

**Triennial Parsha Reading for - 8/8/2009**  
Masa'ei"Stages"

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**Psalm - 123**

<sup>1</sup> Unto thee lift I up mine eyes, O thou that dwellest in the heavens. <sup>2</sup> Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon YHVH our Elohim, until that he have mercy upon us. <sup>3</sup> Have mercy upon us, YHVH, have mercy upon us: for we are exceedingly filled with contempt. <sup>4</sup> Our soul is exceedingly filled with the scorning of those that are at ease, and with the contempt of the proud.

## Torah - Num 33:1-56

<sup>1</sup> These are the journeys of the children of Israel, which went forth out of the land of Egypt with their armies under the hand of Moses and Aaron. <sup>2</sup> And Moses wrote their goings out according to their journeys by the commandment of YHVH: and these are their journeys according to their goings out. <sup>3</sup> And they departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the morrow after the passover the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians. <sup>4</sup> For the Egyptians buried all their firstborn, which YHVH had smitten among them: upon their gods also YHVH executed judgments. <sup>5</sup> And the children of Israel removed from Rameses, and pitched in Succoth. <sup>6</sup> And they departed from Succoth, and pitched in Etham, which is in the edge of the wilderness. <sup>7</sup> And they removed from Etham, and turned again unto Pihahiroth, which is before Baalzephon: and they pitched before Migdol. <sup>8</sup> And they departed from before Pihahiroth, and passed through the midst of the sea into the wilderness, and went three days' journey in the wilderness of Etham, and pitched in Marah. <sup>9</sup> And they removed from Marah, and came unto Elim: and in Elim were twelve fountains of water, and threescore and ten palm trees; and they pitched there. <sup>10</sup> And they removed from Elim, and encamped by the Red sea. <sup>11</sup> And they removed from the Red sea, and encamped in the wilderness of Sin. <sup>12</sup> And they took their journey out of the wilderness of Sin, and encamped in Dophkah. <sup>13</sup> And they departed from Dophkah, and encamped in Alush. <sup>14</sup> And they removed from Alush, and encamped at Rephidim, where was no water for the people to drink. <sup>15</sup> And they departed from Rephidim, and pitched in the wilderness of Sinai. <sup>16</sup> And they removed from the desert of Sinai, and pitched at Kibrothhattaavah. <sup>17</sup> And they departed from Kibrothhattaavah, and encamped at Hazeroth. <sup>18</sup> And they departed from Hazeroth, and pitched in Rithmah. <sup>19</sup> And they departed from Rithmah, and pitched at Rimmonparez. <sup>20</sup> And they departed from Rimmonparez, and pitched in Libnah. <sup>21</sup> And they removed from Libnah, and pitched at Rissah. <sup>22</sup> And they journeyed from Rissah, and pitched in Kehelathah. <sup>23</sup> And they went from Kehelathah, and pitched in mount Shapher. <sup>24</sup> And they removed from mount Shapher, and encamped in Haradah. <sup>25</sup> And they removed from Haradah, and pitched in Makheloth. <sup>26</sup> And they removed from Makheloth, and encamped at Tahath. <sup>27</sup> And they departed from Tahath, and pitched at Tarah. <sup>28</sup> And they removed from Tarah, and pitched in Mithcah. <sup>29</sup> And they went from Mithcah, and pitched in Hashmonah. <sup>30</sup> And they departed from Hashmonah, and encamped at Moseroth. <sup>31</sup> And they departed from Moseroth, and pitched in Benejaakan. <sup>32</sup> And they removed from Benejaakan, and encamped at Horhagidgad. <sup>33</sup> And they went from Horhagidgad, and pitched in Jotbathah. <sup>34</sup> And they removed from Jotbathah, and encamped at Ebronah. <sup>35</sup> And they departed from Ebronah, and encamped at Eziongaber. <sup>36</sup> And they removed from Eziongaber, and pitched in the wilderness of Zin, which is Kadesh. <sup>37</sup> And they removed from Kadesh, and pitched in mount Hor, in the edge of the land of Edom. <sup>38</sup> And Aaron the priest went up into mount Hor at the commandment of YHVH, and died there, in the fortieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the first day of the fifth month. <sup>39</sup> And Aaron was an hundred and twenty and three years old when he died in mount Hor. <sup>40</sup> And king Arad the Canaanite, which dwelt in the south in the land of Canaan, heard of the coming of the children of Israel. <sup>41</sup> And they departed from mount Hor, and pitched in Zalmonah. <sup>42</sup> And they departed from Zalmonah, and pitched in Punon. <sup>43</sup> And they departed from Punon, and pitched in Oboth. <sup>44</sup> And they departed from Oboth, and pitched in Ijeabarim, in the border of Moab. <sup>45</sup> And they departed from Iim, and pitched in Dibongad. <sup>46</sup> And they removed from Dibongad, and encamped in Almondiblathaim. <sup>47</sup> And they removed from Almondiblathaim, and pitched in the mountains of Abarim, before Nebo. <sup>48</sup> And they departed from the mountains of Abarim, and pitched in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho. <sup>49</sup> And they pitched by Jordan, from Bethjesimoth even unto Abelshittim in the plains of Moab. <sup>50</sup> And YHVH spake unto Moses in the plains of Moab by Jordan near

Jericho, saying, <sup>51</sup> Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye are passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan; <sup>52</sup> Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places: <sup>53</sup> And ye shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land, and dwell therein: for I have given you the land to possess it. <sup>54</sup> And ye shall divide the land by lot for an inheritance among your families: and to the more ye shall give the more inheritance, and to the fewer ye shall give the less inheritance: every man's inheritance shall be in the place where his lot falleth; according to the tribes of your fathers ye shall inherit. <sup>55</sup> But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell. <sup>56</sup> Moreover it shall come to pass, that I shall do unto you, as I thought to do unto them.

## Stand alone Aleph Tav's

For an explanation of the Aleph Tav teaching, click here → <http://torahlawform.com/Documents/AlephTav.doc>

### Commentary by John Marsing:

The guts of Numbers Chapter 33 is about all the places that Israel camped while in the wilderness, starting with the first place they went to called Succoth which is mentioned in verse 5 and the last place was the plains of Moab which is mentioned in verses 48 and 49. In the next two verses (50 and 1) YHVH speaks to Moshe (verse 50) and tells him to speak to Israel (verse 51). Sandwiched in between these verses is therefore verse 4 and verse 52 which is where we find our Aleph Tav's for our (triennial) parasha. Below is the first stand alone **Aleph Tav**...

H5221 had הכה H834 which אשר **H853 את** H6912 buried מקברים Mitsriam (Egypt) H4713 ומצרים **Num 33:4**  
H430 among ובאלהיהם H1060 firstborn, בכור H3605 all כל בהם H3068 the LORD יהוה smitten  
H8201 judgments: שפטים H3068 also the LORD יהוה H6213 executed עשה them: upon their gods

In Numbers 33:4, The Aleph Tav is found between “the buried Egyptians” and “which YHVH had smitten”. If you go back to the related text in Exo 12:27, there are two non-stand alone Aleph Tav's between “when He smote” **1<sup>st</sup> Aleph Tav** “Mitsriam (Egypt)” **2<sup>nd</sup> Aleph Tav** “and delivered our houses”; Here is the verse first in KJ and then in the interlinear...

“That ye shall say, It *is* the sacrifice of the LORD'S passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote **Aleph Tav**- the Egyptians, **Aleph Tav**- and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped.” KJV

H3068 of the ליהוה H1931 It הוא H6453 passover, פסח H2077 the sacrifice זבח H559 That ye shall say, ואמרתם **Exo 12:27**  
H3478 of ישראל H1121 of the children בני H1004 the houses בתי H5921 over על H6452 passed פסח H834 who אשר LORD's  
H1004 our houses. בתינו -H853 **את** H4713 מצרים -H853 **את** H5062 when he smote בנפוי H4714 in Egypt, במצרים Israel  
H7812 and worshipped: וישתחו: H5971 And the people העם H6915 bowed the head ויקד H5337 and delivered הציל

I thought this was interesting even though in Exodus 12:17 they are not stand alone Aleph Tav's, it is however YHVH who passed over the first born of Israel.

Now the second stand alone **Aleph Tav** found in Numbers 33:52, first in the KJ and then in the interlinear ...

“Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy **Aleph Tav** all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places:” (KJV).

H776 הארץ H3427 the inhabitants ישבי H3605 all כל H853 את H3423 Then ye shall drive out והורשתם **Num 33:52**  
H4906 their משכיתם H3605 all כל **H853 את** H6 you, and destroy ואברתם H6440 from before מפניכם of the land  
H6 and destroy תאברו H4541 their molten מסכתם H6754 images צלמי H3605 all כל H853 ואת pictures,  
H8045 and quite pluck down: תשמידו: H1116 their high places: במותם H3605 all כל H853

Is it possible that this two “bookend” verses (4 and 52) that contain the stand alone **Aleph Tav**'s should be considered together? And if you i.e. Israel, which is YHVH's first born, do not destroy all the idols and images in the promised land, then could it be that the **Aleph Tav** will destroy you just as He did the first born of Mitsriam (Egypt)? What's good for the Egyptian goose is good for the Israelite gander.

What was the purpose of the ten plagues? The ten plagues of Mitsriam where like gods to them and by YHVH destroying them, He showed all the world that there is only on Elohim. Israel needs to learn to never forget this, even though they did which is why they spend 40 years in the wilderness. Homer says DOH!

