

|17| And this report about him went out into all Yehudah and into all the surrounding countryside.

|18| And Yochanan's talmidim reported to him about all these things. And when he had summoned a certain two of his talmidim, Yochanan

|19| Sent them to Rebbe, Melech HaMoshiach Adoneinu, saying, Are you Hu HaBah [*Moshiach*] or should we be looking for another?

|20| And when the men had come to him, they said, Yochanan of the tevilah of teshuva sent us to you, saying, Are you Hu HaBah [*Moshiach*] or should we be looking for another?

|21| Genoi at that time Rebbe, Melech HaMoshiach gave refuah to many with machlot and afflictions and ruchot raot and to many ivverim he granted sight.

|22| And in reply he said to them, Go and tell Yochanan what you have seen [*as edei reiyah, eyewitnesses*]. IVRIM TIRENAH, pisechim (lame persons) walk, the metzorim are cleansed, and chereshim hear, the mesim are restored to life, ANIYIM have the Besuras HaGeulah preached to them. [YESHAYAH 29:18,19; 35:5,6; 61:1,2]

|23| And ashrey is whoever does not find a michshol (stumbling block, obstacle, YESHAYAH 57:14) in me [*as Rebbe Melech HaMoshiach*].

|24| And when the messengers of Yochanan had departed, he began to say to the multitudes about Yochanan, What did you go out bamidbar to see? A reed shaken by the wind?

|25| But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in a dandy's soft clothing? The ones with glorious apparel are living in luxury as

courtiers in the palaces.

|26| But what did you go out to see? A navi? Ken, I say to you, and one more than a navi.

|27| This one is he about whom it has been written, HINENI SHOLEIACH MALAKHI (Behold, I send my messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your derech in front of You [Mal 3:1]).

|28| I say to you, among those born of isha there is no one greater than Yochanan, yet he who is least in the Malchut Hashem is greater than he.

|29| (And when kol haAm [all the People] and the mochesim heard this, they acknowledged the Tzidkat Hashem [Righteousness of G-d], having been submitted to the tevilah of teshuva of Yochanan.

|30| But the Perushim and the Baalei HaTorah rejected the tachlis [purpose] of Hashem for their lives, refusing the tevilah of teshuva of Yochanan.)

|31| Therefore, to what will I compare the people of hador hazeh (this generation) and what are they like?

|32| They are like yeladim sitting in the marketplace and calling out to one another; and they say, We played the chalil (flute) for you and you did not dance; we sang a kina (lament, funeral dirge) and you did not weep.

|33| For Yochanan of the tevilah of teshuva has come not eating lechem nor drinking yayin, and you say, He has a shed (demon)!

|34| The Ben HaAdam [*Moshiach, DANIEL 7:13-14*] has come eating and drinking, and you say, Hinei, a man who is a zolel (glutton) and a shikkor (drunkard), a re'a (friend) of mochesim and chote'im.

|35| Yet chochmah is justified by all of her yeladim.

|36| Now a certain one of the Perushim was requesting Rebbe Melech HaMoshiach at tish, and, he, having entered into the bais of the Parush, reclined to eat.

|37| And an isha (woman) was in the shtetl, an isha chotet (a woman of sin), and, when she had daas that Rebbe, Melech HaMoshiach reclines at tish in the bais of the Parush, she brought an alabaster flask of costly perfume.

|38| She stood behind him, and then she began weeping at his feet, and with her tears she began to wash the feet of Rebbe, Melech HaMoshiach and she was drying them with her hair, and she was kissing his feet and was anointing them with perfume.

|39| But when the Parush who had invited Rebbe, Melech HaMoshiach saw this, he said to himself, If this one were a navi, he would have had daas who and what sort of isha is touching him, because she is an isha chotet (woman of sin).

|40| And in reply, Rebbe Melech HaMoshiach said to him, Shimon, I have something to say to you. And the Parush said, Speak, Rabbi.

|41| Two persons were debtors to a certain creditor; the one owed a choiv (debt) of chamesh meot (five hundred) denarii and the other a choiv (debt) of chamishim (fifty).

|42| Not being able to repay, the creditor graciously forgave both debts. Therefore which of them will have more ahavah for him?

|43| In reply, Shimon said, I suppose the one whom the creditor forgave more. And Rebbe Melech HaMoshiach said to him, Your judgment is gantze nachon.