

# Parashat Pinchas- The True Zealot

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Parashat Pinchas:  
B'midbar [Numbers]  
25:1 – 30:1  
[25:1 – 18]

*The True Zealot*

Torah: B'midbar [Numbers] 25:1-30:1 [25:1-18], Haftarah: Melakim Aleph [1 Kings] 19:1-21

Netzarim Ketuvim: Romiyim [Romans] 11:1-15

*Netzarim Antoecie*  
NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA  
**Yisrael Plays the Harlot With Moab**

**Bemidbar [Numbers] 25: 1-18** And Yisra'el dwelt in Shittim, and the people began to whore with the daughters of Mo'ab, **2** and they invited the people to the slaughterings of their mighty ones and the people ate and bowed down to their mighty ones. **3** Thus Yisra'el was joined to Ba'al Pe'or and the displeasure of יהוה burned against Yisra'el. **4** And יהוה said to Mosheh, "Take all the leaders of the people and hang them up before יהוה, before the sun, so that the burning displeasure of יהוה turns away from Yisra'el." **5** And Mosheh said to the judges of Yisra'el, "Each one of you slay his men who were joined to Ba'al Pe'or." **6** And see, one of the children of Yisra'el came and brought to his brothers a Midyanite woman before the eyes of Mosheh and before the eyes of all the congregation of the children of Yisra'el, who were weeping at the door of the Tent of Meeting. **7** And when Pinchas [Phineas], son of El'azar, son of Aharon the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation and took a spear in his hand, **8** and he went after the man of Yisra'el into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Yisra'el and the woman through her belly. Thus, the plague among the children of Yisra'el came to a stop. **9** And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand. **10** And יהוה spoke to Mosheh, saying, **11** "Pinchas, son of El'azar, son of Aharon the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Yisra'el, because he was zealous with My zeal in their midst, so that I did not consume the children of Yisra'el in My zeal.

# Netzarim Antoecie

NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA

## Yisrael Plays the Harlot With Moab

**Bemidbar [Numbers] 25: 12** "Therefore say, 'See, I am giving him My covenant of peace, **13** and it shall be to him and to his seed after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his Elohim and made atonement for the children of Yisra'el.' " **14** And the name of the Yisra'elite who was killed, who was killed with the Midyanite woman, was Zimri, son of Salu, a leader of a father's house among the Shim'onites. **15** And the name of the Midyanite woman who was killed was Kozbi the daughter of Tsur. He was head of the people of a father's house in Midyan. **16** And יהוה spoke to Mosheh, **17** "Distress the Midyanites! And you shall smite them, **18** for they distressed you with their tricks with which they deceived you in the matter of Pe'or and in the matter of Kozbi, the daughter of a leader of Midyan, their sister, who was killed in the day of the plague because of Pe'or."

**Introduction:** In our Parashat or Scripture portion for this week we become acquainted with **Pinchas** who is also called **Phinehas** in most bibles being the grandson of Aaron. This fact maybe stressed because jewish thought suggests that the tribes humiliated him saying he was the son of Puti whose mother's father was Yitro who fattened calves for Idolatry & now slaughtered a leader among the tribes. It is this unique saga that throws him onto the centre stage which was revealed in the closing part of **Torah Balak** and reveals his great zeal for Yahweh even though he surely was quite young as he was not yet within the **Priesthood**. We will therefore now observe the details of Torah portion in this:

### Summary of the Torah:

1. Pinchas [Phineas] is praised by YHWH for his action & rewarded with the Priesthood & Yisrael is commanded to punish the Midianites.
2. A command is given to take a census to determine the men of war age.
3. The land is then divided according to the census. The tribe of Levi is also counted being 23,000 males over the age of 1 month.
4. The daughters of Zelophehad ask for an inheritance as he has no sons.
5. Mosheh now can only see the land of Promise from mt Abarim with Mt. Nebo being its highest point.
6. Y'hoshua [Joshua] is publicly named as his successor followed by various sacrifices made during the Moedim [the set-apart] feasts detailed.

