

The Red-Letter Words of Yeshua ~ Part 3

Yeshua's Baptism

¹³ Then Yeshua came from the Galil to the Yarden to be immersed by Yochanan. ¹⁴ But Yochanan tried to stop him. "You are coming to me? I ought to be immersed by you!"

***I ought to be immersed by you!** This is the first recorded public encounter between **Yochanan the Immerser** and **Yeshua**. **Yochanan** - recognizing the more powerful one - attempts to dissuade **Yeshua** from being baptized.*

*¹⁵ However, Yeshua answered him, "**Let it be this way now because we should do everything righteousness requires.**" Then Yochanan let him.*

***We should do everything righteousness requires.** **Yeshua** Himself did not have to be immersed for His sins because He committed none (Messianic Jews 4:15). Some have suggested He was fully identifying with sinful humanity, who did need purification (Romans 8:3, Philippians 2:6–8). On what it is that **God's** righteousness requires, turn to Romans 3:24–26.*

¹⁶ As soon as Yeshua had been immersed, he came up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, He saw the Ruach of God coming down upon Him like a dove,

Many believed that the **Ruach** was no longer available in their time; others believed that the **Ruach** simply did not work as forcefully as in the prophets' days until the time of the end. That the **Ruach** comes on **Yeshua** indicates the inauguration of the **Messianic Era** and marks **Yeshua** out as the **Ruach**-bearer and hence **Messiah** (3:11).

¹⁷ and a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; I am well pleased with him."¹ ~ Mattityahu 3:13-17

The Temptation of Yeshua

¹ Then the Spirit led Yeshua up into the wilderness to be tempted by the Adversary. ² ² After Yeshua had fasted forty days and nights, He was hungry. ³ The Tempter came and said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, order these stones to become bread." ⁴ But He answered, "The Tanakh ³ says,

***'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of Adonai'"** (Deuteronomy 8:3)*

¹ Where appropriate, I will highlight the Father's Words in **Purple**.

² **The Adversary.** Greek *diabolos* (usually transliterated "devil") translates Hebrew *satan*, "adversary, opponent, rebel." In Isaiah 14:11–15, between the lines of a taunt against the king of Babylon, can be read the downfall of a creature who was once both powerful and beautiful but who in pride rebelled against God and came to oppose him; Ezekiel 28:11–19 is similar. (JNTC)

³ **The Tanakh**, the Old Testament - rendered "Scripture" or "it is written" in most translations. The **Hebrew** word **Tanakh** is an acronym formed from the first letters of the three parts of the **Hebrew Bible**:

(1) **Torah** ("Teaching") - the Five Books of Moshe or Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy).

(2) **N'vi'im** ("Prophets") - the historical books (Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings), the three Major Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel), and the twelve Minor Prophets.

(3) **K'tuvim** ("Writings") - Psalms, Proverbs, Job, the "five scrolls" (Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther), Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah and Chronicles.

⁵ *Then the Adversary took Him to the holy city and set Him on the highest point of the Temple.*

⁶ *"If you are the Son of God," he said, "jump! For the Tanakh says,*

'He will order his angels to be responsible for you....

They will support you with their hands

so that you will not hurt your feet on the stones.'" (Psalm 91:11-12)

⁷ *Yeshua replied to him, "But it also says, 'Do not put Adonai your God to the test.'"*

(Deuteronomy 6:16)

⁸ *Once more, the Adversary took Him up to the summit of a very high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in all their glory, ⁹ and said to Him, "All this I will give you if you bow down and worship me."*

¹⁰ *"Away with you, Satan!" Yeshua told him, "For the Tanakh says, 'Worship Adonai your God and serve only him.'"* (Deuteronomy 6:13-14)

¹¹ *Then the Adversary let him alone, and angels came and took care of him.* ~ Mattityahu 4:1-11 (see also Mark 1:12-13 and Luke 4:1-13)

Oh, that we can be as prepared as **Yeshua** was to cite **Scripture** back to **HaSatan** as **Yeshua** was able. One of many reasons why we need the **Ruach** in our daily lives.

In our next post, we will examine **Yeshua Calls His First Talmid** and **Performs His First Miracles**.