

***Study of Mark 8***  
by  
***Marc Gravelle***  
[marc@bondservantsofyeshua.ca](mailto:marc@bondservantsofyeshua.ca)

***Mark 8:1-38***

Here in *Mark 8* we are told of another miraculous feeding of thousands of people by Messiah.

*Verse 1 In those days the multitude being very great, and having nothing to eat, Yeshua called his disciples unto Him, and said unto them, 2 I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with Me **three** days, and have **nothing to eat**: 3 And if I send them away fasting to their own houses, they will faint by the way: for many of them came from far. 4 And His disciples answered him, From where can a man satisfy these men with bread here in the wilderness?*

Here we see that Messiah tells His disciples that these people have been with Him, and listening to His words, for the past **three** days, have nothing to eat, and then He says, **IF** I send them away, they will faint on their way back home, because many of them came from very far away. And just like the first time that Messiah miraculously fed thousands of people, with only five loaves of bread and two fishes, His disciples ask Him, from where are we going to get enough food to feed this multitude of people?

Like I said above, Messiah's disciples, ask Him from where are **WE** going to get enough food to feed this multitude of people, and yet, we know that they have already witnessed Messiah, feeding five thousand plus people with only five loaves of bread and two fishes, so I believe that the response of His disciples should have been, is the Father going to do another miracle through you, and feed this multitude also, rather than saying, *From where can a man satisfy these men with bread here in the wilderness?*

After His disciples asked Him from where can we get enough bread to satisfy these many people, Messiah says in *verse 5 And He asked them, How many loaves do you have?*

Again, we can see that Messiah is not angry or annoyed at His disciples, He simply asks them, how many loaves do you have.

Now there are two ways to explain the answer that Messiah's disciples gave to this question; the first, is in the physical, and that is how Messiah's disciples answered Him, when they said, we have **seven** loaves of bread. **BUT**, to me, the way that they should have answered is by saying, Master, **YOU ARE** the Bread of Life, therefore with **YOU**, there **IS NO LIMITATION** as to how many loaves of bread we have, for **YOU** will **ALWAYS** provide as many loaves as are necessary to fulfill the need of the people that are listening to Your Words.

However His disciples said: *And they said, **Seven**. 6 And Messiah Commanded the people to **sit down on the ground***: The phrase, *He commanded the people to sit down on the ground*, is a metaphor, for this is going to be a teaching moment.

Now once the people are sitting down on the grass, we are told that *Messiah, took the seven loaves,*

and **gave thanks**, and broke the Bread, and gave it to His disciples to set before the people; and they (Messiah's disciples), did set them before the people. 7 And they had **a few small fishes**: And He blessed YHVH once more, and Commanded to set them (the fishes) before the people also.

Messiah goes through the very same process that He did when He fed the five thousand plus people, He looks up to heaven, gives thanks to our heavenly Father for the provisions, and then, He breaks the **bread** and the few small fishes into smaller pieces, and gives it to His disciples to distribute it around to the people that are sitting on the grass, and before His disciples pass this bread and fishes around to the people, Messiah once again turns His head towards heaven and blessed our heavenly Father once more. Why do you think Messiah blessed our heavenly Father a second time?

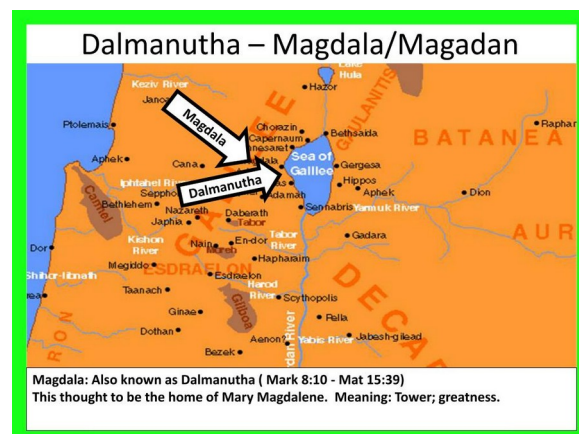
Blessing our heavenly Father for His provisions, can, and often does, become rote routine, which means that the prayer is actually meaningless, and Messiah wants us to understand that the **ONLY** reason that the **bread and fishes ARE** being multiplied, so that all these people can be fed, **IS because of the Love, Grace and Mercy, that our heavenly has towards His children who are seeking the Truth.**

Verse 8 So they, the people that were there, did eat, and were **filled**: and they took up of the broken meat that was left **seven** baskets. 9 And they that had eaten were about **four thousand**: and **THEN**, He sent them away.