**Understanding the Sin of Ba'al Peor:** What we come to see in this story as it relates to Balaam is that because he was unable to curse Yisrael in the previous portion he did however show their enemies that they could be seduced into sinning grievously which he knew would escalate the wrath

of Yahweh against Yisrael therefore we read the Judgement from Mosheh against the women of Midian which today might cause us to cringe a bit which is in:



**B'midbar [Numbers] 31:15** And Mosheh [Moses] said to them: "Have you kept all the women alive? **16** Look, these women caused the children of Yisrael, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against Yahweh [the Lord] in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of Yahweh. **17** Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman who has known a man intimately.

What we did discover in this account is, promiscuity [sleeping around] was the means that led to idolatry. This then caused the inducement to sacrifice with some sort of idolatrous feast. Does this...remind us of anything? Was there another time when the people committed idolatry through worship and sacrificial offerings? And where they were sexually promiscuous? And they also ate an idolatrous feast?

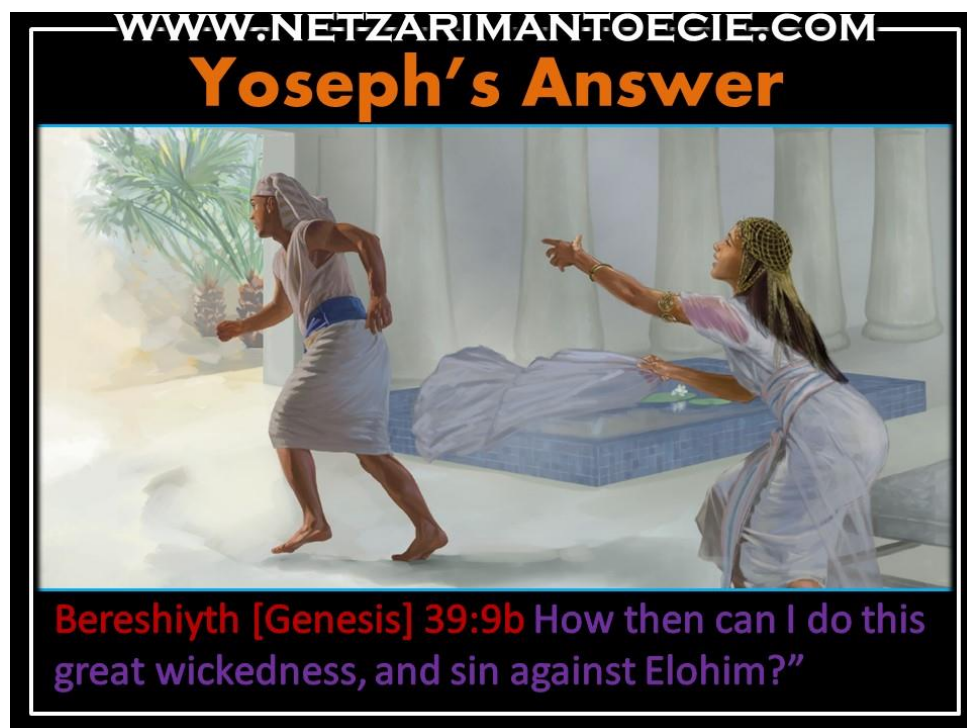




This all seems too familiar as we recall the sin of the Golden Calf!

This current sin was a repetition of the Golden calf with the next generation as though they had not learnt anything in the forty years of wandering in the desert, so serious was their break in relationship with Yahweh. Their sin here was a direct affront to their marriage covenant at Sinai thrown directly in the Almighty's face.

