**Questions for Understanding and Reflection**

1. How were the readings for last Shabbat fulfilled for you during last week?

I significantly expanded a presentation on Judaism and Chanukah at the headquarters of the Washington State Department of Transportation, after a special request. This fulfilled the prophecy that I set out last week: We need to scatter seed – oral law – to the Gentile world.

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

My imagination was fired by the Targum to 46:28: *And he sent Jehuda before him to Joseph to indicate the way before him, to subdue the pillars of the earth, and to provide him a house of dwelling in Goshen. And they came to the land of Goshen.*

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 46:28?

**to direct him** – How was he directed?

**him** [Lit., ahead of him.] – Why was he sent ahead?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 46:29?

**And Joseph harnessed his chariot** – Why did the ruler of Egypt harness his own chariot? (We adorn the command by personal involvement. And we do it immediately to demonstrate that we care for HaShem and His mitzvot)

**and he appeared to him** – To whom did he appear?

**and he wept on his neck for a long time** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase: עוֹד וַיֵבְךְ?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 46:34?

**so that you may dwell in the land of Goshen** – What would cause Paro to settle them in Goshen?

**are abhorrent to the Egyptians** – Why would they become abhorrent?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 47:9?

**the years of my sojournings** – Why does he speak of sojournings (Hakham Tsefet is also a fellow pilgrim)?

**and they have not reached** – What was he reaching for?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 47:10?

**So Jacob blessed** - With what blessing did he bless him?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 47:19?

**and give [us] seed** – What was the seed to be used for in a famine?

**will not lie fallow** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: א תֵּשָׁם?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 47:21?

**And he transferred the populace** – Why did he transfer the populace?

**from [one] end of the boundary of Egypt, etc.** – Why are the boundaries mentioned?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 47:28?

**And Jacob lived** - Why is this section [completely] closed?

1. Please provide a Peshat, Remes, and Drash interpretation of Ps. 38:7.

**Pshat**: David was physically bent over (in prayer and teshuva), bowed down and mentally gloomy.

**Remez**: David is feeling the effects of his wickedness. The exile was getting to him.

**Drash**: The nation is lacking a connection with HaShem that is causing them to focus on the the physical parts of this world, instead of focusing on their own repentance that put them into exile. (They will remember HaShem when they are dispersed to the far ends of the earth)

1. Please provide a Peshat, Remes, and Drash interpretation of Ps. 38:21.

**Pshat**: The evil doers oppose me because I try to do the right thing. David pursued the tov. Do not feed the crocs.

**Remez**: The ungrateful oppose me because I am a grateful person.

**Drash**: The king, as representing his kingdom, is pursuing the good. It is not an exclusive, personal pursuit, rather it is the kingdom’s pursuit because it is the kings pursuit. The principle concern of the kri is: How do we go about establishing HaShem's Kingdom on earth? **And the psalmist answer is for each subject to follow their king and “pursue that which is Tov, that which is beneficial**”.

1. What physical reality of Jewish homes and the Sabbath lights during the first century is alluded to in the texts of Mark 4:21-23 and Luke 11:33-36?

Jewish women lit the Sabbath and festival candles and put them on display. This made lovemaking difficult unless they were put under a bushel, at some point.

1. What is the meaning and implications of Zechariah 10:9 and how is this all prefigured in our Torah Seder?

That the Jews were sent into exile, with the Torah, to make converts in order to return to their land. In our Torah portion we see Yehudah preparing a bet Midrash in order to make proselytes. These proselytes were a great multitude when they left Egypt.

1. What is the allegorical meaning in Zechariah 11:12 of the phrase “And they weighed out My hire, thirty pieces of silver”?

Fulfill My commandments, and that will be My payment for all the good that I have given you; as they give hire to a shepherd, I will return and tend you.

(Judas Iscariot was also paid 30 pieces of silver for betraying Mashiach.)

There will never be less than 30 righteous men.

1. Why does the mystery of the Kingdom/Governance of G-d remain obscured to many Gentiles and assimilated Jews today‎?

The awareness (revelation) of the Governance of G-d is only “brought to light” through acceptance and application.

We have the family’s genes. What we do affects our entire family line.

1. What is the basic pursuit of the Oral Torah concerning civil society? Please explain your answer.

The social order of the Oral Torah has one basic pursuit. We know that it ultimately revolves around one basic principle, namely the assembling of a Perfected Community fit to exist in an eternal state of intimacy with God.

When the Highest Wisdom (G-d) considered everything needed to rectify the human race and make it into the Perfected Community discussed earlier, it saw that this goal would be furthered if some people could benefit others and help them attain a place in the Community.

1. It is said that “Without a Bet Midrash, there is no such thing as the Jewish people.” Please explain this statement, and describe the implications of this assertion for us Nazarean Jews.

Both “cultivation” and “pouring forth” are also figuratively speaking activities connected with a Bet Midrash. This is intimated to us in Hos. 4:6 – “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge [of the Torah]; because you have rejected knowledge [of the Torah], I will also reject you, that you will be no priest to Me; seeing you have forgotten the Law of your God, I also will forget your children.”

We as Nazareans must embody this Torah in our lives. Without the Bet Midrash we would be asphyxiated.

1. Why is it that believing and fearing G-d is not enough to be accepted by G-d, most blessed be He? Please explain your answer.

Because we are judged by our actions, not by our beliefs. Without works, faith is dead – as James declares.

1. ‎Taking into consideration all the readings for this Shabbat what is the prophetic statement for this ‎week?‎

We need to prepare a Bet Midrash, at least in our own homes, in order to learn and make converts.