR WE CANNOT BUT SPEAK THE THINGS WHICH WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD FROM YESHUA. Again we must remember that **IT IS** YHVH Himself that

IS speaking through Peter to these religious leaders. The **RELIGIOUS LEADERS** wanted to punish Peter and John, but they dared **NOT, BECAUSE** they feared the people, the people that witnessed the miracle healing and Praised YHVH, **BY NAME**, for what He had done.

It says that the man was above *forty* when the miracle happened. If he is above forty, why is his age not given? I believe YHVH is using the number forty because it represents a test in Scripture, and here, in *Acts 4*, I believe that the **RELIGIOUS LEADERS** of the day are being tested and as you can see they failed the test miserably.

Now it is up to you to choose what you will believe, **WILL YOU FAIL AS THE LEADERS OF JDAISM FAILED, WHEN YOU ARE TESTED** or will you be like Yeshua who said when He was tested by the devil in the wilderness for forty days, and said in Matthew 4:4 *It is written (in the Torah), Man shall not live by bread alone, BUT by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of Elohim?*

In other words, Messiah knew the Torah, and He relied on the Word of YHVH to **DEFEND** Himself rather than trying to do it on His own.

Yeshua **IS** our example, therefore we too are to say, when we are tested, *It is written*, and then live by what **IS** actually written in the Words of YHVH's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life. However to do that, we must **KNOW** and **UNDERSTAND** what **IS** written, and that can only be achieved by obeying the Word of YHVH, **AS IT IS WRITTEN**, and then as YHVH says, we will **KNOW** the **TRUTH** and the **TRUTH** will set us **FREE**.

Now Peter and John return to their group and together they worship and glorify YHVH for what has just happened. As we read on we see that they continue praying and quoting Scripture. *2 Kings 19:15 Then Hezekiah prayed before YHVH, and said: O YHVH Elohim of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are Elohim, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.*

Psalm 2:1 Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing?

Here, in *verses 25 and 26*, we see a prophecy being fulfilled. In *Psalm 2*, David prophesied that the kings of the earth **stood up** and the rulers were gathered **against** YHVH and **against** His Messiah. And it is no different today, because many people that profess to be of the house of Elohim, ARE against His Law, the Words of His written Torah. Even **IF** every person that professes to be a Jew, a Christian or a Catholic, was a true and obedient believer in the Words of YHVH Torah of Life, as we are commanded to be, we would only be one eighth (1/8) of the world population. The balance of the people, have their own man made imaginary gods, and that means by implication that they come against YHVH.

Verses 27 and 28 tell us that Herod and Pontius Pilot, together with the gentiles and the people of Israel were gathered together against YHVH's Holy Child, Yeshua. But unbeknownst to them, this event was happening by the hand and the counsel of YHVH as He had predestined it to happen. They thought they were doing their own thing; but they were actually fulfilling the plan of salvation that our Heavenly Father had put in place at the beginning of time.

Acts 4:29-30 should be our prayer also: **29** *Now, YHVH, look on their threats, and grant to Your*

*servants that with all boldness they may speak **Your Word**, by stretching out **Your Hand** to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the Name of Your Holy Servant Yeshua. Who was and is our example!*

And now when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together shook and they were again filled with the Holy Spirit and they spoke the Word of YHVH **WITH BOLDNESS**.

In *Acts 2:4* we are told that they were filled with the Holy Spirit of YHVH, and here in *verse 4:31* it says that they were filled with the Holy Spirit and they spoke the Word of Elohim with boldness. Why do they have to be filled with the Holy Spirit again, since they were filled with Him back in *Acts 2*? Does the power of the Holy Spirit diminish or weaken somehow, must it be given a boost? The answer of course **IS** a resounding **NO**, of course **NOT!** For Elohim is omnipotent and does not need a boost! We, on the other hand, are weak in many areas and when we allow our fleshly desires back into our lives, we weaken our own position in the Word of YHVH by relying on our flesh, rather than relying on YHVH, His Word and His Holy Spirit, therefore YHVH in His wisdom, fills them again with His Holy Spirit in order that they may carry out the tasks that He has assigned to them.

Now we can see the results of a community that is filled with the Holy Spirit of our Heavenly Father.

- They believed the testimony of Messiah
- They were of one, *echad*, heart and one soul
- They shared all their possessions for the good of all
- They held all possessions and money in common
- With great power, the apostles were witnesses of the resurrection of Messiah, Yeshua
- Great Grace was upon them
- None lacked for anything
- They all sold all their possessions and pooled their money and laid it at the feet of the Apostles
- Even Levites joined the group, sold their lands and joined this community of believers

One day this phenomenon will occur again. Therefore, prepare your heart by being obedient to the Word of YHVH, the Words of His Torah of Life, **NOW**, for when Paul tells us in *Romans 7:14* that we know that the Torah (Law) **IS** spiritual, what he **IS** telling us, **IS** that the Torah **IS** Spirit filled, and **IF** we want to be filled with the Holy Spirit of Elohim, we **MUST OBEY** and **DO** YHVH's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, follow and obey the Words of His Torah of Life, and in doing so, in surrendering our wills to our heavenly Father, in loving surrendered obedience to Words of His Torah of Life, we, through the Grace of our heavenly Father are filled with His Spirit who in turn **IS** tasked with **CAUSING** every surrendered contrite obedient heart, to walk out our

Father's inerrant and everlasting Torah, His teaching and instructions for **LIFE**.

Then the things that the Apostolic community experienced will become our experience also. The journey **IS NOT EASY** because we have to overcome our own flesh. Messiah tells us in *Matthew 11:30 My yoke is easy and My burden is light*. That is only true **IF** we truly surrender our hearts to Him. When we learn to make His will our will, then that **IS** when the burden is lifted and becomes as light as a feather, for **IT IS BEING CARRIED BY** our loving Messiah, our eternal bridegroom..

When Messiah returns may He find **ALL** of us walking Torah obedient lives, with loving surrendered obedient hearts, exactly as He did and taught us to do when He was here with us on earth Amein.

Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.

*Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought,
and your every deed. Until we meet again, שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵיכֶם, Shalom Aleykem. Amein*