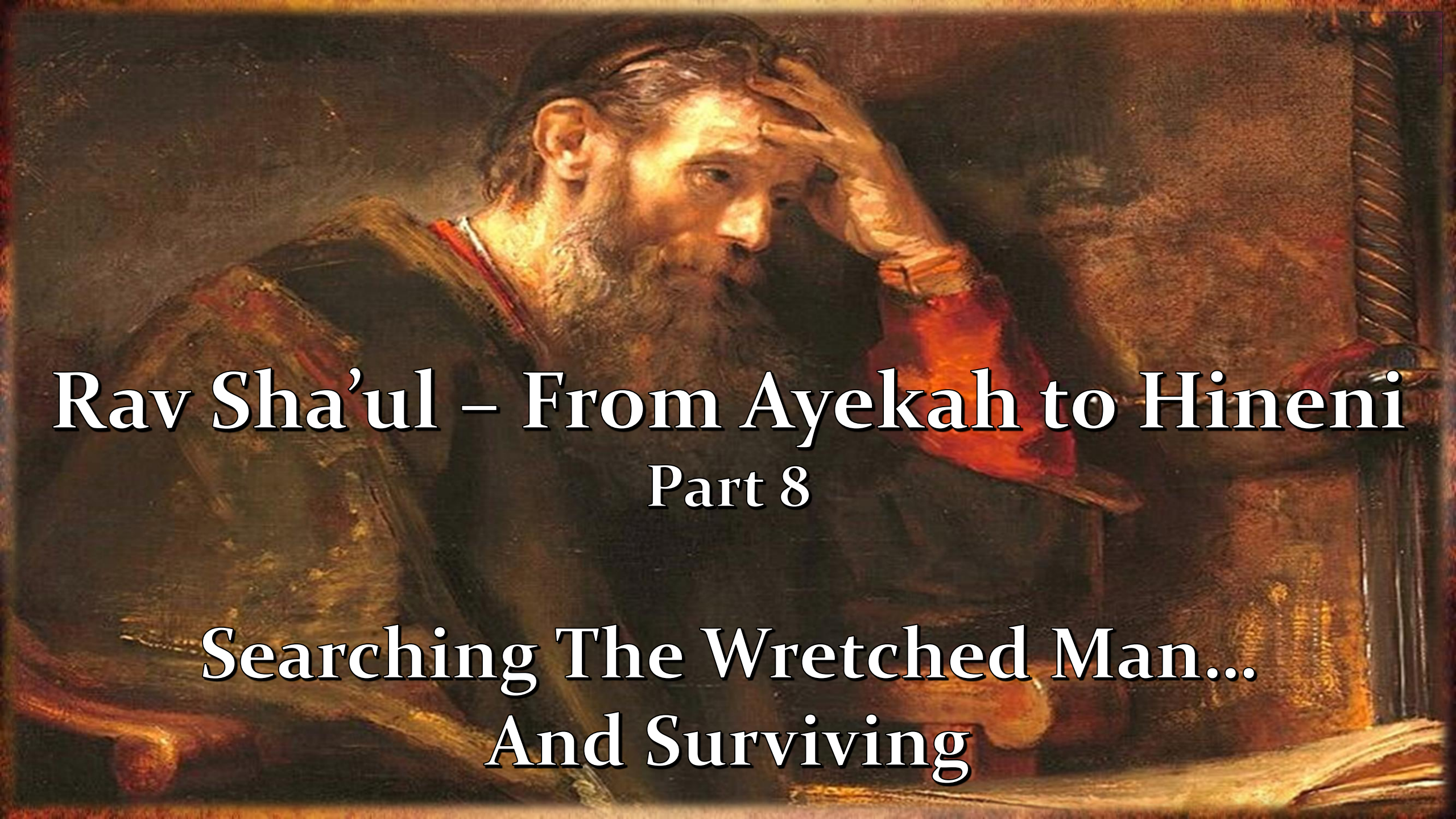


Rav Sha'ul – From Ayekah to Hineni

Part 8

Searching The Wretched Man...
And Surviving


עֵץ הַחַיִּים
עֵץ הַדַּעַת טוֹב וָרָע

Genesis 3

9 *Adonai*, God, called to the man,
"WHERE ARE YOU?"

אַיֶּכָּה

AYEKAH?

אֵיכָה

EICHAH – HOW?

עֵץ הַחַיִּים

עֵץ הַדַּעַת טוֹב וָרָע

Rav Sha'ul – Christian or Jew?

- Paul lived and died a Jew
- Paul is arguably seen as the most confusing of the writers of the New Testament
- The only way to untangle what is perceived to be inconsistent, contradictory, or confusing in Paul's writings is to read Paul as a Jew
- Paul never once proclaimed his religious identity as "Christian"

Rav Sha'ul – Christian or Jew?

- In the first century, Paul's never functioned as a marker of Christian identity because there was no such religious category as "Christian"
- Christians did not distinguish themselves until the late third or early fourth century
- Paul's teachings and the messages contained in his letters as well as Paul himself would have been considered Jewish
- Paul is unambiguously Jewish in every way—ethnically, culturally, spiritually, morally, and theologically

Romans 7

24 **WHAT A MISERABLE CREATURE I AM!**
Who **WILL RESCUE ME** from this body bound for death?

The pain that ends our trust in ourselves can become the place where we finally begin to trust God.

Romans 7

25 **THANKS BE TO GOD [HE WILL]! — THROUGH YESHUA THE MESSIAH, OUR LORD!**

To sum up: with my mind, I am a slave of God's Torah; but with my old nature, I am a slave of sin's "torah."

