

PART ONE



BLESSINGS FOR SALE. The Sale of Bible Blessings is a worldwide industry. In Hebrew, it is unscriptural to pursue or sell blessings. There is no commandment in the TaNaK (Old Covenant) or Brit Chadashah (Renewed Covenant) instructing us to name, claim, or recite blessings. It is, however, a common practice in most religions, including Judaism and Christianity, to name, claim and recite blessings. Indeed, according to Jewish tradition, a person should recite 100 berakhots (blessings) each day, half of which is in the Amidah prayer that a devout Jew would recite in the morning. In Churches, it is common on Sunday to hear preachers exalting people to name and claim specific blessings in their Bibles. While it has become a generally accepted practice in both Christianity and Judaism to recite Bible blessings, there is a line that many in ministry have deliberately crossed, which has made this practice into an abominable thing. In ancient times, it was one of the reasons why YHWH sent the nation of Yisra'el into captivity and prolonged their stay. **That uncrossable line is when we sell or buy the blessings of YHWH!** There are over a million religious websites and thousands of religious television and radio programs marketing some type of blessing to people who will either give them a gift or do a service for them. It is a 500-billion-dollar global industry! Today, the worldwide media has become the intravenous hub from where we can obtain a ready and quick supply of bible blessings from the Tele evangelists or the mega-pastor or that prestigious Rabbi or whatever religious persuasion they happen to be. Occasionally, some blessings are offered for free, but there is a catch to it! It is not uncommon to receive an email these days from a friend who received it from a friend with a prayer that you need to pray with the ominous condition that you need to forward it to X number of people in order to receive the blessing or avoid the misfortune. Free blessings in the form of "teaching materials" are periodically offered by Tele evangelists and mega-pastors with the proviso that you "sign up" to their organization, etc. This is but an enticement to obtain your contact details for their database so that they can sell you something later. We live in a culture of "saleable" blessings for just about anything we want or need, and there are no shortages of testimonials used to reinforce their devious and nefarious messages. Also, beware, they have their so-called "Bible experts" who are very apt at quoting Scripture to validate what they do! Many evangelists and pastors specialize in teaching people to give their time, labor, or money to "God" in order to support their cause. Judaism to a lesser extent, but nonetheless, it is not uncommon these days to find appeals for money or services from Rabbis or rabbinical organizations for their Torah services. Learning how to extract or attract money from people, believe it or not, is a highly developed commercial and scientific discipline. These courses come under a mirage of many names: Neuro-linguistic programming, the law of attraction, think rich, think big, prosperity teaching and name it and claim it seminars, etc. There are ministers in every country now who make a living by teaching people "how to get blessed" for a fee based on their knowledge from these disciplines. Some of them have become acutely skilled at their craft, and they can extract the last dollar from a bankrupt person. However, lest we think that we are not guilty of doing the same thing, be warned! We equally participate in their sin when we purchase their products! **Whenever you give to a preacher who sells blessings from the Word of YHWH for a gift or a service, you are purchasing what YHWH has deemed "unsellable."** In the words of Melech Shlomo (King Solomon), *"Buy the emet (truth), and sell it not; also chochmah (wisdom), and discipline, and binah (understanding)"* Mishle (Proverbs) 23:23. In other words, invest in a good TaNaK and Brit Chadashah but do not sell its blessings or gifts. This includes its wisdom "chochmah" and understanding "binah" that are derived from its pages. What some preachers call the "revelations of the Word." This does not mean we are not to support ministers (through our tithe or offerings) who genuinely teach or preach the unadulterated Word of YHWH, but we are not to purchase from them what YHWH has deemed unsellable. The navi (prophet) Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) lived at a time when

