**The ‘Zeroah’ of YHWH**

Isaiah 40:1-26 is the first of seven “Haftorahs of Consolation”, an ancient sage teaching that coincide with the seven consecutive Shabbats that lead up to Yom Teruah [“Feast of Trumpets” (Leviticus 23:24)], or also commonly called “Rosh Hashanah”. The Haftorahs are taken out of the book of Isaiah and are read along with the Torah portions from the book of Deuteronomy starting in Chapter 3:23 and ending in Chapter 30:20. In the Haftorah reading of Isaiah 40:1-26, commonly called “Shabbat Nachamu”- which means the “Sabbath of Consolation/Comfort”- we read the following passage:

Isa 40:10 “Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong *hand,* and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward *is* with him, and his work before him.”

In the Tanakh it looks like this in the Hebrew:

הִנֵּ֨ה אֲדֹנָ֤י יְהוִה֙ בְּחָזָ֣ק יָבֹ֔וא וּזְרֹעֹ֖ו מֹ֣שְׁלָה לֹ֑ו הִנֵּ֤ה שְׂכָרֹו֙ אִתֹּ֔ו וּפְעֻלָּתֹ֖ו לְפָנָֽיו

More on the Hebrew text in a moment… Keying in on the English translation of Isaiah 40:10, let’s take a look at the words “the Lord GOD” and “his arm shall rule for him”. The Lord GOD in our English Bibles actually comes from the Hebrew words אדני (Adonai = ‘Lord’) and יהוה (the four letter name of the Almighty, which is usually translated as LORD or GOD in English is ‘YHWH’=‘Y’od – ‘H’ey – ‘V’av – ‘H’ey, ‘Yahweh’). When it is written as Adonai YHWH, rest assured that this is the name of Our Heavenly Father. Keeping this in mind, let’s take a look at the second set of words: “his arm shall rule for him”. Breaking down this set of words and what we have learned from the first set we can see that our Heavenly Father’s arm shall rule for him. What does this mean? The Hebrew word for our English word ‘arm’ in this scripture is וזרעו “v’zeroah” which comes from the word וזרע ([H2220] ‘zeroah’. However, what does it mean? The symbolism here is a picture of strength. The BDB (Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon) defines the word ‘zeroah’ as:

1) arm, forearm, shoulder, strength

1a) arm

1b) arm (as symbol of strength)

1c) forces (political and military)

1d) shoulder (of animal sacrificed)

If we study out this Hebrew word ‘zeroah’ at the literal interpretative level of scripture, the ‘arm of YHWH’ or ‘zeroah’ is a metaphor for the power of YHWH. At the hidden level of scripture, it is a metaphor for the Messiah, who is the mediator of the mighty acts of YHWH — creation, judgment, and salvation. The Heavenly Father is the master designer and absolute cause of all things, and the Messiah is the one who mediates the will of the Heavenly Father. At the hidden level of scripture, statements that YHWH did something with “a strong hand (Hebrew= ‘yad’) and an outstretched arm (‘zeroah’)” teaches us that He (YHWH) did it through the Messiah. When we understand this concept, the Tanakh teaches us that Messiah is the mediator of creation, judgment, and salvation. Here are a few interesting scriptures that this Hebrew word ‘zeroah’, which is translated into English as ‘arm’, can be found:

Jer 32:17 Ah Lord GOD (Adonai YHWH) ! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, *and* there is nothing too hard for thee:

The scripture above relates to the creation account. YHWH is using His arm or ‘zeroah’ to create the heaven and the earth. Perhaps this is what the Apostle Paul was commenting on when he said:

Col 1:16 For through him (Messiah Yahshua) were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created through him (Yahshua), and for him:

Eph 3:9 And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God (the Father), who created all things through Jesus Christ (Messiah Yahshua):

Continuing on, do we see the ‘zeroah’ or ‘arm’ of YHWH performing redemption or salvation?

Exo 6:6 “Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I *am* the LORD (YHWH), and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:”

Psa 77:15 Thou hast with *thine* arm redeemed thy people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah.

Again, the ‘arm’ or ‘zeroah’ of YHWH redeems His people, Israel. Is there any scripture to validate the ‘arm’ of YHWH judging or punishing the nations or the people of Israel?

Isa 51:5 My righteousness *is* near; my salvation is gone forth, and my arm shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust.

Isa 30:30 And the LORD (YHWH) shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lighting down (punishment) of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.

