



**“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶ and upon finding a single pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.
Mathew 13:45**

21/07/2018

Devarim - Words

Deuteronomy 1:1–3:22

Isaiah 1:1–27

Acts 9:1–21

I Timothy 3:1–7

This week’s Parashah is the first study in the book of Deuteronomy, the fifth book in the Torah. However, the book of Deuteronomy is different from the previous four. In the previous books it was God speaking to Moses, and so it is written in the third person, however, in Deuteronomy it is YHVH speaking through Moses, and so it is written in the first person.

In Deuteronomy Moses is giving his farewell address to the people of Israel, in doing so he summaries what YHVH has said and what has been recorded in the previous three books, as he recalls and emphasises key points. Yet, Moses is not unaware of the stiff-necked attitude of the people he is addressing, nor is he ignorant of what will transpire in the years ahead. Therefore, he warns them of the consequences of what will happen when they turn away from YHVH. Notice he doesn’t say if they turn away, but when they turn away. Moses knew that the children of Israel would turn away from YHVH. He knew their heart condition, as it was a result of this and his frustration with them why he is not entering the land, due to the rock he struck the second time, instead of speaking to it. Yet, Moses was a man of grace and mercy, who stood in the gap for the people, even when they didn’t deserve it.

We further need to understand that the audience of this address are not the people who left Egypt and witnessed the mighty hand of YHVH’s deliverance from the Egyptians, when YHVH defeated all the gods of Egypt, for they have all died in the wilderness. The ones he addresses now are the descendants of that generation. They are the ones who will become farmers, as they set about to make the Promised Land bear fruit for them.

Can you imagine, walking in the wilderness and witnessing the physical manifestation of the Divine presence of YHVH in the midst of the camp of Israel and how YHVH provided for them and defended them? As He guided them and protected them through the wilderness by the pillars of fire and

smoke. Yet, now the children of Israel will have to enter the Promised Land and toil the earth as they seek to provide for themselves. As they build dwellings and engage in commerce and the typical mundane aspects of daily life.

Thus, Moses understood how such things could cause a person to stop focusing upon YHVH, as there focus shifts onto life and its struggles and challenges. Therefore, he admonishes the children of Israel regarding what YHVH has instructed, what He has done and what will happen if they turn away from God. Yet, Moses's admonishment is not just for those present, but for all believers in YHVH, in every generation, of the need to remain resolute and steadfast in our faith. That we MUST ensure that our eyes are fixed upon YHVH and not on the situations we find ourselves in. Yet, regardless of what we find ourselves doing, we are to do all things to the glory and worship of YHVH.

Can you imagine the trepidation of Moses, not of death, for death has no hold over a believer in YHVH, but regarding the people he has led for the past 40 years in the wilderness, as they prepare to go into the promised land? Of the heartache and trials of the highs and lows of leading this stiff-necked people, knowing what will happen. Yet, Moses would have had confidence in Joshua and faith in YHVH that the people would be fine. However, Moses wanted to give one final admonishment to the people, to warn and remind them of what YHVH has said and done.

What would your thoughts be if you were numbered amongst the children of Israel, as you listened to Moses's address? Can you imagine the apprehension they would have felt, knowing Moses would not be going into the land and leading them? That they would have to deal with the inhabitants in the land and the understanding that YHVH would not provide for them in the manner He had in the wilderness once they enter the Promise Land.

