

TORAH portions – Book 5 Deuteronomy

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Index

Chapter	Page
1. Deuteronomy 1: 1 to 3: 22 (Devarim).	3
2. Deuteronomy 3: 23 to 7: 11 (V'etchanan).	11
3. Deuteronomy 7: 12 to 11: 25 (Ekev).	18
4. Deuteronomy 11: 26 to 16: 17 (Re'eh).	25
5. Deuteronomy 16: 18 to 21: 9 (Shoftim).	34
6. Deuteronomy 21: 10 to 25: 19 (Ki Tetzei).	44
7. Deuteronomy 26: 1 to 29: 8 (Ki Tavo).	57
8. Deuteronomy 29: 9 to 30: 20 (Nitzavim).	65
9. Deuteronomy 31: 1 - 30 (Va-Yelech).	71
10. Deuteronomy 32: 1 - 52 (Ha'Azinu).	75
11. Deuteronomy 33: 1 to 34: 12 (V'zot HaB'rachah).	81

Deuteronomy 1 verse 1 to 3 verse 22 (Devarim).

This is the final book of five set by Moses. The transliterated Hebrew word Devarim means 'words', the plural of devar or 'word' in English. We commence studying this Torah portion, by reading from verse 1 of Deuteronomy 1, like this: ***These are the words which Moses spoke to all Israel across the Jordan in the wilderness, in Arabah opposite Suph, between Paran and Tophel and Laban and Hazeroth and Dizahab.*** According to verse 2, the nation of Israel was eleven days journey from Horeb, by the way of Mount Seir to Kadesh-barnea.

We see in verse 3 that on the first day of the eleventh month of the fortieth year since the Israelites left Egypt, Moses spoke to them according to what YHVH commanded him to give to them. After they defeated Sihon the king of the Amorites, and Og the king of Bashan, across the Jordan Moses undertook to give further details about this law. Moses explained to the Israelites how YHVH told them at Horeb to move on towards the promised land. We read Elohim's words through Moses in verses 8 – 11 of Deuteronomy 1, ***'See, I have placed the land before you; go in and possess the land which YHVH swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to them and their descendants after them.'*** (9) ***"And I (Moses) spoke to you at that time, saying, 'I am not able to bear the burden alone. (10) YHVH your Elohim has multiplied you, and behold, you are this day as the stars of heaven for multitude. (11) May YHVH, the Elohim of your fathers, increase you a thousand-fold more than you are, and bless you, just as He has promised you!'"*** When Israel left Egypt, they were about 600,000 men plus women and children. We have also seen in at the recent census done in Numbers 26, that they were still only slightly more than 600,000 men plus women and children, at this time. We see therefore that they did not increase very much during the 40 years during which they traveled in the wilderness. We know the reason for their numbers not increasing, to be as a result of plagues that overtook them because of their rebellion and

grumbling throughout the journey. However, in verse 11 of the quoted section above, we see that Moses blessed the nation to eventually become a thousand times more. If we assume that the total number of Israelites including the women and children came to a little more than three million (i.e. 600, 000 men, plus their wives also numbering 600, 000, plus say 1,800,000 children), then 1000 times more will make them about 3 billion today. So out of the world's population of 6, 5 billion people today, almost half of them are Israelites.

However, even though the blessing or prophesy by Moses in Deuteronomy 1 has come true in our time, we know according to the prophesy in Isaiah 10: 20 – 22, that only a remnant will eventually be saved: ***“Now it will come about in that day that the remnant of Israel, and those of the house of Jacob who have escaped, will never again rely on the one who struck them, but will truly rely on YHVH, the Set-apart One of Israel. (21) A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty Elohim. (22) For though your people. O Israel, may be like the sand of the sea, Only a remnant within them will return; destruction is determined overflowing with righteousness.”*** Yes, as we read in Romans 11: 5, Rav Shaul wrote: ***‘In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to Elohim’s gracious choice.’*** This is also confirmed for us Romans 9: 22 – 27, as follows: ***‘What if Elohim, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? (23) And He did so in order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, (24) even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles*** (Those from the ten lost tribes of Israel who think that they are gentiles as well as actual gentiles).’

All twelve tribes of Israel were greatly blessed by YHVH throughout the past few centuries. The Israelites living mainly in the western world have had an above average standard of

living. However, because we were not grateful and instead of thanking YHVH for all our blessings, we the modern day Israelites have rejected Him and His Torah. In describing the people of Israel and Judah in the latter day, the prophet Ezekiel said of us in Ezekiel 9: 9 & 10: ***‘Then He (YHVH) said to me, “The iniquity of the house of Israel and the house of Judah is very, very great, and the land is filled with blood, and the city is full of perversion; for they say, ‘YHVH has forsaken the land, and YHVH does not see!’ (10) “But as for Me, ‘My eye will have no pity nor shall I spare, but I shall bring their conduct upon their heads.”*** The northern ten tribes of Israel went into captivity because of Idolatry and Sabbath-breaking and as a result have lost their identity. Even though Judah also went into captivity, they returned to the land of Israel, after 70 years. Prophecy shows that the ten tribes of Israel will soon suffer a much worse captivity and punishment because of their sins. However, Judah will also be punished.

YHVH used His servants Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel to warn both the houses of Israel and Judah of our coming punishment. YHVH made these prophets perform unusual tasks to get our attention. We read about the prophecies that YHVH gave us through Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel, to teach us what is going to befall us in the near future. To commence with let’s read the prophecy in Ezekiel 5: 1 – 2, as follows: ***“As for you, son of man, take a sharp sword; take and use it as a barber’s razor on your head and beard. Then take scales for weighing and divide the hair. (2) One third you shall burn in the fire at the center of the city, when the days of the siege are completed. Then you shall take one third and strike it with the sword all around the city, and one third you shall scatter to the wind; and I will unsheathe a sword behind them.”*** This was a picture of what is going to happen to the descendants of the ten tribes of Israel, and especially those in the western world in the near future. We read about the interpretation of the prophecy of the thirds in verse 12 of Ezekiel 5, as follows: ***‘One third of you will die by plague or be consumed by famine among you, one third will fall by***

the sword around you, and one third I will scatter to every wind, and I will unsheathe a sword behind them.’ A third of us will die from famine and disease, another third will perish in military attack and the last third will be taken captive into all parts of the earth. There will be no escape for those who continue to rebel against Elohim and His Torah. There will be no place of refuge – no place to hide from Elohim’s punishment as we read in Ezekiel 6: 12: ***“He who is far off will die by the plague, and he who is near will fall by the sword, and he who remains and is besieged will die by the famine. Thus shall I spend My wrath on them.”***