For completeness sake, here is a screen shot from my e-sword BHS (Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia) bible. I included it because it's more accurate with regard to the hyphen (maqaf) then is the inter-liner bible shown above. It's also nice in that it shows the vowel points.

Num 33:4 וּמִצְרַיִם מִקְבָּרִים אֶת אֲשֶׁר הִכָּה יְהוָה בָּהֶם  
כָּל־בְּכוֹר וּבְאֵלֵיהֶם עָשָׂה יְהוָה שְׁפָטִים:

Num 33:52 וְהוֹרַשְׁתֶּם אֶת־כָּל־יֹשְׁבֵי הָאָרֶץ מִפְּנֵיכֶם  
וְאִבַּדְתֶּם אֶת־כָּל־מִשְׁכֵּי־תֶם וְאֵת כָּל־צְלָמֵי מִסְכֹּתֶם  
תִּאבְדוּ וְאֵת כָּל־בְּמֹתֶם תִּשְׁמִידוּ:

I got excited and expanded this Aleph Tav study. If you are interested see the links below...

PDF version

<http://torahlawform.com/Documents/Standalone-Aleph-Tavs-in-Num-33-and-related-Verses.pdf>

Word Doc version

<http://torahlawform.com/Documents/Standalone-Aleph-Tavs-in-Num-33-and-related-Verses.doc>

## Numbers 33 in Table Format

Stop	Verse	Place Name	Notes
1	3-5	Rameses <sup>7486</sup> – begotten by Ra	Source: Sandie Breazer
2	5-6	Succoth <sup>5523</sup> - booths	
3	6-7	in Etham <sup>864</sup> - "with them: their plowshare"	
4	7-8	Migdol <sup>4024</sup> - tower	
		Pihahiroth <sup>6367</sup> - place where sedge grows	
		which [is] before Baalzephon <sup>1189</sup> - lord of the north	
5	8-9	Marah <sup>4785</sup> - bitter	
6	9-10	Elim <sup>362</sup> - palms	
7	10-11	Red <sup>5488</sup> sea <sup>3220</sup> - reed, rush, water plant Yam Suf	
8	11-12	wilderness <sup>4057</sup> of Sin <sup>5512</sup> - "thorn" or "clay" Midbar Sin	
9	12-13	Dophkah <sup>1850</sup> – a knock	
10	13-14	Alush <sup>442</sup> - I will knead (bread)	
11	14-15	Rephidim <sup>7508</sup> - "rests" or "stays" or "resting places"	
12	15-16	wilderness <sup>4057</sup> of Sinai <sup>5514</sup> - "thorny"	
13	16-17	Kibrothhattaavah <sup>6914</sup> – graves of the longing	
14	17-18	Hazereth <sup>2698</sup> - yard, as fenced	
15	18-19	Rithmah <sup>7575</sup> – heath	
16	19-20	Rimmonparez <sup>7428</sup> - pomegranate of the breach	
17	20-21	Libnah <sup>3841</sup> - pavement	
18	21-22	Rissah <sup>7446</sup> - ruin	
19	22-23	Khelathah <sup>6954</sup> - assembly	
20	23-24	mount <sup>2022</sup> Shapher <sup>8234</sup> – beauty Har Shapher – mountain of beauty	
21	24-25	Haradah <sup>2732</sup> . - fear	
22	25-26	Makheleth <sup>4722</sup> - place of assembly	
23	26-27	Tahath <sup>8480</sup> - station	
24	27-28	Tarah <sup>8646</sup> – delay [Terah was father of Abraham]	
25	28-29	Mithcah <sup>4989</sup> - sweetness	
26	29-30	Hashmonah <sup>2832</sup> - fatness	
27	30-31	Mosereth <sup>4149</sup> – bonds near where Aaron died	
28	31-32	Benejaakan <sup>1142</sup> - sons of twisting	
29	32-33	Chorhagidgad <sup>2735</sup> - cavern of Gidgad gidgad – slashing, cutting	
30	33-34	Jotbathah <sup>3193</sup> - pleasantness	
31	34-35	Ebronah <sup>5684</sup> - passage	
32	35-36	Eziongaber <sup>6100</sup> - backbone of a man	
33	36-37	wilderness <sup>4057</sup> of Zin <sup>6790</sup> - flat so Flat wilderness	
		which [is] Kadesh <sup>6946</sup> - holy	
34	37-41	mount <sup>2022</sup> Hor <sup>2023</sup> - Mt. Mountain	
		edge <sup>7097</sup> of the land <sup>776</sup> of Edom <sup>123</sup> - red	
35	41-42	Zalmonah <sup>6758</sup> . - shady	
36	42-43	Punon <sup>6325</sup> - darkness	
37	43-44	Oboth <sup>88</sup> - waterskins	
38	44-45	Ijeabarim <sup>5863</sup> - ruins of Abarim	
		border <sup>1366</sup> of Moab <sup>4124</sup> - of his father	
39	45-46	Dibongad <sup>1769</sup> – wasting (to pine for) Gad	
40	46-47	Almondiblathaim <sup>5963</sup> - concealing the two cakes	
41	47-48	mountains <sup>2022</sup> of Abarim <sup>5682</sup> - regions beyond	
42	48-49	plains <sup>6160</sup> of Moab <sup>4124</sup> by Jordan <sup>3383</sup> - plains of his father by descender	
42.1?	49	Bethjesimoth <sup>1020</sup> - house of the desolation	
42.2?	49	Abelshittim <sup>63</sup> - meadow of acacias, the lowlands of Moab	
42.3?	49	[near] Jericho <sup>3405</sup> - its moon, perhaps from 3394 yareach – moon	

## Haftorah - Jer 3:4-4

<sup>4</sup> Wilt thou not from this time cry unto me, My father, thou art the guide of my youth?

## Haftorah - Jer 4:1-2

<sup>1</sup> If thou wilt return, O Israel, saith YHVH, return unto me: and if thou wilt put away thine abominations out of my sight, then shalt thou not remove. <sup>2</sup> And thou shalt swear, YHVH liveth, in truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; and the nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory.

## Brit - Jam 4:1-12

<sup>1</sup> From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? <sup>2</sup> Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. <sup>3</sup> Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. <sup>4</sup> Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with Elohim? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of Elohim. <sup>5</sup> Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? <sup>6</sup> But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, Elohim resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. <sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves therefore to Elohim. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw nigh to Elohim, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. <sup>9</sup> Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. <sup>11</sup> Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge. <sup>12</sup> There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

## Gospel - Joh 19:17-42

<sup>17</sup> And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: <sup>18</sup> Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Y'shua in the midst. <sup>19</sup> And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. <sup>20</sup> This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Y'shua was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin. <sup>21</sup> Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews. <sup>22</sup> Pilate answered, What I have written I have written. <sup>23</sup> Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Y'shua, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. <sup>24</sup> They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did. <sup>25</sup> Now there stood by the cross of Y'shua his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Y'shua therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! <sup>27</sup> Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home. <sup>28</sup> After this, Y'shua knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. <sup>29</sup> Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and

put it to his mouth. <sup>30</sup> When Y'shua therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. <sup>31</sup> The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. <sup>32</sup> Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. <sup>33</sup> But when they came to Y'shua, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: <sup>34</sup> But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. <sup>35</sup> And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. <sup>36</sup> For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. <sup>37</sup> And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced. <sup>38</sup> And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Y'shua, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Y'shua: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Y'shua. <sup>39</sup> And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Y'shua by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. <sup>40</sup> Then took they the body of Y'shua, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. <sup>41</sup> Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein never man yet laid. <sup>42</sup> There laid they Y'shua therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

## History - 2Ch 23:1-21

<sup>1</sup> And in the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself, and took the captains of hundreds, Azariah the son of Jeroham, and Ishmael the son of Jehohanan, and Azariah the son of Obed, and Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat the son of Zichri, into covenant with him. <sup>2</sup> And they went about in Judah, and gathered the Levites out of all the cities of Judah, and the chief of the fathers of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> And all the congregation made a covenant with the king in the house of Elohim. And he said unto them, Behold, the king's son shall reign, as YHVH hath said of the sons of David. <sup>4</sup> This is the thing that ye shall do; A third part of you entering on the sabbath, of the priests and of the Levites, shall be porters of the doors; <sup>5</sup> And a third part shall be at the king's house; and a third part at the gate of the foundation: and all the people shall be in the courts of the house of YHVH. <sup>6</sup> But let none come into the house of YHVH, save the priests, and they that minister of the Levites; they shall go in, for they are holy: but all the people shall keep the watch of YHVH. <sup>7</sup> And the Levites shall compass the king round about, every man with his weapons in his hand; and whosoever else cometh into the house, he shall be put to death: but be ye with the king when he cometh in, and when he goeth out. <sup>8</sup> So the Levites and all Judah did according to all things that Jehoiada the priest had commanded, and took every man his men that were to come in on the sabbath, with them that were to go out on the sabbath: for Jehoiada the priest dismissed not the courses. <sup>9</sup> Moreover Jehoiada the priest delivered to the captains of hundreds spears, and bucklers, and shields, that had been king David's, which were in the house of Elohim. <sup>10</sup> And he set all the people, every man having his weapon in his hand, from the right side of the temple to the left side of the temple, along by the altar and the temple, by the king round about. <sup>11</sup> Then they brought out the king's son, and put upon him the crown, and gave him the testimony, and made him king. And Jehoiada and his sons anointed him, and said, Elohim save the king. <sup>12</sup> Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and praising the king, she came to the people into the house of YHVH: <sup>13</sup> And she looked, and, behold, the king stood at his pillar at the entering in, and the princes and the trumpets by the king: and all the people of the land rejoiced, and sounded with trumpets, also the singers with instruments of music, and such as taught to sing praise. Then Athaliah rent her clothes, and said, Treason, Treason. <sup>14</sup> Then Jehoiada the priest brought out the captains of hundreds that were set over the host, and said unto them, Have her forth of the ranges: and whoso followeth her, let him be slain with the sword. For the priest said, Slay her not in the house of YHVH. <sup>15</sup> So they laid hands on her; and when she was come to the entering of the horse gate by the king's house, they slew her there. <sup>16</sup> And

