

The Narrow Path. Bene Jaakan

And they departed from Moseroth and pitched in Bene Jaakan, Numbers 33:31.

The

Children of “correction,” “chastisement,” and “instruction” from *Moseroth*, had to travel only a short distance to their next camp site, the twenty-seventh from Egypt. This site was named *Bene Jaakan*, which has both a positive and negative meaning. On the one hand, the name means “wells of distress,” while on the other it means “wells of the wise son of the narrow path.”¹⁵³ The camp name clearly implies the “power of choice.”



At this stage in their journey, Israel was still traveling away from the borders of Canaan. Their heart-cry must have been like David’s, “How long O YAH?” Perhaps this is why the multitude, which gathered at these wells, have been identified by William Harsha (1896) as the “Children of the Tribulation,”¹⁵⁴

Interestingly, the Apostle Paul sketches Israel’s journey-experience in the first eleven chapters of Romans. In Chapter 1, Paul writes that he wishes to be “with them,” which is the meaning of the trek from *Sukkot* to *Etham* (See Volume 1 of this series). In Romans 1:18, he refers to the “wrath of YAH” being revealed (*Pi Hahiroth*) against sinners. Continuing on to verses 21-25, the reader is reminded of the

“bitterness” at *Marah*. In this manner, Paul continues to explain the spiritual messages of the camps, encountered in ancient Israel’s wilderness wanderings.

When we arrive at *Bene Jaakan*, in Paul’s analysis, we are in Chapter 4 of Romans. There, Paul contrasts the discouraging and complaining majority who are in “distress,” with the faithful minority who trust in *Yahweh* as “sons of the narrow path.” Only those who follow this path will receive the final blessing of sonship.¹⁵⁵

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But the sons of the living *YAH*, being called out in this spiritual journey, are contrasted with the false children who may be a part of corporate Israel at this point, but are truly sons of Belial. This warning is revealed in this camp name. For the name *Bene Jaakan* also means “sons of twisting,”¹⁵⁶ “Twisting” comes from the Hebrew word for “wicked.” The root of this word implies the twisting of fabric from the garments of the priests, making them into candle wicks for the Sanctuary *menorah*. The word, thereafter, became defined as “the twisting of Truth;” hence, the word, “wicked.”

Bene Jaakan is mentioned in the Numbers 33 camp-order as following *Moseroth*, which is the reason we have called this the 27th encampment of Israel, in this book. However, Deuteronomy 10:6 places *Bene Jaakan* before *Moseroth*. Theologians and Bible historians have speculated that this difference in the Bible account may be due to a scribal error, or may be a return to the wells. This would make the Deuteronomy list an insert into the travel itinerary listed in Numbers 33. Of all the Bible Passages recording Israel’s Camp locations, most scholars agree that the Numbers 33 account is the most complete and accurate record of Israel’s 42 wilderness encampments. This is why this chapter is accepted as the “official travel log,” written by Moses.

In the final application of this camp-lesson, we who remain faithful to the End, may rightly be called the “Children of the Tribulation.” Recognized by the “Blessed Invitation:” *Come, thou blessed of My*

Father; inherit the Kingdom, prepared for you” (Matthew 25:34), these have become the “sons of YAH.”

And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb, Revelation 7:14.

The phrase, “sons of YHWH” (*Yahweh*), is very significant in the New Testament. It was in this phrase that the Saviour gave His disciples the Gospel Commission. The Hebrew Gematria (numeric value) of that honored title brings encouragement and inspiration to the cast-out fishers of men. The Gematria of “sons of YHWH”, is 153, a number which significantly appears in the fish count of John 21:11.

How is it that the disciples were out fishing in the 21st chapter of John? When the disciples were at their lowest, having seen *Yahshua* die, they were brought again to faith by a visit from their risen Master. They had touched Him, eaten with Him, and listened to His Words of Life. Then, He returned to His Father as the Wave Offering. But His work and ministry were not yet comprehended by them.

What were they to do now? John 21 explains that, in their confusion, they decided to return to fishing. There on the Sea of Galilee the Saviour found the discouraged men. *Yahshua* called to them, “Cast your nets on the other side of the boat.” At His Words, Peter remembered his first encounter with the Master.

When the men had pulled in the over-loaded net, Peter counted the fish. The count was 153, the number which the Hebrew men would have known represented the value of the phrase, “sons of YAH.” This acknowledgment by their Master lefted them out of their sorrow and discouragement.

