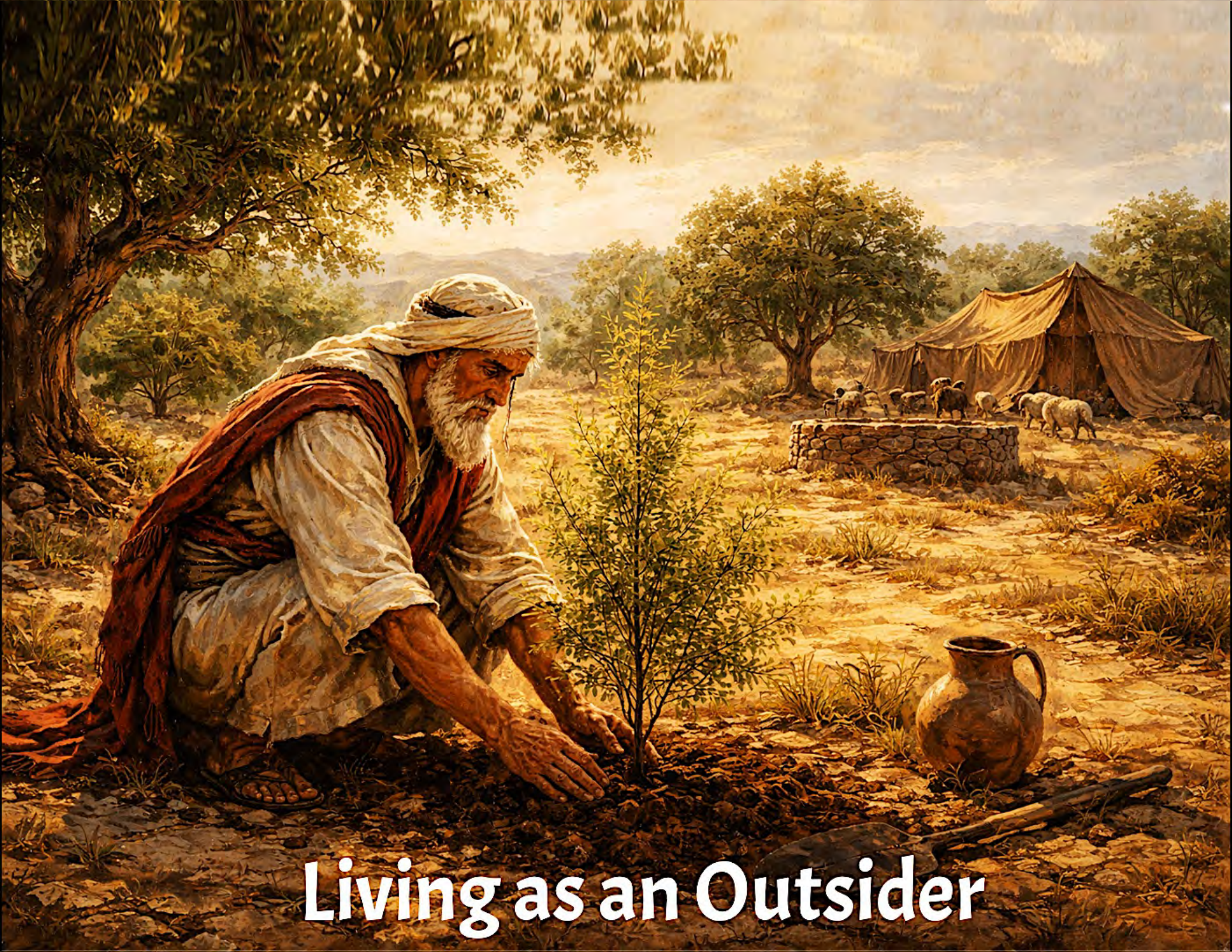




Living as an Outsider

How do we live as an outsider?

Rosh HaShannah is a time to reflect on the past year, and encourage ourselves to walk into the next with a clean heart, and a battle plan.

This week we celebrate the sound of the shofar, the feast of trumpets, the holy day of Rosh HaShannah, that is the head-rosh of the year! A new year, a new start, and we are so grateful for it! Our parasha takes a pause in the final book of Devarim, and goes back to Bereshit to remember the beginning as we begin our Torah cycle anew. This week we read of an encounter and a covenant that Avraham makes with Abimilech. Then, it says in 21:33-34 **³³Then he planted a tamarisk tree in Beer-sheba and called there on the Name of Adonai, the Everlasting God. ³⁴He lived as an outsider in the land of the Philistines for many days.** Do you see that? Avraham dwelled as an outsider in the land G-D had given him. Why?



How do we live as an outsider? continued...2



We see the amount of compromise of Biblical values today. We see more people accepting pop-culture's worldviews over the Biblical views passed down generationally. We wonder how people can accept the unacceptable, allow the unallowable, and still think that they are walking with G-D. In Genesis 26:3 we find a commandment to Yitz'chak: **³Live as an outsider in this land and I will be with you and bless you—for to you and to your seed I give all these lands—and I will confirm my pledge that I swore to Abraham your father.** In this verse, Yitz'chak is asking G-D because there is a famine in the land, and G-D gives him instructions on how to survive it. Yitz'chak is told not to go to Egypt, but to live where G-D tells him to dwell.