However, we see in Ezekiel 6 : 8 - 10 that YHVH will leave a remnant that will escape the sword among the nations and they will remember Him and will know that He is YHVH; That He has not said in vain that He would inflict disaster on them. This is confirmed in Romans 9: 27 and 28, as follows: ***‘And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, “THOUGH THE NUMBER OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL BE AS THE SAND OF THE SEA, IT IS THE REMNANT THAT WILL BE SAVED; (2) For YHVH will execute His word upon the earth thoroughly and quickly.’*** If we fully understand the prophecy of the thirds in Ezekiel 5: 12 together with Zechariah 13: 8 & 9¹ and Isaiah 6: 13², the remnant of Israelites that will remain will number about 100 million Israelites, computed as follows: Assuming the population of the world is about 6 billion (6, 000, 000, 000) at present. A third of 6 billion equals 2 billion (2, 000, 000,000), and a tenth of 2 billion equals 2 hundred million (200, 000, 000). If we assume that the Israelites number about half the population of the world today, then only hundred million (100,000,000) Israelites will live on into the Millennium. This

¹ Zechariah 13: 8 & 9, ***‘And it will come about in all the land,’ Declares YHVH “That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; But the third will be left in it. (9) And I will bring a third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My Name, And I will answer them; I will say, “they are My people,’ And they will say, YHVH is my Elohim.”***

² Isaiah 6: 13, ***“Yet there will be a tenth portion in it, And it will again be subject to burning, Like a terebinth or an oak whose stump remains when it is felled. The set-apart seed is its stump.”***

agrees with Moses' blessing in Deuteronomy 1: 11, i.e. to increase the Israelites that left Egypt a thousand fold more. A thousand time's 3 million equals 3 billion Israelites and a tenth of a third of that equals 100 million. 200 Million people of which about half will be Israelites, will live on into the Millennium rule of Yahshua. Those of us called at this time as first fruits, will if we make it, be resurrected as spirit beings, to rule these people under Yahshua as kings and priests.

The reason why YHVH will allow the modern day descendants of Israel to be punished, may be seen in Ezekiel 5: 6, as follows: ***'But she has rebelled against My ordinances more wickedly than the nations and against My statutes more than the lands which surround her; for they have rejected My ordinances and have not walked in My statutes.'*** The modern day descendants of all the ancient tribes of Israel have refused to obey YHVH. and His Torah, and will as a result, be severely punished. This punishment is known as the great tribulation, spoken about by Yahshua in Matthew 24: 21, as follows: ***"for then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall."*** We also read about the same tribulation in Jeremiah 30: 7: ***'Alas! for that day is great, There is none like it; And it is the time of Jacob's distress, But he will be saved from it.'***

In verses 12 – 15 of Deuteronomy 1, Moses tells us again about the men he chose from the tribes to help him govern the nation of Israel in the wilderness. He chose wise and discerning men from the tribes, and appointed them as leaders of thousands, and of hundreds, of fifties and of tens and officers for the tribes. YHVH is similarly at this time calling people out, to qualify to become leaders over the people during the millennium and beyond. We who are called at this time, will, if we qualify, become priests under Yahshua and depending on how well we developed and used our given talents during this age, will each rule a number of cities at that time. Yahshua explained this in the parable of the talents in

Matthew 25: 14 - 29. In Deuteronomy 1 verses 22 – 28, Moses reminds the nation about the time when he sent the spies to spy out the promised land. He reminds them how their parents were faithless and of the evil that occurred to the nation as a result of their unbelief. We are similarly warned to be very careful to remain obedient, lest as a result of disobedience, we will not be allowed entry into the coming kingdom of Elohim, in Hebrews 4: 11, as follows: ***'Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall through following the same example of disobedience.'*** We read in Deuteronomy 1: 35 – 39, ***'Not one of these men (those who brought an evil report), this evil generation, shall see the good land which I swore to give your fathers, (36) except Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him and to his sons I will give the land on which he has set foot, because he has followed YHVH fully.(37) YHVH was angry with me (Moses) also on your account, saying, 'Not even you shall enter there. (38) Joshua the son of Nun, who stands before you, he shall enter there; encourage him, for he shall cause Israel to inherit it. (39) Moreover, your little ones who you said would become a prey, and your sons, who this day have no knowledge of good or evil, shall enter there, and I will give it to them, and they shall possess it.'***

Moses tells the remaining children of Israel, at this time that their fathers were made to turn back into the wilderness. However, they repented and wanted to go into the promised land, but the Amorites chased them and crushed them. They returned and wept before YHVH, but He did not listen to them and they returned to remain at Kadesh for many days. Afterwards, they set out for the wilderness by the way of the Red Sea. As their grumbling and evil reports resulted in the fact that only Joshua, Caleb and their children and the children of the Israelites born in the wilderness entered the promised land, so we need to make sure that we continue to be positive and preach the good news of the coming kingdom of Elohim. We Read Yahshua's own words in this regard in Matthew 24: 14, as follows: ***'And this gospel of the kingdom shall be***

preached in the whole world for a witness to all nations, and then the end shall come.'

The reason why ten of the spies brought an evil report, were because they did not trust YHVH and they were fearful of the people living in the land of Canaan. This despite the fact that YHVH promised to put the dread and fear upon people everywhere under the heavens, who, when they hear the report, shall tremble in anguish because of Israel. We see this repeated later in Deuteronomy 28: 9 & 10, as follows: ***“YHVH will establish you as a set-apart people to Himself, as He swore to you, if you will keep the commandments of YHVH your Elohim, and walk in His ways. (10) So all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of YHVH; and they shall be afraid of you.”*** Those of us who are called to become first-fruits at Yahshua's return, need to overcome our sins and persevere in keeping the commandments of YHVH and our faith in Yahshua. We read in Revelation 21: 7 & 8, as follows: ***“He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his Elohim and he will be my son. (8) But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”*** But, I hear you say we who are called at this time are not guilty of these things, are we? This warning is in fact specifically aimed at us who know to do what is right. Think about it and answer truthfully. Do we spend too much time watching the one eyed idol called TV? Do we contradict YHVH by teaching that He consist of more than one, despite Him saying in Deuteronomy 4: 35, ***‘To you it was shown that you might know that YHVH, He is Elohim; there is no other besides Him.’*** If we contradict the word of YHVH, we are liars. In addition Yahshua said in Matthew 5: 21 & 22, ***“You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’ (22) But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever shall say to his brother, ‘Raca***

(meaning you good for nothing), ***shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever shall say, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.***" Let us measure ourselves against the quoted section in Revelation 21: 7 & 8, and if we are guilty of those things, let us repent from doing what is contrary to the word of Elohim and return to the spirit of Torah as Yahshua taught us. Let's make sure that we follow our master fully, like Joshua and Caleb followed YHVH fully. Amein Praise Yah!

Deuteronomy 3 verse 23 to 7 verse 11 (V'etchanan).