Jehoiada made a covenant between him, and between all the people, and between the king, that they should be YHVH's people.<sup>17</sup> Then all the people went to the house of Baal, and brake it down, and brake his altars and his images in pieces, and slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars.<sup>18</sup> Also Jehoiada appointed the offices of the house of YHVH by the hand of the priests the Levites, whom David had distributed in the house of YHVH, to offer the burnt offerings of YHVH, as it is written in the law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, as it was ordained by David.<sup>19</sup> And he set the porters at the gates of the house of YHVH, that none which was unclean in any thing should enter in.<sup>20</sup> And he took the captains of hundreds, and the nobles, and the governors of the people, and all the people of the land, and brought down the king from the house of YHVH: and they came through the high gate into the king's house, and set the king upon the throne of the kingdom.<sup>21</sup> And all the people of the land rejoiced: and the city was quiet, after that they had slain Athaliah with the sword.

# Commentary

## Ahavta

### Commentary - Year 3 Sabbath 20

Numbers 33:1-56 - Jeremiah 4:1-2 - Psalm 118 - Acts 6:8 - 7:60

<http://www.ahavta.org/Commentary%20Y-3/Y3-20.htm>

Av 18, 5763 / August 16, 2003; Av 18, 5766 / August 12, 2006

#### *Masei / Journeys*

#### Numbers 33

Yahweh commanded Moses to record this complete list of journeys with their 42 encampments. “Great secrets” are said to be intimated by these place names (*Ramban*).

- #1 Rameses (Treasure City) of Egypt – symbol of sin
- #2 Succoth (Temporary Dwellings)
- #3 Etham (You)
- #4 Pi-hahiroth (The South of the Gorges),  
facing Baal-zephon (Hidden Destroyer), before Migdol (Tower).
- #5 Marah (Bitterness -testing).
- #6 Elim (Palm Tree)
- #7 Red Sea
- #8 Wilderness of Sin (Desert of Clay)
- #9 Dophkah (Knocking)
- #10 Alush (Wild Place)
- #11 Rephidim (Railing / Ballister)
- #12 Wilderness of Sinai
- #13 Kibroth-hattaavah (Graves of the Longing)
- #14 Hazeroth (Enclosed Place)
- #15 Rithmah (Pole Place)
- #16 Rimmon-perez (Pomegranate of the Breach)
- #17 Libnah (Whitish Tree)
- #18 Rissah (Ruin)
- #19 Kehelathah (Assembly)
- #20 Mount Shepher (Beautiful Mountain)
- #21 Haradah (Great Fear)
- #22 Makheloth (Assemblies)
- #23 Tahath (Bottom)
- #24 Terah
- #25 Mithkah (Sweetness)
- #26 Hashmonah (Fruitfulness)
- #27 Moseroth (Correction)
- #28 Bene-jaakan (Wise Son)
- #29 Hor-haggidgad (Hole of the Cleft)
- #30 Jotbathah (Pleasantness)
- #31 Abronah (Transition)

- #32 Ezion-geber (Giant's Backbone)
- #33 Wilderness of Zin (Crag, to Prick), that is, Kadesh (Sanctuary)
- #34 Mount Hor (Mountain of Mountains)
- #35 Zalmonah (Shadiness)
- #36 Punon (Perplexity)
- #37 Oboth (Necromancer)
- #38 Iye-abarim (Those who Cover in Copulation)
- #39 Dibon-gad (Sorrowing Overcomers)
- #40 Almon-diblathaim (Cake of Pressed Figs)
- #41 Mountains of Abarim, before Nebo (Babylonian Diety)
- #42 Plains of Moab (Of my Father)
- Jordan (Descender from Eden)

Eleven journeys were made during the first year, ending with the reception of the Torah at Mt. Sinai and the building of the Tabernacle – an average of about one journey per month. Twenty-two journeys were completed during the next thirty-eight years of “wandering in the wilderness” – averaging was almost two years of rest at each encampment. In the last eight months of the fortieth year, following the death of Aaron, there were eight journeys – one per month.

Whenever the people were encamped at one place for a while, they became dissatisfied. Their focus was on their journey, rather than their destination.

We need to focus on God's planned destination for us, rather than being caught-up in the “satisfactions” of this life. It is too easy to become overly entangled with the good and evil of this world: that is why Yeshua said, “Let the dead bury the dead, you follow Me” – let the spiritually dead care for the concerns of this world, we have a higher calling.

Israel left Sin's Treasure City (Rameses, Egypt), and camped in Temporary Dwellings (Sukkot). They camped facing the Hidden Destroyer (Baal-zephon), and were tested at Bitterness (Marah).

After receiving the Torah in the Wilderness of Sin, they camped at Sweetness (Mithkah), Fruitfulness (Hashmonah), Correction (Moserot), and Wise Son (Bene-jaakan).

After Aaron died at the Mount of Mountains (Hor haHar), they camped at Perplexity (Punon), and Sorrowing Overcomers (Dibon-gad), before reaching the Descender from Eden (Jordan River) – the gate of the Promised Land.

(V.51-56) Yahweh said, “*When you cross over the Jordan into the land of Canaan, then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their figured stones, and destroy all their molten images and demolish all their high places; and you shall take possession of the land and live in it, for I have given the land to you to possess it.*

*... But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall come about that those whom you let remain of them will become as pricks in your eyes and as thorns in your sides, and they shall trouble you in the land in which you live. And it shall come about that as I plan to do to them, so I will do to you.”*

While some interpret this as a warning about failing to drive out Yahweh's enemies, others take it as a commandment to live in the Land and a prohibition against leaving it.

## Psalm 118

The Psalm begins, “Give thanks to Yahweh, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting.” All Israel, who was led through the Wilderness, is enjoined to say this (v.2). The House of Aaron, who died at Mt. Hor, is enjoined to say this (v.3).

All who fear Yahweh are enjoined to say (v.4), “*His lovingkindness is everlasting.*”

The connection of this Psalm to Numbers 33 is clearly seen in v.9-15: “It is better to take refuge in Yahweh than to trust in princes. All nations surrounded me; in the name of Yahweh I will surely cut them off. . . Yahweh is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation. The sound of joyful shouting and salvation is in the tents of the righteous; the right hand of Yahweh does valiantly.”

In this Psalm we find the familiar (v.22-23): “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone. This is Yahweh's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes”, referring to Yeshua (Matt 21:42, Mark 12:10, Luke 20:17, Acts 4:11, 1 Peter 2:7). And also (v.24): “This is the day which Yahweh has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

## Acts 6-7

(V.13-14) “*And they put forward false witnesses who said, ‘This man incessantly speaks against this holy place, and the Law; for we have heard him say that this Nazarene, Yeshua, will destroy this place and alter the customs which Moses handed down to us.’*” The accusation is that Stephen spoke against the Holy Temple and the Torah, and that Yeshua would change the laws of Moses: note that these are false accusations. In other words, Stephen neither spoke contrary to the Torah, nor did he say that Yeshua would change it.

Stephen then reiterated what we have been studying. He started with God appearing to Abraham and making a covenant with him (Gen 17:5). He spoke concerning the patriarchs of the twelve tribes. He then went into detail about Moses: Moses would be followed by a similar prophet (Yeshua), to whom obedience would be required. He spoke concerning David (a forerunner of Yeshua).

Then Stephen, being so filled with the Holy Spirit that he saw Yeshua in heaven, made his defence: “O beloved, God just wants you to know how much He loves you! He sent Yeshua to take away your sins and make you free from all this Moses stuff!” No? That isn’t how he said it? Being filled with the Holy Spirit, he said (v.51-53), “*You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did. Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One (Yeshua), whose betrayers and murderers you have now become; you who received the law as ordained by angels, and yet did not keep it.*”

Now, we find ourselves in many different situations, and the same words are not appropriate for all occasions. However, the Torah had not lost its significance when Stephen spoke, which was after Yeshua’s crucifixion and resurrection; and it still has not lost its significance. The words which God spoke through Moses have not changed to a touchy-feely type of love that accepts whatever feels right. The “Law” is still the standard by which sin is defined (1 John 3:4), and sin still requires repentance – turning from sin to God (Acts 26:20).