Amos 8:11 tells us about a time I believe describes the days we live in. **¹¹“Behold, days are coming” —declares my Lord Adonai— “when I will send a famine on the land—not a famine of bread nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of Adonai. ¹²So people will wander from sea to sea and roam from north to east, searching for the word of Adonai, but they will not find it.** G-D's instructions to Yitz'chak provided so long ago speak directly to us today. The key to living a blessed life in the middle of the culture of sin is found in these words: "Live as an outsider in this land." If we want G-D to be with us and to bless us, then we must live our lives as outsiders in the land. When we forget that this world is not our home; we end up making excuses for sin, so that we will fit in and be accepted in it. We listen to voices of justification providing excuses for our acceptance of sinful choices, every one of those voices is spoken from a position of one who no longer dwells as an outsider in this land. So how do we resist the influence, how do we walk as an outsider in the land that we live?

How do we live as an outsider? continued...3



The instructions are ridiculously simple:

- Read Torah
- Do what Torah tells you to do
- Do not do anything that goes against the WORD of G-D.

If we do not understand this already we must quickly learn that SIMPLE and STRAIGHTFORWARD, does not equal EASY. Now there are things that help. Tremendously! Parents for one thing. Having two people committed to see you succeed, protecting you from harm, and the influence of the culture is a huge blessing. (one that not every person has either.) Especially in those early years when you cannot read Torah yourself, and you have no idea what is in there outside of what your parents read to you. When we are infants we do not even understand that placing a hot curling iron in our mouth might not be the best idea. That is where loving parents make a huge difference in our future ability to speak, or chew, or anything else that requires an unburned, unscarred mouth, like successfully blowing out candles, bubbles or dandelion fluff. So, maybe the first steps in living like an outsider looks like:

HONOR YOUR MOTHER AND YOUR FATHER

As long as they do not go against Torah

TRY TO OBEY THEM WITH YOUR WHOLE HEART

Not trying to ruin your fun...but the reality is: Neither are they! Parents sometimes seem like the people determined to keep you from what you want to do, but in reality they, if they truly love you, will do everything in their power to help you learn how to walk against anything that is against G-D. Which, unfortunately, almost always looks like whatever everyone else in the culture is doing.

Now, that may seem like keeping you from what you want, and perhaps it is, but maybe not, but trust me when I say, if they keep you from being like everyone else, and insist that you walk in a way that honors G-D, they are THE VERY BEST FRIENDS YOU WILL EVER KNOW! The reason I can say that with certainty is I see very clearly what happens to those who allow the culture and it's influences to have control over their lives. If you are honest it doesn't take much effort to see how miserable everyone is who follows it. We have to remember that most of the people who walk in this culture are in fact slaves:

A lesson for Rosh HaShannah

How do we live as an outsider? continued...4



You see them everywhere, and they do not look happy.

- They sit in restaurants, not enjoying their food or the company, but looking at their phone, or tablets, ENSLAVED TO ENTERTAINMENT they sit for mindless hours in front of screens.
- They wake up early to style their hair, do their makeup, and spend all their money on whatever the influencers say is the "must have designer name" Louis Vuitton..Mercedes...Prada...They are ENSLAVED BY FASHION.
- They scream and yell with signs on college campuses that encourage people to hate and kill others, ENSLAVED TO ANGER.
- They complain continuously that whatever their situation...it is "Someone else's" fault. They never take responsibility for their situations and expect others to save them from the natural consequences of their own choices. ENSLAVED TO THEIR HELPLESS VICTIMHOOD.

It is all too easy to see them, and if we are not careful, oh so very careful, all too easy to become them.

Truthfully each precious human that is born is born with the imago dei, the image of G-D Himself. Somewhere along the path, we choose, to honor that image, and HIS word, We walk in righteousness and authenticity guarding our eyes, our ears, our hearts against the influences of the enemy, we become smart, strong soldiers, always growing, always seeking to be closer to our KING and Creator.

Or we choose to take on another image, one that is offered by the powers and influences of the world. A face that tempts us with greed, or laziness, fear, desire for more...more, and even more. IF you think about it original sin...the reason Chavah took and ate the fruit in Gan Eden...it was FOMO. The dragon said:

“You most assuredly won’t die! For God knows that when you eat of it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ~Bereshit 3:4-5

Basically: G-D is keeping the "Good Stuff" away from you gurl....you are MISSING OUT! Just try this!

How do we live as an outsider? continued...5



And many take that as a new "truth"...they trust the world, they eat the lie and cover their face with the facemask of the enemy, never seeing the influence on their shoulder. Never seeing their enslaver in the shadows, never acknowledging the principality that directs the enslavers hand, never understanding the power behind it all...that same serpent, that same dragon, that same hater of all that carry the image of G-D.

So, then how shall we live? We live by Torah, of course. We read, we do, we learn about G-D so we *know* HIM, so we can walk with HIM, do HIS will, resist the temptations of the evil one, and those in the culture that work for the evil one.

Mikah 6:8 says:

⁸He has told you, humanity, what is good, and what Adonai is seeking from you: Only to practice justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

The more Torah we read the more we learn from Him and walk in HIS ways and we will live as an outsider here, and walk within HIS Kingdom, in whatever is after here. We are never to hate those who are enslaved, only see them, pity them in their slavery, and seek to help them by our example, and with our prayers. The world is full of the enslaved who do not know the Truth, or even where to find it. The longer we walk in TRUTH, the smarter we are about the things in this world, the easier it becomes to live in this world **AS AN OUTSIDER**; one set apart for G-D's Kingdom.