This tells us that whenever we take the time to pay very close attention to, and listen to the Words of Messiah, when we willingly choose to Shema, His words, when we willingly choose to hear, listen, pay very close attention to, understand, believe, follow and obey His Words, which are the very same Words of the Torah that YHVH gave to Mosheh at Mount Sinai, **THEN** we will be filled, satisfied, satiated, which is just another way of saying, **that we will be filled with joy.** And the reason we will experience this incredible joy, **IS** because, when we are exposed to the **Truth** contained in the Words of YHVH's Torah of Life, it sets us free from the life long bondage, that we have had to Sin, prior to knowing the **TRUTH.**

Every Word that Messiah, the Living Torah speaks, is like a rung on a ladder, and each word of **TRUTH** that He speaks, and that we believe, brings us nearer to His complete and everlasting **TRUTH**, which then leads us on the path to enter His everlasting kingdom where we will spend eternity with Messiah and our heavenly Father. Amein

Verse 10 And straightway He entered into a ship with His disciples, and came into the parts of Dalmanutha.



(Dalmanutha, is a village on the west shore of the Sea of Galilee, it is seemingly parallel to the place that Messiah fed the four thousand, in *Matthew 15:39*, called Magdala or Magadan)

Now once Messiah and His disciples were in Dalmanutha, we are told that the Pharisees of the area came and questioned Him, *verse 11*

*And the Pharisees came forth, and began to question Him,*

**WHY** did the Pharisees question Him? It is because He had so many people following Him, that He was a threat to their authority, for many of the people that listened to Him, believed that what Messiah was teaching them, which of course, **ARE** the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah, His Directives for everlasting Life, which when believed and obeyed, as we are commanded to do, sets people **FREE**, was the **TRUTH**, while the Pharisees were teaching the words of their own man made oral torah, their own man made doctrines, **which puts people in bondage**, to the ways and or traditions of men. Next we are told that the Pharisees wanted to trick Messiah, by asking Him what signs from heaven can you show us, to **PROVE** that you are who You say You are?

*Seeking of Him, a sign from heaven, tempting Him. 12 And Messiah **sighed deeply** in His spirit,*

Here we can see that Messiah is deeply troubled in His spirit because of the lack of **understanding of the Father's Words, displayed by the Pharisees**, for they are the ones that are the so called shepherds or teachers of the people of Yisrael, and like Nicodemus, these Pharisees, who **ARE** supposed to be teachers of Yisrael, do not even **KNOW** the basics of the message that YHVH gave to Mosheh at Mount Sinai to give to the people of Yisrael. Therefore, Messiah says:

**WHY** does this generation seek after a sign?

*Verily I say unto you,*

*Verse 13 There **shall be NO SIGN** given unto this generation.*

It is as **IF** Messiah was saying, **IS** that plain enough for you, **NO SIGNS** whatsoever will be given to **ANYONE**, and then to add insult to injury, Messiah just left them without saying another word.

*And He left them, and entering into the ship again, they departed to **the other side**.*

*Verse 14 Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, neither had they in the ship with them more than **one loaf**. 15 And Messiah charged them, saying, Take heed, **beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod**. 16 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, **It is because we have no bread**.*

Here we are told that after Messiah told the Pharisees that **NO SIGN** would be given to anyone, He got into a ship with His Disciples and they left to go to **the other side**. The spiritual message that I get from the statement, **the other side**, is that Messiah, the Words of the Living Torah made flesh, **IS** the **other side** of all man made doctrines, including the oral torah of the Pharisees, the Rabbis, for their man made doctrines, are riddled with **LIES**, whereas, Messiah's Doctrine, the Words of the Torah of YHVH, **ARE PURE AND EVERLASTING TRUTH** (*Psalm 119:142*).