The book of Deuteronomy is a lesson in keeping Torah alive and relevant in an attempt to ensure that the people will follow the precepts of YHVH. This is a crucial principle for us in our lives, as we seek to understand what YHVH is saying in His word. Furthermore, we must seek to pass on what we know to the next generation, as we like Moses pass on the batten to the next generation. Therefore, just as Moses trained and then passed on his mantle to Joshua, we too must train our children up and those we have responsibility for, so that we can pass on the mantle of faith to them. What a privileged position YHVH has placed upon us. As a father, I can understand this, as it is my responsibility to train my children up in the ways of YHVH. However, this is not easy, as when they get old enough, they must make their faith in YHVH personal. This may mean that they rejected for a season, what I have taught them, as they seek to test what has been passed down, as they make faith personal. It may seem that during this time they reject what has been said, but what we need to realise is, once we have passed on everything we can to them, it is now between them and YHVH. Children cannot piggyback a ride into the Kingdom through the faith of there parents. It must be through their own walk and faith in YHVH. Thus, once we have raised our children up in the things of YHVH and see them mature in age, it is now our duty to stand in the gap like never before as we uphold them up in prayer, as we see the seed which has been planted in their lives start to bear fruit. However, we need to remember that the seed is put into the depth of the earth, into the darkness so that it can bear fruit. Thus, at times it might seem that the events in their lives seem dark and without hope, but as we pray and seek YHVH, His light comes into the situation, and then life comes forth. We see this in the life of Israel, as they are instructed in the things of YHVH, and then they reject Him, however, they return back to Him through repentance.

It is through Teshuvah that we are reconciled back to YHVH when we turn away. That of first we need to recognise what we have done wrong, as we articulate this through confessing our sin to

YHVH. We then need to realign our focus back onto YHVH and commit to walking a life in surrender to His will and in accordance to His word.

What an amazing, loving and gracious Elohim we have! One that loves us so much, He makes way for our reconciliation back to Him when we sin.

Within this week's portion we see a pattern for the regathering of YHVH's people to the land that is being repeated today.

- 1. The Command to Leave Horeb 1:1-8** first we see the command to leave where they are and go and enter the land YHVH has promised to them. We also see this in the life of Abraham, when YHVH called him.
- 2. The Appointment of Leaders 1:9-18** that to assist Moses in this task, leaders need to be appointed, not so that they can lord it over the people, but to serve them. We see the perfect example of a leader in Messiah and in Moses. That a true Shephard serves the people, as they walk humbly before YHVH. That they will give their life to serve the people and are willing to lay it down in death for them. A leader is not self-appointed but rather placed in office by YHVH, which this is recognised by the assembly. The model adopted within the church, is not a biblical model of leadership, as it expects one person to do everything. This is not correct, as this model creates a dependence upon leaders, rather than on YHVH. What we need to remember is that everyone in the Body of Messiah is to use their gifts to serve and edify the Body of Messiah, as they collectively and individual focus on YHVH and walking humbly before Him. That love in YHVH and for one another is central to the unity of the Body of Messiah. That everyone seeks to work out their salvation in fear and trepidation of YHVH. Maybe you can look at this further.
- 3. Spies Sent Out 1:19-25** The land is surveyed and checked over and a full report is given. Today's generation lives in a time in history which will see the return of Messiah. As we are witnessing the establishment of the antichrist system upon the world stage. However, there is a severe sickness in the Body of Messiah, that they do not believe in the word of YHVH. They have replaced sound biblical interpretation with a theology of relativism, in which the scriptures can mean different things to everyone, as we interpret it within a relative framework. I agree that scripture can speak to us on a personal level, but that does not negate the fact that YHVH has placed within it an eternal meaning for us. You may be asking what has this to do with spies? Everything! You see scripture informs us that we will go through a period of Great Tribulation, a time, unlike anything which has previously been. However, the reality is most of the Body of Messiah put their faith in a pretribulation rapture. This is because they do not know their identity, for the period of trouble is called Jacob's Trouble, and as believers in Messiah, we are part of Jacob, who was also called Israel. Thus, we will go through this period. What we need to understand is that YHVH is in control and has already prepared places of safety for His people, if they are listening. The surveyors of the land have been sent and have brought back a good report. However, the Body of Messiah is listening to the lies of those who bring a bad report. One that states that there is no hope, which has caused fear to manifest within the hearts of believers. Friends, there is hope in YHVH, we do not need to fear what is about to come upon the earth. For, YHVH has prepared places of safety, all we must do is listen to Him and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us. However, the reality is many will not believe the good report and will listen to the lies as they are overcome with fear. Thus, many will not go to the places of

safety during this time, as they will remain in Babylon, in the false reality of the comfort of this world system which is falling.

Friends, who will you listen to? who will you put your trust in? Is it in YHVH or the things of this world, which many cling to?