The name of this Torah portion is V'etchanan, meaning 'I pleaded'. We read accordingly in verse 23 & 24 of Deuteronomy 3, Moses saying: ***"I also pleaded with YHVH at that time saying, (24) 'O YHVH Elohim, Thou hast begun to show Thy servant Thy greatness and Thy strong hand; for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as Thine.'" This Torah portion contains two of the most fundamental concepts of our Nazarene Jewish faith and indeed that of all Judaism, namely the Ten Commandments and the belief that YHVH our Elohim is One. The Oneness of Elohim is expressed in the following places in Torah portion V'etchanan:***

- Deuteronomy 4: 35 & 36: ***"To you it was shown that you might know that YHVH, He is Elohim; there is no other besides Him. (36) Out of the heavens He let you hear His voice to discipline you; and on earth He let you see His great fire, and you heard His words from the midst of the fire."***
- Deuteronomy 4: 39, ***"Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that YHVH, He is Elohim in heaven above and on earth below; there is no other."***
- Deuteronomy 5: 4 - 7, ***"YHVH spoke to you face to face at the mountain from the midst of the fire, (5) while I was standing between YHVH and you at that time, to declare to you the word of YHVH; for you were afraid because of the fire and did not go up the mountain. He said (6) 'I am YHVH your Elohim, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. (7) You shall have no other gods before (or besides) Me.'"***
- Deuteronomy 6: 4, ***'Hear, O Israel! YHVH is our Elohim, YHVH is one! (This is as we know the Shema in Hebrew).***
- Deuteronomy 7: 9, ***"Know therefore that YHVH your Elohim, He is Elohim, the faithful Elohim, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth***

generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments.'

The entire Torah portion is a testimony regarding the importance of the belief in One Elohim, but also to avoid idolatry. We read one of the most important statements in Deuteronomy 4: 2, as follows: ***“You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of YHVH your Elohim which I command you.”*** Moses continues in verse 3 – 6 to instruct the Israelites, saying: ***“Your eyes have seen what YHVH had done in the case of Baal-peor, for all the men who followed Baal-peor, YHVH your Elohim, has destroyed them from among you. (4) But you who held fast to YHVH your Elohim are alive today, every one of you. (5) See, I have taught you statutes and judgments just as YHVH my Elohim command me, that you should do thus in the land where you are entering to possess it. (6) So keep and do them, for that is your wisdom and understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’”***

Moses continues to tell the people how YHVH gave them the commandments in verses 12 - 14 of Deuteronomy 4, as follows: ***“Then YHVH spoke to you from the midst of the fire; you heard the sound of words, but you saw no form – only a voice. (13) So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, that is, the ten commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone. (14) And YHVH commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that you might perform them in the land where you are going over to possess it.”*** Reading on we see that Moses carries on reminding the Israelites about their disobedience, despite the fact that they are right at the east side of the Jordan.

The word 'echad' meaning one in Hebrew teaches that Elohim is the Only Elohim that we serve. This is why we read in

Zechariah 14: 9 ***'And YHVH will be king over all the earth; in that day YHVH will be the only one, and His name the only one.'*** The Shema given in Deuteronomy 6: 4, focuses on the One who spoke everything into existence. He is the One and only Creator, set apart from the plurality of pagan deities. As I taught before, the final letters in the words Shema and Echad are enlarged in the Hebrew Shema, as follows:

שמע ישראל יהוה אלהינו יהוה אחד

The Ayin ע is enlarged to distinguish it from the letter Alef א which sounds the same, but would change the meaning from: Hear (Shema) שמע to perhaps שמא.

The Daled ד is enlarged to distinguish it from the Resh ר so as not to confuse these look-alike letters, changing the meaning from: One אחד to another אחר.

The fact that our Creator is one and not several, therefore becomes clear. The letter Ayin and Daled combined spells the Hebrew word Ed עד meaning witness. We as part of the Nazarene Jewish faith, together with all other Jews are Elohim's witnesses to His Oneness, as we read in Isaiah 43: 10 – 11 as follows: ***"You are My witnesses (Edai עדי)," declares YHVH, "And My servant whom I have chosen, In order that you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no Elohim formed, And there will be none after Me. (11) I, even I, am YHVH; And there is no savior besides Me."***

We do not have to work out how to worship YHVH, since He recorded the way that it should be done in His word. This requires that we study His word to find out exactly how to worship Him. We know that Yahshua is the word of YHVH made flesh. We also know that He is our Messiah, since He has proven that, by being resurrected three full nights and three full days after His death and burial on late the afternoon

of the 14th of Aviv 31 CE, just as He said in Matthew 12: 39 & 40 in this way: ***‘But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign shall be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; (40) for just as JONAH was THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”’*** Yahshua was the perfect example to show us how to live and also how we will one day be resurrected, like He was.

To further explain the Oneness of Elohim, we read in 1 John 1: 5, ***‘And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that Elohim is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.’*** In John 1: 1 – 5 talking about Yahshua, we read: ***‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with Elohim, and the Word was Elohim. (2) He was in the beginning with Elohim. (3) All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. (4) In Him was life and the life was the light of men. (5) And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.’*** The process of constriction is known in Hebrew as ***‘Tzimtzum’***. According to the above quote, Elohim is light. After constriction, the light that burst forth from YHVH our Elohim becomes a ray (***‘kav’*** in Hebrew), which according to John 1: 14 is the word that became flesh, or Immanuel, meaning Elohim with us. In addition, we read in 1 Thessalonians 5: 23, that we (mankind) are made up of three distinct parts, namely: spirit, soul and body - yet as individuals we are one. Similarly the One Elohim has three Parts as explained in Romans 1: 19 – 20 (NASB), as follows: ***“Because that which is known of Elohim is manifested among them (us), for Elohim has manifested it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible qualities (YHVH is invisible, and has no form³) have been***

³ According to 1Timothy 1: 17 YHVH our Elohim is eternal, immortal and invisible: ***“Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only Elohim, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”*** This is confirmed in 1Timothy 6: 16, as follows: ***“who***

clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, both His everlasting power (Yahshua is the Power of Elohim⁴) and divine nature (The Set-apart Spirit is the divine nature of Elohim⁵), for them to be without excuse". YHVH is not three persons in one, but He consists of three parts.

