

LECH LECHA AND THE PROCESS OF CROSSING OVER

("Lech Lecha" is the name of the reading portion Genesis 12:1 – 17:27, beginning with the words "Go, for yourself")

How Lech Lecha should be understood (12:1)

- ☺ "Go yourself" – as opposed to "Go" (many examples throughout Scriptures)
- ☺ "Go to yourself" – as a way of finding your "inner self, potential, etc" (the view of some today)
- ☺ "Go for yourself" – for your own sake, and for the sakes of those who will follow later (the correct view)

Gen 12:1 And Yahweh said to Avram, Go for yourself out of your land, from your birthplace and from your father's house, to a land which I show.

The three forms of "leave" that Avram had to fulfil (12:1)

- ☺ "Your Land" – "eretz" – "to be firm" (the things that make you feel strong)
- ☺ "Your Birthplace" – "moledet" – "to be born" (the actions that make you feel alive)
- ☺ "Your Father's House" – "bayit" – "to build" (the people who make you feel safe)

What it means that Avram is called "The Hebrew" (14:13)

Jos 24:2-3 Long ago your fathers dwelt beyond the River ... and they served other mighty ones. So I took your father Avraham from beyond the River, and caused him to go through all the land of Kenaan.

- ☺ "Avram Ha'ivri" – descendant of "Eber" or "Ever", the great grandchild of "Shem"
- ☺ "abar" or "avar" – "to cross over", "to cross the border"
- ☺ The wordplay between the two names "Avram" and "Eber" →
- ☺ Two eponymous ("epi" + "onoma") ancestors: "Shem" (Semites) and "Ever" (Hebrews)
- ☺ Two outstanding characteristics of "Ivrim" or "Hebrews":

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- Following the One with the Name above all names (and calling upon his Name!)
- Showing a willingness to cross over – for their own sakes and the sake of others!
- ☺ Potiphar's wife refers to Joseph as a "Hebrew" because he was an OUTSIDER to the household of Potiphar (Gen 39:14).
- ☺ Pharaoh's daughter refers to the people as "Hebrews" because they had a different IDENTITY to Egypt (Ex 1:16).
- ☺ The Philistines refer to the Israelites as "Hebrews" because they were FOREIGNERS near the territory of the Philistines (1 Sam 4:6)
- ☺ The writer of the book "Hebrews" describes Avraham (and those who "join" Avraham in his pattern of belief) as STRANGERS and PILGRIMS here on earth (Hebrews 11:8-16).
- ☺ In the LXX (Greek translation of the Tanak), the phrase "Avram the Hebrew" in Gen 14:13 is translated as "Avram the perates" – meaning: "the passer", "the one who stepped over", "the one moving from here to a place beyond".
- ☺ At the time of the birth of Peleg, Eber's son, we are told that the earth was divided (Gen 10:25) – implying that his father, Eber, must have witnessed the Tower of Babel episode, but did NOT partake in it, quite possibly even distanced himself

from it completely, because the Hebrew language (almost certainly the ONE language spoken of in Gen 11:1) was not affected by the language confusion that came upon the rest of the world – upon those who openly rebelled against Yahweh and deceived themselves into believing that they can elevate themselves to the level of the Almighty Himself.

- ☹️ Avram later being called "Avram Ha'ivri" – also translatable as "Avram of Eber" – confirms that Avram continued the legacy of Eber of consistently choosing to cross over from worldly attitudes, choosing to live a set-apart life.

How the theme of "crossing over" was continued by Y'shua

- ☹️ The kind of crossing over that is highlighted in Scriptures always comes down to a crossing over, or a deliberate movement from darkness to light.
- ☹️ We are followers of Y'shua – ALSO in the aspect of crossing over.
- ☹️ Crossing over from sinful desires to a consistent desire to please Yahweh and come closer to Him (Y'shua: "My food is to do the desire of Him who sent Me").
- ☹️ Crossing over from holding onto the traditions of men whereby (in Y'shua's own words) we "nullified the words of Yahweh".
- ☹️ Crossing over from honouring theology and doctrine and religious jargon, instead of honouring Yahweh (Y'shua: "Your righteousness should be MORE ...")
- ☹️ In the town of Philippi, 30 years after Y'shua's ministry on earth, there were strife and selfish ambition and lowliness in mind among the believers (Phil 1:15-16 and 2:3). They needed to cross over and was told by the apostle (2:5): "Let the same mind of humility and self-denial be in you which was also in Y'shua the Messiah".
- ☹️ And up to this day we can still look at Y'shua. He who crossed over from the pattern of this world, to an other-worldly pattern – the pattern that Yahweh is looking for among ALL of his followers. It is not only Avram and the Hebrews and the Philippians who needed to cross over. It is US too. We have the perfect example of Messiah. And above all, we have forgiveness in his Name. If we find within ourselves a mindset that is focused on comfort and personal gain and not on loyalty to Yahweh, we should repent, and once again step over to His side.
- ☹️ Let us always cherish the fact that Y'shua is our passport for crossing from this world to the next:

Luk 18:29-30 The one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the reign of Elohim, shall receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come everlasting life.

Joh 14:6 Y'shua said to him, "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

1 Cor 15:20-21 Messiah has been raised from the dead, and has become the first-fruit of those having fallen asleep. For since death is through a man, resurrection of the dead is also through a man.