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Yisra'el was stubbed in this sin, and only the prophet could see what was happening. *"Listen now to this, O foolish people, without binah (understanding); which have eyes, and see not; which have hearing, and hear not."* What did they do that caused the prophet to call them a "foolish people" without understanding? In Yirmeyahu chapters nine and fourteen, he vividly describes what they were doing, causing them to be spiritually plundered and devastated. *"And they (Yisra'el) bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not brave for the emet (truth) upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they do not know Me, says YHWH tzevaoth (hosts). Take heed every one of his neighbor and trust not in any brother: for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbor will walk with the slanderers. And they will deceive every one his neighbor, and will not speak the emet (truth): they have taught their tongue to speak lies, and weary themselves to commit iniquity. Your dwelling is in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know Me, says YHWH"* Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 9:3-5. *"Then YHWH said to me, The neviim (prophets) prophesy lies in My Name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither have I spoken to them: they prophesy to you a false vision and divination, and a thing of vanity, and the deceit of their own lev (heart)"* Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 14:14. Several keywords in these passages reveal exactly what they were doing; "supplant," "slander," "deceive," "lie," "commit iniquity," "false vision," "divination," and "vanity." Notice the startling correlation to what is being done today in the name of God; they were educating themselves to speak lies and deceive one another, and it was their religious leaders who were brainwashing the people in this craft. What were these lies and deceptions that they were universally practicing that were against the Written Word that caused YHWH to call that generation an evil generation (Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 13:10)? It is no different from what is being done today in the name of Ba'al (Lord) or God; they were selling and buying blessings in the name of the Lord! Both the kohen (priest) and the navi (prophet) were leading people into this grievous apostasy, and this cup intoxicated them because it brought them great fortune without having to "sweat out" a living like the am ha aretz (the common people) of the land. The prophets had become the experts, and the king demanded their services, who paid them well. *"The heads of Yisrael judge for reward and bribes, and the Kohanim (Priests) teach for pay, and the neviim divine for money: yet they lean on YHWH, and say, Is not YHWH among us? No evil can come upon us"* Micha (Mikah) 3:11. A vivid example of this type of practice among the prophets of YHWH is Bilam (Balaam), a navi of Elohim who made his prophetic service available to foreign kings who gave him financial and material "rewards" for his words, whether they be a word of blessing or curse in the name of the Elohim of Yisra'el. We read in Bamidbar (Numbers) of this; *"Come now therefore, I ask you, curse for me this people (Yisra'el); for they are too mighty for me (the princes of Moab): perhaps I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and then I may drive them out of the land: for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed. And the zechanim of Moav and the zechanim of Midyan departed with the rewards of divination in their hand; and they came to Bilam, and spoke to him the words of Balak"* Bamidbar (Numbers) 22:6-7. Notice what the king's envoys carried in their hands, "the rewards of divination," as they went to see the prophet. Why would they do this if they did not already know that Bilam has a hire fee? The prophet himself concurs, *"And Bilam answered and said to the avadim of Balak, If Balak would give me his bayit (house) full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of YHWH my Elohim, to do less, or more"* Verse 18. The Sholiach (Apostle) Keph (Peter) through the Ruach Ha Kodesh beautifully summarizes the activities of the prophet. He called Bilam's works "the wages of unrighteousness." *"Who have forsaken the tzadik derech (the way of righteousness), and have gone astray, following the way of Bilam, the son of Be'or, who loved the wages of unrighteousness"* Kepha Bet (Second Peter) 2:15. Yirmeyahu, unlike Bilam, was a tzadik (righteous) navi of Yisra'el whose words could not be bought at any price. Therefore,

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Yirmeyahu found himself in direct opposition to the prophets of Ba'al, who were counsels to King Yoshiyahu. Like Bilam, they also loved the wages of unrighteousness and sold that which was forbidden, so they hated Yirmeyahu for exposing their unrighteousness. However, when the decisive moment had arrived, being that Yerushalem was under siege according to the word that had been spoken through Yirmeyahu, it became obvious that the prophets who counseled the king were of the caliber and character of Bilam; therefore, they turned to Yirmeyahu and what they heard was not what they wanted to hear. Even at their hour of demise, YHWH, in His infinite mercy, would spare them if they peacefully surrendered to the Babylonians, but they chose the way of death. They were utterly destroyed, but a remnant was preserved (taken into captivity) for the sake of YHWH's name and His promise to the patriarchs (Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 21:8-9). A few generations later, Ezrah, the faithful Scribe of YHWH, realized the cause of Yisrael's ongoing demise and called the nation to teshuvah (repentance). *"Since the days of our ahvot (fathers) have we been in a great trespass even until this day; and for our iniquities have we, our melechim (kings), and our Kohanim (priests), been delivered into the hand of the melechim (kings) of the lands, to the sword, to exile, and to be a plunder, and to confusion of face, as it is until this day"* Ezrah (Ezra) 9:7. What were these "great trespasses" and "iniquities" Ezrah mentions here that caused them to be confused and plundered continuously by their enemies? **The kohen and navi were selling the berakhot (blessings) and causing the people to buy what YHWH had deemed unsellable.** In so doing, they led Yisra'el into idolatry and covetousness. In this passage from the navi Hoshea, we can clearly see this connection. *"Do not gilah (rejoice), O Yisrael, with simcha (rejoicing), as other peoples: for you have gone whoring from your Elohim, you have loved a reward upon every threshing floor"* Hoshea (Hosea) 9:1. Is this not the same tactic that haSatan employed against Ahdahm (Adam) and Chavah (Eve) in Ayden (Eden); the enticement of receiving a great reward (the blessing of the knowledge of good and evil) if they transgressed the commandment of YHWH their Elohim. *"For Elohim does know that in the day you eat of it, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be like Elohim, knowing tov (good) and evil"* Beresheeth (Genesis) 3:5. This is the sin of perversion! In Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 23:29-36, the specific charge brought by Yirmeyahu against the leaders of His time was that they were "perverting the Word of YHWH." They had perverted the Word of YHWH by calling GOOD - EVIL AND EVIL - GOOD AND OFFERING SWEET FOR BITTER AND BITTER FOR SWEET. In the words of the navi Yeshayahu (Isaiah); *"Woe to them that call evil tov, and tov evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"* Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 5:20. In Pashat, the plain, simple, literal meaning of the text they were merchandising the Word of YHWH by taking that of which is FREE, His blessings and His promises here alluded to in word of the prophets as "good," "light," and "sweet" and selling it for financial and material gain, therefore, changing the Word into a curse and plunder here alluded to as "evil," "darkness" and "bitter." The book of Ivrim (Hebrews), chapter 4:12, teaches us that YHWH Word is like a two-edged sword. This is not an isolated occurrence in Yirmeyahu's or Yeshayahu's generation. Kepha the Sholiach (Peter the Apostle) warned his generation of doing the same thing, which is a warning Kepha also gave to us (Yeshua's talmidim) since we are a direct continuation of their work among the goyim (the Gentiles). *"And many shall follow their paths of destruction; because of them, the halacha (pathway) of Emet (truth) shall be evil spoken of. And through greed shall they with fabricated words make merchandise of you: whose mishpat (judgment) now is from a long time and lingers not, and their damnation does not slumber"* Kepha Bet (Second Peter) 2:2-3. Note the words, "with fabricated words make merchandise of you!" In verses five and six, Kepha proceeds to compare his generation to the generation of Noach and the generation of Sodom and Amora, and he calls them "wicked!" BE WARNED! He who prostitutes (sells/buys) the blessings or promises of YHWH for

