

the heavens has come near!"

<sup>3</sup>For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Yeshayahu, saying, "A voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way of **יהוה**, make His paths straight.'"<sup>d</sup>

<sup>4</sup>And Yohanan had a garment of camel's hair, and a leather girdle around his waist. And his food was locusts and wild honey.

<sup>5</sup>Then Yerushalayim, and all Yehudah, and all the country around the Yarden went out to him,

<sup>6</sup>and they were immersed by him in the Yarden, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>And seeing many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his immersion, he said to them, "Brood of adders! Who has warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"

<sup>8</sup>"Bear, therefore, fruits worthy of repentance,

<sup>9</sup>and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as father.'<sup>e</sup> For I say to you that Elohim is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

<sup>10</sup>"And the axe is already laid to the root of the trees. Every tree, then, which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>"I indeed immerse you in water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to bear. He shall immerse you in the Set-apart Spirit and fire.

<sup>12</sup>"His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He shall thoroughly cleanse His threshing-floor, and gather His wheat into the storehouse, but the chaff He shall burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>13</sup>Then **יהושע** came from Galil to Yohanan at the Yarden to be immersed by him.

<sup>14</sup>But Yohanan was hindering Him, saying, "I need to be immersed by You, and You come to me?"

<sup>15</sup>But **יהושע** answering, said to him, "Permit it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him.

<sup>16</sup>And having been immersed, **יהושע** went up immediately from the water, and see, the heavens were opened, and He saw the Spirit of Elohim descending like a dove and coming upon Him,

<sup>17</sup>and see, a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I did delight."

**4** Then **יהושע** was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tried by the devil.

<sup>2</sup>And after having fasted forty days and forty nights, He was hungry.

<sup>3</sup>And the trier came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of Elohim, command that these stones become bread."

<sup>4</sup>But He answering, said, "It has been written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of **יהוה**.'"<sup>f</sup>

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took Him up into the set-apart city, set Him on the edge of the Set-apart Place,

<sup>6</sup>and said to Him, "If You are the Son of Elohim, throw Yourself down. For it has been written, 'He shall command His messengers concerning you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, so that you do not dash your foot against a stone.'"

<sup>7</sup>**יהושע** said to him, "It has also been written, 'You shall not try **יהוה** your Elohim.'<sup>g</sup>

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took Him up on a very high mountain, and showed Him all the reigns of the world, and their esteem,

<sup>9</sup>and said to Him, "All these I shall give You if You fall down and worship me."

<sup>10</sup>Then **יהושע** said to him, "Go, Satan! For it has been written, 'You shall worship **יהוה** your Elohim, and Him alone you shall serve.'<sup>h</sup>

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left Him, and see, messengers came and attended Him.

<sup>12</sup>And **יהושע**, having heard that Yohanan

<sup>d</sup> Yesh. 40:3. <sup>e</sup> See Yn. 8:33-44, Rom. 9:8. It is futile to rely on your descendancy, your birth after the flesh. All that counts is the new birth, to be born of the Spirit and water (Yn. 3:3-8). Sha'ul similarly reproves the Yehudim who rely on their physical birth and their circumcision, yet transgress the law, in Rom. 2:26-29.

<sup>g</sup> Deb. 6:16.

<sup>h</sup> Deb. 6:13. Take note:

**יהושע** silenced the devil by the Word, the Words as written down in Debarim, quoting three texts!

<sup>f</sup> Deb. 8:3.