It is vitally important for each one of us, to get to know who and what Elohim is. We read accordingly in Deuteronomy 4: 29, ***“But from there you will seek YHVH your Elohim, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul.”*** This is confirmed in Isaiah 55: 6, as follows: ***“Seek YHVH while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near.”*** Prove to yourself, by searching the Scriptures that YHVH is indeed one. Write down the Scriptures you use to prove His Oneness to yourself. In fact write down Scriptures proving all the doctrines that you hold true. As I mentioned before, we are presently in a training program to

alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.” YHVH can not be understood by mankind, since we cannot see or define Him. He is the invisible Elohim.⁴ In Exodus 13: 14 we read: ***“And it shall be when your son asks in time to come, saying, ‘What is this?’ then you shall say to him, ‘With a powerful hand YHVH brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.’ In the last part of Psalm 98: 1 we read: “His right hand and His holy arm have gained the victory for Him.” In Isaiah 52: 10 we read: “YHVH has bared His holy arm In the sight of all the nations, That all the ends of the earth may see The salvation of our Elohim.” The name Yahshua means salvation as can be understood from Matthew 1: 21 “And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Yahshua, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.” Yahshua the salvation of YHVH is His right hand and holy arm. In 1 Corinthians 1: 24 we read; “but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Messiah the power of Elohim and the wisdom of Elohim.” Yes YHVH has brought Israel out of both the slavery of Egypt and sin, with a powerful hand: He indeed is our Savior.***

⁵ *The spiritual essence of YHVH is His divine nature. We are given a small portion of His divine nature, called a pledge of our inheritance when we are sealed by the Set-apart Spirit at immersion, according to Ephesians 1: 13 & 14. It is by the indwelling of the Set-apart Spirit, that we demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit or divine nature of love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and the like. In 1 Corinthians 2: 11 & 12 we read: “For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of Elohim no one knows except the Spirit of Elohim. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from Elohim, that we might know the things freely given to us by Elohim.” Also read 2 Peter 1: 4.*

become priests, who will be responsible to teach people Torah, during the millennial rule of Yahshua our Messiah. We need to become like the brethren at Berea as we read in Acts 17: 10 & 11, as follows: ***‘And the brethren immediately sent Paul (Shaul) and Silas away by night to Berea; and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. (11) Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so*** (not, not so – like so many who try to disprove certain Scriptures do).” Time is getting short to get to know Elohim, as we read in Amos 8: 11, ***“Behold, days are coming,” declares YHVH Elohim, “When I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, But rather for hearing the words of YHVH.”*** We need to learn the ways of Elohim, else we could be part of those to whom Yahshua will say, ‘I never knew you’ when He returns, as is recorded in Matthew 7: 22 & 23, in this way: ***“Many will say to Me on the day, ‘Master, Master, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ (23) “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTISE LAWLESSNESS.”***

We see further in this Torah portion, that Peor a place where immoral behavior took place is mentioned in Deuteronomy 4: 3 and 46. It was at Peor where idolatry was practiced and where sexual licentiousness made its appearance. The only other subject addressed in this Torah portion, is the establishment of cities of refuge, as we read in Deuteronomy 4: 41 – 43, ***“Then Moses set apart three cities across the Jordan to the east, (42) that a manslayer might flee there, who unintentionally slew his neighbor without having enmity toward him in time past; and by fleeing to one of these cities he might live: (43) Bezer in the wilderness on the plateau for the Reubinites, and Ramoth in Giliad for the Gadites, and Golan in Bashan for the Manassites.”*** To conclude with it, it could be stated that this particular Torah portion, confirms

belief in the Oneness of Elohim, the avoidance of idolatry, cities of refuge and concern about immorality.

Deuteronomy 7 verse 12 to 11 verse 25 (Ekev).

The transliterated Hebrew name of this Torah portion is Ekev, meaning 'because'. We read accordingly in Deuteronomy 7: 12 & 13, ***'Then it shall come about, because you listen to these judgments and keep and do them, that YHVH your Elohim will keep with you His covenant and His lovingkindness which He swore to your forefathers. (13) And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock, in the land which He swore to your forefathers to give you.'*** In this Torah portion Moses continues to give the Israelites the assurance of prosperity and good health if they obey YHVH and keep His commandments. He reminds them again about what happened to them during the past 40 years in the wilderness, because of unbelief, their rebelling and grumbling against the Most High. Interestingly enough, according to our Jewish brothers, the word 'Ekev' has the numerical value of 172, the number of the words in the 10 commandments.

The words we started with are echoed again in Deuteronomy 8: 13. However, in addition to the blessings, Moses warns the Israelites to be careful not to be distracted by their material success in the future, and as a result forget where their blessings come from. Moses warns against Idolatry but also against self-righteousness, as we read in Deuteronomy 9: 4 & 5, as follows: ***"Do not say in your heart when YHVH your Elohim has driven them out before you, 'Because of my righteousness YHVH has brought me in to possess this land,' but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that YHVH is dispossessing them before you. (5) It is not for your righteousness or for the uprightness of your heart that you are going to possess their land, but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that YHVH your Elohim is driving them out before you, in order to confirm the oath which YHVH swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."*** The wilderness served as a

place where the nations were humbled, and eventually refined to prevent them from forgetting YHVH.

In this Torah portion we read the famous Scripture, which Yahshua quoted when He was tempted by Satan, in Deuteronomy 8: 3, as follows: ***“And He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of YHVH.”*** Most of us understand that we need more than bread (meaning food) to survive. As Moses puts it in the quoted verse, we need everything that proceeds out of the mouth of YHVH, to live life as He (YHVH) intended us to live, and to ultimately make it into the kingdom of Elohim. It is important that we understand from this section in Torah, that all material goods, whether scantily or plentiful supplied, are created by the mouth of YHVH – He calls the shots, one way or another. This is essentially a warning against idolatry, which is the belief that anything other than Elohim has power.

However, it is not the physical things which determines the quality of life, but every word that proceeds from the mouth of YHVH. It is for this reason that we need to be thankful for all our blessings, as we are told in Deuteronomy 8: 10, ***“When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless YHVH your Elohim for the good land which He has given you.”*** Yahshua the word of Elohim, who has come in the flesh, also spoke about the manna mentioned in Deuteronomy 8, in John 6: 48 – 51, saying: ***“I am the bread of life. (49) Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. (50) This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. (51) I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh.”*** We know that Yahshua was referring to the final Passover, which He partook of the night before He was impaled, as the lamb who takes away the sins of the world. He took bread and when He had given

thanks He told His disciples that the unleavened bread represents His body, which was given for us (our healing). He also told his disciples that the wine that we drink at Passover, represent the new covenant in His blood. In addition He told His disciples, that we should keep the Passover, as a memorial to His death, until He returns. A memorial is kept once a year at the appointed time.

We are fully aware that another name for The Scriptures is the word of Elohim: it is evident from the preceding paragraphs that we are therefore required to study the Scriptures to get to know the way of Elohim. We also know that Yahshua is the living word of YHVH who became flesh and tabernacled among us for 33 years of His life. It was during Yahshua's time on earth that He gave us the perfect example of how to apply the word of Elohim in our lives, with a spiritual intent. We as Nazarene Israelites believe that Torah, including the 613 laws stipulated in the first five books, as well as all the remaining books of The Scriptures, from Genesis to Revelation, should be observed by all those who worship YHVH our Elohim. We understand the Word of Elohim to be His teachings and believe them to be the rules according to which we live our lives. Obeying the Law cannot bring us salvation, since salvation is the free gift of YHVH our Elohim, given to those that love and obey Him. However, we show our love and obedience to YHVH by obeying His commandments, as His commandments regulate our moral precepts; dietary regulations; agricultural science; financial success; sexual behavior and religious practice. In addition to keeping these commandments we also have faith in Yahshua the salvation of YHVH.

