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From the Mind of Sha'i ben-Tekoa

Transcript

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Date: July 19, 2016 / יד תמוז תשע"ו

Parasha: Pinchas / פנחס

Title: Jews At War With Jews

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Shalom laYehudim, Shalom laBnai Noach, Shalom laGoyim. It is the evening of the 4th day, *yud-dales beTammuz*, *Parashas Pinchas*, *tav-shin-ayin-vav*, the evening of the 3rd day, Tuesday, 19 July 2016, webcasting from Israel at war, Israel at war every day with itself.

There really is here a civil war, a truly civil war in that there is no bloodshed. It is a war of words and identity. As Superman fought daily for "Truth, Justice and the American Way," so Israel, the Children of Israel in the Land of Israel, war with one another every day over what it means to be a Jew, what it means to be an Israeli.

It really is, or it seems, a war without end that has been waged, I think, every year since the birth of this people at Mt. Sinai, where, as soon as Moses was given the Ten Commandments, they built a golden calf, an idol, when as far back as their Patriarch Avraham, Moses's great grandfather's great grandfather, entered history, they should have been at war with idolatry.

As soon as their leader Moses was given the Ten Commandments, they were at it, doing the opposite of what they had been commanded to in the Second Commandment that prohibits idol worship, which was so common among the human race at the time. The Jews were commanded, in effect, to be different.

Avraham lived in a world in which people believed, basically, in an indefinite number of gods because so many were local powers over this lake or that mountain. The Romans wound up with a pantheon of 30,000 gods before their world collapsed and their gods died.

So Avraham was the Jew of his generation for standing on "the other side," which was the name of his grandfather Eber, which means "side," on the other side of

the river of history from the rest of mankind when he said, “No, there are not thousands of gods but One.” He truly was the patriarch from whose loins came “a people that dwells alone.”

We just read on Shabbos Balak in which that expression was an involuntary prophecy of Balaam. And not coincidentally it was spoken on July 13, 1992 in the Knesset during his first speech as prime minister by Yitzhak Rabin (his second time in the office). This ignoramus when it came to Judaism, this son of and raised by a fanatical Communist mother, quoted this expression when he set his course as the new captain of the ship of state. He said Israel would no longer be “a people that lives alone” because this ignorant man thought that was a curse, when in context it was a blessing. Balaam wanted to curse the Jews but everything that came out of his mouth was a blessing; this expression too.

Poor Yitzhak Rabin. And we can say the same about too many Israelis today like the herd of Enlightened post-Jewish Israelis outraged that Rabbi Levinstein addressed a conference of 700 national religious rabbis gathered to resist the recent wave of relentless assaults on the Orthodox Jewish religion in Israel by the so-called Reform and Conservative Movements and the sodomites. There, as we reported last webcast, he said he himself did not use the word “gay” but “deviant.” He objected to officers in the IDF, as part of their service, having to watch movies praising this deviance, from which some Jewish officers walked out and were court-martialed.

He also said Reform Judaism is not a stream in Judaism but in Christianity. I wouldn't put it quite like that, but overall he is in the right direction. What is indisputable is that most of the Jews raised in Reform temples go on to marry people of Christian heritage, whose offspring overwhelming do not see themselves as part of the Jewish people. These are the facts.

Following his remarks, Enlightened Israelis were outraged that this man has any affiliation with the IDF. Not only is he the head of a pre-army yeshiva, he gives lectures to soldiers in uniform. Now the Enlightened outside and inside the army are demanding an investigation toward barring him from any future lectures.

The Enlightened are besides themselves, on the verge of fainting -- break out the smelling salts -- saying that this rabbi has no business shaping the identity of young Israelis because he is, well, just “too Jewish.”

He takes the Bible seriously, when every Enlightened person for the last two centuries at least knows that the Bible is a fraud. The Five Books of Moses purport to be his handiwork as dictated to him by the Almighty, but no Enlightened person believes that. They say there were many writers and the text in use today was the redacted version of a cabal of rabbis thousands years after Moses was alleged to have lived because there are scholars with PhDs in the best universities who preach that there was no Moses. We even have them here in Israel in our universities.

