

#7 THE PRACTICE OF RAPHAH

Shalom to all our Feast Attendees: **PREPARE FOR THE FEAST!!**

Welcome to Study Guide #7!

Again, to help you come to the Feast prepared, we sending you something to read or watch that will help or refresh you on what Yom Teruah is about. Thank-you for participating!

Today, I am sending you something to DO and bring to the Feast.

Inspired by My Girls

My girls are who inspire me. I have created traditions that have captured their heart. Hadassah just said last night that if I didn't feel up to hosting all the Fall Feasts: Yom Teruah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot that she could take over Yom Teruah and I could just host the others. :-) She is captured. If I had boys the way we host the Mo'edim might look very different!

Outside of spending the rest of my own life repenting, part of my whole goal with hosting Mo'edim events and creating all the things that go with them is to capture all that Isaac and I have learned in a way that we can pass it on to our daughters.

I want my girls to have ready access to what they have been brought up to believe and do. When the Fall rolls around, they know what we do. When Winter comes they know what celebration we prepare for. When the Spring rolls in, they know what we do. Even while everyone around them is living another rhythm, they know what their rhythm is -- and I am so thankful it is Yahweh's! This rhythm sure does make our life simpler — to not have everything up in the air. We know exactly what we are going to be about during the Holy Days (no matter where we live or how much money we have) because Yahweh's rhythm is firmly established in our life's routine. This is where the rubber of repentance meets the road.

The Job of a Parent

“He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in YHVH and not forget the works of YHVH Elohim, but keep his commandments...” Psalm 78:5-7 ESV

Yahweh commanded parents to teach and impress his ways on our children. That is what we are doing. People that attend a Mo'edim we host are basically partaking in our efforts and establishing repentance in the hearts of our daughters. The more people the merrier, thus helping to burn

Yah's ways deep into my girls memories. So, thank-you for coming to this Yom Teruah Banquet! Your presence will really make it special for us ! :-)

Fact #7: On a Future Yom Teruah the King will Return and Claim His Bride!!

Yom Teruah is a shadow picture or a "rehearsal" of the final trumpet sounded by Yahovah, himself. (Zech. 9:14). This final Trumpet (7th) will announce a new King for Planet Earth. It will release his son, Yahshua to come get his Bride. Who is his Bride? This is the most important question you will ever ask. One to be figured out now, before that Yom Teruah when the King Returns. At that point, it will be too late.

Prepare Lesson #7: Raphah, not Tashlich

A Jewish Tradition

When we were researching how to celebrate Yom Teruah we discovered that our brother Judah participates in a ritual called "Tashlich" on this Holy Day.

The Practice of Tashlich

"Tashlich" means "casting off" in Hebrew and involves symbolically casting off the sins of the previous year by tossing pieces of bread or another food into a body of flowing water." (About Judiasm)

A Truism

But we contend that this idea is a mixed truth (truism) and isn't supported by the Scriptures. It's not that tashlich is wrong. But it's who they say does it that is the problem. It's not us. It's Yahweh who does it. He casts away our sins, not us.

This might seem like a technicality to you, but the message it sends isn't right. Yes, we are to take account of our life and audit what we are doing to see if it is in line with what Yahweh said we should do. But when we find sin (something that breaks his Royal Law) in our lives we can not cast it away ourselves. It's way to hard. It will keep coming back. We won't be really free of it unless He does it for us. We all know this about ourselves, right? It is Yahweh Elohim who casts our sin away. No human can verbally place a sin on a piece of bread and cast it into the water and voila, it's gone! That's just not possible. We are not God. Instead, what we are commanded to do is to lay our sin down at Yahweh's feet so that HE can cast it away from us (Micah 7:18-20). Yahweh is faithful. If we ask, he will send the Ruach to move on our hearts and he will do this work for us.

The Practice of Raphah

Instead of tashlich, we practice raphah. We will do this at the Feast so I want to introduce it to you now so that you can begin working on it. It is called the practice of RAPHAH.

Our Part, Yahweh's Part and What We Do Together

Before Tashlich and before Teshuvah — we must Raphah.

The Mo'edim is a time to come face-to-face with where we are not in line with Yahweh and his Royal Law. The Scripture says true repentance includes turning away from pagan idolatry to obey Yahovah. This is true Biblical repentance (teshuvah).

But before we can 'teshuvah' (repent) and before he can 'tashlich' (cast away our sins and remove our idolatry) and begin the good work in us ---it is our job to 'raphah' and have our hearts healed. By practicing raphah during the Feasts we invite the Ruach to do the work on our hearts that Yahshua promised. Yahweh promised to heal our hearts and set them free. But we have to ask for it.

The Practice of Raphah

Raphah is pronounced: raw-faw. It is a Hebrew word that means to sink, relax, let it go, cease, wait, be still. We suggest that a heart must be guided into stillness (raphah) before it can repent (teshuvah). There is no way that one can teshuvah (repent; turn away from sin) unless one raphahs.

Raphah at the Feast

So, at the Feast on Sunday we are going to take 20 quiet minutes (I'll take the kiddos so you mommies can focus) to practice raphah.

You will write on a piece of paper all your current struggles -- practicing laying down all the things that are taking up room in your thoughts and your heart.

Perhaps you'll let go of the need to know; of the future; of the election; of even the desire to obey and what that looks like. Perhaps you will lay down an addiction, a job, money problems or a situation in front of you to solve. You'll want to write down things that you must let go of and things you must cease from fretting over. Perhaps you will write down things you need to repent of so that you can turn to him and follow his ways totally. If you have nothing to lay down you probably are not being honest.

Burn in Offering of Fire

Then you will hand me your list (I will not look at it) at the beginning of the Feast. When we go to make an offering of fire to Yahweh at the end of the night we will burn your lists -- symbolic of giving all of it to Yahweh.

Remember that we can not fix, cleanse or sanctify ourselves. That is Elohim's job. To raphah means to release and let go of ourselves and those parts that desire to strangle us. We practice raphah and letting go so that we can feast with a heart that is ready to accept the deep healing magic of Elohim's Mo'edim Season. If we don't let go, we may miss out on what he wants to give us this Feast season. Letting go is one of the hardest things we will ever do.

If you want, begin working on your list now. Bring it to the banquet on Sunday.

So, after reading our Raphah tradition and what it means

Will you make your list now or later?

If you begin it now, don't forget to bring it. I will ask for it at the beginning of the Feast.