After His resurrection, Yeshua said (Luke 24:44-48): “*‘These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.’*”

## Sheepfold Gleanings

Written by Carl & Julie Parker Thursday, 16 July 2009 10:40 PM

<http://www.messianicisrael.com/sheepfold-gleanings/2008-2009/masei.html>

### Scriptures

Numbers 33: 1-49 The Stages of Israel's Journey  
Numbers 33:50-56 When You Cross the Jordan River  
Numbers 34 Boundaries of the Land  
Numbers 35:6-34 Cities of Refuge  
Numbers 36:1-13 Zelophehad's Daughters Marry  
Ezekiel 37:11-14 God's Modern Day Road Map

In this final Torah portion in Numbers, the Israelites enter the final phase of their long journey, with Moses moving them closer to the Promised Land. Ultimately Yeshua Ha Mashiach / the Messiah is the embodiment of the Promised Land of Israel in that: the Father YHVH calls Him My servant, My son, my Firstborn, Israel, and it is "in Him we live and move and exist", and our souls find rest in Him alone (Exodus 4:22; Isaiah 49:1-6; Matthew 12:18; Hosea 11:1; Matthew 2:15). *Yeshua is the Israel through Whom the sons of Israel are being re-gathered to the God and salvation of Israel, and eventually to the land of Israel.* He is *the* purpose and goal of our existence. Our roadmap home – to the Land, to the Garden, and to intimacy and holiness with the Messiah – is enumerated here in the words of Moses, as it was Moses who spoke about the Messiah.

If you believed **Moses**, you would believe me, for he wrote about me (John 5:46).

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares YHVH, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares YHVH, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares YHVH, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile" (Jeremiah 29:11-14 cf. Jeremiah 33:6-9; Ezekiel 11:17-20; 36:24-36; 37:15-28).

Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of YHVH. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse (Malachi 4:4-6).

### Numbers 33: 1-49 The Stages of Israel's Journey

The book of Numbers now provides a summary of the stages of the Israelite community's journeys through the wilderness before entering the Promised Land. The names of the places detail YHVH's direction for Israel and the path they were to follow. Their wanderings were not random but were guided by the Spirit of YHVH as expressed through the movement of the Clouds of Glory (Numbers 9:20). The itinerary itself discloses this to us, since the Israelites retraced their steps several times, taking forty years for a trip that could have been achieved in eleven days. It was YHVH's divine providence and the nation's obedient learning of His ways that allowed them to enter the Promised Land.

The names of the places reveal how the people struggled due to their own fears. Through their journey they pleaded to return to Egypt, fell into idolatry at Mount Sinai, as well as slandered against Moses and the Land

they were about to enter. The camp list also reveals how the Israelites time after time turned their hearts back to YHVH, and finally faithfully followed Him through the Wilderness despite all difficulties. They learned to no longer put their trust in themselves, but to instead rest fully in HIS faithfulness to them.

The account of their journey through the Wilderness was also prophetic of future events, as Ezekiel 20:35 points out, "I will bring you out from the nations and I will gather you out of the lands in which you have been scattered." Each of us has gone through highs and lows in our sojourn through life, but whatever the disappointments already encountered we pursue and go forward to be overcomers. Past difficulties do not govern our future. How we handle the valleys in our lives gives us our mountain top experience. Future redemption for each individual and for the nation beckons us to rise to the next challenge. Faith is seeing ourselves as Yeshua sees us –complete and whole. Not only was this a physical redemption but, more importantly, a look at our spiritual walk with Yeshua.

Some names of the camps listed and their meanings were: Ramses (*child of the sun*), Succot (*tents*), Etham (*seabound*), Migdol (*tower*), Marah (*bitter*), Elim (*oaks*), Red Sea (*sea of reeds*), Desert of Sin (*bush*), Dophkah (*drover*), Alush (*crowd*), Rephidim (*beds*), Desert of Sinai (*a bush*), Kibroth Hattaavah (*the graves of lust*), Hazereth (*enclosures*), Rithmah (*noise*), Rimmon Puez (*pomegranates of the wrath*), Libnah (*white*), Rissah (*dew*), Kehelathah (*a whole; a congregation*), Haradah (*fear*), Makheloth (*congregations*), Tahath (*depression, humility*), Terah (*turning, duration*), Mithchah (*sweetness*), Hashmonah (*fruitfulness*), Moseroth (*bonds, discipline*), Bene Jaakan (*children of Jaakan*), Hor Haggidgad (*cleft, mountain*), Ezion Geber (*giant backbone*), Kadesh (*holy*), Mt. Hor (*hill*), Punon (*precious stone*), Oboth (*desires*), Dibon Gad (*wasting of God*), Almon Diblathian (*hiding place of two fig sacks*), Mountains of Abarim (*mountains beyond*), Beth Jeshimoth (*house of deserts*), and Abel Shittim (*meadow/brook of the Acacias*).

The Biblical listing of camps (with their various meanings) was extremely valuable information for geographers and archaeologists that were attempting to locate and identify many of these places. This all pointed to the truth of the spoken Word of YHVH. In the forty years through the wilderness there had been only forty-two stages of their journey. Of these, fourteen took place during the first year in the Wilderness, and eight in the final year. Rashi teaches that the Israelites tarried at Kadesh nineteen years.

### Numbers 33:50-56 When You Cross the Jordan River

YHVH next instructed the Israelites how to enter the land and how to conquer it. First of all, they were to drive out all the inhabitants of the land. No nation or inhabitant from those nations was to stay with them in the land YHVH was about to give them. Secondly, they were to destroy all carved images and cast idols, and demolish all high places of worship. No other gods were to be left in the land that they were coming to possess. They were to clean the land of all memory and display of other gods. Thirdly, they were to take possession of the land by dividing it into lots according to the tribes of Israel before they could finally settle down in the land that YHVH had given them. "For I have given you the land to possess" (Numbers 33:53).

IF you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land, those you allow to remain will become barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides. They will give you trouble in the land where you will live. And then I will do to you what I plan to do to them (Numbers 33:55-56).

We look at what is happening in Israel today with the leaders and world powers debating over the land. The homeland that was given to Israel, Abraham's descendants, is being possessed and divided up by other nations that are not called Israel, with very little, if any, left for the true Israelites. YHVH proclaimed, "**For I have given you (His chosen people Israel) the land to possess.**" In spite of this declaration, the issue we face today is that other nations want the land of Israel and are trying to destroy the name of Israel, the inheritance of Israel and the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob all together. Where are those who remember the words of YHVH, to walk in His ways and be *holy as He is Holy*?

Joshua and Caleb saw the truth in YHVH's word and did not see the giants as an obstacle of fear but saw YHVH's word as that which brought empowerment to take hold of the land. YHVH said it belonged to them so they went in and took it! We will not take the land until we see YHVH's word as Joshua and Caleb did. Otherwise we only bring back a bad report that is why we are still in the Diaspora/exile today.

### **Numbers 34 Boundaries of the Land**

First YHVH gave the borders of the Land as seen in Numbers 34:1-14. Comparing this to the borders of the Land given in the Covenant to Abraham and his descendants in Genesis 15:18-21, we note the size difference. According to Ezekiel's prophetic vision, the possession of the entire land of promise is yet to happen (Ezekiel 47:13-48:35).

Could the difference in possession and size today be because many in Israel have not put their trust in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, nor have they had the faith to walk in His holy ways? That could explain why so many Israelites are outside the land, and why the land is unstable to live in, with the enemy still living in it.

Both the journey through the Wilderness and the divisions of the Land according to the tribes are prophetic and true in our day, even though many claim all twelve tribes do not exist at this present time. In spite of man negotiating and selling the land for peace, uprooting Israeli settlers, and having other Nations tell Israel what they can and cannot do, YHVH's promises **are** prophetic and hold true even in our present day. Many people try to govern YHVH's plans, but the fact is, YHVH spoke it and it *will come to pass*.

I will bring Judah and Israel back from captivity and will rebuild them as they were before (Jeremiah 33:7).

The road home still exists. It is called the highway of holiness (Isaiah 35). Genesis 17:7-8 says YHVH established His covenant with Abraham and his descendants through Isaac as an *everlasting covenant*. YHVH gave to Abraham's descendants all of the land of Canaan for a perpetual possession. Approximately 3,500 years have passed since this was spoken to Abraham. Many wars, occupations and tragedies have come to the people of God – that they not be allowed to forget Him. So is God through with Israel? Has He forgotten or revoked His covenant with Israel regarding the people and the land? For almost 3,500 years most people have believed this to be true. Have they forgotten the prophecy in the book of Ezekiel?

I will gather you from the nations and bring you back from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you back the land of Israel again (Ezekiel 11:17).

You may ask me for any thing in my name, and I will do it (John 14:14).

### **Ezekiel 37:11-14 God's Modern Day Road Map**

Then YHVH said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the Whole House of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am YHVH, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. **I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land.** Then you will know that I YHVH have spoken, and I have done it, declares YHVH.'"

Ezekiel was given a very detailed vision describing the Temple, the Land and its boundaries. It is also clear that Scripture says,

You are to distribute this land among yourselves according to the tribes of Israel. You are to allot it as an inheritance for yourselves and for the aliens who have settled among you and who have children. You are to consider them as native-born Israelites; along with you they are to be allotted an inheritance among the tribes of Israel. In whatever tribe the alien settles, there you are to give him his inheritance, declares the Sovereign YHVH (Ezekiel 47:21-23).

