**Questions for Understanding and Reflection**

1. From all the readings for this Shabbat which verse or verses impressed your heart and fired your imagination?

I was fired by the translation of Ruach HaKodesh as the “Nefesh Yehudi”. This was a most excellent translation!

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 37:1?

**Jacob dwelt** – What do we learn from this pasuk?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 37:2?

**These are the generations of Jacob** – What is the meaning of this pasuk?

**and he was a lad** – In what way was he a lad?

**with the sons of Bilhah** – Why was he with the sons of Bilhah?

**evil tales about them** – What were these evil tales?

**tales about them** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: דִּבָּתָם?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 37:3?

**a son of his old age** – How is this to be understood?

**fine woolen** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: פַּסִים?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 37:10?

**And he told [it] to his father and to his brothers** – How is this to be understood?

**his father rebuked him** – Why did his father rebuke him?

**Will we come** - Isn’t your mother (Rachel) already dead?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 37:13?

**“Here I am.”** – What kind of an expression is this?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 37:22?

**to save him** – Who said this statement?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 37:25?

**a caravan** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: אֽרְחַת?

**and their camels were carrying, etc.** - Why did Scripture publicize their burden?

**spices** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: נְכֽאת?

**balm** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: וּצְרִי?

**and lotus** - What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: וָלֽט?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 37:31?

**and they slaughtered a kid** – Why was this animal chosen?

**the coat** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: הַכֻּתּֽנֶת?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 37:35?

**and all his daughters** – Who were these daughters?

**but he refused to be consoled** – Why did he refuse?

**I will descend on account of my son** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase: אֶל-בְּנִי?

**as a mourner to the grave** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: שְׁאֽלָה?

**and his father wept for him** – To whom does this refer?

1. According to the Ramban what important principle we learn from Gen 37:10? And so, can we say that dreams are not reliable? Please explain your answer.

From here, our Rabbis derived the principle that there is no dream that does not contain invalid matters. Dreams are reliable, but, they must be interpreted properly. The interpreter must discard the parts that are not relevant.

1. According to the Ramban does the counsel of Reuben to “shed no blood” meant not to cause any injury at all to Yosef? Please explain.

He meant to let Joseph be killed by someone else’s hand rather than directly by his brothers in order to minimize their culpability.

1. How does the Malbim explain that even in the Galut (exile), the mitzva (commandment) to build the Bet HaMikdash (Temple) still applies to this very day‎? And did Hakham Shaul teach likewise in the Nazarean Codicil?

Malbim sees the psalm as addressed to the **Temple of the body**, since the body itself is a place of worship of HaShem. The essence of man is his soul, his spirit. The physical body is but a structure in which the spirit dwells. Thus we should build this structure every day.

Hakham Shaul taught likewise in: ***I Corinthians 3:16*** *Know you not that you are the temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

1. For what critical reason ‎ was the Bet HaMikdash designed to mimic the human body‎?

To teach us that the Bne Israel are a single structure with the head being Mashiach.

1. According to Isaiah 33:15-16 who will escape the fires of Gehinnom (Hell)? And is the Prophet Isaiah here being idealistic or are these principles achievable? And if so how are these to be implemented?

The ones who will escape are the ones who: Walks ‎in innocence and speaks uprightly, who despises mammon of deceit, who removes his soul from oppressors. who withholds his hands, lest ‎they accept a bribe, who stops his ears from hearing those who spill innocent blood and averts his eyes from looking upon those who do evil.

These are clearly achievable principles that can be implemented by diligently studying Torah and seeking to obey these precepts.

1. What are the practical implications of Isaiah 32:8?

That those who attach themselves to the Torah/Mashiach and walk in its ways, these will have a portion in the Olam HaBa.

1. Much has been falsely taught about healing as a sign of Messianic authority. However, is the definitive sign of being either Messiah ben Yosef or Messiah ben David the ability to act as a Physician working healing miracles? How does the Tosefta of Dr. Luke who was both a Physician and a Scribe, answer this question?

It is not a definitive sign of Mashiach ben Yosef because there are others who heal. It is the teaching of the mesora and being like Moses are closer to a definitive sign for Mashiach ben Yosef.

The Tosefta of Dr. Luke answers this question with the following words: **“Go and report to Yochanan what you have seen and heard:** the **blind receive sight,** the **lame walk,** the **lepers are cleansed, and** the **deaf hear,** the **dead are raised up,** the **poor** (Am HaAretz – "the people of Land" i.e. the uneducated Jews) **have** received **the Mesorah proclaimed to them”** is summed in the key word “Mesorah.” The problems that Yeshua was dealing with were a lack of understanding the Mesorah. When this is corrected, healing comes naturally.

1. What six different meanings albeit intimately associated with one another does the term Ruach HaKodesh ‎ had in the first century common era?
   1. The power of God with no emphasis on a “spirit” as a special separate entity
   2. The Divine (dwelling) Presence – Shechinah
   3. The spirit (breath i.e. Oral Torah) which produces holiness
   4. The spirit of prophecy
   5. The “Jewish soul/spirit” from the heavens i.e. **Nefesh Yehudi.**
   6. It is noteworthy that the first century Sages never understood the “holy spirit” to be a separate entity to G-d.
2. What are the Halakhic implications of Acts 8:14-‎‎25‎?
3. Every Nazarean Jew is prohibited from speaking Lashon HaRa This means that murmurings and complaints must be verbalized to the appropriate authorities.
4. Flattery is a part of Lashon HaRa, therefore we must be careful not to gloss over those issues which people may need to change. However, this is not a license criticize since this is also Lashon HaRa.
5. Every Nazarean Jew should take active part in publishing the Mesorah of the Master. However, the Mesorah cannot be diluted with any type of admixture not accepted by our Hakhamim.
6. ‎Taking into consideration all the readings for this Shabbat what is the prophetic statement for this ‎week?‎

Be very careful what you say. Never say anything negative about anyone, at any time, ever!