We are told that while Messiah was in the ship, He overheard His disciples saying that they had

forgotten to bring some bread with them and all they had on board with them was **one loaf of bread**. Again, I believe that there is a very profound message hidden within this very simple phrase. In the Spiritual, the One Loaf of Bread, that they had in the ship was enough to feed the whole World, for they had the Bread of Life with them, which tells us that His disciples were **NOT YET** aware of who Messiah truly was.

Messiah also used the fact that they had only **one loaf** of bread to teach them yet another lesson. He used the single loaf of bread and compared it to the **BREAD** that the Pharisees put out as their leavened bread, their **sinful** ways, their transgressions of the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life. Now to better understand what this comparison **IS**, we have to understand that Messiah Himself, **IS** the Bread of Life, and the Bread of Life, **IS** the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life; *John 6:50 This **IS** the **Bread which comes down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and NOT DIE**. 51 I am the **Living Bread** which came down from heaven: **IF** any man eats of this bread, he **SHALL LIVE FOR EVER**: and the **Bread** that I will give, **IS My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world**.*

Now, if Messiah, who **IS** the Words of the Living Torah made flesh, **IS** indeed the Bread of Life, and, **IF** He is the Words of the Torah made flesh, **THEN** that means that the **bread of the Pharisees, IS their words, their teaching and instructions, the words of their oral torah**, and what does Messiah say about the **bread** or the teaching of the Pharisees? He says: **beware of the LEAVEN of the Pharisees, and of the LEAVEN of Herod**.

In Scripture, **leaven is a metaphor for Sin, for Lies**, therefore, Messiah is telling **ALL** of us, to **BEWARE** of the **LIES of ALL** man made doctrines, that originate from **ALL** man made religions, for Messiah **DID NOT come to earth to teach us religion, He came to earth to teach us a Way of Life**, a Path, whereby, once a person willingly chooses to surrender their hearts to our heavenly Father in total loving surrendered obedience to the Words of His Torah of Life, and continue therein, that is walk on His designated Path of loving surrendered obedience to all the Words of His Torah of Life, they can, and will actually find their way to His everlasting Kingdom, and be invited to enter, which means, they will inherit the Kingdom of Elohim, and the world to come, and spend eternity with our Bridegroom and our heavenly Father.

Next we see how disappointed Messiah is, at the lack of understanding that even His own disciples have about the Words that He speaks. So, the question that I believe we **ALL** have to ask ourselves **IS**, will YHVH be disappointed with the level of **my understanding** of His Words and His parables?

The reason it is so important for us to **UNDERSTAND** the Words that Messiah, the Living Torah made flesh speaks to us, **IS** because, a lack of **understanding** of the Words of YHVH's Torah of Life, a lack of understanding YHVH's Directives for everlasting Life, can be disastrous, for it will more than likely **lead** a person to believe the Lies of the enemy, who has taught mankind, through man made religious and or secular doctrines, that the Torah of YHVH, which satan has caused man to rename it as, **THE LAW**, has somehow been done away with, and replaced by the doctrines and or the oral torah of man, **which can and will, only lead to everlasting damnation**.

*Verse 17 And when Yeshua knew it, (when Messiah knew that His disciples reasoned among themselves, saying, he has told us this, because we have no bread) He said unto them, **WHY** do you reason, that it is because you have no (material) bread?*

Do you **NOT** yet *perceive*,  
Can you **NOT** *understand*?  
Have your hearts **hardened**?  
Having eyes, can you **NOT SEE**?  
Having ears, can you **NOT HEAR**?  
**AND** do you **NOT REMEMBER**?

As you can see YHVH/Messiah, is chastising His own disciples for their lack of understanding, and then to help them understand, he asks them and **US**, a bunch of questions.

Question #1

Verse 19 When I broke the **Five** loaves among **Five** thousand, how many baskets full of fragments did you take up?

They answered Him, **Twelve**.

Question #2

And when the seven loaves among were given to the four thousand, how many baskets full of fragments did you pick up?

And they said, **Seven**.

Question #3

And He said unto them, **HOW IS IT THAT YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND?**

Here, I have to stop and ask you, **DO YOU** understand what Messiah is saying here? And **IF NOT**, do you want to understand what Messiah is saying?