This seems very reminiscent of Yoseph too when he too was tempted with inappropriate sexual advances from Potiphar's wife in **Bereshiyth [Genesis]**. Yoseph had the same challenge as Yisrael, but he was able to speak appropriately & escape the sin with these words in:



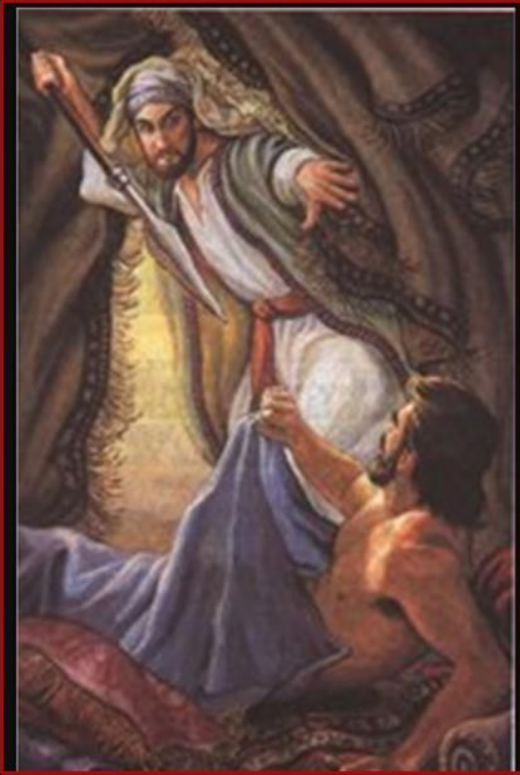
**Bereshiyth [Genesis] 39:9b** How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against Elohim?"

At the **Golden Calf**, idolatry led to promiscuity; but at **Baal Pe'or**, promiscuity led to idolatry. Ultimately both these situations have the similarity of breaking the relationship with Yahweh that brought great anger from him so much so that a great plague ensues with the people of Yisrael dropping like flies leading to the death of 24,000 people. It is however the zealous action of Pinchas that abated the anger of YHWH and stopped the plague.

**The Example of Pinchas:** As we read about the action of Pinchas we may conjure up an image of an extreme vigilante that today might bring to mind a picture of a religious fanatic that at the heart of it desires to rid himself of anyone opposed to his thinking of right though Pinchas' actions are highly praised by Yahweh himself who gives him a covenant of peace & a guaranteed Priesthood before him. He has in his fervour also prevented the death of the whole nation so we must begin to see his actions in the context of the time. Yisrael at that time had the very visible presence of Yahweh the Elohim of all Creation directly in their midst since His Shechinah rested within the Mishkan [the Tabernacle].



However, in total disregard & rebellion while the people were grieving & weeping over the plague at the door of the tent of meeting that would kill 24,000 Yisraelites **Zimri** a leader among the **Shimonites** [Simeonites] defiantly took a Midianite woman called **Cozbi** herself a daughter of a Midianite leader in a tent.



## The Extreme Zeal of Pinchas

Now Pinchas filled with righteous anger then enters the tent & spears them both. If we can just picture the anger & disgust of the Holy Elohim, whose presence was visibly radiating among his people from the Mishkan we may begin to understand the actions of Pinchas who was full of Zeal for his Lord.

**Other Examples we have of Zeal:** We must now journey to the time of Yeshua to gain another dimension of what it truly means to be a Zealot for the Almighty. In Yeshua's day we know there were Zealots who were political assassins for even one of the disciples came from their ranks, but a true Zealot can only be found in the perfect example of Yeshua himself since the nature of a true Zealot could best be defined as one that has no regards for his own safety as long as he fulfills the purpose for which he is called. We see that best shown as a great heart felt passion for righteousness perfectly first expressed when Yeshua enters the **Beyth Ha Mikdash** [the Temple] precincts in the following:





**Yahuchanan [John] 2:13- 17** Now the Passover of the Yahudim [Jews] was at hand, and Yeshua went up to Yerushalayim [Jerusalem]. **14** And He found in the Hekhel [the temple] those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. **15** When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. **16** And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" **17** Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up." {Palm 69:9}

However, the Master also made this great statement reminiscent of a true Zealot for the Almighty in saying this:



**MatithYahu [Matthew] 20:28** The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

The **Briyth Chadashah [New Testament]** therefore introduces us to the Zealotry of the faithful followers of Yeshua in that his sent ones **[Apostles]** had such a passionate zeal for the Master and a heart to see all men come to the faith that they were willing to give themselves totally over to the Father's cause even if that meant they would forfeit their own lives.