Three Voices

1. “That’s not really you. You couldn’t help it. Everyone does it!”

2. “You’re worthless. You’ll never change. God must be sick of you!”

Rav Shaul's Response: The Third Voice

3. "YES, I DID THAT.
YES, I AM THAT MISERABLE CREATURE.
YES, THERE IS SOMETHING IN ME THAT'S AT WAR WITH THE GOOD AND THE TRUE.
AND...YES, THERE IS A RESCUER...
AND I THANK GOD FOR HIM!!"

Rav Shaul's Response: The Third Voice

I CANNOT BE RESCUED FROM SOMETHING I'M NOT!

I MUST SEE IT, HOLD IT, AND OWN IT, BEFORE I CAN BE RESCUED FROM IT!

The Two Questions

1. “How do I survive what I find? How do I live with knowing the evil inclination is in me? How do I live with knowing it IS me?”

WHAT MAKES IT SAFE TO LOOK AT MY EVIL INCLINATION?

2. “Do I have a role in God rescuing me from my evil inclination?”

WHAT IS MY PART?

Romans 8

1 Therefore, there is no longer any condemnation awaiting those who are in union with the Messiah Yeshua. 2 Why?

Because the Torah of the Spirit, which produces this life in union with Messiah Yeshua, has set me free from the “torah” of sin and death.

3 For what the Torah could not do by itself, because it lacked the power to make the old nature cooperate, God did by sending his own Son as a human being with a nature like our own sinful one [but without sin].

God did this in order to deal with sin, and in so doing he executed the punishment against sin in human nature, 4 so that the just requirement of the Torah might be fulfilled in us who do not run our lives according to what our old nature wants but according to what the Spirit wants.

Romans 8

1 Therefore, there is **NO LONGER ANY CONDEMNATION** awaiting those **WHO ARE IN UNION WITH THE MESSIAH YESHUA.**



Romans 8

1 Therefore, there is no longer any **CONDEMNATION [Gr. Katakrima]** awaiting those who are in union with the Messiah Yeshua.

Romans 2:1

Therefore, you have no excuse, whoever you are, **PASSING JUDGMENT [Gr. Katakrineis]**; for when you **JUDGE [Gr. Katakrineis]** someone else, you are passing **JUDGMENT** against yourself; since you who are **JUDGING [Gr. Katakrineis]** do the same things he does.

Romans 8

2 **WHY?** Because **THE TORAH OF THE SPIRIT**, **WHICH PRODUCES THIS LIFE** in union with messiah Yeshua, **HAS SET ME FREE** from the "torah" of sin and death.

Romans 7:14

For we know that **THE TORAH IS OF THE SPIRIT**; but as for me, I am bound to the old nature, sold to sin as a slave.

Proverbs 3:18

She is a tree of life **TO THOSE WHO GRASP HER**; **WHOEVER HOLDS FAST TO HER** will be made happy.

Romans 8

3 For what the Torah could not do **BY ITSELF**, because it lacked the power to make **THE OLD NATURE** cooperate, **GOD DID BY SENDING HIS OWN SON** as a human being with a nature like our own sinful one [but without sin].

Romans 8

GOD DID THIS IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH SIN [Gr. peri hamartias], and in so doing **HE EXECUTED THE PUNISHMENT [Gr. katekrine] AGAINST SIN** in human nature...

κατέκρινε τὴν ἁμαρτίαν ἐν τῇ σαρκί

He CONDEMNED **SIN** in the flesh

Romans 8

CONVICTION

"This violates Torah, it is wrong, and you need to turn."

YOU HAVE BEEN RESCUED, NOW TURN FROM IT

Vs.

CONDEMNATION

"You are wrong, and there is no way back. You violated Torah, you are condemned."

NO OPPORTUNITY FOR RESCUE

Romans 8

GOD DID THIS…

4 so that **THE JUST REQUIREMENT [Gr. Dikaioma] OF THE TORAH MIGHT BE FULFILLED IN US…**who do not run our lives according to what our old nature wants but according to what the Spirit wants.

What does the Torah really want for us?

HOLINESS, RIGHTEOUSNESS, GODLINESS

Romans 8

GOD RESCUED US THROUGH YESHUA...

SO THAT

1. THE JUST REQUIREMENT [Dikaiōma] OF THE TORAH MIGHT BE FULFILLED IN US...

2. SIN IS JUDGED AND FOUND GUILTY

Romans 8

God did this…4 so that the just requirement of the Torah might be fulfilled in us…

WHO DO NOT RUN OUR LIVES ACCORDING TO WHAT OUR OLD NATURE WANTS BUT ACCORDING TO WHAT THE SPIRIT WANTS.

What is this called?

TESHUVAH – AND IT'S A LIFESTYLE

What is the key to Teshuvah?

SURRENDER TO GOD'S TORAH IN US

The Two Questions

1. “How do I survive what I find? How do I live with knowing the evil inclination that is in me? Knowing that it IS me?”

WHAT MAKES IT SAFE TO LOOK AT IT?

Through the blood of Messiah, you are not condemned for your evil inclination, for your sin.

The Two Questions

2. “What role do I play in the process of transformation? What is my part in God rescuing me from my evil inclination?”

By the power of the Spirit of God, as sin is revealed, I own my evil inclination.

And by the power of the Spirit of God, I turn from it.

Thus, I fulfill the requirement of Torah in my life.