I know all this because I was for a time on track to becoming one of them, a PhD in the study of religion who would also teach that the Torah miSinai is a con job.

And ever since Mt. Sinai, this people, like a horse champing at the bit, endlessly struggles to throw off the yoke of the mitzvot that make this people dwell alone.

Today in the most Enlightened, progressive circles, the Biblical description of sodomy as an abomination has been tossed onto the garbage dump of history. On the contrary, sodomy is beautiful, normal, nothing wrong with it -- except the cruelty associated with the unEnlightened who disapprove of the behavior.

And what I have found so interesting in this latest brouhaha, and the demands today that Rabbi Levinstein be indicted for racist-like speech, is the bizarre quality of the criticism that is so illogical. For example, as we saw last webcast when Meretz MK Ilan Gilon, this caricature of a Bohemian hater of religion, said this man should never be teaching about "Jewish identity." And so Tsipi Livni has piped up and said more or less the same thing. This was "hate speech," she said, and Rabbi Levinstein and other rabbis were part of "a larger process that threatens Israel's identity as a Jewish and a democratic state."

There's that miserable expression again: "Jewish and democratic" which is an oxymoron because the speaker sees democratic as not Jewish, which is not true.

What she was saying is that opposition to deviant sexual behavior is unJewish, which, of course makes no sense in light of what's written in the Torah miSinai. The story of Sodom and Gomorrah is only one of many sex stories in the Torah and unique to the Jewish people, and here is Tsipi Livni standing the morality of that story on its head. What can a person like her be thinking when saying something so illogical, illogical being a kind of synonym for contradictory? Logic comes from *logos*, the word in Greek for word, so what is logical is a reasonable flow of words making sense, and illogical is the opposite.

And yours truly sees a dimension here of the eternal resistance and rebellion of this stiff-necked people to being a people that dwells alone and is not swept up in the fashions of the day, such as the current self-hypnosis about homosexual behavior.

Naftali Bennett also exposed his borderline connection to classical Jewishness in sounding like Livni by criticizing Rabbi Levinstein for his "exclusionary view of any sector of the Jewish people." This misses the same mark by hearing what is not being said. The Enlightened hear a wholesale condemnation of people when what the Rabbi had in mind are a few specific behaviors.

Since 1969, the year men walked on the moon and the "gays" came out of the closet insisting there was nothing with them -- that society was wrong and bigoted -- the gays' greatest success was getting everyone, the whole world, to adopt their vocabulary, their code word for themselves, which is "gay," that has served to replace

and cover up the word describing the very thing these people are noted for, which is sodomy.

Their second greatest triumph was distracting the public discourse from this behavior to the subject of love, when love has no more to do with homosexuality than heterosexuality necessarily does. The oldest profession is prostitution, which exists because men have biological drives that drive them to prostitutes, men who are not looking for love, who do not want to live with the prostitute and have children together. Likewise, the homosexual drive has absolutely nothing to do with love. That is a smoke screen.

And I am saddened by Israelis like Livni and Bennett who recoil from taking a position that would put them outside the conventional wisdom abroad, the consensus of the Enlightened in New York, London, Paris and Berlin.

I find it almost dizzying to read of a Livni who sees in opposition to sexual deviance an “unJewish value.” Who was her teacher?

She sounds like Jill Stein of the last webcast, that abysmal ignoramus of Judaism who at least has the excuse of being raised in the Reform movement’s bogus version of Yiddishkeit. Livni, by contrast, grew up in Eretz Yisrael in a Shomer Shabbos family, National Religious home. Bennett too. Their views on this matter are saddening for their non-Jewish feelings and thoughts.

When the civilized West has spun off its axis in the matter of sexuality as it has, Israel should most certainly be a people that dwells alone by adhering more than ever to the Torah miSinai presented to this people at Sinai.

* * (Musical Interlude) * *

Yes, the post-Jewish Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman promised a thorough investigation into the views of Rabbi Levinstein, head of a yeshiva subsidized by the army to the tune of 50%.