**Post Resurrection Examples:** History does tell us that all the sent ones **[the Apostles]** except Yahuchanan [John] were martyred because of their zeal for the Good News but let us just look at a few.



The first and best-known martyr from Scripture is Stephen whose Hebrew name most possibly was **ZephanYah** & we see how totally zealous he was in disregarding his own life in service to the Master when he stood before the Sanhedrin the Religious Rulers & called them stiff necked, always resisting the Ruach Ha Kodesh **[the Holy Spirit]** and the betrayers & murderers of the Holy One resulting in the following in:





**Maaseh HaShilichiyim [Acts] 7:54-58** When they [the Sanhedrin] heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. **55** But he, being full of the Ruach Ha Kodesh [the Holy Spirit], gazed into heaven and saw the glory of Elohim, and Yeshua standing at the right hand of Elohim, **56** and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of Elohim!" **57** Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their

ears, and ran at him with one accord; **58** and they cast him out of the city and stoned him.

Surely, rather than quenching the Zeal & will of the early Assembly the persecution that followed Stephen's brutal stoning outside the city of Yerushalayim only fuelled the Zeal of the believers to fulfil the will of the Master to see the Good News reach all Nations because we read this too:

## THE PROGRESS OF THE GOOD NEWS



**Maaseh Ha Shilichiyim [Acts] 8:4** Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.

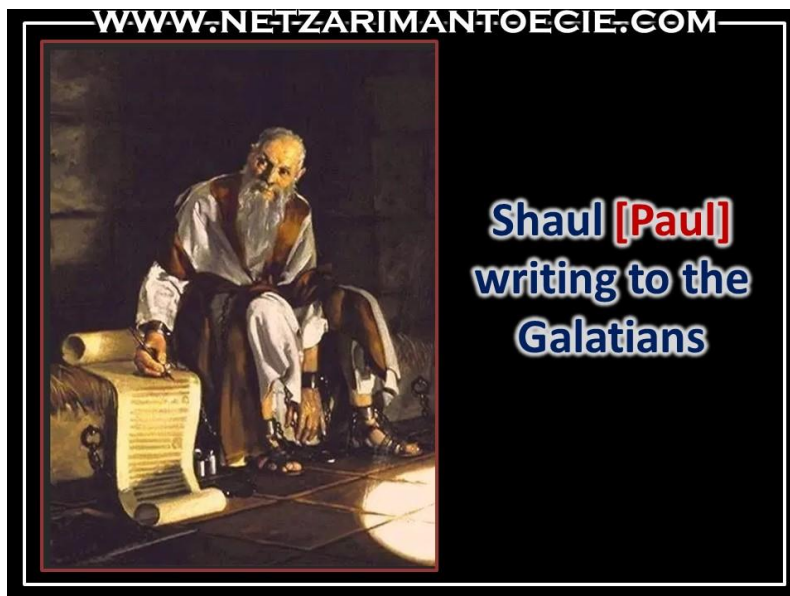
**Maaseh Ha Shilichiyim [Acts] 8:4** Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.

The ultimate purpose of a true Zealot therefore is not the destruction of the wicked but rather the inspiration of the faithful to become Zealous for the Master and his message, to see the World changed which is best observed through the good example of Righteousness as demonstrated by the pillars of our faith through whom the Good News has finally come to us who were far off & without hope in this World.

**The Example of Shaul [Paul]:** The great man Shaul who we know has given us, up to one third of the Brith Chadashah [the New Testament] was also instrumental in establishing many of the Assemblies in the Nazarene writings.



His profound Zeal for the Good News of Yeshua was surely the result of a violent profound conversion process that saw him blinded and hearing the voice of the Master calling him to service on the road to Damascus. It is this supernatural experience that drove him to extremes just as Pinchas was driven to extremes. Shaul has been called the man of grit & grace because we see his Zealotry in the following letter in:



**Galatians 1:13-17** For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the Assembly of Elohim beyond measure and tried to destroy it. **14** And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. **15** But when it pleased Elohim, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, **16**



to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Goyim [Gentiles], I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, **17** nor did I go up to Yerushalayim [Jerusalem] to those who were [Sent Ones] Apostles before me; but I went to Arabia and returned again to Damascus.