In the feeding of the **five** thousand, we found out that Messiah took the **Five** loaves of Bread which represents the **Words of the Five books of Mosheh**, the Words of the Torah of our heavenly Father, and He broke that Bread into pieces, which represents the Word of the Torah of YHVH, and gave the pieces of that bread, the Words of the Torah of our heavenly Father, to His disciples, and instructed them to give pieces of that **Bread** along with pieces of the two fishes, to the multitude that were there. Now, after the multitude had eaten their fill, we are told that His disciples gathered **twelve** baskets of fragments that were left over. The Number **twelve** in Scripture represents the perfect way that YHVH has chosen **to govern His kingdom**, which is with the restored house of Yisrael, the **TWELVE** Tribes of Yisrael, restored as one family.

When Messiah fed the **four** thousand people, we are told that they had **seven** loaves of Bread, and a few fishes, and Messiah broke that bread into pieces, and He gave pieces of the bread and fishes to His disciples, to give to the multitude that were there, and after they had eaten their fill, we are told that His disciples gathered **seven** baskets of fragments that were left over.

Now we have to ask ourselves what is the message that Messiah communicating to us here in these **two miraculous feedings**, where one way, there were **twelve** baskets of left over fragments gathered and the other way only **seven** baskets of left over fragments gathered.

To answer that question we first have to answer what the Pharisees were teaching the gentiles. The Pharisees taught that the Words of the Torah, was for them only, and that **ALL** the gentiles had to follow were the Seven Noahide laws, which are:

1. ***Do not profane Elohim's Oneness in any way.***

Acknowledge that there is a single Elohim who cares about what we are doing and desires that we take care of His world.

2. ***Do not curse your Creator.***

No matter how angry you may be, do not take it out verbally against your Creator.

3. ***Do not murder.***

The value of human life cannot be measured. To destroy a single human life is to destroy the entire world—because, for that person, the world has ceased to exist. It follows that by sustaining a single human life, you are sustaining an entire universe.

4. ***Do not eat a limb of a living animal.***

Respect the life of all Elohim's creatures. As intelligent beings, we have a duty not to cause undue pain to other creatures.

5. ***Do not steal.***

Whatever benefits you receive in this world, make sure that none of them are at the unfair expense of someone else.

6. ***Harness and channel the human libido.***

Incest, adultery, rape and homosexual relations are forbidden.

The family unit is the foundation of human society. Sexuality is the fountain of life and so nothing is more holy than the sexual act. So, too, when abused, nothing can be more debasing and destructive to the human being.

7. ***Establish courts of law and ensure justice in our world.***

With every small act of justice, we are restoring harmony to our world, synchronizing it with the natural order of things. That is why Paul tells us, in **Romans 13**, that we must keep the laws established by our government for the country's stability and harmony, because, as Paul says: it is YHVH that has appointed these leaders over us.

These two incidents speak of two different scenarios. First we have five loaves that represent the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life, and Messiah is teaching us that **IF** we willingly choose to take the Bread that came from the Five Loaves, which represents the Father's Torah of Life, and the pieces of the two fishes, which I believe, represents both the northern and southern kingdoms of Yisrael, and consume them, if we willingly internalize them, then He will gather the twelve tribes of Yisrael into one family, and bring us to the restoration of all things, which is a shadow picture of His everlasting kingdom.

However, **IF** a Messiah, or anyone else for that matter, only teaches the **seven** Noahide laws, instead of all the Words contained in the **five Books of Mosheh, the Torah**, the inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions that YHVH gave to Mosheh at Mount Sinai. **THEN** they, meaning Yisrael, will only be able to gather up **PART** of the family of Elohim, **PART** of the **twelve** Tribes of Yisrael, which means that the **restoration of ALL things, CAN NEVER HAPPEN**. That my friends **IS how dangerous and destructive the leaven or the Lies of the Pharisees, and the Lies of all man made religious and or secular doctrines TRULY ARE**.

Next we are told that after teaching His disciples of the danger of believing the doctrine or the leaven, the Lies of the Pharisees, He teaches them about what is going to happen to Him.