What I find a tell-tale symptom of the post-Jewish left here, including too many in the National Religious camp, is the self-assurance of the implicit belief that this behavior is genetic and it is therefore cruel to criticize people who engage in it, because they can’t help themselves, when there no scientific evidence whatsoever after nearly 50 years of research, that the behavior is genetic and those who engage in it have no control over it. It is a highly unscientific position. One may call the progressives who think this way less than progressive; they sound like but the most backward and primitive of people. Their belief is just that: a belief unsupported by science. It is no more scientific than astrology.

And the tipoff of the mental disturbance found in the supporters of this behavior is the vehemence in which they strike back at those who disagree with their belief. The media in Israel today made it sound as if Stalinist Russia was right around the corner. Rabbi

Levinstein used a perfectly kosher Hebrew expression, *soteh min* from the infinitive *listot* meaning to stray off the path you want to travel on, like taking the wrong exit off an Interstate. And in Hebrew, the word *min* means kind, type or sex, e.g. male or female. So *soteh min* means “deviant sex,” just like in English. *Listot* means to deviate.

And that is exactly what is going on when the normal male sex drive drives the male from his normal target, a female, and mistakes another’s man bodily openings for a woman’s.

It is sexual deviance and is therefore not inherently an insult to speak that way, which is what the Enlightened have made of the rabbi’s remarks.

What I also find interesting and troubling in this issue is how the past has disappeared. It has been forgotten that until quite recently, it was the conventional wisdom that homosexuality was deviant, a mental disorder, and so it was listed until 1972 or ‘73 in the manual of mental disorders called the DSM.

In fact, the term *soteh min* was not invented by this rabbi. It has been around for generations. What also bugs me about the new dispensation is the complete ignorance of or disrespect for the giants of psychology, psychiatry and psychoanalysis who were all Jews starting with Sigmund Freud and his circle. And it was Freud’s great contribution in favor (!) of homosexuals which was to approach the disorder scientifically and without moral judgment. A healer, Freud did not brow beat his patients into giving up their addiction -- all perversions are addictions -- he tried to help them sympathetically. But what he never did, not he and his generations of psychiatrists, was to pronounce the behavior normal. Freud famously commiserated with a mother over her homosexual son and told her that there are worst things to do in this life. But he never said this handicap was not a handicap. He said it reflected “arrested development” and the one time I saw a “gay pride” parade pass by, I was amazed at how right he was. Here were these grown men acting like little boys exhibiting their bodies or playing dress up in mommy’s clothes. It was all so juvenile.

Rabbi Yaakov Ariel, chief rabbi of Ramat Gan at a conference last month described homosexuals as disabled people suffering from a real problem that must be solved with psychological and pharmacological treatments.

He also spoke the truth about the predatory nature of some homosexuals who prey on young boys.

He also dismissed these “gay pride marches,” rightly asking, “What are they proud of? Have mercy on them. When a person does not have a natural connection to the opposite sex, this is a disability.”

He also protested the legitimizing of two parents of the same sex raising a child and calling that a normal family. He said a child needs a mother and father, not two parents of the same sex. And I add that it is a crime of the society that tolerates these relationships. I think it is a form of child abuse.

Boojie Herzog of the Zionist Union also got into the act by saying Israel is witnessing – fasten your seat belts – “an intifada of dark, internal hatred.”

That is so typical of the Left. Twenty years ago in a Westchester County Conservative shul, I debated the head of Peace Now in America and he had the same reaction. I went first and calmly dismissed the very existence of a Palestinian people, and his response was to accuse me of hatred. He said there is so much hatred here. I wasn't hating anybody but speaking the truth.

I tell people who smoke cigarettes to stop because it is bad for their health. I feel the same way about homosexual behavior. It is medically contraindicated. It is not good for the body. Don't do this thing.

But in this case, people who criticize this behavior have become the targets of snarling accusations of bigotry and hatred, of homophobia, an irrational fear of this behavior.

Their hysterical, off-target accusations are, I think, symptomatic of their own irrational inner life.