Shaul [Paul] also reveals his great zeal for the message of Yeshua by giving us a great list of his sufferings but not to exalt himself as great but rather to declare the Chesed [the Grace] of the Master that strengthened him through his Ruach [Spirit] in all things for he writes of his suffering by which he honoured the Master in this, found in:



**2 Corinthians 11:24-27** From the Yahudim [Jews] five times I received forty stripes minus one. **25** Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; **26** in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Goyim [Gentiles], in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; **27** in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. **28** besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the Assemblies.

Truly through Shaul's description of all his perils he is revealing the strength that comes from the Master that enables one to fulfil the call that the praise truly belongs to the Lord. This surely is for us the example of a true Zealot that has surrendered his own life to a great cause just as all of the Apostles did too, making them the true Zealots of the Most High.

**Historical Zealots:** History is filled with true zealots of the faith who sacrificed themselves for the truth of Yahweh & that of the Good News of Yeshua and so each week we bring to you stories from Heros of the faith to encourage us.

**Conclusion:** It is with the examples of all these great men & women of Zeal for the Good News that I hope we can be encouraged to increase our desire to be filled with Zeal in this generation to see our lives lived in faithful observance & honour of Yahweh & that of our Master Yeshua to see his message radiate in our sphere of influence. May we be Zealous today for our Master & King waiting with exceedingly great passion for his soon return to establish his Kingdom upon the Earth in his righteousness forever. Amen.



**The Torah portion ends here!**



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## Haftarah: Melakim Aleph [1 Kings] 19:1- 21



After the Zeal has passed

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## The Journey to the Holy Mount

**Melakim Aleph [1 Kings] 19: 1-16** And when Aḥaḥ reported to Izeḥel [Jezebel] all that Ēliyahu had done, also how he slew all the prophets with the sword, **2** Izeḥel then sent a messenger to Ēliyahu, saying, "So let the mighty ones 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." **3** And he feared and rose up and ran for his life and went to Be'ērsheḇa, which belongs to Yahuḏah [Judah] and left his servant there. **4** But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree and prayed that he might die and said, "It is enough! Now, יהוה, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!" **5** And he lay and slept under a broom tree and see, a messenger touched him and said to him, "Rise, eat." **6** And he looked and saw by his head a cake baked on coals and a jar of water. So, he ate and drank and returned to laying down. **7** And the messenger of יהוה came back the second time, and touched him and said, "Rise, eat, for the journey is too much for you." **8** And he rose up and ate and drank and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Ḥorēḇ, the mountain of Elohim. **9** And there he went into a cave and spent the night there. And see, the Word of יהוה came to him and said to him, "What are you doing here, Ēliyahu?"

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NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA

## The Journey to the Holy Mount

**Melakim Aleph [1 Kings] 19: 10** And he said, "I have been very jealous for יהוה Elohim of hosts, for the children of Yisra'el have forsaken Your covenant. They have thrown down Your altars and they have slain Your prophets with the sword and I am left, I alone and they seek my life, to take it." **11** And He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before יהוה." And see, יהוה passed by and a great and strong wind tearing the mountains and breaking the rocks in pieces before יהוה – יהוה was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake – יהוה was not in the earthquake, **12** and after the earthquake a fire – יהוה was not in the fire and after the fire a still small voice. **13** And it came to be, when Ēliyahu heard it, that he wrapped his face in his robe and went out and stood at the cave opening. And see, a voice came to him and said, "What are you doing here, Ēliyahu?" **14** And he said, "I have been very jealous for יהוה Elohim of hosts, for the children of Yisra'el have forsaken Your covenant. They have thrown down Your altars and they have slain Your prophets with the sword, and I am left, I alone and they seek my life, to take it. **15** And יהוה said to him, "Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus. And you shall go in and anoint Ḥaza'el as sovereign over Aram. **16** "And anoint Yēhu son of Nimshi as sovereign over Yisra'el. And anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Aḇ'el Meḥolah as prophet in your place.

