

TORAH PORTION  
"VAYELECH" OCTOBER 2-8, 2005

**"THE LORD YOUR GOD HIMSELF CROSSES OVER BEFORE YOU." <sup>1</sup>**

*by Rami Danieli © 2005*

This week I could very much relate to Moses who, in this Torah portion, was extremely exhausted. I was reading the portion yesterday, close to midnight after being away from home for 11 days. I was glad to be back home with my family and to finally get to my computer as well! Needless to say, I felt (and still feel) quite depleted and as I said, I felt I could very much identify with Moses' opening words, as it seemed to me that he himself had become quite exhausted.

How comforting it was for me to read Moses' following words in Deuteronomy 31:3, which says, "*The LORD your God Himself crosses over before you. He will destroy these nations from before you*" (NKJV, emphasis mine). *Joshua himself (Who is a picture of Yeshua) crosses over before you, just as the Lord has said!*

Yes my beloved, without the above *factual truths*, you and I could not survive in this darkened world which we are living in, also called, the "latter days" (Deut. 31:29). This is especially true to many Jews all around the world, who, in this very important season of feasts, are looking deep inside themselves and doing their very best to consider their acts and make *T'shuvah* (repent), just a few days before the great Day of Atonement arrives!

Here in the Promised Land, life goes on, and for the ungodly ones, it is business as usual. (Unfortunately, there are many here in the Holy Land). It seems that "there is no new thing under the sun" (Ecc. 1:9 NKJV). People just don't see beyond "the natural"! Good is still called (or considered) evil while evil is called (or considered) good! Lying, stealing, cheating on one another and even worse things are considered normal and is excused as a "natural means for survival" in these difficult days. And why not? After all, when the head is stinking, why should we expect the rest of the body to be any different?

But, to us followers of Israel's Messiah, fleeting circumstances should not bring us into despair. On the contrary, we all should give thanks and praises continually to our Heavenly Father, who because by His great mercies, has revealed to us *His* wonderful future plans. Without these plans, we would be hopeless. But praise God that we were given "eyes to see and ears to hear" (see Eze. 12:2).

Yes! The signs of the "latter days" are already here which were prophesied many years ago! The return of Israel's long awaited Messiah is very near! He is "at the door"! (See Deut. 31:16-18, 20, 27-29; Mat. 24:33, 37-44; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:1-9; 2 Pet. 3:3-4; Jude 1:17-18.) And indeed we have nothing to fear as He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you! (See Deut. 31:6, 7, 8, 23.)

Yes! Even if at times, we ourselves feel as though we have left God, forgotten His

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<sup>1</sup> *Words of exhortation from the Torah portion, written for the Root of Jesse Communiqué' – Oct 2-8, 2005.*

commandments, or turned our backs to Him, in these “Days of Awe” (the ten days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur), we can still come back to Him in *repentance*. And we can know that He is very faithful to forgive us and that He is willing to open a “new page” for us all! (See Deut. 31:21; Ps. 103, especially verses 8-17; Hosea 14:2-10; Joel 2:12-14, 18-27; Micah 7:18-20!)

May we all, by His grace and mercy, continue on with Him, whatever the circumstances are, fully trusting that He indeed knows us from within and from without and that He will accept us as long as we genuinely desire to be close to Him!

Please continue to pray for all of us here in the Promised Land, especially during these feast days, for us to indeed reflect His light to our surroundings. And may His people everywhere be a light in this darkened world!

Shabbat Shalom!

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