

Priestly Anointing from Eliyahu to Yeshua

Beit Shalom, Messianic Congregation, Pozzuoli, Naples

Shalom to all!

Today we will talk about the Priestly Anointing starting from the figure of Eliyahu the prophet that the people of Israel await before the coming of the Messiah and the figure of Yeshua HaMashiach (Jesus the **Messiah**), of whom the people of Israel do not recognize the divinity, nor the identity of Messiah who is waiting, since according to the rabbinic teachings received in Orthodoxy and other denominations, many of the key scriptures for the revelation of who the Messiah is in the Torah have been hidden and are not read or explained to the people of Israel (eg **Isaiah 53**). On the contrary they are denied to the study by the rabbinate, as well as the Brit Chadashah, according to Hashem's plan, until the veil will fall from their eyes by His will and **finally they will recognize Yeshua as the Messiah (Zechariah 12:10)** who are waiting so ardently for a very long time, so as to fulfill the last three Messianic prophecies still not fulfilled in these times.

The Priestly Anointing has been sanctioned by Hashem since creation, because according to His perfect order, His whole plan of Salvation of His people Israel was accomplished in alignment with His scriptures accomplished through the coming of Messiah Yeshua (Jesus Christ), the Anointed (in Greek the Christ means the Anointed), (Yeshua means Salvation in Hebrew).

Priestly anointing is a very fundamental argument for understanding not only Hashem's plan in our lives, but His last times, in which the whole Bride (Jews in Yeshua and Gentiles) of Yeshua (Christ Jesus) is facing at the end of times before His return:

Before talking about Eliyahu, we want to briefly mention some reference scriptures about the Priestly Anointing, which show, since the beginning of creation, the importance of anointing in Hashem's plan in our life:

Genesis 14:18-19 "Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: 'Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth.'"

In fact, we know that as Priest of Hashem, Melchizedek must bless: we are sons of Hashem and heirs of His Kingdom, for this reason we are Priests and Kings

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according to the order of Melchizedek, and if we do not bless Israel first and then the diaspora (the nations), our life, our family, we do not exercise the role of priests.

We have been made **priests** to offer spiritual sacrifices ever since through the death and Resurrection of Yeshua, we have received the fullness of His Birthright and **inheritance** of all that previously belonged only to Moses and to those whom Moses anointed, according to the order dictated by the Torah, fulfilled in Yeshua who resurrected and ascended to the right hand of Father Hashem, has made us in Him, part of His eternal plan of salvation and redemption, having accepted him in our hearts as Lord and Savior of our life. Through Yeshua we have also been made kings so that we can reign over life! Hashem had expressed this purpose for Israel: to make it a nation of Levites, a holy nation.

As written in **Leviticus 8:12**, Hashem chose Moshe (Moses), and he anointed his older brother Aaron.

Leviticus 8:12 “And he poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron’s head and anointed him, to consecrate him.”

Exodus 29:7 “And you shall take the anointing oil, pour it on his head, and anoint him.”

As the greatest prophet in Judaism, Moshe is the first to introduce the priestly order through the anointing of those who are called to serve him both in spiritual form and as a governing authority (King). In fact we remember the writing when it says in:

Exodus 19:6 ““And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

We remember that the people of Israel refused to fulfill Hashem’s purpose, but when Hashem has a resolution, he does not change it, and brings it to completion through other people in our place if we are not available or willing: in fact, Hashem took the tribe of Levi and elected Levites for service to Him.

Leviticus 9:22-24 “Then Aaron lifted his hand toward the people, blessed them, and came down from offering the sin offering, the burnt offering, and peace offerings. And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of meeting, and came out and blessed the people. Then the glory of the Lord appeared to all the

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people, and fire came out from before the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and the fat on the altar. When all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.”

The blood that represents redemption, and the passion with which we treat Hashem's things (sacrifice). Since Yeshua died on the cross, the branches that have been grafted into the root branch, Israel, have inherited, along with Israel, the same promises and, together with Israel, they have inherited the Salvation, the Redemption, the Return to Him and the Messianic Kingdom, since Yeshua (Christ the Messiah) was the perfect sacrifice that took away all sin forever, where the sacrifices offered at the temple were only temporary.