*Verse 31 And He began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after **three** days rise again.*

First of all we have to understand that before the advent of Messiah, His disciples and all the people of Yisrael were under the influence and teachings of the Scribes and Pharisees, and their man made oral torah. Therefore, when Messiah started to teach His disciples the Words of the Father's Torah of Life, his disciples and all that listened to Him were surprised at His teachings, and that can only mean that they **were NOT aware of anything that Messiah was teaching them**, which in turn means, they had **NOT** been taught this **TRUTH**, they had **NOT** been taught the Words of the written Torah that YHVH Himself gave to Mosheh at Mount Sinai, but instead, they had been taught the Lies of the Pharisees, their man made oral torah. Logic tells us, that **IF** they had indeed been taught the Words of the written Torah, then there would be no need, for Messiah to teach them about it.

Now, since the disciples, who were mostly fishermen, and not learned men, and therefore they were not familiar with what was written in the Torah that YHVH gave to Mosheh at Mount Sinai, because they were **NOT** taught the words of the written Torah, but they were taught the lies of the Pharisees. The Scribes and Pharisees, who were supposed to be the shepherds of the people of Yisrael, either did **NOT KNOW** about the written Torah that was given to Mosheh at Mount Sinai, OR, they **LIED** about it.

I personally believe that because they chose, over the years to follow their man made oral torah, that they left the **TRUTH** behind, many, many years ago, and now, they were stuck believing the Lies of their fathers, the traditions of men. Messiah says, in the Scroll of the Book it is written of Me, and here He says that He, the Living Torah made flesh, **WILL BE REJECTED** by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and that He will be killed according to their will, **BUT** that after **three** days, He will rise again, and none of His disciples had ever heard this teaching, this **TRUTH**, therefore it was a foreign teaching to them, for most people in Yisrael at that time, had been taught and believed that when Messiah would come, He would defeat all of Yisrael's enemies and make Yisrael the strongest kingdom on earth.

This confirms to us that the Pharisees were **NOT** teaching the pure Words of the Torah of Mosheh, but that instead, they were teaching a mixture of some of the Words of the Torah combined, or mixed with a lot of the words of their man made oral torah, and that is why they missed the day of their visitation.

Next in *verse 32* we are told that Messiah *spoke that saying openly*, He spoke the Words of His impending death and resurrection openly, which means that He did **NOT** hide it from anyone, including the Pharisees.

Next we are told that *Peter took Him, and began to rebuke Him*, which means that as far as Peter was concerned, he would have **NONE of IT**, He was **NOT** about to let His Messiah die, and even though that seems like a good thing, it was **NOT**, for **IF** Messiah **DOES NOT GO** to the Cross and die in our stead, **THEN**, there is **NO** Resurrection for us, and the devil wins. You could say that **NOT** allowing Messiah to go to the cross and Die for all of mankind, as the Father had planned for our salvation, **IS** the Work of the devil, and Messiah makes that abundantly clear when he rebukes Peter in *verse 33*

*But when Messiah had turned about and looked on his disciples, he **rebuked** Peter, saying, **Get behind me, Satan:** For you do **NOT** savour the things that are of Elohim, **BUT** you savour the things that **ARE** of men.*

There is nothing wrong with loving someone and **NOT** wanting them to die, **BUT** in this case, **NOT** letting Messiah go to the Cross, and Die in our stead, so that we could be resurrected onto eternal life, was tantamount to working with the devil to fulfill his plans, of Not allowing anyone to benefit from the Words of Messiah, the Living Torah.

*Verse 34 And when He had called the people unto Himself, with His disciples also, He said unto them, Whosoever will come after and **follow Me**,*

*1 – Let him deny himself,*

What does it mean to deny oneself? Well in Peter's case, it means that he has to allow Messiah to suffer on the cross and **NOT** try to stop it. **ALL** of us, are to learn to allow the Father's Will to be done in our lives, and not anyone else's will, not even our own will, as Peter found out.

*2 – Take up his cross,*

What does it mean to pick up your cross? It means to pick up your responsibility, stick to the plan that our heavenly Father has for your life, and follow in the very same Torah obedient footsteps that I, Messiah walked and taught you to walk. Since the cross is sometimes called the tree of Messiah's execution, it could also mean, that we are to **UPROOT ALL** of our old man made secular or religious doctrines, that we have adhered to in the past, and then cast them aside in favour of willingly choosing to walk as Messiah walked, in total loving surrendered obedience to all the Words of the Father's Torah of Life.