In Deuteronomy 9 Moses tells the children of Israel that when they cross over the Jordan, they need to understand that the people in the land are a great and tall people, the sons of Anakim. However, he tells them in verse 3 to remember that it is YHVH our Elohim who will cross over before them as a consuming fire; that He will destroy and subdue these nations, in order that the Israelites may drive them out quickly, just as

He has spoken to them. In similar fashion, we need to understand that we are required to get rid of our sins quickly, without procrastinating about it. Moses promises the Israelites that just as YHVH took care of them throughout the wilderness, He will take care of them in the future. But they need to trust and obey Him, as part of the deal. Similarly, we may ask YHVH to help us through our daily lives, and we have the promise that if we obey Him, He will provide our every need (not want). We see how king David relates his experience in this regard in Psalm 37: 25 & 26, as follows: ***'I have been young, and now I am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Or his descendants begging bread. (26) All day long he is gracious and lends; And his descendants are a blessing.'*** We have never thought that the boom-time during which we came in recent years will come to an end. It is going to go a lot worse, before it gets better and we will have to live a lot closer to YHVH our Elohim, if we want Him to take care of us and our children. However, we need to pray, not only for food, but need to start living, by every word that proceeds from the mouth of YHVH. It is also during times like these that we need to make sure that our brethren are encouraged by our help in providing them with both physical nourishment, as well as preaching the good news about the coming kingdom of Elohim. This world is fast deteriorating and we need to give people hope by publishing the good news into all the world, and then, the end shall come (as Yahshua promised in Matthew 24: 14). It is therefore necessary to share these messages with fellow believers, who do not have access to such services.

We notice in Deuteronomy 9: 6 & 13 that the Israelites are referred to as a stiff-necked (or inflexible) people, as follows: ***"Know, then, it is not because of your righteousness that YHVH your Elohim is giving you this good land to possess, for you are a stubborn (or stiff-necked) people. (13) "YHVH spoke further to me saying, 'I have seen this people, and indeed, it is a stubborn (stiff-necked) people."*** The point is that even today, most of us the descendants of the ancient Israelites are a stubborn or stiff-necked people. Even

though we teach that the only way to get the Set-apart Spirit, is by being immersed into the saving name of Yahshua the salvation of YHVH, thus ensuring entry to the kingdom of Elohim, many refuse to be immersed, as they believe that since they were Christened as children, their 'immersion' is still valid. Our Messiah was given the name Yahshua, and as it says in the last part of Matthew 1: 21, ***'for it is He who will save His people from their sins.'*** In fact we read in Acts 4: 12, ***"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."*** If according to Acts 2: 38, we are immersed into Yahshua's saving name, we shall receive the Set-apart Spirit. We further read in Romans 8: 11, ***'But if the Spirit of Him who raised Yahshua from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Messiah Yahshua from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.'*** There are many other areas in which believers show disagreement, to Scripturally proven doctrines, and it is for this reason that Rav Shaul says in 1 Corinthians 11: 19, ***'For there must also be factions among you, in order that those who are approved may have become evident among you.'***

As much as we were warned against rebellion in this and the previous Torah portions, we are warned about it in Isaiah 30: 1 & 9, like this: ***"Woe to the rebellious children," declares YHVH, "Who execute a plan, but not Mine, And make an alliance, but not of My Spirit, In order to add sin to sin."*** (9) ***'For this is a rebellious people, false sons, Sons who refuse to listen to the instruction of YHVH.'*** We understand Elohim's plan of Salvation for all mankind, by keeping the Feast Days ordained by Him in Torah. As we are warned in Isaiah, some prefer to work out the calendar according to which they keep the Feast Days, by making an alliance with a group with an indifferent spirit. We read further on the subject of the appointed times (Feast Days) of Elohim, in Jeremiah 5: 23 & 24, as follows: ***'But this people has a stubborn and rebellious heart; They have turned aside and departed. (24) They do not say in their heart, "Let us now fear YHVH***

our Elohim, Who gives rain in its season, Both the autumn rain and the spring rain, Who keeps for us The appointed weeks of the harvest.” We, who are called at this time, will if we make it into the kingdom of Elohim, become kings and priests under Yahshua. However, we need to overcome our rebelliousness, else YHVH will reject us from being kings and priests during the millennium, in the same way as He rejected king Saul in 1 Samuel 15: 23, as follows: ***“For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of YHVH, He has also rejected you from being king.”*** This is similar to what we read in Hosea 4: 6, in this way: ***‘My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your Elohim. I also will forget your children’***

The stiffness of the neck or the hardness of heart refers to a headstrong people, who is not prepared to change, even if they see many witnesses in the Scriptures, supporting the fact that they are mistaken. YHVH informs His people how to overcome their stubbornness by telling them that He loves them in Deuteronomy 10: 15 & 16, like this: ***“Yet on your fathers did YHVH set His affection to love them, and He chose their descendants after them, even you above all peoples, as it is this day. (16) Circumcise then your heart, and stiffen your neck no more”*** This is alluding to repentance, which includes return to Torah observance and immersion into Yahshua’s saving name, as we are told in Colossians 2: 11 & 12, ***‘And in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of flesh by the circumcision of Messiah; (12) having been buried with him in immersion, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of Elohim, who raised Him from the dead.’***

We read about the new covenant which we enter into when we are immersed into Yahshua’s name, in Hebrews 9: 15, as follows: ***‘And for this reason He (Yahshua) is the mediator***

of a new covenant, in order that since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.'

The question on most people's lips at this point is answered in Deuteronomy 10: 12, like this: ***"And now, Israel, what does YHVH your Elohim require from you, but to fear YHVH your Elohim, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve YHVH your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul."*** In fact we see in Deuteronomy 11: 22, that we (the modern day Israelites) are like our forefathers commanded to love YHVH, as follows: ***"For if you are careful to keep all this commandment which I am commanding you, to do it, to love YHVH your Elohim, to walk in all His ways and hold fast to Him."***

We conclude by reading the admonition to us, the modern day descendants of Israel, from Hebrews 12: 25 – 29, as follows: ***'See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less shall we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven. (26) And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN.'*** (27) ***And this expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, in order that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. (Only the Spiritual things will eventually remain – only those who have been immersed and received the Set-apart Spirit, after repentance, will receive a portion of the Set-apart Spirit, giving them access to eternity) (28) Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to Elohim an acceptable service with reverence and awe; (29) for our Elohim is a consuming fire.'***

Deuteronomy 11 verse 26 to 16 verse 17 (Re'eh).

This week's Torah portion is called Re'eh, meaning 'see' or 'behold'. We commence reading in verse 26 - 28 of Deuteronomy 11, as follows: ***"See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: (27) the blessing, if you listen to the commandments of YHVH your Elohim, which I am commanding you today; (28) and the curse, if you do not listen to the commandments of YHVH your Elohim, but turn aside from the way which I am commanding you today, by following other gods which you have not known."*** YHVH is transmitting the awareness of a future happening here. He is telling Israel, that after they entered the land of Canaan, which He is going to give them, if they listen (the same word mothers use, when they are telling their children to obey in the future) to the commandments, they will be blessed. But if they do not obey (in the future), after they came into the land, they will be cursed.