The boundaries spoken to Abraham by covenant are still valid for today. This was made clear in Ezekiel chapters 47-48. The boundaries and the divisions of the Land were given to the Twelve Tribes of Israel by NAME. Each Tribe independently was given their portion of land. These important listings of all Twelve Tribes, along with the priests' and Levites' territories are as follows:

At the northern frontier, **Dan** will have one portion; it will follow the Hethlon road to Lebo Hamath; Hazar Enan and the northern border of Damascus next to Hamath will be part of its border from the east side to the west side. **Asher** will have one portion; it will border the territory of Dan from east to west. **Naphtali** will have one portion; it will border the territory of Asher from east to west. **Manasseh** will have one portion; it will border the territory of Naphtali from east to west. **Ephraim** will have one portion; it will border the territory of Manasseh from east to west. **Reuben** will have one portion; it will border the territory of Ephraim from east to west. **Judah** will have one portion; it will border the territory of Reuben from east to west. The special portions will be next to Judah from east to west and boarder on Benjamin for the priests and Levites (Ezekiel 48:1-7).

As for the rest of the tribes: **Benjamin** will have one portion; it will extend from the east side to the west side. **Simeon** will have one portion; it will border the territory of Benjamin from east to west. **Issachar** will have one portion; it will border the territory of Simeon from east to west. **Zebulun** will have one portion; it will border the territory of Issachar from east to west. **Gad** will have one portion; it will border the territory of Zebulun from east to west. The southern boundary of Gad will run south from Tamar to the waters of Meribah Kadesh, then along the Wadi of Egypt to the Great Sea.

**This is the land you are to allot as an inheritance to the tribes of Israel, and these will be their portions, declares the Sovereign LORD** (Ezekiel 48:23-29).

The gates into the City are also named after the Twelve Tribes of Israel. The name of the city from that time on will be, "**YHVH is There**" (Ezekiel 48:35; Revelation 21:12-13).

Many people were caught in wars, enemy occupations, crusades, pogroms, and holocausts throughout the ages. As a result they lost the vision that YHVH had given them in the covenant He made with them, with its promises and inheritance that YHVH first gave to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and confirmed through the prophets, such as Jeremiah, Isaiah and Ezekiel. The vision lost was of their redemption and return to the land. Many people lost faith in His Faithfulness during those wilderness times, but many more were kept alive by them and passed that hope onto their next generations.

However, there were and are both Jewish people and people from a church background who practice replacement theology. Some in the Church who would like to replace the Jewish people, or eliminate them all together (see the study of Balak), have tried to substitute them with a people who neither know the Covenant to Abraham, practice the Feast days of YHVH, nor know or understand the difference between clean and unclean, holy and unholy, the true gospel.

On the other hand, there have been some Jewish people who only recognize one tribe, that of Judah. They have not believed in the restoration of all twelve tribes back to the land of Israel according to YHVH's Word. Unfortunately, YHVH's Word has not been heeded. Many have become complacent and taken on the ways of the Nations. We no longer seek the Father's face, nor do we follow His Ways.

Both groups have allowed these theories to continue and to flourish among them. Unfortunately, some have not prepared themselves. They do not recognize who they are yet, nor do they know how to return to the land. They have yet to learn that there was and is a Godly order established for that return that would allow them to keep and stay in the land. If that order of holiness is not understood or kept, the land will continue to spew them out, with the enemy continually harassing YHVH's people who remain in the land.

No one should replace anyone. All twelve tribes are the physical on-going family of the promised seed of Israel found in Scripture (Genesis to Revelation). Today, there is a remnant starting to respond to the call of the Ruach Ha Kodesh/Holy Spirit by repenting and returning to the ways of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They are applying the Word of YHVH in their lives and returning to the Land. Out of the two people groups, the House of Israel and the House of Judah, a remnant is being drawn back to YHVH's ways that will lead us back to the land of our inheritance - Israel.

Please do not give the land away. It is not for sale... not in our hearts or otherwise...

IF you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land, those you allow to remain will become barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides. They will give you trouble in the land where you will live. And then I will do to you what I plan to do to them (Numbers 33:55-56).

O YHVH, do not remain quiet; Do not be silent and, O YHVH, do not be still. For behold, Your enemies make an uproar, and those who hate You have exalted themselves. They make shrewd plans against Your people, and conspire together against Your treasured ones. They have said, "Come, and let us wipe them out as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more." For they have conspired together with one mind; Against You they make a covenant, saying, "Let us possess for ourselves the pastures of YHVH" (Psalm 83:1-5, 12).

In these prophetic verses the "road map of the nations" is put forth in a clear and concise form. Its plans, purposes and objectives are clear and unmistakable; it is first and foremost against the God of Israel. The people who surround Israel have made a covenant against Israel. This covenant has one objective: "That the name of Israel will be remembered no more."

In the prophetic Psalm 83, verses 6 through 8 list and describe these modern day nations as the ones who are the enemies of the God of Israel and who have conspired against Him and His people. The scripture reads as follows, "The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, Moab and the Hagrites, Gebal and Ammon and Amalek, Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre, Assyria also has joined with them. They have become a help to the children of Lot."

Which covenant will prevail: the covenant of YHVH or the covenant of the nations? One must prevail and one must fail. The purpose of YHVH's "covenantal road map" (called the *path of righteousness (Isaiah 35)*) is to bring the Israelite people back into the land He promised them as an everlasting possession. Man's "pagan nation road map" seeks to divide the land of Israel and Jerusalem, as well as uproot the Jewish people from the land YHVH promised to them. YHVH has given us His Word and His instructions as to how to come home and how to inherit the Land. Yeshua has gone before us; He has prepared the way. Faith is obedience to His Word, obedience to what He has written. He has provided the way; the rest is up to us. It starts first in our hearts.

### **Numbers 35:6-34 Cities of Refuge**

Of the forty-eight cities given to the Levites, six were designated as refuge cities for those who accidentally killed a fellow man. There were to be three cities on the west side of the Jordan and three cities for the Transjordan Tribes. It is interesting that the three refuge cities "in" the land are the most hotly disputed real estate today.

## Numbers 36:1-13 Zelophehad's Daughters Marry

The teaching of Zelophehad's daughters is a continuation from what we studied in Numbers 27:1-11. YHVH gave further protection to Zelophehad's daughters whence they were to be married, so that their father's physical inheritance would not be absorbed into the daughters' future husbands' allotted lands if he was not of her tribe. It was advised that every daughter who inherited land was to marry within the tribal clans of her father. No inheritance in Israel was to pass from one tribe to another, for every Israelite was to keep their tribal land inherited from his forefathers. Baruch HaShem!

The Book of Bamidbar/Numbers closes with "These are the commands and regulations YHVH gave through Moses to the Israelites on the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho."

***Chazak! Chazak! Venishchzeik!***  
**Be Strong! Be Strong! And May We Be Strengthened!**

Shabbat Shalom,  
Carl and Julie Parker

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## Waters in the Wilderness

<http://www.messianicisrael.com/waters-in-the-wilderness/2008-2009/masei.html>

Written by Natan Lawrence Thursday, 16 July 2009 04:35 PM

For this week's *Torah Explorers*, click [\[Here\]](#)

### Scriptures

Numbers 33:1-36:13

### Haftorah Reading

Jeremiah 2:4–28 and 3:4

### B'rit Chadashah

On being spiritual pilgrims

1Pe 2:11; Heb 11:13

Instructions on living in the spiritual wilderness of life:

Rom 8:13; 13:14; 2Co 5:20; 7:1; Gal 5:17; Eph 4:1; 2Ti 2:22; 1Pe 1:7; 4:2; 1Jo 2:15–17

On spiritual warfare in the world (spiritual wilderness):

Jam 4:1–12; 2Co 10:3–6; Eph 6:10–18

On the spiritual inheritance of the twelve tribes:

Luk 22:30; Rev 21:12

### Etz Chayem Hoo (He Is a Tree of Life)

**Yeshua is a tree of life to those who take hold of Him, and those who support Him are praiseworthy. His ways are ways of pleasantness and all of His paths are shalom. Bring us back YHVH to You, and we shall come, renew our days as of old.**

As we begin to study the Torah let us never forget that YESHUA THE MESSIAH is the Living Torah, the Torah-Word of Elohim made flesh. He is the way, the truth and the life — the Living Manna sent from heaven. Without Him living in our lives through the indwelling Presence of his Set-Apart/Kadosh Spirit (Who leads us into all truth and revelation) the Written Torah can become the dead letter of the law!

### Outline of This Week's Parashah (Torah Portion):

- **33:1** Summary of Israel's Wilderness Journey
- **34:1** The Boundaries of the Land of Israel (*Eretz Yisrael*)
- **34:16** The Leaders of the Tribes Who Will Lead the Israelites into Their Promised Land Possession
- **35:1** Cities For the Levites (in Place of a Designated Territory)
- **35:9** Cities of Refuge for One Who Kills Another Unintentionally
- **36:1** Laws Concerning Tribal Inter-marriage to Preserve the Integrity of the 12 Tribes

### Study Questions For This Week's Midrash (Torah Discussion):

1. **33:1** *These are the journeys.* Israel was constantly on the move (42 times in all) during its trek through the wilderness. Each of these encampments has a Hebrew name associated with it. It is worthwhile to study the meanings of these names to gain insights as to the trials and obstacles Israel faced on her way to the Promised Land. Notice how Israel faced those trials, whether she trusted in YHVH or complained, and whether she trusted in YHVH's provision or not. The trials and difficulties Israel faced in her journey through the wilderness is indicative of what believers will face in their physical lives as they journey toward their promised spiritual inheritance. Even though Israel followed YHVH's glory cloud, the way was not easy. Likewise, as we are faithful followers of Yeshua, we will suffer trials and even persecution. Though following YHVH is not an easy walk, he promises to lead us, protect us and to meet our needs. He also promises a glorious future (our spiritual Promised Land) for those who overcome the world, the flesh and the devil through faith in him by his strength and grace!