# Netzarim-Antoecie

NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA

## The Journey to the Holy Mount

**Melakim Aleph [1 Kings] 19: 17** "And it shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Ḥaza'el, Yēhu does kill. And whoever escapes from the sword of Yēhu, Elisha does kill. **18** "And I shall leave seven thousand in Yisra'el, all whose knees have not bowed to Ba'al and every mouth that has not kissed him." **19** And he went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was ploughing with twelve yoke of oxen before him and he was with the twelfth. And Ēliyahu passed by him and threw his mantle on him. **20** And he left the oxen and ran after Ēliyahu and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother and then I follow you." And Eliyahu said to him, "Go, turn back, for what have I done to you?" **21** And he turned back from him and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and cooked their flesh, using the implements of the oxen and gave it to the people and they ate. Then he rose up and followed Ēliyahu and became his servant.



### After the Zeal has passed

In our reading we see Eliyahu [Elijah] who had acted in the same spirit as Pinchas killing the prophets of Ba'al at Mt. Carmel after Yahweh brought down fire from the heavens.



We now suddenly find him fleeing the wrath of Izabel the evil queen of Yisrael who brought in the worship of Ba'al.



In his discouragement over fearing death, he desires to die but then a **Malak** [messenger] of YHWH comes to strengthen him to continue his journey to mt. Horeb the sacred Mountain of Yahweh to seek the Almighty.



In that cave He received a great revelation who Yahweh is and is strengthened to continue in his great service to Yahweh that would see him anoint Elisha as his replacement.

Each faithful servant of Yahweh has been given a purpose for a time of Yahweh's choosing to leave a mark. May we discern the purpose for which we are called & perform it with the zeal these great examples have given us.

**End of the Haftarah the Prophetic portion!**



## Netzarim Ketuvim: Romiyim [Romans] 11:1-15



# Netzarim Antoecie

NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA

## The Journey to the Holy Mount

**Romiyim [Romans] 11: 1-16** I say then, has Elohim rejected His people? Let it not be! For I also am a Yisra'elite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Binyamin. **2** Elohim has not rejected His people whom He knew beforehand. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Ēliyahu, how he pleads with Elohim against Yisra'el, saying, **3** "יהוה", they have killed Your prophets and overthrown Your altars and I alone am left and they seek my life"? **4** But what does the answer of Elohim say to him? "I have left for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Ba'al." **5** So therefore also, at this present time a remnant according to the gracious choice has come to be. **6** And if by grace, it is no longer of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace. And if it is of works, it is no longer grace, otherwise work is no longer work. **7** What then? Yisra'el has not obtained what it seeks, but the chosen did obtain it and the rest were hardened in their hearts. **8** As it has been written, "יהוה" has given them a spirit of deep sleep, eyes not to see and ears not to hear, unto this day." **9** David also says, "Let their table become for a snare and for a trap and for a stumbling-block and a recompense to them, **10** let their eyes be darkened, not to see and bow down their back always." **11** I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Let it not be! But by their fall deliverance has come to the gentiles, to provoke them to jealousy.

# Netzarim Antoecie

NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA

## The Journey to the Holy Mount

**Romiyim [Romans] 11:** **12** And if their fall is riches for the world and their failure riches for the gentiles, how much more their completeness! **13** For I speak to you, the gentiles, inasmuch as I am an emissary to the gentiles, I esteem my service, **14** if somehow, I might provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them. **15** For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what shall their acceptance be but life from the dead?

**Shaul [Paul]** now addresses the question whether Elohim has set aside Yisrael for rejecting Yeshua. At stake is whether Elohim can be trusted to keep His unconditional Covenant. Despite Yisrael's disobedience Elohim cannot reject His chosen people. This is first seen in the multitude of Yahudim **[Jews]** who have come to faith in **Yeshua**, but Elohim does not choose because of foreseen faith, good works, worthiness, or racial descent but solely because of His grace. This must be our highest encouragement because by Yisrael's stubbornness salvation has come to us to provoke them to jealousy & since it brought riches to the world how much more their fullness to the faith.

**Amein! Shavua Tov [A Good Week unto You]**