

## Kefa and Yochanan Attend a Prayer Meeting

In my last post, we completed the mini-series of **Kefa Heals a Disabled Beggar ~ Part 5**. In this post, we pick up where we left off in our last series, where we learn that after being freed, **Kefa and Yochanan Attend a Prayer Meeting**.

***<sup>23</sup> Upon being released, they went back to their friends and reported what the head cohanim and elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup> When they heard it, they raised their voices to God with singleness of heart. "Master," they prayed, "You made heaven, earth, the sea, and everything in them.***

Why, at the beginning of their prayer, do these **Messianic Jews** remind **God** that He *made heaven, earth, the sea, and everything in them*? Not only because it is pointless for mere human beings to fight **God** (vv. 25-28 see below), but because the **talmidim** are praying that **God** will sovereignly give the **Messiah's slaves** (see v. 29) power *to speak [God's] message with boldness* (vv. 29-31).

***<sup>25</sup> By the Ruach HaKodesh, through the mouth of our father David, your servant, you said,***

***'Why did the nations rage and the peoples devise useless plans? <sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers assembled together against Adonai and against his Messiah.'***

The **Book of Acts** quotes the Greek of the Septuagint. The Hebrew for Psalm 2:1-2 reads:

***Why are the nations in an uproar?  
And why do the peoples mutter in vain?***

***The kings of the earth arise  
And the rulers take counsel together  
Against Adonai and against his Messiah.***

Jewish writings often call attention to a text by citing its beginning; therefore, the reader should understand that the Believers' prayer of vv. 24-30 is permeated by all of Psalm 2, not just its initial verses. Jewish as well as Christian expositors have seen Psalm 2 as **Messianic**.

***<sup>27</sup> "This has come true in this city, since Herod and Pontius Pilate, with Goyim and the peoples of Isra'el, all assembled against your holy servant Yeshua, whom you made Messiah, <sup>28</sup> to do what your power and plan had already determined beforehand should happen.***

***Goyim and the peoples of Isra'el** had united in opposition to **God's holy Servant Yeshua** and His followers. Then and now, Believers take comfort in knowing that **Yeshua's** sufferings (as well as our own) are not by chance but are *determined* by **God**.*

***<sup>29</sup> "So now, Lord, take note of their threats; and enable your slaves to speak your message with boldness!"***

The early **Believers** recognized that just as **Yeshua** had been promised trouble, they too would encounter persecution for proclaiming Him as **Messiah**. They asked **God** for the power to *speak your message with boldness*, even if punishment should follow.

***<sup>30</sup> Stretch out your hand to heal and to do signs and miracles through the name of your holy servant Yeshua!"***

Besides **boldness** in testifying, the early **Believers** expected to receive power from **God** to **heal and to do signs and miracles through the name of your holy servant Yeshua!**"

***<sup>31</sup> While they were still praying, the place where they were gathered was shaken. They were all filled with the Ruach HaKodesh, and they spoke God's message with boldness.***

***They were all filled with the Ruach HaKodesh.*** Some of them had been filled before (2:4), but Ephesians 5:18 instructs Believers to keep being filled with the **Ruach**. ***They spoke God's message with boldness.*** This is a sure sign of being filled with the **Ruach**, and it is also the purpose of the filling (1:8). A word of caution: this verse should not be used as a proof text for speaking in tongues. That's not the context.

***<sup>32</sup> All the many believers were one in heart and soul, and no one claimed any of his possessions for himself, but everyone shared everything he had.*** ~ Acts 4:23-32 (CJB)

In my next post, we will expand on verse 32 when we learn that **sharing everything** leads to trouble in the **Body of Believers**.