

THE WOODEN BLOCK (AND THE CONSUMING FIRE)

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"And none considereth in his heart, neither is there knowledge nor understanding to say, I have burned part of it in the fire; yea, also I have baked bread upon the coals thereof; I have roasted flesh, and eaten it: and shall I make the residue thereof an abomination? shall I fall down to the stock of a tree?" (Isaiah 44:19)

Exodus 20:4. "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image."

We prayed to a wooden block. We did not know it was a wooden block because it did not look like one. It looked like a solution. It looked like safety. It looked like the way life works.

We took the tree and we used it well. We burned some of it to keep warm. We baked on it. We fed ourselves with it. We built shelter from it. We made tools from it. All of that was practical and none of that was the problem.

The problem was what we did with the rest. We took the remainder and we carved it into something we fell down before. We shaped it into a system, a structure, a paradigm. We gave it a name and the name was "how life works." We worshipped it without ever using the word worship because we did not recognise what we were doing.

We worshipped the economy. We worshipped the career. We worshipped the pension, the insurance, the mortgage, the safety net. We worshipped medicine that manages but does not heal. We worshipped education that trains but does not free. We worshipped government that provides but never enough. We worshipped the whole structure as though it could save us and we never once stopped to say "shall I fall down to the stock of a tree?"

But it was always wood.

It was never alive. It never spoke back. It never loved us. It never knew our name. We carved it with our own hands and then we forgot we carved it and began to believe it carved us. We built our lives on it as though it were stone. But it was wood. And remember, wood does not survive fire.

This is not only about material things. It is not only about phones, possessions, money, and comfort. It is the very foundation underneath all of those things. It is the paradigm. The way we

think. The way we understand reality. The belief that life works from the outside in. That if we perform correctly on the surface, the inside will hold. That if we do the right things, say the right things, follow the right steps, tick the right boxes, the core will be sound.

But the core was never sound. The core was that wooden block. And we decorated it so well that we forgot what it was made of.

Even religion fell into the same pattern. Perform outwardly. Attend. Sing. Tithe. Be seen. Say the right words. Appear holy. Follow the rules. Do not smoke. Do not drink. Do not question. Do not use this. Do not touch that. We treated the kingdom of God as though it were a checklist and heaven were watching the clipboard.

The problem was not obedience. The problem was the structure built around it: outward holiness performed before others, the secret boast beneath the discipline. Look at me. I have read the Bible two hundred and fifty times. I have never touched alcohol. I am doing well. At least I am better than those people over there.

But the question is not how polished the surface appears.

The question is: will your core survive the fire?

But Yeshua never worked from the outside in. He worked from the inside out. The fire does not land on your behaviour first. It lands on your foundation. It lands on the thing you built your life on. It lands on the wooden block you carved and fell down before. And when it touches wood, wood burns.

For the Lord thy God is a consuming fire. (Deuteronomy 4:24)

Not a warming fire. Not a decorative fire. Not a fire that burns what you choose and leaves what you prefer. A consuming fire. It consumes. It does not negotiate with the material. It tests what you built on.

Every man's work shall be made manifest for the day shall declare it because it shall be revealed by fire and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned he shall suffer loss but he himself shall be saved yet so as by fire. (1 Corinthians 3:13-15)

The fire tries every man's work. Not some. Every. And the question is not whether you built something. Everyone built something. The question is what you built it on. The person whose works burn is not destroyed. He himself is saved. But he is saved through the fire, standing in the ashes of everything he thought was solid, everything he trusted, everything he fell down before. The wooden block is gone. He is still there. And now he has to decide what to build on next.

When his fire hits you within — and it will hit you within — it will not start with your behaviour. It will start with your foundation. It will go to the place where you put your trust and it will test what is there. And if what is there is the paradigm, the system, the performance, the wooden block you fell down before, it will burn. Not because God is angry. Not because you failed a test. Because fire is fire and wood is wood.

But you will still be standing. The fire came for the block, not for you. It came to free you from the thing you were worshipping that could never save you.

And when the foundation burns, there is nothing familiar to stand on. The person who built outwardly, who performed correctly, who followed every rule but never let the fire touch the inside, will stand in the ashes of their own structure and not know where to put their feet. Because the footing was wood and the wood is gone.

But the footing was always false. It held weight but it was never stone. It felt solid but it was always burnable. And now that it has burned, the real foundation is visible for the first time.

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid which is Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:11)

There is no other foundation. Not the economy. Not the government. Not the career. Not the system. Not the insurance. Not the performance. Not the religion. There is one foundation and it is a person and his name is Yeshua and when the fire comes he does not burn because he is the fire.

We are all guilty of this. Every one of us. No one stands outside this and points in. We all carved. We all fell down. We all trusted the wood at some point because the wood was all we knew. Even those who carry fire now once leaned on something false, something man-made, something they thought could hold but could not. The difference is not that some people are better. The difference is that some people already let the fire touch the wood. They already felt it burn. They already stood in the ashes and found him standing there behind what they lost. They broke but they did not burn up. And now they know where the real ground is.

The world will see this. Not as a theory. Not as a sermon. Not as a warning from a pulpit. They will see it when the paradigm they worshipped becomes worthless within them. When the thing they trusted collapses not in the news but in their chest. When the security they felt becomes hollow overnight and they reach for the structure that was always there and find it is ash. When no outward solution can be found.

That is not the end. That is the beginning. Because the fire that burned the wood did not come to destroy the person. It came to free them. The wooden block is gone. But they are still standing. And now, for the first time, they can see what was behind it.

Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)

He is behind the block. He was always behind the block. The block was in the way. The paradigm was in the way. The system was in the way. The performance was in the way. And now that it has burned, the way is clear.

This is not a warning for the future. This is happening now. The fire is already moving. It is moving inside people who do not yet know what they are feeling. The restlessness, the dissatisfaction, the sense that something is wrong but nothing looks wrong. That is the heat. That is the wood beginning to smoulder before the flame is visible. The paradigm is burning from within and those who are sensitive enough to feel it are already looking for something that will not burn.

That something is not a thing. It is not a system, a method, or a programme. It is a person.

He is the consuming fire.

He is standing behind the wooden block we carved, waiting for us to stop bowing before it and turn around.

He was always there.

The block was in the way.

Now it is burning.

In the name of Yeshua HaMashiach.

Amen.

SEALED IN YESHUA'S NAME

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