This is exactly what Yahshua meant, prior to His death, when one of the criminals on the cross next to Him, asked him in Luke 23: 42, saying: ***"Yahshua, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!"*** Yahshua replied to the criminal in verse 43, saying: ***"Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."*** Many in Christianity, as well as some 'Nazarene Israelites' teach that this meant that this sinner was going to Heaven with Yahshua that very day, when he dies. However, we see here that when this sinner made the request to Yahshua, he was fully aware, that what he was asking will only happen in the distant future, when Yahshua come in His Kingdom. We are aware that even though Yahshua qualified to be our coming King, His kingdom will only come at His return to earth one day in the future. His kingdom will replace all the human kingdoms on earth as the prophet Daniel prophesied in Daniel 7: 13 & 14, like this: ***"I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. (14) And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, that all***

the peoples, nations, and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.” We also know that Yahshua did not mean, that the sinner was going to go to heaven with Him at that time, or even 43 days later when He ascended to heaven, as we read Yahshua’s own words in this regard in John 3: 13, like this: ***“And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man.”***

The kingdom of Elohim has not come to earth, yet. Yahshua has not come to rule us, yet. This is also another reason why some Nazarene Israelites and like-minded believers, mistakenly hold, that they have been given the Oracles of Elohim, by Yahshua. They believe that because Yahshua already came, He has taken rulership away from our Jewish brothers and given it to them. They base this erroneous belief on Genesis 49: 10, where we read: ***“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until Shiloh (another name for the Messiah) comes, and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.”*** When Yahshua came the first time, He did not come to take over rulership of the earth; instead He came to die for the sins of the world and to remarry His bride. In addition, all His people were not obedient to Him at the time. So the prophesy in Genesis 49: 10 is also still to happen. In addition, we know that paradise was originally on earth, in the garden of Eden. When Yahshua returns, those of us called at this time to become kings and priests under Him during His millennial rule will assist Him to restore the earth back to the condition that it was in before Adam and Eve sinned and was driven out of the Garden of Eden. In fact Yahshua Himself said to Pilate in John 18: 36, ***“My kingdom is not of this world (Olam HazeH). If my kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.”*** Yahshua’s kingdom will be in the ‘Olam Haba’ meaning the world or age to come. The world to come will be the kingdom of Elohim on earth, spoken about as Elohim’s rest - the seventh thousand

year during which Yahshua will rule us from Jerusalem, after six thousand years of misrule by humanity.

Rav Shaul also talks about this same, yet future event in Hebrews 4: 1 & 2, 7 & 11, as follows: ***‘Therefore, let us fear lest, while a promise remains of entering His rest (the Olam Haba), any one of you should seem to have come short of it. (2) For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard. (7) He again fixed a certain day, “Today,” saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, “TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE. DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS.” (11) Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest (the Olam Haba), lest anyone fall through following the same example of disobedience.’***

Contrary to the way Deuteronomy 11: 27 is translated in English, where we read that a blessing will occur ***‘if you listen to the commandments of YHVH your Elohim’***, the Hebrew translation simply states: ***‘Behold I set before you today blessing and curse; a blessing of hearing the commandments....’*** As can be seen here, the conditional if, is not attached to the blessing, but only to the curse in the Hebrew translation. This is because to the Hebrew reader, obeying the word of Elohim is a blessing in itself – this is also why YHVH gave Israel His Torah – or teachings that lead to an abundant life. The Israelites have not yet, at this point experienced the rest which they were promised by YHVH in the wilderness. Even though some saw the promised land in a distance, they did not enter it, because of unbelief, and many died in the wilderness. This same fate awaits those who are not willing to listen to the word of Elohim, as we read in Isaiah 30: 15, as follows: ***‘For thus YHVH Elohim, the Holy One of Israel, has said, “In repentance and rest you shall be saved, In quietness and trust (in YHVH, not yourself) is your strength.” But you were not willing.’*** As our forefathers were, so are many of us, as we read in verse 9 of Isaiah 30,

'For this is a rebellious people, false sons, Sons who refuse to listen to the instruction of YHVH.'

In Deuteronomy 12 as well as in chapter 14 and 16, we see that this Torah portion deals in the main with the Feast Days of Elohim. We read in verse 5 of Deuteronomy 12, ***'But you shall seek YHVH at the place which YHVH your Elohim shall choose from all your tribes, to establish His name there for His dwelling, and there you shall come.'*** We see in consecutive verses that it is there where the sons of Israel will bring their burnt offerings, sacrifices, tithes, contributions and freewill offerings. It is also there where they will eat before YHVH and rejoice before Him. YHVH is telling the sons of Israel that whereas sacrifices are not to be offered haphazardly in verse 13 of Deuteronomy 12, ***"Be careful that you do not offer your burnt offerings in every cultic place you see,"*** they may slaughter and eat meat of undomesticated animals, such as gazelle and deer, which could not be eaten in the wilderness and the unclean and the clean may eat of it (as per verse 15). The reason was that since meat eating in the wilderness always involved sacrifices, only domesticated animals, were offered and only those who were ritually clean, could partake of it. The only proviso is that the blood of these animals be poured out into the ground like water. We read a second witness to this in verse 23 of Deuteronomy 12, as follows: ***"Only be sure not to eat the blood, for the blood is the life, and you shall not eat the life with the flesh'*** As mentioned in a previous Torah portion, the life of the animal, or its nature is in its blood, and we should not partake of its animal nature. However, we should partake of the Passover wine, which represents Yahshua's blood – whereby we imbibe of His nature.

Deuteronomy 13 and the first part of chapter 14 deals with idolatrous practices and the Israelites are told to purge the evil from among them. We read in verse 1 - 3 of Deuteronomy 13, ***"if a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, (2) and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you***

saying, 'Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them, (3) you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for YHVH your Elohim is testing you to find out if you love YHVH your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul.'" The mere fact that the words of a prophet or dreamer comes true, is not evidence enough that such a prophet or dreamer is legitimate at all. YHVH wants to see what we will do if we have alternative options. We should therefore be very suspicious of a 'Messiah' who teaches that the Torah is abolished. We read in verse 4 of Deuteronomy 13, that we should follow YHVH our Elohim, keep His commandments, listen to His voice (word), serve Him and cling to Him. We also read that the prophet or dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has counseled rebellion against YHVH. We see that even if a brother, your mother, your son, your daughter or your wife, or a friend entices you to serve other gods, you shall not listen to them, but you shall not spare them and shall put them to death, by stoning. Even though we do not stone people today, I am sure it will scare the people into obedience. Continuing in Deuteronomy 14: 1 & 2, we read: **"You are the sons of YHVH your Elohim; you shall not cut yourselves nor shave your forehead for the sake of the dead. (2) For you are a set-apart people to YHVH your Elohim; and YHVH has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth."** We need to remember that YHVH has chosen us to be first-fruits from among all the inhabitants of the earth. As such, we are ambassadors of the coming kingdom of Elohim. We should therefore obey the Torah teachings of YHVH our Elohim, and not do the things that the people in the world do. We as future kings and priests should separate ourselves from the world and the pagan things that they do, in order that we may become part of the Israel of Elohim. Yes, it is by setting yourself apart for YHVH, that you become part of the Israel of Elohim. We should set ourselves apart by how we live, as well as what we eat. We therefore read in verses 3 – 21 of Deuteronomy 14, what is considered food for us and what is not. We may eat any animal that has its hoof split in