As you have ventured from traditional Christianity into the Hebraic roots of the Christian faith and begun to adopt a more biblical lifestyle, how has this affected your life? A stationary existence is the fate of those following the dictates of religious institutions that define the kingdoms of men. On the other hand, for those who are following the glory cloud of YHVH there must be a never-ending and passionate pursuit of YHVH, constant growth, and constant onward and upward movement. Is your faith grounded in men, institutions, creeds, rituals and in man-made doctrines or in the Creator of the universe? Once we have reached our spiritual Promised Land, our wanderings will cease. Fix your eyes on that immovable spiritual goal and never take them off of it!

2. **34:1–35:8** Each tribe had its land allotment in the Promised Land. Where did the non-Israelite sojourners find their allotment? Were they left out? No. They were joined to one of the twelve tribes. Similarly, New Jerusalem has twelve gates only, named after the twelve tribes of Israel (Rev 21:12). Do you call yourself a Gentile and not an Israelite? Then tell me which gate you will enter through? The reality is that there is no "Gentile Gate" listed! Why is this?
3. **35:11** *You shall appoint you cities.* What do the cities of refuge point to prophetically? All who had sinned (murdered someone) unintentionally could flee there and find a safe haven until the wheels of justice could properly turn to establish the guilt or innocence of the fleeing person. Their gates were perpetually open and never were closed to anyone for any reason. All who were in trouble and distressed could find rest there. The cross of Yeshua our Savior and Redeemer is that place for us. There the Redeemer's arms are always open wide to receive us! Have you sought refuge at the foot of the cross, in the arms of Yeshua? Have you repented of and turned from your sins (i.e., violation of the Torah, see 1 John 3:4)? Has Yeshua the Messiah (the Anointed High Priest prophetically prefigured in Num 35:25) upon his death become your Savior/Redeemer and Master? Does he through his Word and by the guiding influence of his Set-Apart Spirit or Ruach HaKodesh guide every aspect of your life? All your words, thoughts and deeds? Is your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life (Rev 21:27)? If you said, "yes," then how do you know? What are the fruits in your life that you are different, set-apart or kadosh and consecrated unto YHVH, that you have passed from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light, that your heart, mind and life have been transformed?
4. **35:33–34** *Defile not therefore the land.* If unavenged blood defiles the land, then how much more so the blood of innocent, yet murdered pre-born children in the heinous act society calls "abortion"? Do you speak out wherever and whenever you can against abortion? Do you not think that the judgment due America for the murder of tens of millions of babies since 1973 will not eventually come touching everyone in this land including you and me? If the land cannot be cleansed by the blood of him who shed innocent blood then how is the land redeemed? Humanly impossible? Yes. But with Elohim all things are possible through the work of his Son on the cross.

## Haftarah Reading – Jeremiah 2:4-28 & 3:4 Weeping for and a Warning Against an Apostate Nation

In this Haftorah portion, Jeremiah, the weeping prophet (lamenting for the apostate condition of the nation of Israel), speaking on behalf of YHVH, pleads with Israel to return to YHVH, the Elohim (God) of Israel, who had graciously blessed that nation. Under YHVH's watchful care, Israel had prospered, yet eventually, like the first century believers in Laodicea (Rev 3:14–22), material prosperity had led to their forsaking YHVH for secularism.

Jeremiah addresses all levels of Israelite society: kings, princes, priests, prophets, pastors and the people. No one escaped his stinging rebuke. In our day, kings and princes would correspond to our political leaders, while prophets, priests and pastors to our spiritual leaders. The people would be everyone else.

In verse 13, Jeremiah states that Israel was guilty of two sins: they had forsaken YHVH, the Fountain of Living Waters, and had exchanged his divine and life-giving truth for the stagnant waters of man-made cisterns, which in Hebraic poetic symbolism is a metaphor for false, humanistic religious and philosophical systems of men. In verse 27, Jeremiah accuses Israel of turning its back on YHVH and exchanging worship of the Creator for worship of the creation and material objects (idols). This is reminiscent of what the Apostle Paul declares in his Epistle to the Romans (chapter one) of a society that rejects the divinely revealed truth of YHVH as found in Scripture, and then begins worshipping that which the Creator created including the earth, animals and their own bodies (resulting in hedonism and sexual perversion). In verse 21, Jeremiah declares that Israel had become like a degenerate plant and a strange or foreign grape vine, which can be related to the wild olive tree Paul speaks of in Romans 11. (See also Jer 11:16.)

With all this in mind, can we identify any spiritual parallels between ancient Israel and modern America? If Jeremiah were alive today what might he say to America?

## **Wake Up Call to the Believers in Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) and to America**

### **A Battle For the Soul of America**

For several generations now, a righteous remnant of end-time warriors has been fighting an uphill battle against immorality, abortion, rebellion against the biblical laws of YHVH, humanism, Marxism/socialism, Eastern “spirituality”/New Age and the global takeover by the corporate-governmental fascist elite called the New World Order. The latest addition to this list is the Antichrist religion of Islam and anti-Semitism. Both are raising their demonic heads at home and abroad in the traditional Judeo-Christian nations of Europe. Islam began knocking on the spiritual door of America a few decades ago, and now because of the large numbers of Moslems in this country, Islam has become a threat worth noting. The goal of Islam is definite, for the Koran states it clearly: to take over the world and to dispossess both Christians and Jews of their lands, property and lives, if they fail to convert to Islam.

We find ourselves in this situation because we as a nation have failed to repent of the sins listed above and now the judgment of Islam and along with the spread of illegal aliens is coming against us (allowed by Elohim) to hopefully wake us up and drive us to our knees before our Father in heaven.

These curses are coming against America because of its moral and spiritual weakness. Like biological pathogens, these threats to America are feeding on the physical and spiritual body politic of this nation because its spiritual immune system (its spiritual, biblically-based faith and morals) has been seriously compromised due to moral and spiritual declension due to its trend toward weak, hireling and apostate spiritual leaders.

### **Where Are the Spiritual Watchman?**

Where are the spiritual watchmen on the wall of America warning us of these things and urging us to repent? Other than a few lone and small voices crying in the wilderness, the major leadership of the church in America has been virtually silent. Unless we repent now, starting with the church confessing and forsaking its sins, I believe that America the Titanic is going down in Elohim's judgment.

## Issues of Concern

Listed below are the issues of concern that if not repented of will ensure our losing the huge battle for the soul of this nation.

- **Bible-believing spiritual leadership must arise in this nation to take a strong stand against unrighteousness for this nation to be spared the judgments of Elohim.** Leaders must stand against this nation's sinfulness, its lack of fear of the Creator of the universe, its pride and self importance, and its rebellion against the laws of Elohim as revealed in the Bible. Leaders need to call this nation to immediate repentance starting with the church, for judgment begins first with the house of El (1 Pet. 4:17). The church is the moral compass of that nation, and as goes the church spiritually, so goes the rest of the nation.
- **Where are the spiritual leaders across this nation who have access to the media and who have the nation's ear?** Who is speaking out calling for the church and America to repent, to turn around and to start obeying the laws of YHVH Elohim—starting with the Ten Commandments?
- **Where are the spiritual leaders who do not care about their reputations before a godless and hell-bound society,** but who only care what the absolute truth of Scripture, YHVH's Word, which is what their Creator says and thinks? Where are this nation's spiritual leaders in this time of spiritual war—a time of national crises, and a time when America is fighting for its very survival against Antichrist Islam and other foreign invaders? Make no mistake about it, America is fighting an Antichrist enemy from within as well as outside her borders. As usual, America is relying on the strong arm of her own military, economic and political might and influence, and not on the Elohim of the Bible who allowed her to become great in the first place.
- **Where are this nation's watchmen on the wall,** like voices crying in the wilderness to tell us the truth about our spiritual and moral decline? Yes, this nation is still the most moral and biblical nation on earth, but we are foolish to compare ourselves with the other nations and not with the unalterable standard of the Word of YHVH Elohim itself, adherence to which made this nation great in the first place.
- **Where are the true prophets of YHVH?** Yes, there are many self-proclaimed prophets who merchandise the church system for their own glory and gain, speaking in churches, and building their Babylonish towers and monuments dedicated to a god of their own construction who is not the same yesterday, today and forever; a god who has changed times and laws; and a god who spurns much of the truth of the Hebraic roots of the Christian faith. These self-appointed prophetic voices give a message of peace, security and revival. Little is said of the righteous judgments of Elohim and of obedience to the unchanging commandments of YHVH Elohim so clearly delineated in the Torah portion of your Bible and mine. These ear-ticklers seldom if ever reference the true prophets of the Bible such as Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Isaiah who spent their lives calling the people of YHVH back to holiness and righteousness, back to the ancient paths of Torah truth and light, and back to the Word of YHVH himself as personified and incarnated into human form, namely, Yeshua the Messiah, (who the Christians call *Jesus Christ*) who is the Living Torah Word of Elohim come in the flesh. A true prophet of Elohim, the prophet Jeremiah, aptly describes the false prophets of his day in Jeremiah 23 and elsewhere. He said they strengthen the hands of evil doers. They cause none to repent of their wickedness. They spread profaneness throughout the land. They speak a vision of their own heart and not out of the mouth of YHVH. Everyone walks in the imagination of their own heart saying no evil will befall us—only peace, prosperity, security and revival. These false prophets and spiritual leaders have given themselves over to covetousness. They make merchandise of YHVH's people and have profaned that which is set-apart

unto YHVH by merchandising the anointing. They have healed the hurt of YHVH's people slightly saying, peace, peace, when there is no peace. They have not taught YHVH's people the righteous judgments of Elohim. They have rejected the Torah-word of YHVH and have replaced it with the traditions of men. They have perverted the words of the Elohay Chayim, the Living Elohim, who is YHVH Tzavaot, the Y'hovah of Hosts. The same YHVH said of these false prophets through Jeremiah the prophet, "Therefore, behold, I, even I, will utterly forget you, and I will forsake you, and cast you out of my presence. And I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you, and a perpetual shame which will not be forgotten" (Jer 23:39–40). Many who claim to be prophets in our day fit the description of those false prophets of Jeremiah's day. YHVH's people need to repent of listening to these individuals and turn back to YHVH.

