

THE MEANING OF THE SABBATH: II. What the Prophets
and Mystics Saw in It, A-194

1. Review last week - Halachah - MELACHA as creative - non-interference natural process thru desisting from creative material change - sign of recognition G-d's Creation, ownership of Universe - no absolute ownership by man.
2. Tonight: 5 new motifs - 3 by Prophets, 2 by Kabbalists
3. Isaiah chapter 58: IM TASHIV MI'SHABBAS RAGLECHA ASOS CHEFTZECHA BYOM KODSHI, VKARASSA LE' SHABBOS ONEG V'LI'KDOSH HASHEM MECHUBAD, V'CHIBADTO MEI'ASOS DARKECHA MIMTZO CHEFTZECHA V'DABEIR DAVAR, AZ TISANAG AL HASHEM... If you turn away your foot because of the Sabbath, from pursuing thy business on My holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the Lord's holy day an honor; if you honor it by not following your wonted ways, not doing your business and not indulging in idle talk, then you shall find your delight in the Lord's favor.

Thus two central ideas: ONEG SHABBOS - delight, and KIBUD SHABBOS - honor

4. ONEG SHABBOS to delight one's self in the Sabbath
**Rabbi's defined as follows:
**MAACHAL UMISHTET - Shalosh Seudos...no fasting...family meals
**ONEG RUCHANI - study, read - different and higher kind day
**in Mussaf, "ME'ANGEHA LE'OLAM KAVOD Y INCHALU" - Vilna Gaon: written ME'ANGEHA - those who make it delightful, not ONGEHA - those who delight in it. i.e. not just to enjoy self, but make day enjoyable, - spiritually - and make others find delight in it, others happy
**frequently hear: Shabbos must enjoy self, hence can do anything I want. Enjoy, delight, yes - but in a way following G-d's will - not by transgressing - read first part verse: no business.
5. KIBUD SHABBOS formulated in four ways:
 - a) BAY IS - home - light, tablecloth...i.e. festive atmosphere at home
 - b) GUF - clean, bathe, personal hygiene
 - c) MALBUSH - completely different, more festive and finer dress...disgraceful see people come in (who can afford better) no jacket, no tie, immodest dress
 - d) HILUCH - slow, moderate pace - very gait signify rest, festivity

***essence all above: HACHANAH ME'EREV SHABBOS - preparation, anticipation - that is its honor - as would prepare for great guest

***Rabbi Amiel: that's why we have Shabbos last, not first, day week: whole week is preparation

6. ETHICAL*HUMANITARIAN DIMENSION OF SHABBOS
Isaiah 56: 2-7 - Happy is the man that doeth this...that keepeth the sabbath from profaning it and keepeth his hand from doing any evil. Neither let the stranger...say, The Lo-d will surely separate me from His people. Nor let the eunuch say, Behold I am a dried-out tree. For thus saith the Lo-d concerning the eunuchs that keep my Sabbaths, and choose the things that please Me and hold fast by My covenant. Even unto ~~to~~ them I will give in My house and within My walls a monument and a memorial better than sons and daughters...Also the strangers that...love the name of the Lo-d and choose to be His servants, who keep the Sabbath from profaning it and abide by My Torah, I will bring them to My holy mountain and make them joyful in My house of prayer...for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people.

i.e. when Man concerns self with G-d - thru Sabbath observance, G-d concerns Self with man - it is He who welcomes the stranger, rejected by fellow-humans and wandering in loneliness.... and He who gives hope to the eunuch who pines for perpetuity which others can achieve thru bearing children - G-d gives them an immortality greater than all that children can bring..... It is the aspect of Shabbos which speaks of Hope and warmth and understanding and rebirth.

7. Kabbalists: One - Redemption took the Hope expressed by Prophets from individual plane, raised to National level - and became promise of rebirth and Home to this forlorn people Israel.
 **just as individually we know that 6 days win bread with sweat brow, but that come 7th day we have rest, tranquility, festivity, so nationally, we are promised to see end of long dark bitter exile when an eternity of Shabbos with national rest, peace, tranquility will be our portion (7th millennium - redemption)

** quote from LECHA DODI * MIKDASH MEIECH, HISNAARI, LO SEIVOSHI...also UFROSS ALEINU

8. Kabbalists: Two - Feminine Element

- a) Feminine element abounds in all of Shabbos as Mystics formulated it - and we have inherited good part of that thinking, symbolism
- b) (Bereishis Rabba) AMAR HASHABBOS LIFNEI HAKADOSH BARUCH HU: RIBONO SHE'OLAM, LEKULAM (KOL YOM) NASATA BEN ZUG VELI EIN BEN ZUG? AMAR LAH HAKADOSH BARUCH HU: KNESSES YISRAEL HU BEN ZUGACH .. thus Israel and Shabbos are a Bridal Couple
- c) identity "bride" and "groom" sometimes interchangeable - also Israel and G-d, G-d & Shabbos.
- d) in LECHA DODI - G-d is groom, Sabbath is Quenn-Bride
 **refrain Lecha Dodi - Shabbos is bride of G-d
 **VE'HAYU LI'MSHISSAH - Israel is Bride of G-d
 **BO'I V'SHALOM - Shabbos is bride of G-d
- e) SHIR HA'SHIRIM - love song between Israel (bride) and G-d. Idea: lovers pine to meet, just as they've met, before realize it, they are forced to separate - so we - all week long to meet bride Shabbos, when we do, before know it, it's gone - i.e. spirituality for which we yearn more than all else is only a flash, we'd like it to be permanent feature our lives.
- f) Comparison Shabbos to Wedding:
 **Sheva Bechos under Chuppah, same number in Shabbos Shmoneh Esrei
 **Borei Pri Hagefen at each
- g) HADLAKAS NEIROS * by woman of house - and symbolizes and encourages: SHALOM BAYIS, home filled with love and tenderness and peace
- h) Zmiros abounds in references to love between G-d and Israel, also direct praise of woman - husband before Kiddush sings EISHES CHAYIL - Solomon's praise of the industrious Baalebaste
- i) for that more than any other reason am I so interested in getting our women to shul on Shabbos - observe it, learn to live it, give it its fullest warmest expression, draw from it delight and honor, hope and redemption and love.
 THAT IS WHY I FEEL THAT SISTERHOOD'S NEXT AND MOST IMPORTANT PROJECT SHOULD BE AN ACTIVE CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE THE LADIES' ATTENDANCE ON SATURDAY MORNINGS.....appropriate.....
- j) SHIDDUCH between Shabbos and Israel rather weak these last several centuries. The bride Shabbos has been very patient, but something must be done quickly to restore mutuality, harmony, love between the two of them. YOU can do more than any one else. Do it!

9. Summarize:

- *Halacha: religious idea: Nature-ownership-hence rely on G-d
- *Prophets - delight ... honor ... hope
- *Kabbalists - national redemption (Messianic ideal) and feminine or romantic element

10. HASHOMER SHABBOS HABEN IM HABASS LA'EIL YETRAZU KMINCHAH AL MACHAVASS * May those who observe the Sabbath, both men and women, be as acceptable to G-d Almighty as the most precious and delightful gift.

BENEDICTION: Mizmor Shir Leasid Lavo Leyom Shekulo Shabbos