two and chews the cud; we may eat anything (fish) that has both fins and scales that live in the water; and we may eat clean birds such as chicken, turkey, grouse, pheasant, and duck. The Scriptures do not list these clean birds, but instead list the birds that we should not eat, such as the eagle, the buzzard, the vulture, the kite, the falcon, the raven, the owl, the ostrich, the sea gull, the hawk, the pelican, the cormorant, the stork, the heron, the hoopoe and the bat. We also know from Leviticus 11 that of all the insects, only those which have legs with which to jump above their feet, such as the locust, the cricket and the grasshopper are considered fit for human consumption.

It is both important to know which animals are kosher and which are not. It is equally important to make sure that we bleed kosher animals in the proper way, that we remove all excess blood by means of course salt and that we never eat the fat of the animal. In addition we see that we shall not eat the meat of a kosher animal which dies of itself, but that we may give it to a foreigner – as it does not matter what they eat. However, we see repeated here a third time that we shall not boil a kid in its mother's milk. Despite the fact that this particular command is repeated three times in Torah, some insist that it does not mean that we should not eat or cook meat and milk derivative products together. The proponents of diets containing meat and milk together, usually site Genesis 18: 8, as a Torah rule negating this '*meaningless*' commandment. My question is: Why will YHVH first give us a rule negating a command which He then repeats three times in Torah? The reason is that in Genesis 18: 8, Abraham, who was fully aware who his three visitors were, gave them meat together with curds and milk to eat. We notice in the verses following verse 8 of Genesis 18, that one of the three visitors was YHVH and in Exodus 19 that the two men with YHVH were two angels. Most of us are aware of a number of times in previous and this Torah portion, where we are forbidden to eat fat or blood. However, we also noticed in Leviticus 3: 16 that all the fat belongs to YHVH. Even though it was not easy to understand the reason for the command in question, at the

time when YHVH gave it, we understand with the assistance of modern day medical science today, that eating meat and milk derivative products together could result in increased cholesterol levels for human beings. Other than with humans, Spirit beings do not need food and do not have digestive systems like ours; they probably burn-up food offered them by human beings. As Spirit beings YHVH and the two angels with Him, were able to 'consume' or burn the fatty meal, whereas it is forbidden for human consumption. Disobedience to this health law will eventually result in cholesterol problems, but by not obeying it, we, like in the case with Adam and Eve, are disobedient to Elohim, by eating what He commanded us not to.

The law of tithing is also repeated in this Torah portion, in verse 22 of Deuteronomy 14. However, it is talking about the Festival tithe as we read in verses 23 – 26, as follows: ***'And you shall eat in the presence of YHVH your Elohim, at the place where He chooses to establish His name, the tithe of your grain, your new wine, your oil, and the first-born of your herd and your flock, in order that you may learn to fear YHVH your Elohim always.'*** (24) ***"And if the distance is too great for you that you are not able to bring the tithe, since the place where YHVH your Elohim chooses to set His name is too far away from you when YHVH your Elohim blesses you, (25) then you shall exchange it for money, and bind the money in your hand and go to the place which YHVH your Elohim chooses. (26) And you may spend the money for whatever your heart desires, for oxen, or sheep, or wine, or strong drink, or whatever your heart desires; and there you shall eat in the presence of YHVH your Elohim and rejoice you and your household."*** The tithe belongs to YHVH and by partaking of it; we are eating from the table of the King of the Universe on an annual basis, thus learning to fear Him always. By saving a tithe, we are able to attend the annual Feast Days of Elohim and it is by attending the Feast Days that we get to fully understand Elohim's plan of salvation for all mankind. We read further in Deuteronomy 14: 27 - 29, that at the end of every third year,

you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in that year, and shall deposit it in your town, and the Levite, because he has no inheritance among you, and the alien, the orphan and the widow who are in your town, shall come and eat and be satisfied, in order that YHVH your Elohim may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.

In Deuteronomy 15, we read about the release of debts every seven years. We learn from the year of release of debt, to have more of a giving attitude, but we also learn about the forgiveness of sins. We see in verse 4 of Deuteronomy 15, ***'However, there shall be no poor among you, since YHVH will surely bless you in the land which YHVH your Elohim is giving you as an inheritance to possess.'*** We read further in verses 7 & 8 of Deuteronomy 15, ***"If there is a poor man with you, one of your brothers in any of your towns in your land which YHVH your Elohim is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, nor close your hand from your poor brother; (8) but you shall freely open your hand to him, and shall generously lend him sufficient for his need in whatever he lacks."*** Continuing on in verse 11, we read: ***"For the poor will never cease to be in the land; therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land.'"*** This last verse is not a contradiction of verse 4, but is essentially saying that we should make sure that we help the poor, so that there is no lack of food and shelter among our brethren. The year of remission, should also remind us to forgive our debtors, so that YHVH will forgive us our debt, as Yahshua taught us in Matthew 6: 14 & 15, saying: ***"For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. (15) But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions."*** We read in the last part of Deuteronomy 15 about Hebrew slaves, who should be released during the seventh year which is the year of release. We read in verse 14, of Deuteronomy 15, ***"You shall furnish him liberally from all your flock and from your threshing floor and from your wine vat; you shall give to him as YHVH your Elohim has blessed you."***

We also read about the Feast Days of Elohim, in Deuteronomy 16: It informs us to keep the Passover in the evening at sunset, at the season, that our forefathers came out of Egypt. The Passover is followed by the seven days of unleavened bread. We also read about counting the Omer from the time that you begin to put the sickle to the standing grain, from the day after the First Day of Unleavened Bread, for seven complete weeks, and then we keep the Feast of Weeks or Shavuot. Three time a year we are to appear before YHVH, in the Place that He chooses, at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks and at the Feast of Booths (also known as Tabernacles). At the end of verse 16, we are told not to appear before YHVH empty handed, and conclude by reading Deuteronomy 16: 17, as follows: ***“Every man shall give (a freewill offering) as he is able, according to the blessing of YHVH your Elohim which He has given you.”***

Deuteronomy 16 verse 18 to 21 verse 9 (Shoftim).