- **Where are the spiritual leaders across America who are calling Americans back to the Torah** commandments that David, a man after Elohim's own heart loved and followed with all of his heart? This is the same Torah commandments that Yeshua the Messiah said would never pass away and that whoever would disobey would be called least in the kingdom of heaven and whoever would obey would be called the greatest in the kingdom (Matt 5:17–19); the same Torah law that Paul said in the book of Romans was holy, just and good and was spiritual, meaning it had originated in eternity and will never pass away (Rom 7:12, 14); the same Torah law that many Bible believers claim has been annulled, but about which Paul asked, "Do we make void the law (Torah) of Elohim's by grace? Elohim forbid (Rom 3:31)!" These are same instructions in righteousness that the Creator of the universe thundered out with his own voice to mankind at Mount Sinai and which the Apostle John said in his first epistle that anyone who says he knows YHVH and does not keep or obey those very same commandments as a way of life is a liar and the truth is not in him.
- **Where are the prophets and leaders who are giving out the whole truth of Scripture**—a message that is as straight as an arrow, hits the mark of truth and righteousness every time, and a message that has never changed from the foundation of the earth?

### **The Problem Identified, What Now?**

We have identified the problem, or more correctly, the very Word of YHVH Elohim, the One who created you and me, itself identifies the problem in the pages of his Word of Life, Light and Truth to all mankind, the Bible. The message is this: **REPENT AND STOP SINNING!** Sin by biblical definition is the breaking or violation of YHVH's Torah-law as revealed and recorded in the books of the law in the Scriptures (1 John 3:4). Turn to Yeshua the Messiah who is not only your Savior, but also your King and Master. Stop violating the commands of YHVH unless you want to bring curses, judgment and death upon yourself and this nation. If each of you and I and a thousand or million other yous would turn back to YHVH a difference could be made. YHVH is gracious and slow to anger. The pages of the Bible are like a cup that runs over filled with examples of his grace and mercy. Conversely, for those who refuse to repent, who continue rebelliously in their hell-bent ways of arrogance and self destruction the wrath of Elohim, El Elyon, the Most High Elohim, burns with vengeance. He reserves vengeance for himself. Wickedness will be destroyed ultimately and permanently. The set-apart and righteous character of the Just Judge of the universe demands it. But until then, he pleads with sinners to repent and to turn from their wicked ways.

**What are the wicked ways that would bring judgment upon this nation?** As Scripture says, judgment begins first with the house of Elohim—those who claim to be followers of the Bible, be they Jewish or Christian.

The Elohay Elohim or the God of Gods requires of spiritual leaders complete and unreserved obedience to his divine Word—the Bible. Leaders, pastors, evangelists, teachers, and rabbis are the most accountable before a Righteous Elohim. Turn away from hypocrisy, arrogance, greed and covetousness. Stop preaching to please your congregations and denominations and start preaching the truth of YHVH. Take no thought for your

paycheck, retirement or building fund when you preach. Preach and teach for truth's sake alone to be pleasing to your Heavenly Father.

**We must all turn from our lukewarm ways.** Our ungodly neighbors and family members are watching us. Are our lives a good witness to the biblical truths and values that we profess with our mouths? Do you love Elohim with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and your neighbor as yourself as a Set-Apart Elohim demands? Are you walking in sin? Secret sin? Do you lie, steal, cheat, gossip, murder with your mouth and thoughts?

### **To All of Americans: What Does YHVH Require of Us?**

- **Stop murdering your children** and referring to it euphemistically as “pro-choice” or “abortion.” Murder is an abomination to a righteous Elohim and, unless you repent make no mistake about it, you will suffer the same fate as that innocent child you murdered, except your fate will be eternal. So says YHVH Elohim in his Divine Word, the Scriptures.
- **Our Heavenly Father is also calling this nation to turn from all sexual sin and perversion.** All sex outside of marriage is sin and an abomination before a righteous Elohim. Turn from this sin now, and repent. Cry out to your loving Heavenly Father for his grace and strength to come out of sexual sin. If you are living with someone you are not married to, marry or leave immediately. Do not come back to them unless it is at your marriage ceremony. If you are a homosexual, lesbian, child molester or someone who is addicted to pornography, turn at once from these sins. They will damn you eternally unless you repent. Flee these sins like the plague. The arms of Yeshua the Messiah are open wide to receive you and to show you the way to your loving and gracious Heavenly Father. Life eternal and hope await all those who forsake wickedness and seek YHVH's righteousness and holiness.
- **Those of you who have abandoned your children and families** in pursuit of materialism and selfish self-gratification ... repent now! Your riches will perish. Your selfish pleasures will come to an end and not satisfy. Your children and marriages will too if you do not make them the priority in your life that Elohim commands.
- **Children, honor, obey and respect your parents** and you will live long and fruitful lives in this blessed land which the Creator of the universe has given to us.
- **Turn away from addictions all kinds.** Drugs, alcohol, nicotine, sex, profanity, pornography, television, materialism, hedonism, entertainment, sports or any other thing that is idolatry and is keeping you from an intimate and loving relationship with YHVH. These sins are destructive to you and your family and to your relationship with your Heavenly Father. Any thing that is more important to you than obedience to your Creator as delineated in the pages of YHVH's Word or Scripture is idolatry. Whatever takes you away from walking in accordance with his righteous commandments is sin and idolatry. Turn from these things now. Restore your marriages, your relationships with your children and family by crying out in repentance to your loving Heavenly Father. Ask him for strength to overcome your sin. Pray for deliverance in the name of Yeshua the Messiah. Cry out to him for the salvation of your soul and pray to receive the Set-Apart Spirit of YHVH Elohim. Do it today, you are not guaranteed life beyond this very moment.
- **Turn away from false and satanic religions of all kinds.** Turn away from witchcraft, satanism, divination, sorcery, astrology, mother earth worship, New Age, New Thought and science of the mind religions, Eastern religions including Freemasonry and Luciferianism. Turn away from the demonic and Antichrist religion of Islam. Turn away from religious systems that deny the Gospel message of Scripture, deity of Yeshua the Messiah and the truth of the divine inspiration of all the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.
- **America, turn away from and forsake atheism, humanism, Marxism or socialism and evolution.** These philosophies are all cut from the same cloth and are akin to each other. They all engender a hatred for the Creator of the Universe who is YHVH-Elohim, the God of the Bible. They are all demonic and satanic in origination and will bring curses on your life and on this nation if you do not turn away from

these things **NOW!** They are all a part of the package of lies of Satan to damn your soul that he successfully peddled to man at the Tree of Knowledge in the Garden of Eden. These religious philosophies are destructive and ruinous and will bring judgment, curses and damnation to one's life personally and to this nation corporately if we do not repent of them now.

- **America, remember the seventh day Sabbath day to keep it set-apart.** Six days YHVH the Creator worked, but on the seventh day he rested. He blessed the Sabbath day and set aside that day to be sanctified for his purpose. He commanded his people to keep it. It is a sign between him and his set-apart people. Observe this day, you and your family and be blessed.

YHVH Elohim, the Creator of the universe says in 2 Chronicles 7:14,

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

But don't stop there. Continue reading several verses later:

19 But **if ye turn away, and forsake my statutes and my commandments**, which I have set before you, and shall go and serve other gods, and worship them; 20 Then will I pluck them up by the roots out of my land which I have given them; and this house, which I have sanctified for my name, will I cast out of my sight, and will make it to be a proverb and a byword among all nations. (emphasis added)

America, now is the time to return to YHVH! Return now to the Hebrew/Jewish roots of your Christian faith and return to the truth of YHVH-Elohim as lived and taught by Yeshua the Messiah and the first-century Jewish, Torah-law keeping, Messianic, Spirit-filled Believers of the Book of Acts in the Bible!

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## Journey Through Torah

<http://www.messianicisrael.com/journey-through-torah/2008-2009/matot-and-masei.html>

Written by Mordecai Silver Thursday, 16 July 2009 12:31 PM

### Matot Scriptures

Numbers 30:2-32:42

Jeremiah 1:1-2:3, 2:4-28

### Masei Scriptures

Numbers 33:1-36:13

Jeremiah 1:1-2:3, 2:4-28

1 Peter 1:3-9

### Introduction

This week we have the last two portions from the book of Numbers. The first portion is Matot and deals with the tribes that wish to settle on the eastern bank of the Jordan. The second portion Masei remind us that whatever else it might be, marriage has always been an economic and social arrangement. Marriage has changed some since Biblical times but not as much as we might suppose.