*3 – Follow Me.*

What does Messiah mean when He says follow Me? He is telling us to walk in total loving surrendered obedience to all the Words of the Father's Torah of Life, as He did and taught us to do.

*Verse 35 For whosoever will save His life **SHALL** lose it;*

What does Messiah mean when he says, *whosoever will save His life **SHALL** lose it?* This is talking about people that only think of themselves, selfish people, people that are filled with pride, elitism and egoism, people who believe that they are better than other people, therefore, in their eyes, their lives are worth much more than the lives of other people, and they will do anything, including stepping on the backs of other people just to save their own lives. They do not and cannot even begin to understand Messiah's Commandment that we are to give our lives for our brother, just like Messiah gave His life for ours.

That is made clear in both *1John2:15-17* where it says: *Do **NOT** love the world and its ways,* (which is what these people that Messiah is talking about here, in Mark, are doing) *neither love the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father **IS NOT** in him. For all that is in the world, the **lust of the flesh**, and **the lust of the eyes**, and **the pride of life**, **IS NOT** of the Father, **BUT IS** of the world. And the world will pass away, along with the **LUST** thereof: **BUT** he that **DOES** the will of Elohim (which is the very same will as Messiah's Will, for they are echad, they are One) **ABIDES FOR EVER.***

*1John 3:15-17 Whosoever hates his brother (as these people that Messiah is talking about in Mark 8) **IS** a murderer: and you know that **no murderer** has eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of Elohim, because He laid down His life for us: and **WE OUGHT TO** lay down our lives for the brethren. But whosoever has this world's good, and sees his brother have need, **AND shuts up his bowels of compassion from him**, how does the love of Elohim dwell in him? Amein*

The point that Messiah wants all of us to understand, **IS** made in the last part of *verse 35*, where Messiah says:

**BUT** whosoever shall lose his life, **FOR MY SAKE AND** for the sake of the Gospel, for the sake of the **TRUTH**, the Words of the Living Torah, that same person **SHALL SAVE HIS LIFE**.

Messiah is saying that **IF** we mimic what He willingly did, by dying on the cross to save all people who would choose of their own volition to turn to the Father and obey all of His Commandments, **IF** we have that same servant's heart, **THEN** we will inherit everlasting **LIFE**, in the kingdom of Elohim. **HOWEVER** the people who have a selfish, self centred attitude are on their own, they will **NOT** be invited into the kingdom of Elohim.

Messiah ends His Words in *Mark 8* by saying in *verse 36*

*For how shall a man profit, **IF** he gains the whole world, and **LOSES HIS OWN SOUL?***

To lose one's soul, means that the person **WILL** suffer the second death, which means that there is **NO** everlasting Life for that person. So, while a person that loses his own soul will probably live somewhere between sixty to ninety years on earth, and then die, and on resurrection day, because of his lifestyle choices he/she will suffer the second death, However, the person that willingly surrendered his/her soul to YHVH, in obedience to the Words of His Torah of Life, may have the same physical lifespan, **BUT**, that person, will also inherit, everlasting Life in the kingdom of Elohim.

*Verse 37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*

Only you can answer that question for yourself, but as for me and my house, our souls belong to Elohim.

*Verse 38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me, Messiah, the Words of the Living Torah of My heavenly Father, made flesh, in this **adulterous and sinful** generation; of him also shall the Son of man **BE ASHAMED**, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy messengers.*

Messiah can **NOT** make it any clearer, when He says that **ANY ONE** that **IS ASHAMED OF** believing, following and obeying the Words of the Torah of our heavenly Father made flesh, our Messiah, in this **adulterous and sinful** generation, that we are now living in; **THEN** our heavenly Father will be **ashamed** of him/her, and there is no place in the kingdom of Elohim for anyone that our heavenly Father is ashamed of. Amein.

*Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.*

*Have a great Elohim blessed week and may YHVH bless your every thought,  
and your every deed. Until we meet again. Amein*