Now we come to Eliyahu (Elijah) (Hebrew name אֵלִיָּהוּ Eliyahu, which means “my God is Yaweh”) or Elias (in Greek Ἠλίας Elías or Ilias; Syrian: ܐܠܝܐܘܬܐ Elyāe; Arabic: إلياس or إليّا, Ilyās or Ilyā) of the city of Tishbà in country of Gilead, and therefore also called the Tishbite).

He is certainly a very interesting character, sometimes sympathetic, a bit weird, awkward, sarcastic, brilliant, in his being infinitely human and in divine grace, gloriously used by Hashem. Eliyahu was a solitary type and zealous for Hashem's service. We recall that as a Prophet of Hashem, he was not only a spiritual representative of Israel but was a political representative of Israel and in the absence of the King, he had enormous power over the people of Israel and the diaspora.

In **I Kings 19:1-3** we read: **“And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.” And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.”**

There is a time when Eliyahu, after the revelation of who He is in Yeshua, at the peak of his manifestation as a prophet of Hashem, through the miracle performed at Mount Caramel, and the consequent killing of 450 self-appointed prophets of Baal, he is afraid of losing his life. It's incredible to see a prophet of Hashem run away from the place where he saw the Glory of Hashem, to try to survive for a short time at

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Beersheba, where he also leaves his disciple and servant, **“and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.”** Eliyahu at this time is losing the guidance of a spiritual son, **“But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree.”**

After a long day of walking in the hot desert, filled with fear and self-pity, he sits in the shade of a juniper (in Hebrew עֵרֶבֶר) seeks death and says: **“It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!”** Then he lies down and falls asleep in the desire for death. **“Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree.”**

This is a time when many of us would simply like to have a chance to embrace Hashem and escape the trials that Hashem is bringing into our life, but this is not in His plan. Let us remember that Hashem has a perfect plan for each of us according to His will.

Let’s remember what as written in **Matthew 7:21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.” (I Samuel 15:22)**

Let us return to Eliyahu who gives us so much courage, regardless of his humanity and weak in his actions, chosen by Hashem to be glorified: **5 “suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, “Arise and eat.” 6 Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again.”**

Eliyahu, like everyone of us, fights with himself, with his own flesh, with the strong man in his life, who comes out, at the first trial, despite years of hard journey in faith in Yeshua and many trials faced. Yes, just like Eliyahu, we are our worst enemy, although we have seen His glory, we whip ourselves without anyone doing anything to us. This is crazy and it is a serious sin against Hashem.

Hashem calls us to obedience, wakes us up at night, torments us by day, as he did to the apostle Paul (Shaul), when the thorn in his flesh made itself felt. The sins already forgiven by Hashem sometimes return to our mind and we do not find peace in Him to say: “Your grace is enough for me!”

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It is written in **2 Corinthians 12:9-10** “And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Hashem is more stubborn than us, and he uses every tool, every method to goad us and force us to move from our state of depression where we fell, when we turned away from him as did Eliyahu in the Sinai desert and away from His will.

We read again that in verses **7-8** “and the angel of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, and said, “Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you.” So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.”

Hashem didn’t ask Eliyahu, “How are you? Why did you fall into temptation, why are you far from me? I miss you, you want to talk about it?” Hashem acts as a father and, as a father, provides our needs. What then is our primary need when we are far from Him? Is it possibly getting closer to the Scriptures? Feeding on His Word?

And it is precisely what Hashem does, using a very convincing and insistent angel who knocks twice on Eliyahu’s shoulder and wakes him up, commanding him to stand up (as it was for Kaifa (Peter) in **Acts 12:7**), so the authoritative prophet of Israel is made to eat (remember that abstention from food and the absence of speech are the first signs of spiritual and physical abuse in the depressive state. Satan wants us to be dumb and spiritually dead first, and then physically so that we can be led away from the will of Hashem, but **Yeshua gave us life and life in abundance** as is written in **John 10:9-11** amen?!?).

So Eliyahu **9** “went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, “What are you doing here, **Elijah?**” Hashem takes us to His Mount (Horeb), where we can listen to it, without interruption and without confusion caused by what is around us, so we can understand where our heart is before facing a test stronger than the previous one which He allows in our life. He wants our heart to be aligned with His so that we can do what he has already prepared for us without falling into temptation during the test.

