## <u>The Pillar and the House</u> <u>Sermon Notes</u> By Rabbi/Brother Moshe Yoseph Koniuchowsky

Month 6 Day 4 August 21, 2004

## Devarim 16:22: Matzayvah-Pillar

"Neither shall you set you up a pillar, which the YHWH thy Elohim hates" (ch.16, v.22). We saw that our ancestors used pillars for the service of Elohim: When Jacob had slept in Beit-El on his way to Lavan, he "took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil on the top of it" (Genesis 28,18). On his return from Padan-Aram, Jacob comes back to Beit-El and again - "Jacob set up a pillar in the place where He spoke with him, a pillar of stone, and he poured out a drink- offering thereon, and poured oil thereon" (Genesis 35:14). In contrast to this, it is said at the beginning of our Portion -"Neither shall you set up a pillar, which the YHWH thy Elohim hates." The Torah was not satisfied with only determining that making a pillar is forbidden, but also added that Elohim hates it! Oy vey! What to do! Did Yakkov violate YHWH's will?

Rabbi Abraham Iben-Ezra explains that the prohibition mentioned here relates only to pillars being made for idolatrous worship, but a pillar being made for the sanctification of Elohim was not banned. BUT TORAH DOESN'T SAY THAT.

Although it was pleasing to Him in the days of our ancestors, now He hates it Why? #1 "Because they (the Canaanites) made it an ordinance of an idolatrous character". #2 A pillar is one stone made for sacrifice, and this is forbidden, while an "altar of stones and an altar of land He has commanded you to make."

The Stone or Altar of Stone that the builders rejected was Yahshua and as such it was YHWH's altar by which to draw all nations into the commonwealth of Yisrael. Only YHWH was allowed to set up the Stone altar of His Son not the people whom He came to rescue, as they were limited to building their own altars of earth or uncut stones! Tehillim 118:22-24. Maaseh Shlichim 4:11-12

Rambam describes the pillar as a monument around which people are gathered for worship. This way of worship was pleasing in the days of the ancestors, when there was not yet any difference between the nations, and Abraham and the patriarchs called all the inhabitants of the globe to appeal to Elohim. This was Abraham and the patriarch's unique way, to teach all human beings that there is ONE Master of this world. This "universal" approach suits the character of the pillar, which gathers everyone around it, without making any differentiation between one person and another.

The Stone pillar in ancient times called out to all nations to turn to YHWH! It is a call to be gathered. It was not until later that YHWH banned the pillar after the nation-entered Canaan and was gathered as one!

After the exodus however, there is already a special nation, which has received the Torah, with detailed instructions about divine service. From this point on worship of Elohim is done "in the house". A house has walls, which separate the inside from the outside. Only those who deserve being in the house are allowed to enter, and the level of their worship is much higher and only for a chosen remnant who respond to the call. THERE ARE NO WALLS WITHIN THE HOUSE TO THOSE INSIDE BETWEEN BRETHERN, but there are walls to the world!

YHWH took the universal calling of the stone pillar in order to build a house where one must make a conscious choice to enter by one's own free volition and one's own person trust! The stone pillar was temporary as was Yahshua's ministry on earth for 3.5 years until he had risen and built and renewed the house of Yisrael. Only those who respond and follow Torah are accepted, while the pagans stay outside, building their own pillars of their own choosing with their own hands! Mattityahu 16:13-18. The Rock or Stone altar is the confession of Kepha and upon that Stone pillar of truth YHWH will take all who believe in the universal call of the one stone pillar and turn the pillar into A HOUSE OF PRAYER for all nations of trusting believers! YHWH hates all stone pillars today and the time after Torah, because His Son is the only one He honors and allows as the Stone Pillar. He rejects man's works to build their own stone pillars that are still called stone but are not centered on the Stone Pillar YHWH cut without man's hands or designs.

Read-Timtheous Alef 3:15-Restoration Scriptures-p.1269

## Read Yeshayahu 56:3-7- Restoration Scriptures p.473-474

Jacob foresaw this IN THE RUACH and said: "And this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be Elohim's house" (Genesis 28,22). That is to say, not a pillar, which everyone gathers around but a house made of surrounding walls, designed for the worship of only those worthy of it. Gilyahna 1:12 tells us that those who are worthy are those that love the blood of Yahshua and the Renewed Covenant along with His Torah!

"What is the true meaning of the verses in Micah 4:1-2? Read Restoration Scriptures p.660-661 Not as Abraham, who called it a mountain and not as Isaac, who called it a field but as Jacob, who called it a house". A mountain is an elevated area that one may approach from any side one comes. That was Abraham's way, of bringing everyone beneath the wings of Presence. A field has its borders; it has some limits but not a fully revealed guideline of worship. BUT the house has walls as barriers and only the deserving ones are allowed to come in. That's why YHWH hates pillars now. For His ultimate kingdom design is for all nation and peoples to be gathered in a house! The House of YHWH, as Yisrael reborn!

Close-This is the difference between a pillar and an altar: the pillar consists of One Stone and is parallel to the general call aiming to notify that there is a Master and His Son AND A HOUSE THEY ARE REBUILDING TODAY! The altar consists of many stones being built into A HOUSE and it is suitable only for the nation that has got detailed instructions from the Stone Pillar, who has sent His call to all! Today YHWH hates the pillar for it is the INDIVIDUAL living stones coming together into a HOUSE that is the focus of His love, not the stone pillar crucified 2,000 years ago. Read Kepha Alef 2:2-5 Restoration Scripturesp.1164