

## **The Torah shall go forth of Zion**

by: Karl D. Coke, Ph. D.

It is time for mature believers to be as Issachar's men, "... which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; ..." (I Chronicles 12:32) It is time for mature believers to do as Isaiah instructed in 40:1-2, "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins." Mature believers need to be the voice crying, "In the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the LORD, ..." (Isaiah 40:3) Messiah is coming! "The Torah shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" just as Micah said (4:2)

It is time to be exclusively involved in the instruction of Jesus given to His students: "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples [talmudim - students] of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.'" (Matthew 28:18-20a NIV)

We must make an immediate, organized response to Jesus' instruction for His disciples [students] to make other disciples [students] by teaching them God's instructions as He, Jesus, had taught them. We by no means should ever claim to be "the" response to Jesus' instruction, just "a" response. We must see "all nations" as a mandate from Jesus making our scope world-wide.

Furthermore, in the current world-wide attitude of hate and segregation, we must understand that the word "all" requires reconciliation. That is: "So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ [Messiah] in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them [ref. Psalm 103:10-14]. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God was making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled unto God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (II Corinthians 5:16-21)

Following overt reconciliation, we should join in our teaching only that which originates from, and, remains consistent with, God's Word. This is the only safeguard for Godly purposes. God's Word is the curriculum. We need instructors that have found that in each of God's instructions, God has clearly identified what is to be continuously researched. For example, in His second recorded instruction to Adam, God said: "Behold, I have given you every herb yielding seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed—to you it shall be for food; ..." (Genesis 1:29) The search clearly identified herein is that the fruit of plants and trees are man's food.

God identifies what man is to "search" in His commandments. That is, what God wants man to "search" out is always contained in and is clearly self-evident in each of God's commandments (instructions). God created man to continually "re"search what He has identified and implied in His commandments.

Furthermore, God teaches man "as" man does research. Implied in the Genesis 1:29 instruction to "eat the fruit of plants and trees" is that plants and trees need to be "re"searched. This "re"search will teach man why these fruits are good for food, when they are at their best to be eaten, what balance should be maintained, portion size, frequency of eating and so forth. Since God instructed man to eat fruit then it follows that God should teach man about fruit. Notice the following incomplete list of disciplines of "re"search which are implied in the "God-identified search" known as "eat these foods:"

Health; Diet; Agriculture; Nutrition; Conservation; Biology; Digestion; Disease; Water; Sun; Soils; Geography; Exercise; Seasons; Botany; Insects; Processing; Harvesting; etc.; etc.; etc.

God is man's best instructor during the "re"search of what God told him to search. "Listen and hear my voice; pay attention and hear what I say. When a farmer plows for planting, does he plow continually? Does he keep on breaking up and harrowing the soil? When he has leveled the surface, does he not sow caraway and scatter the cumin? Does he not plant wheat in its place, barley in its plot and spelt in its field? His God instructs him and teaches him the right way. Caraway is not threshed with a sledge, nor is a cartwheel rolled over cumin; caraway is beaten out with a rod, and cumin with a stick. Grain must be ground to make bread; so one does not go on threshing it forever. Though he drives the wheels of his threshing cart over it, the horse does not grind it. All this comes from the LORD Almighty, wonderful in counsel and magnificent in wisdom."

God wants His students to teach all nations His instructions as He has taught them. Therefore, the curriculum is God's Word. God in His instructions makes clear what He wants man to search. God in His instructions implies what He wants man to research. The conclusions reached by man's research of what God instructed must always agree with, take nothing away from nor add anything to God's Word. The true final exam of all man's research is total compliance to God's Word. "Hear now, O Israel, the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. Do not add to what I commanded you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you." (Deuteronomy 4:1-2) "See that you do all I command you; do not add to it or take away from it." (Deuteronomy 12:32)

God's instructions are to be taught from Mt. Zion, and, the time has come to teach God's instructions to the nations!

"But you, O LORD, sit enthroned forever; your renown endures through all generations. You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her; the appointed time has come. For her stones are dear to your servants; her very dust moves them to pity. The nations will fear the name of the LORD, all the kings of the earth will revere your glory. For the LORD will rebuild Zion and appear in his glory. He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; – he will not despise their plea. Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the LORD. The LORD looked down from his sanctuary on high, from heaven he viewed the earth, to hear the groans of the prisoners and release those condemned to death. So the name of the LORD will be declared in Zion and his praise in Jerusalem when the peoples and the kingdoms assemble to worship the LORD." (Psalm 102:12-22)

"In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say 'Come let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths. The law [Torah - Instructions] will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.'" (Isaiah 2:2-3 & Micah 4:1-2)

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ... Foreigners will rebuild your walls, and their kings will serve you." (Isaiah 60:1-3, 10a)

God's original and single purpose was the making "one new man" of Jewish and Gentile believers. "Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called 'uncircumcised' by those who call themselves 'the circumcision' (that done in the body by the hands of men)—remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of promise, without hope and without

God in the world. But now in Christ [Messiah] Jesus you who were once far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two [Jew and Gentile] one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to those who [Gentiles] were far away and peace to those who were near [Jews]. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:11-18)

Today’s dominantly Gentile Church has a message for Jews preceding the fulfillment of Romans 11:25-33. That two-fold message is: “Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: ‘In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.’” (Isaiah 40:1-5)

Creation reveals God’s eternal power and divine nature. “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.” (Romans 1:20)

Knowledge is gained by observing God’s eternal power and divine nature in action. Obviously, all knowledge began by one simple observation of action in progress. Conclusions reached from observations recorded are called textbooks. Knowledge is the recall of information focused around recorded conclusions. Wisdom is the appropriate application of knowledge. Education is the transmittal of knowledge and wisdom from a more informed student to another less informed.

God is the source of all knowledge and wisdom, therefore, education apart from God, or, which denies God’s existence, is both ignorant and detrimental. There is no “sacred” education and “secular” education. Education begins with God, continues with God and ends with God. Education is the study of God—His eternal power and His divine nature. Any conclusion recorded in a textbook that is contrary to God’s Word is incorrect. All recorded observations in textbooks that are supported by and sustained by God’s Word are neither “sacred” nor “secular.” These recorded observations are simply affirmation of God’s divine power awaiting man’s applications.

God created man. God created man with physical limitations and with a seemingly limitless intellectual capacity. This obvious difference is God’s precise design. It is discovered daily by man. When man discovers a physical limitation he begins thinking of a way to overcome it. His solution lies in God’s divine power. However, only God’s Spirit can teach man’s intellect the ways to overcome man’s limitations. For example when man discovers his physical limitation of death, God’s Spirit is available to teach his mind about eternal life—Jesus—which solves his greatest physical limitation. Only God’s Spirit is qualified to teach man’s mind how to overcome man’s limitations.

Baruch HaShem Adonai!