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But Eliyahu continues in pride: **10 “I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.”** As if Hashem did not even hear what Eliyahu had to say, He speaks: **11 Then He said, “Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord.”**

Hashem knows us deeply and in our miseries and hypocrisy, manifests Himself in our lives differently every time. Pay attention to the fact that we never repeat the same condition that we have previously experienced in the same way but with different people and different ways, Hashem tries in every way to make us understand His will, whether we like it or not, and He won't give up until we do it. We remember that Hashem creates a new thing every time we fail to do His will and fail in his plan, if we repent and return to Him with a contrite heart and full of repentance. So we cannot expect to repeat the same thing we did last year or two years ago, because in Him everything is always new and created to make us grow. Despite our hypocritical pretense of feeling good and hardness of mind in addition to the absence of repentance ... Hashem still speaks: **11-12 “And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.”**

Just as Yeshua (Jesus) says in **Matthew 24:6 “And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.”** Hashem warns us that there will be many cries of false Saviors and false prophets that we will hear from the evil one, but He will not be in those things. For **“He is kind and His yoke is light.” Matthew 11:29.** He does not ask us to serve him with strength, but with love, he wants our love and zeal as a Bride of Yeshua (**Revelation 22:17**) for the beloved Spouse who wants to knock on our door again and love one another forever.

Eliyahu, like us, who are afraid of Hashem, recognizing His voice as His sheep: **13 “So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”**

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Eliyahu was afraid of Hashem, he understood his guilt and could not forgive himself, despite this he proudly justified himself rather than ask for forgiveness for having hidden from Hashem.

14 And he said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.”

As a good father, Hashem gives a spiritual slap on the head to Eliyahu, treating him as he does with lying children, telling him: **15 “Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria. 16 Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place.**

Hashem’s plan is perfect and when we are not ready to carry it out or do not want to do His will, others will do it in our place, many are called but few are chosen: Hashem does not need us, we are only tools in His hands in His Eternal plan. We are the ones who need Him in our lives and if we reject His word, He does not force us to do anything, because He loves us even when we sin against Him, when we betray him miserably and accept us as we are. Only look for our heart, but if our heart is not in Him and He does not dwell in us, then we are not his and we do not know him, we cannot say we are children of Hashem and followers of Yeshua if we do not abide in Him. Hashem waits until we knock desperately at His door to receive **it** as the Savior of our lives, as it was the last minute of our lives before dying.

Hashem clarifies the plan to Eliyahu: **17 It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. 18 Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”**

Sometimes it is thought that the consequences of our actions are not brought only because there is grace on Hashem’s part, but this is not true. When we repent for our sins and receive forgiveness from Hashem, we still bear the consequences of our actions, as it was from the beginning of creation and until the end of time. We

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remember that Hashem will judge us one day and his judgment will be based on works (**Revelation 20:12**) as well as having received Yeshua as our savior by grace. **Ephesians 2:10** “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

The perfect order of Hashem, explained a little before each work that Eliyahu had to perform before His departure was clear, but as always Hashem prepares the hearts and times of those who are chosen to replace us in the task to which we have renounced and for which we are not ready, then it happens that: **1Kings 19:19** “So he departed from there, and found Elisha (from the Hebrew name עֵלִישָׁא (Elisha), a contracted form of עֵלִישׁוּ'א (Elishu'a); it is composed of El, “God”, and Yeshua, “salvation”, and its meaning is therefore “God is salvation”. **the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth.**” Here we understand that Elisha was a rich possessor of herds and strong enough to simultaneously bring twelve pairs of oxen (**Revelation 4:4**) in front of himself of which there was one tenths of a second (two oxen), the first fruits, with him to plow the fields.

The order of Hashem surprisingly reverses the order proclaimed to the prophet and brings them together before anointing the two kings of Syria and Israel, the answer to the prayer of Eliyahu, namely Elisha. **Hashem always responds promptly, we are the ones who act late, but He always comes at the right time.**

Eliyahu immediately understands and desperately performs, as Moses, in obedience what he had asked for in a moment of despair and depression, to end it. Well, Hashem answers and replaces him, as he did with Moses, who in a moment of anger towards the people of Israel and returning from his sister's mourning, disobeys Hashem by hitting the rock instead of talking to the rock as instructed by Hashem. Then Eliyahu: **“passed by him and threw his mantle on him.”**

Do you know how much pain it cost Eliyahu to throw that mantle, that anointing, that call? After suffering all sorts of suffering. And what happened to Moshe? After having lived only to guide the people of Israel to freedom, they rejected him and betrayed him, even his own relatives. How much he prayed to Hashem to forgive him and show him the Promised Land: **515** times, but Hashem said: **“NO”**.