Again, we have seen from just a few selected scriptures how our Heavenly Father uses His ‘arm’ or ‘zeroah’ to execute judgment, to bring forth redemption, or to bring creation into being. Interestingly enough, there is much to be said about the ‘zeroah’ within the first feast of YHWH- Pesach (Passover). In the annual Passover Seder, one of the components of the Seder is the shankbone of a lamb. The shankbone commemorates the lamb that was slain during the original Passover when the Israelites left Egypt. This shankbone is also called the ‘zeroah’, and because of this, the Passover lamb is equated to the ‘zeroah’. Remembering that the definition of ‘zeroah’ meant arm (as a symbol of strength), what can we conclude from the following passage from the prophet Isaiah?

Isa 53:1-6 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Who is the he or him in the Isaiah passage? It appears that the ‘zeroah’ is more than just a literal arm. Let’s take this same scripture and fill it up with deeper meaning:

Isa 53:1-6 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm (‘zeroah’) of the LORD (YHWH) revealed? For he (Messiah Yahshua) shall grow up before him (YHWH) as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he (Yahshua) hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him (Yahshua), there is no beauty that we should desire him (Yahshua). He (Yahshua) is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him (Yahshua); he (Yahshua) was despised, and we esteemed him (Yahshua) not. Surely he (Yahshua) hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him (Yahshua) stricken, smitten of God (YHWH), and afflicted. But he (Yahshua) was wounded for our transgressions, he (Yahshua) was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him (Yahshua); and with his (Yahshua) stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD (YHWH) hath laid on him (Yahshua) the iniquity of us all.

Even the sages of old agree that the ‘zeroah’, or Arm of YHWH, speaks uniquely of the Messiah. What they do not agree on, however, is just who the Messiah is. For those of us whom the Father has revealed this passage to can see that the ‘arm’ of our Heavenly Father is His Son, Messiah Yahshua. Our Heavenly Father laid on His only begotten Son, Messiah Yahshua, the iniquity of us all. Perhaps this is what Isaiah meant when he said:

Isa 52:10 The LORD (YHWH) hath made bare (revealed) his holy arm (‘zeroah’ = The Messiah) in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation (Yeshua) of our God (Elohim).

John, the disciple of Messiah Yahshua had similar words to say in this passage:

Joh 12:37-41 But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: That the saying of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke, YHWH, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord (YHWH) been revealed [Isa 53:1]? Therefore they could not believe, because that Isaiah said again, He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. These things said Isaiah, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.

According to John- the disciple of Messiah Yahshua, Isaiah SAW the glory of YHWH- that being His Son, Messiah Yahshua! Isaiah did speak of Messiah Yahshua as we have just read Isaiah 53 which was written well before Messiah came to fulfill this prophecy. Turning back to our original scripture (Isa 40:10) and keying in on what we have learned, we can conclude the following: That our Heavenly Father will send His Son, Messiah Yahshua, who will bring the reward of the Father with him and Messiah Yahshua has been given the authority from the Father to rule and reign. Does this statement line up with the following scriptures?

Mat 2:6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. [Matthew is quoting a scripture from Micah 5:2]

Eze 20:33-34 As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you: And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out.

(This is a prophecy concerning the second coming of Messiah.)

Rev 19:15 And out of his (Yahshua) mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it he (Yahshua) should smite the nations: and he (Yahshua) shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he (Yahshua) treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God (Our Heavenly Father).

Rev 2:27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I (Yahshua) received (rulership) of my Father.

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God (the Father) and of Christ (Messiah), and shall reign with him (Messiah Yahshua) a thousand years.

1Co 15:24-28 Then *cometh* the end, when he (Yahshua) shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he (Yahshua) shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he (Yahshua) must reign, till he (Yahshua) hath put all enemies under his (Yahshua’s) feet. The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under *him, it is* manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him (Yahshua), then shall the Son (Yahshua) also himself be subject unto him (Heavenly Father) that put all things under him (Yahshua), that God (Heavenly Father) may be all in all.

(Messiah will rule and reign for a set time until all enemies are under his feet (Psalm 110), then he will be subject to the rule and reign of the Heavenly Father)

The underlying theme in this Haftorah passage is clear: Chad’s Version (CVB)

Isa 40:10 “Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong *hand,* and his Son, Messiah Yahshua shall rule for his Heavenly Father- Almighty YHWH (Rev 20:4): behold, the Heavenly Father’s reward (or payment) *is* with his Son, Messiah Yahshua (Rev 22:12), and his work before him.” (CVB)

Our Heavenly Father will send his Son Messiah Yeshua, a second time, to console and redeem Israel. He will return as Moshiach Ben David- executing judgment and justice on the ungodly (Jude 1:14-16) and bringing the reward of salvation unto those who believe and practice righteousness (Rev 14:12). These are comforting words to those who love and embrace our Heavenly Father- His Word and His Son, Messiah Yahshua, who is the ‘zeroah’ of YHWH!

Psa 98:1 A Psalm. “O sing unto the LORD (YHWH) a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.”

Shalom Aleichem~ (emphasis mine)

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