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financial or material gain is also classified as the wicked under this Scripture. Those who purchase their merchandise are just as guilty of participation. The unalterable truth is YHWH's berakhot is FREE but CONDITIONAL. The only condition to obtaining YHWH's blessings is, "OBEY THE COVENANT!" It cannot be any more simplified than that. YHWH promised Yisra'el that IF they OBEY His mitzvoth (commandments), which are His Covenant and Commandments, the blessing would FOLLOW them and OVERTAKE them! *"And it shall come to pass, if you shall listen diligently to the voice of YHWH your Elohim, to shomer (hear and obey) and to do all His mitzvoth (commandments) which I command you this day, that YHWH your Elohim will set you on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on you, and overtake you, if you shall listen to the voice of YHWH your Elohim"* Devarim (Deuteronomy) 28:1-2. In other words, if we keep His covenant and mitzvoth (commandments), the blessing will pursue and overwhelm us! Thus, we need never buy, earn, or run after the blessings like the false prophets of Ba'al teach people to do – this being in itself an endless pursuit! It is compared by Yeshayahu (Isaiah) to 'buying bread that does not satisfy.' *"Hello, everyone that thirsts, come to the mayim (water); and he that has no money; come, buy, and eat; yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. **Why do you spend money for that which is not lechem (bread)? And your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to Me, and eat that which is tov (good), and let your being delight itself in fatness"*** Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 55:1-2. The wicked of this Olam (World) will continue to merchandise that which is unsellable. Therefore, they will plummet into deep darkness from whence they will not be able to return, but this is not what YHWH has purposed for His people in these last days. He has made His will clear to us through the navi Yeshayahu; YHWH promises that His people who once walked in darkness shall see A GREAT LIGHT! *"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great Light: they that live in the land of the shadow of death, upon them has the Light shined"* Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 9:2. This light is Yeshua ha Mashiach, who taught us to obey the written Torah, that if we walk in obedience to it, we will be blessed always and forever. This is the ancient pathway that the navi Yirmeyahu (the prophet Jeremiah) identified as HA-TOV DERECH (THE GOOD PATH). *"This says YHWH, Stand in the derech, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the tov derech (good path), and have your walk in it, and you shall find rest for your beings. But they said, We will not walk in it"* Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 6:16. When the remnant of Yisra'el found this pathway during the time of Ezrah, the faithful servant of YHWH, Ezrah called what happened in his time a "little revival." *"And now for a little time rachamim (mercy) has been shown from YHWH our Elohim, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a secure hold in His Kadosh-Place (set-apart), that our Elohim may lighten our eyes, and give us a little revival in our bondage"* Ezrah (Ezra) 9:8. This little revival that Ezrah speaks of will culminate in the destruction of Babylon, which is no other than this false religious and economic system of merchandising the Word of YHWH. *"And the merchants of the olam (this World) shall weep and mourn over her (Babylon); for no man buys their merchandise anymore..."* Gilyahna (Revelation) 18:11-14. When the people of YHWH discover ha tov derech (the good path), they will no longer purchase the merchandise of the Prophets of Ba'al. YHWH's house will no longer be called "a bayit (house) of merchandise," as Yeshua called it. *"And said to them that sold doves, Take these things away; make not My Abba's Bayit (House) into a Bayit (House) of merchandise"* Yochanan (John) 2:16. *"And said to them, It is written, My Bayit (House) shall be called the Bayit of tefillah (House of Prayer), but you have made it a den of thieves and violent men"* Mattityahu (Matthew) 21:13. According to Yeshayahu the remnant that YHWH will bring to His kadosh (set-apart) mountain shall be called in that day a Beit-Tefillah (a house of Prayer) for All the Nations because they will be a people who refuse and forbid the merchandizing YHWH's Word (Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 56:7). They consider it an abomination and a curse.