### Numbers 33:50-56

**50** And the LORD spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho, saying, **51** "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, 'When you pass over the Jordan into the land of Canaan, **52** then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you and destroy all their figured stones and destroy all their metal images and demolish all their high places. **53** And you shall take possession of the land and settle in it, for I have given the land to you to possess it. **54** You shall inherit the land by lot according to your clans. To a large tribe you shall give a large inheritance, and to a small tribe you shall give a small inheritance. Wherever the lot falls for anyone, that shall be his. According to the tribes of your fathers you shall inherit. **55** But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then those of them whom you let remain shall be as barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall trouble you in the land where you dwell. **56** And I will do to you as I thought to do to them.'"

Verse 55 is self-explanatory and would answer the question why are the Children of Israel still suffering today and it even seems to be getting worse? Israel did not drive out the inhabitants of the Land the way they were told by God to. He said that if Israel allowed them to remain they would become barbs in their eyes and thorns in their sides and last but not least they would trouble them in the Land where they dwell. We can see this with the way the modern state of Israel is allowing the PLO on one side and Hamas on the other and the world wants Israel to give them even more land! Why are we, as Believers, not standing up and shouting to our leaders to wake up before it is too late?

We need to remember that a leader's actions become accountable not just to them but to the people they govern. If, as in the United States, it is by the people's vote that a leader is elected then the responsibility bears upon us even if we did not choose to vote for the leadership. This is not about being blue or red (in the USA) but about upholding the instructions God has given to us in His handbook – the Torah. While we may be under the

jurisdiction of powers that be we can still make a difference and to watch our elected leadership choose to side with Israel's enemies, especially when many claim to be Christian has to make one scratch their heads and wonder, "What the heck is going on?"

I realize I will probably take some heat for what I am saying but I cannot stand on the sidelines and watch as our country turns against the nation of Israel, God's people here on the earth living and holding the Land of Promise. Of course most of Israel does not follow the Torah but the point is that the Holy One of Israel chose to plant Judah back in the Land for a reason and a purpose. They have a job to do and so do we. Do you have any idea of the curse that the Almighty will bring down upon our heads for this?

I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed (Genesis 12:3).

Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be everyone who blesses you! (Genesis 27:29).

But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you (Deuteronomy 28:15).

But the Jebusites, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the people of Judah could not drive out, so the Jebusites dwell with the people of Judah at Jerusalem to this day (Joshua 15:63).

There are more verses than these few to show that the Israel of old did not follow through with God's commands and they don't do it today as well. Can you imagine what things could be like if Israel would stand up and cry out to the Holy One of Israel like they did in the days before the Exodus? There are still promises that God will follow through on despite the Jewish people living in the Land and around the world who believe that "land for peace" will work. It was not the United Nations that placed the Jewish part of Israel back in the Land. It was the Holy One of Israel who did it. He moved the United Nations with collective guilt over their actions during the Holocaust. He used them to accomplish His purpose which was to place Judah back in the Land and to hold the Land against the nations even to that day when it appears that Israel is going to lose.

In our day it looks like the world is beginning to turn its back on Israel. Are we approaching the time when the Anti-Messiah is revealed or are we being provided a taste of what is to come so we know what to look for? Perhaps the Almighty wants to see how we are going to react to show us that despite what we say we choose to turn a blind eye towards our brethren? We need to be careful my friends because He is watching what is happening. Things are moving on the world stage even as I write this. I do not claim to be a prophet or one who understands prophecy but I can read the same as all of you can.

Throughout this Torah cycle I have felt convicted by God to stress our relationships with Yeshua. In the Last days we are going to need Him even more than ever. We have had it very easy in this country and if you think the recession we are currently in is bad consider this: Do you really think we have His blessing now and will have it if our leaders do what they are talking about and that is giving the enemies of Judah a fair deal while they continue to spew death and murder from their lips and to encourage the killing of Jews all around the world. If you are not right with the Lord then I urge you to get down on your hands and knees and cry out to the Author of all of Creation for His mercy as given through the atoning sacrifice of His Son Yeshua.

I cannot stress this point enough. I feel it deep down in the pit of my stomach that days are coming that we need to get ready for. Will they come in our generation – I don't know? How about in our children's generation? Only the Almighty knows that. What I do know is we must get ready my friends. We must share our faith in

Yeshua and call all men to Him and to His Torah. If there has ever been a blueprint for what is coming our way it is to be found in the Bible – all of it – from Genesis to Revelation.

## **Jeremiah 1:11-12**

**11** And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said, "I see an almond branch." **12** Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it."

Here is what a Jewish commentary has to say about these verses:

A pun upon the word “shaked,” almond tree, and “shoked,” “watching.” The almond tree is one of the first trees to blossom in the spring, signifying God’s resolve to bring about the divine word concerning Jerusalem and Judah. A recently discovered ivory pomegranate blossom, believed to have come from the excavation of Biblical Jerusalem, apparently was formed to fit on the end of a staff. The inscription on the pomegranate, “belonging to the Temple of the Lord, holy to the priests,” indicates that it probably served as the cap for a priest’s or Levite’s staff in the Jerusalem Temple. The image also appears in Numbers 17, where the sprouting of almond blossoms on Aaron’s and the Levite’s staffs mark them as the divinely chosen priests of Israel. It seems likely that Jeremiah’s vision was based upon the image of a Levitical staff (Zech. 11, in which the priests and prophet Zechariah employ a staff for a prophetic vision).

You can take verse twelve where God is speaking to Jeremiah and He tells Jeremiah He will watch over His word and perform it meaning He will follow through on His word. God instructed Moses to have Aaron and all the other leaders of the tribes of Israel to gather their staffs together and that the Lord would cause the one leader’s staff to sprout almonds if He had chosen that man to be the High Priests of Israel. The Lord gave His word and He fulfilled it by causing Aaron’s staff to bud with almonds. In Jeremiah He is using the Torah to show Jeremiah that He will act faithfully upon His word – His *davar*. *Davar* is the Hebrew word for word and in Greek it is translated as *logos*. *Logos* is used when referring to the Messiah Yeshua.

Could there be a tie-in to the almond and Yeshua? Nothing in Scripture is by chance – God has a purpose in every word He has placed in the Bible. His word had a beginning in Genesis and ends in Revelation. There is truth to be found in it and answers to all of our questions when He feels we are ready to hear them. Obviously we are not because look at what we have done with the little bit He has chosen to share with us. We fight over it, we ignore it, we kill for it, and we make man-made doctrine out of it. This is not the revelation of the truth He has given to us through Yeshua His *davar* and *logos*.

It seems fitting that in this week’s hafatarh portion we should find these words in the Prophet Jeremiah – the “Weeping Prophet.” Do you really think this was by coincidence?

## **1 Peter 1:3-9**

**3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah from the dead, **4** to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, **5** who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, **7** so that the tested genuineness of your faith--more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Yeshua the Messiah. **8** Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, **9** obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The writer of 1 Peter tells us that it is through our faith in the resurrection of the Messiah Yeshua that we will make it through the trials that are coming against us. We are told to hold fast to that faith because it is by that faith that we are being prepared for what is coming and that the Lord is testing us in the same way He tested Job. The book of Job is a sobering book about the reality of Satan and the will of God. Even Satan must bow to the will of the Holy One. God uses Satan as He does any part of anything He has created. Satan serves the will of the Father. I thought that might make you pause for a moment.

And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD (Job 1:12).

I have heard people tell me many times that God speaks to them through His Ruach HaKodesh or Holy Spirit but I wind up being a bit skeptical when they go on to tell me that the Lord has told them to go against His own Word. I try to bring it up as politely as I can that God is not the only Being who is a Spirit. Satan is a spirit as well as those who fell with him in his rebellion against his Creator. We must learn to be sensitive to the leading of the Ruach of God by diving head-first into the Torah and the rest of Scripture. Unless we are grounded in the Word of God how can we hope to be able to test the teachings of those who claim to come in the name of the Holy One of Israel?

We might truly believe we are hearing from God but the bottom line is does what we hear line up with Scripture? If it fails the test of validation by the Torah and our Master Yeshua then it is not the Ruach HaKodesh but the unholy leading of the spirit of Satan. Satan is to be feared not mocked. He is a very powerful spiritual being created by the Creator of all that exists in heaven and earth. We must be on our guard constantly. I always know when Satan is on the warpath, even more than usual. It occurs before the Fall and Spring Festivals. Months before the festivals something always rears its ugly head. Without fail it always does despite our trying to be ready. We are sucked right in without realizing what is happening until it is too late. This year was no different. In my pride I refer to the two congregations's that I lead as "my" congregations. That was my first mistake and Satan, on his own or by the hand of God, called me on that. I learned that they are not my congregations but His. I am the vessel He chose to use to plant these congregations and to lead them until the day comes when He no longer requires my services.

Ministry for the Lord is not for faint-hearted. It is a thankless vocation at times but every once in awhile the sun shines through and makes it all worthwhile. To all of you I say, "Stay the course" and to my fellow leaders I say, "Hang in there, there is light at the end of the tunnel." Yeshua is standing there lighting the way for us waiting to welcome us all home. Amen and Amen!

*Success in marriage does not come merely through finding the right mate, but through being the right mate... Barnett Brickner*

## Cutting to the Root

Written by Boaz & Rina Dreyer Thursday, 16 July 2009 12:35 PM

### Haftara Scriptures

Jeremiah 2:4-28, 3:4

Commentary available in PDF format by clicking [[Here](#)].