* * (Musical Interlude) * *

So I have this personal side to my opposition to the hysterical reaction to classical Jewish teaching. In addition to the issue of Jewish vs. Israel's pseudo-gentile morality in sexual matters, these same Enlightened Israelis inside the army and out are backed by the Conservative and Reform movements in the States who this very evening are expecting a vote on their desire to use public mikvaot for their bogus conversion ceremonies.

It is angering that those who support them, like Naftali Bennett, in their drive for equality between all streams, are blind to the reality that these streams are drying up real fast. Why is anyone in Israel supporting them when the facts of what they are up to are plain?

Several years ago, the Conservative movement terminated the employment of their man in Jerusalem because they could no longer afford him. And a year and a half ago, the flagship Conservative Jewish Theological Seminary in Manhattan -- notice the two gentile concepts in the name: Jews have no theology of G-d and they study in yeshivas, not seminaries – JTS announced it was down-sizing and selling air rights over their property. A third of the Conservative shuls in America over the last generation have shut their doors.

And the Reform are surely in no better shape, not with an intermarriage rate of 70% or so. Don't these Israelis know of this crisis in American Jewry as evidence of the failure of these movements? The only stream in the US that is growing is the Orthodox, which word means “correct opinion,” which is proven correct by the facts. They are the only ones who are surviving.

It rubs yours truly the wrong way when Israelis can be so arrogant and ignorant, as said before, to dump in the garbage pail the works of Freud and Franz Alexander and Otto Rank, Wilhelm Reich, Salvatore Arieti, Erik Erikson and Eric Fromm, generations of Jewish geniuses in psychiatry and psychology. None of them thought homosexuality was normal. They were all physicians, who knew human anatomy and saw deviance in the misuse of the reproductive and excretory systems want to understand it and help cure it.

So the civil war in Israel is a daily struggle between Orthodox Jews and rebellious Hellenist Jews, for that is what this clash between Orthodoxy and its opponents is all about.

In the age of the kings of Israel, the people wrestled with the syncretism of Jews simultaneously observing Jewish law and still, on the side, worshipping idols.

The story of Purim is about the Jews in exile who did not want to return to Eretz Yisrael but preferred to stay in that gentile empire.

Christianity as well began as a community of Jews bent on appealing to gentiles and becoming more like them, writing their story in Greek, dismissing circumcision, kashrut and the Sabbath, etc.

The Reform movement was born in Germany by Jews desperate to strip themselves as much as possible of outward signs and behaviors characteristic of the Jews.

And today in Israel I see the Enlightened shuddering in horror that the Enlightened abroad will think Israel is a backward, medieval, superstitious community that oppresses and humiliates the sodomites.

How embarrassing for them to have such as Rabbi Levinstein who used a term that was perfectly acceptable a half-century ago and for generations before then.

There was also that frightening other face to this top story in Israel today for its threat of totalitarian mind control. To express oneself as the rabbi did is now to court arrest for hate speech. Criticize this behavior and you are no better than the Black Lives Matter brutes calling for the murder of policemen.

And speaking of that, I hope you all saw how the murderer of those three policemen in Baton Rouge was a follower of Louis Farrakhan, as was Rev. Jeremiah Wright who preached such poison for twenty years into the head of his parishioner Barack Hussein, who I say is responsible for the current anarchy.

* * (Musical Interlude) * *

Last item: Speaking before of non-Orthodox American Jewry and their constant aggression in the matter of the Western Wall and now the mikvaot, maybe you saw how the ADL has criticized the GOP platform committee for deleting any reference to the legendary Two-State Solution.

It is no surprise that the handful of fools in the so-called Israel Policy Forum also criticized the GOP for this, but the ADL? Once upon a time it was a worthy organization.

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Now they are more lost souls floundering in the sea of American Jewry sinking beneath the waves.

JPost's man in Washington Michael Wilner also reported today that some American Jews are fearful of Trump calling for making America first again because it sounds too much like the America Firsters from the 1930s and 40s who were off the rails antisemites like Charles Lindbergh. In that period, this group hysterically warned that the Jews were pushing the US into the European war, when there is no connection whatsoever between then and Trump's trademark slogan now. The historical ignorance here of some of these Jewish academics in America is just intolerable.

Anyway, *Leila tov miEretz Yisrael.*