100 = Called and chosen; surrounded by His Presence
50 = Holy Spirit filled
+ 3 = Nourished by the Covenant

153 = Sons of YAH¹⁶⁸

The fishermen would thereafter fish for souls to bring into Heaven's great Net (Matthew 13:47). In Hebrew Gematria the number 126, although never occurring in Scripture, is the value of "original sin." Subtract it from 153 (153-126=) and the result is "27" - the number of *Bene Jaakan*, where repentant sinners drink of the wells of the "wise sons," the "sons of YAH."¹⁵⁷

Having been "on the road" for better than two years, the Children of Israel were weary of the trials. Only by the naming of the camp lessons and their ordinal numbers, might the travelers have known their spiritual "growth-score," as they moved into an arc that would turn them toward Canaan once again. (See the map below.)



When the Children of Israel arrived at the wells of *Bene Jaakan*, on the border of Edom, they had been through the worst of the trip in some respects. Knowing that they were going away from their destination had been discouraging. It was under such trying circumstances that the Children of Israel had to explicitly trust in YAH..

Notably, at *Bene Jaakan* we see that *Yahweh* repeated the character-developing lessons and tests which they failed to learn the first time around. A single camp trial alone was unable to change the characters of this haughty people. As with us, it often takes repeated crises to gain humility. For the Children of Israel, the experience of chastisement needed to be repeated over-and-over, in order to deflate their soaring egos over the Divine Presence attending them. They believed that the blessing of YAH's Presence in the visible Cloud and

pillar of Fire was due to their specialness or good behavior. May we not repeat the folly of the ancients by manifesting similar pride.

CODE SECRETS IN NUMBERS

In its ordinal position, Israel's camp lesson at *Bene Jaakan*, includes the Gematria meaning of the number twenty-seven.

Twenty-seven is a significant number in Scripture. There are twenty-seven books in the New Testament and twenty-seven generations recorded between David and the Messiah, according to Matthew 1:1-17. Both sets of twenty-seven reveal the solution for the "original sin" problem.¹⁵⁸

Twenty-seven is a multiple of nine, and includes the meaning of both factors ($2 + 7 = 9$). Nine is the number of *Yahweh's* judgment. Consider also, that three, the number of the Covenant, is a factor of twenty-seven and nine. Significantly, in the End of Time the Covenant-keeping congregation will drink from the wells of the "wise sons of the narrow path" while the unfaithful will be overcome in "distress."¹⁵⁹ Combined, these factors suggest the preaching of the Gospel.¹⁶⁰

We may find ourselves surrounded by those who would influence us away from the the narrow path which we have chosen. One's love for a worldly wife or careless son i.e., will place one in a kind of bondage from which it is most difficult to break. It is essential, however, if we are to pass through *Bene Jaakan*. Praise His Name, *Yahshua* saves to the uttermost! The numbers speak of the Gospel promise to break the enemy's strongholds at *Bene Jaakan*.

HISTORY OF *BENE JAAKAN*

While suffering for righteousness sake is honorable, it is disgraceful to experience punishment for one's own sins. Such was the case of the sons of *Jaakan*, having descended from Esau through Seir, the Horite, according to the record in 1 Chronicles 1:38-42. This station, named for the folly of their ways, is thought to have been located to the east

of Mount Hor and the desert of Zin around Mount Seir, as is shown on the map on page 205.

In the margin of 1 Chronicles 1:38-42 (KJV), mention is made of the sons of *Seir*. There the name "*Jaakan*" is identified as "*Achan*," with cross-reference to Genesis 36:27. This is not likely a reference to the infamous *Achan* in the story of *Ai*. The *Achan* associated with *Jaakan* was from Abraham's time. The name "*Achan*" means "to soil or sully; to change in a negative way."¹⁶¹

Historically, the tribes from this region were negative thinkers, and resistant to truth, having descended from Esau. They were antagonistic toward Israel. Such hostile people have troubled the followers of *Yahweh* in every age.¹⁶²

MAY WE DRINK OF THAT WELL

From the turbulent Middle Ages, comes the story of a young woman, only twenty-two years of age, who spiritually "drank only from the wells of the wise sons" on her journey to the ultimate Promised Land.

A new follower of Messiah, Perpetua was brought before the spiritual seed of Esau (the local magistrates) and ordered to recant her faith in *Yahshua*. Perpetua stood fast. Her infant son was torn from her arms, with the threat: "Just a few grains of incense at the (Catholic) altar and you may have your child back. Otherwise, you will never see him again!"

Her father pled with her, "Pity my gray hair, my daughter," he sobbed before her. "Pity thy father!"

In spite of the fact that she had been baptized just hours before, her testimony was given with unwavering conviction: "What shall happen," she replied, "depends on the will of YAH."

Her father continued to urge her, but her resolve was firm. Pointing to an urn in the courtroom, she asked, "Can I call this vessel anything else than what it is?"

“No,” replied her stricken father.

“Neither can I call myself anything but what I am. I am a Christian.” Perpetua was ordered to the dungeon. It was dark, hot and miserable, but it became a palace to her in the days ahead, by contrast to the court appearances and beatings. Each time she was brought out she faced her pleading father and her crying child. Frustrated, her persecutors finally sentenced her to die.