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I imagine the sadness in Eliyahu's heart, repentance and bewilderment, the desire to see things not done Hashem's way, the fear that gripped him of being killed by Jezebel, while he had to pay the consequences of his actions. At the same time he lives in obedience in pursuing Hashem's last orders before leaving. This is how we serve Hashem, in obedience knowing that we have been saved only by grace and that he loves us enough to discipline us because he loves us as good parents do, who know how to say no, even when it hurts the heart.

On the Mount of Olives, Yeshua prayed: **“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me!” (Luke 22:39-46)**, but Hashem did not remove that cup from His Son Yeshua, because even we sinners and without any work of which we could boast we enjoyed with Him the grace that gives us eternal life.

The answer to our prayers arrives: Here is Elisha. **20 And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, “Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.”**

But even those who are part of the answer to our prayers are not ready because it is part of the last test that Hashem asks us before leaving. Eliyahu said: **“Go back again, for what have I done to you?”** Like Yeshua, who says that one cannot follow Him if one does not leave one's earthly family, Eliyahu meets Elisha who asks him the same question, but unlike Yeshua, Eliyahu has sinned against Hashem and revives his error through weakness of the other, he understands its depth as a man and sees Salvation before Him, Elisha (God is my Salvation). As Moses, who passes his role to Yehoshua (Joshua, which in Hebrew means Salvation), sees the Promised Land but does not enter it, so Eliyahu sees Elisha (God is my Salvation) and throws the cloak over him, passing his role to Elisha. Both Elisha and Yehoshua are forerunners of Yeshua and are the answer to the prayer of Eliyahu and Moshe, judged according to the Torah (the law) and not by grace.

21 “So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate.”

Here Elisha promptly offers the tenth of his herd (2 oxen) to Hashem before starting to follow Eliyahu as his disciple, using the same tools as oxen to boil the meat, thus

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renouncing his past and working in the fields, which meant spiritual submission to Yeshua and His servant Eliyahu until His departure.

Like Yeshua, Elisha burns the yoke itself with its offering, for the yoke of Yeshua is light. Elisha did nothing to receive that call, but responded promptly and by grace received twice the priestly anointing of Eliyahu. We note that Elisha wants to serve Hashem willingly, he does not say: “I am not ready”; he knows the Torah and fears Hashem, he knows what he must do, first of all to offer the first fruits, the tenths of his herd and gives it to the poor of Israel. He leaves all that he has in his hand, and the first fruits (Yeshua, the consuming offering, the tenth second he had for himself, in **Isaiah 53**) offers it in sacrifice to Hashem to feed those who have nothing in Israel, to feed the little ones whom Yeshua loves and wants with him, according to the Torah rule.

Serving Hashem starts from the heart: where our heart is there we are.

Where is your heart? In money, career, women, men, your husband, your wife, your family, your vices, your idleness?

Hashem wants your heart first and is a jealous God, who does not want to share you with anyone else, no idols in your life. If you have idols in your life that now prevent you from serving him, this is the time to let go of everything that separates you from Him and prevents you from serving him in spirit and Truth.

Tonight, pray to Hashem to give you the strength and courage to break all ties with the past, every generational bond, every idolatry in your family, every lie of Satan in your life in the Name of Yeshua, amen. Only by repenting before the throne of Hashem can you serve him in Spirit and Truth. Remember that He does not need our lie and hypocrisy, He knows us in depth because He has created us and we are His children. Nothing can be hidden from Him even if we try as Eliyahu to hide us in a cave, He sees us and asks us: “Why are you here?”

Before being able to serve him in Spirit and Truth, we need to be reconciled with him, sincerely repenting of our sins. Only then will we be able to go ahead and serve him in obedience and without looking back, but if we leave as Eliyahu and Moshè that our emotions and our idols (family, home, money, addictions etc.) will be

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stronger than our love for him, then we will move further away from him, returning to our vomit and flesh and rejecting it again.

This is a time when Yeshua is looking for true worshipers who worship him in spirit and truth. Just as Yehoshua (Joshua) was called to follow Moshe (Moses) in his steps until his departure before being at the head of the people of Israel, so Elisha follows Eliyahu for a time so that he may be prepared for the role he will have to cover for his place.

“Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.”

Are you ready to serve Hashem? Answer today.

Yeshua, the **Anointed Messiah (The Christ)** is calling you!

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