

**Torah Talk by Rabbi Edward L. Nydle B'nai Avraham Messianic Congregation
Torah Portion: "He continued living"- Genesis 37:1-40:23**

"A Light Shining in the Darkness"

During this Hanukkah season we celebrate the rededication of the Temple after its desecration by the Greeks, and the miracle of the oil in the Menorah that miraculously burnt for eight days and illuminated the Dwelling Place of YHWH. Hanukkah means "dedication". We are instructed to place the Hanukkah Menorah where others may see the light shining in the darkness of night. "And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

In this week's reading from the Torah (the first five books of Moses) we read:

- "How did you break through? This breach be upon you!" And so his name was called Peretz. **Genesis 38:29b**

Peretz is a direct ancestor of King David and the Messiah. Thus, he is identified with the Messiah, as suggested by his name-"the one who breaks forth." His name alludes to the Messianic prophecy found in Micah 2:13,"The Breach-maker shall go up before them. They shall break out, and pass through the gate, and go out by it, and their King pass before them, with YHWH at their head!"

With the birth of Peretz, the traditional Jewish sages tell us that the Almighty created the light of Messiah.YHWH thus brought about the remedy and the cure for the affliction upon mankind-before the Egyptian enslavement and the exiles that would follow, including the present one of the Yisraelite people.

The light of Messiah confers upon people with faith the strength and ability to succeed in their exiles, to "break through" every obstacle and all the impediments in serving HaShem, until the coming of Messiah Yahshua back to the earth. Speaking of the Messiah, this section in Micah says, "and the Breach-maker is gone up before them."

Zarach, the twin of Peretz, also alludes to the coming Messianic redemption and Kingdom.His name means- " a shining forth." The Messianic Kingdom to come will shine forth and illuminate the whole earth. All mankind will benefit from its bright light. As it is written in Isaiah 60:3, "Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by the brightness of ZARCHECH (your shining forth)."

The Messiah instructed His students that, "You are the light of the world. It is impossible for a city to be hidden on a mountain. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it shines to all those in the house. Let your light so shine before men, so that they see your good works and praise your Father who is in the heavens." According to the Torah, Yisrael was to be a "light to the nations" by the observance of the instructions that the Almighty had given them as a nation.

At this time of the year, may we let the eternal light of Messiah shine forth through us, to give light to those sitting in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet on the way of peace. Shalom!