But, as does true Israel in every generation, Perpetua stood faithful to *Yahweh*, even to the point of death. There are crowns of life waiting for spiritual Israel, like Perpetua, who over the centuries have faced similar consequences for their faithfulness on the Narrow Way. So deeply these courageous ones have drunk from wells

of the wise sons and daughters.¹⁶³

*For what is a man propheted, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or, what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?
Matthew 16:26.*

DICTIONARY INSIGHTS AND ENCOURAGEMENT

It is interesting to observe how pressure, or crushing, has come to be associated with “affliction.” Take the word “tribulation,” for instance. It is symbolized by “threshing.”¹⁶⁴ As under the strokes of the flail,

the precious grains of wheat are separated from the chaff, and the refuse is left to be scattered by the wind. These symbols remind us of the “pressure” and “crushing” “tribulation” of *Bene Jaakan*.

The Children of Israel had left Satan’s bondage in pursuit of the Promised Land, but wandered in the Wilderness, that had made no real headway toward that goal. Have you ever felt that way? Doubt will destroy you. But, you have the Promises that cannot fail, no matter how difficult the “narrow path.” The Father did not lead you out of “darkness” to leave you in a wilderness! The “threshing” and “crushing” pressure of *Bene Jaakan* will not destroy those who trust in Him!



David wrote songs (Psalms) for weary pilgrims while in his wilderness journey. Thus, he strengthened his own resolve while blessing others.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me," Psalms 23:4.

I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep for Thou, Yahweh, only makest me dwell in safety, Psalms 4:8.

And they that know Thy Name will put their trust in Thee; for Thou, Yahweh, has not forsaken them that seek Thee, Psalms 9:10.

Yahweh is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Yahweh is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Psalms 27:1.

For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret of His Tabernacle shall He hide me; He shall set me up upon a rock, Psalms 27:5.

Over and over again, *Yahweh* had demonstrated His Presence and Power to guide and save Israel in every kind of circumstance. He had not “helped” them cross the Red Sea; He had provided the miracle Himself. He alone provided their food and water seven days a week for forty years! And He gave you this record so you would know that He is well able to care for you and bring you to your Inheritance!

*Eternity with
(Yahweh) will be
worth everything
you give up now!*

Is your walk through life’s wilderness often turbulent with fears and perplexities? Avoid the “terrorist spirituality” that makes *Yahweh* seem like a demanding dictator. Shun also the “flimsy faith” that portrays your Elohim as such a benign “ball of fluff,” that there is no aberrant behavior that He will not condone. May you see that it will take a humble and submitted relationship which defers to His judgment in all things. Strengthen your faith and resolve in the promises now!. Eternity with Him will be worth everything you give up!

SPIRITUAL LIGHT FOR WISE SONS

The word, “Light,” is a metaphor for the spiritual illumination of Truth. “When *Yahshua* claimed to be the Light, He was claiming to be the Source of Salvational Truth, -the Way out of the Wilderness. He is the only Light that can conquer all spiritual darkness.”¹⁶⁵

As with Israel in the wilderness, not all on the Narrow Way are actually following the Heavenly Light. Most are following one another, their friends, or some trusted leader. Only a minority are following the Light and the Divinely appointed Voice through Moses.

Like the Pharisees of Old and Korah before them, most disregard the Light of the “Old Paths,” deeming it inferior to the popular “new

light” for a new generation. Stay with the Old Light on the Old Paths, weary Traveler, lest, at *Bene Jaakan*, you be found a “son of twisting.”

Thus saith Yahweh, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls, Jeremiah 6:16.



Our *YAH* Almighty has sent light from His throne to shine all along the “narrow path.” A “pillar of Cloud” by day and a “pillar of Fire by spiritual night,” it is moving, leading those with eyes of faith through the territory of *Bene Jaakan* where the “sons of

twisting,” make void *Jehovah's* instruction and direct thirsty pilgrims away from the “Wells of the Wise Sons.”

Be warned and be wary, Kingdom bound, Traveler. There is only one path.



CHAPTER 13 SUMMARY

- The Children of Israel moved from the place of correction, chastisement, and instruction to the “wells of distress” for some; the “wells of wise sons,” for others.
- Paul sketches this journey in the first eleven chapters of Romans.
- In this segment of the journey, the multitude is called “The Children of the Tribulation.”
- *Bene Jaakan* is the 27th camp-lesson and bears the witness of its numeric meaning: The preaching of the Gospel.
- The number 27 is the difference between the Gematria of the “Sons of YAH” (153) and the Gematria of “original sin” (126).
- Like Perpetua, may we stand firm against the “sons of the twisting.”