4. **Rebellion Against the LORD 1:26-46** because of a lack of faith in YHVH and understanding of the truth of scripture, many will rebel against YHVH at this time. Scripture informs us that many will fall away as lawlessness increases because the love of many will grow cold. This is a direct reference to the fact that believers reject the Torah, the precepts of YHVH and thus their love for God diminishes. We are seeing this today, that many within the Body of Messiah are rejecting YHVH's precepts and accepting the teachings of this age. In doing this, they are rebelling against YHVH and His rule in and over their lives. The reality is YHVH will deal with this in the days ahead, during the time of Jacob's Trouble. For the judgments which come upon the earth are judging sin. Therefore, if we have made YHVH our refuge, through seeking to walk a life set apart as Holy, as defined in His word, then YHVH will protect us, and the judgments will not come near our tent. That does not mean we get everything right, but that we are striving to do what is right, as YHVH's grace will be poured out in abundance during this time, otherwise no one would be able to stand.

5. **Wanderings in the Wilderness 2:1-23** scripture informs us that the final generation will once again go into the wilderness, as YHVH guides them back to the Promised Land. That YHVH will make His people dwell in tents again, as He provides for them and brings them into the bond of the covenant, as He directs them and instructs them. I encourage you to examine this further if you have never looked at the Greater Exodus.

6. **The defeat of Sihon King of Heshbon 2:24-37**
The defeat of Og King of Bashan 3:1-11 The Greater Exodus will conclude with the Messiah's return, as the dead in Messiah are gathered to Him and then those who are alive. Then we will come with the Messiah to the Mount of Olives, the threshold of Jerusalem. Messiah will then lead His people into the land, as we engage the enemies of YHVH and see them defeated, just as the children of Israel did when led by Joshua. I encourage you to study these events as what we see in Joshua leading Israel into the Promised Land is a foreshadow of what will take place when Messiah returns.

7. **Division of the Land 3:12-21** When Messiah returns He will reign from Zion, as He instructs His people, Israel that of both Houses, the House of Judah and the House of Israel. Messiah will also restore the tribes to their allotted land, so that they can dwell in it and make it prosper, as the tribes go forth and inhabit the land and multiply.

The Temple and the 9th of Av; this Sunday is the 9th Av, the day when Jewish people remember the destruction of the first and second temples which both events occurred on this date. It is also the date when many atrocities were committed against the Jewish people. This year in Jerusalem the Temple Mount Faithful and other organisations will be holding a walk in Jerusalem to highlight the need for the third temple. As they seek to bring this event about. Within evangelical churches, we find many Christians supporting such endeavours, with many even giving monies for the temple to be built. Yet, this shows a lack of understanding in relation to Bible prophecy and how the evangelical word in part has made an idol out of the land of Israel, the Jewish people and anything pertaining to either, especially the temple. As believers, we should stand with Israel and the Jewish

people, but that does not mean we must agree with everything they do or keep silent when they are in error. Furthermore, we MUST and should NOT support the rebuilding of the temple, as this is not a temple to worship YHVH, but one which will be dedicated for all faiths to come and worship. It is a temple in which the antichrist will establish his throne. However, we know that the temple will be built and therefore, it is a marker of how things are moving regarding Bible prophecy.

Therefore, as we remember this date, let us not be drawn into romanticism with what Judah is doing, but let us remember that the temple was destroyed due to baseless hatred. Thus, let us on this day seek YHVH, examine ourselves to ensure that we do not have any baseless hatred in our lives, as we seek to clean out the temple of the Holy Spirit which is our body.

There is so much in this Torah Portion. However, the fundamental concept is not to allow the situations we face or the mundane aspects of daily life to detract us from worshipping YHVH and following His precepts. This is why YHVH instructs us to discuss Torah when we sit to eat, so that we can realign our focus upon Him and His Torah, thus ensuring that we do not allow life to distract our focus. Therefore, let us take the warning which Moses gives and remain resolute in our walk, let us further examine ourselves to ensure that we do not have any baseless hatred towards others, as this is what led to the destruction of the physical temples in Jerusalem.

I pray that you have a blessed Shabbat

Shabbat Shalom

Nathan