This Torah portion is called Shoftim, meaning ‘judges’. We read suitably in Deuteronomy 16 verse 18, ***“You shall appoint for yourself judges and officers in all your towns which YHVH your Elohim is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment.”*** In this Torah portion we read about the establishment of various institutions and their functions for the administration of the Law in the nation of Israel, once they have settled in the Promised Land. The quest for justice in the Promised Land was other than in other countries of the world, a commandment given by YHVH. The appointment of judges and administrators provided for the establishment of a number of religious and civil prohibitions, with resulting penalties for breaking them.

We read in verse 20 of Deuteronomy 16, ***“Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue, that you may live and possess the land which YHVH your Elohim is giving you.”*** The question at this point is: Why is justice so important to YHVH? Justice being one of the character traits of YHVH our Elohim promotes the right attitude required for a meaningful relationship with Him and amongst fellow human beings. We read the first prohibition in verse 21 to be against the planting of an Asherah or any tree beside the altar of Elohim, which Israel was to build for themselves. In addition we read that they were prohibited from setting up sacred pillars which YHVH our Elohim hates. We see that even though YHVH warned Israel, they did not listen, but stiffened their necks like their forefathers did, who did not believe in YHVH our Elohim, as is recorded for us in 2 Kings 17: 16, as follows: ***‘And they forsook all the commandments of YHVH their Elohim and made for themselves molten images, even two calves, and made an Asherah and worshipped all the host of heaven and served Baal.’*** In fact we the modern day Israelites are doing exactly what our ancient forefathers did in the Promised

Land. Notice that most churches⁶ in the world have pillars or steeples built next to them. The pointed steeples or pillars next to these churches are similar to the obelisks or sun-pillars of Egypt. The obelisk is a slender four-sided shaft of stone, terminating in a pyramid, regarded by the ancient Egyptians as the symbol of G-d. It was customary to place these pillars before Egyptian temples. Apparently twelve obelisks were transported from Egypt to Rome. One of these obelisks is the one that many travelers to Rome are familiar with in front of the St Peter's Catholic Church in Rome. There are others in New York, London, Paris and Berlin.

Deuteronomy 17 deals with the particulars surrounding legal matters. Of specific importance is the focal point that we read about in verses 8 to 13, as follows: ***“If any case is too difficult for you to decide, between one kind of homicide or another, between one kind of lawsuit or another, and between one kind of assault or another, being cases of dispute in your courts, then you shall arise and go up to the place which YHWH your Elohim chooses. (9) So you shall come to the Levitical priest or the judge who is in office in those days, and you shall inquire of them, and they will declare to you the verdict in the case. (10) And you shall do according to the terms of the verdict which they declare to you from that place which YHWH chooses; and you shall be careful to observe according to all that***

⁶ The word church is according to C J Koster's book entitled: "Come out of her My people", traced back to the English or Anglo-Saxon root, namely Circe. We see in this same book that Circe was the goddess-daughter of the mythological Sun-god, Helios. The word Circe is related to circle, as well as circus. The Old English word Circe was pronounced as Kirke. The word church is known in Scotland as Kirk, in German as Kirche, and in Dutch and its derivative languages as Kerk meaning a building, where religious services are conducted. It is interesting that the literal English translation of Psalm 1: 1 in the Afrikaans (A Dutch derivative language, spoken by mainly Dutch descendants in South Africa) Bible is as follows: ***“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the way of the sinners, nor sit in the circle of scoffers!”*** The Hebrew word qahal, means an assembly or congregation and the Greek word ekklesia means an assembly of called-out ones. Neither the Hebrew word qahal nor the Greek word Ekklesia means a building.

they teach you. (11) According to the terms of the law which they teach you, and according to the verdict which they tell you, you shall do; you shall not turn aside from the word which they declare to you, to the right or the left. (12) And the man who acts presumptuously by not listening to the priest who stands there to serve YHVH your Elohim, nor to the judge, that man shall die; thus you shall purge evil from Israel. (13) Then all the people will hear and be afraid, and will not act presumptuously again.” This section of the Torah portion is essentially understood by the Jewish sages as being ‘*halakah*’, or the way in which we should walk. Verse 11 above, tells us that Moses and the Levitical priests and judges appointed by him, are the ones who are responsible to determine the way in which we should walk. They, the ones appointed in place of Moses, or the ones sitting in Moses’ seat, decide about the difficult issues in the way we walk, such as the need for postponements, to ensure that the Day of Atonement does not fall immediately before or after a weekly Sabbath.

Let’s consider a related issue for a moment: There are those who insist that the calculated calendar as used by our Jewish brothers, came about as a result of a decision by Hillel II, whose responsibility it was as part of the Sanhedrin to regulate the calendar. He was required by the Catholic Church to issue a decree during the years 358 – 359 CE to institute the authority of the fixed or calculated Hebrew calendar that we know today. However, we know that the Jews used a calculated calendar before this time, since we have an historical witness from no less than Roman Emperor Constantine, that three centuries after Yahshua’s crucifixion, the true disciples were still reckoning the festival dates by the same calendar used by the Jewish community. It was decreed, by the Council of Nicea, held in 325 CE, where the timing of the Paschal festival was discussed. Even though the early Catholics were replacing Passover with Easter, they still retained the term pasha, as used in The Greek Scriptures. The excerpts of Constantine’s decree, preserved by the Church historian Eusebius, is as follows: He wrote that it

seemed “a most unworthy thing that we should follow the custom of the Jews in the celebration of the most holy solemnity, rejecting the practice of his people, we should perpetuate to all future ages the celebration of this rite, in a more legitimate order. Let us then have nothing in common with the most hostile rabble of the Jews. Let us withdraw ourselves, my much honoured brethren, from that most odious fellowship. It is indeed in the highest degree preposterous, that they should superciliously vaunt themselves, that truly without their instruction, we cannot properly observe this rite, they continue, wandering in the grossest error, instead of duly reforming their calculations.” *A historical View of the Council of Nicea, Eusebius, pp. 52 – 53*). The sighting of the New Moon was always used to verify or confirm the calculated calendar established by Moses. The figure used anciently to calculate the Hebrew calendar of 29, 53059 days⁷ per month, was the same used by NASA until 1968, when satellite and computer technology allowed them to take the number out one more decimal point.

We know that the Rabbinical Jews or modern day Pharisees are even today responsible for such matters as the timing of the calendar, as Yahshua confirmed in Matthew 23: 2 & 3, saying: ***“The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; (3) therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things, and do not do them.”*** Some modern day Sadducees assert that Yahshua did not say this at all, but from reading verse 29 of Matthew 22, we see Yahshua answering the Sadducees in this way: ***“You are mistaken, not understanding (or knowing) the Scriptures, or the power of Elohim.”*** Since Yahshua was our example, we do not consider a judgment by this group of latter day Sadducees as being legitimate at all. In addition we know that those who follow such groups, will eventually be left wanting, as we understand from the warning in Malachi 2:1 – 8 as

⁷ This is Exactly the figure understood by modern astronomers in the ‘FACTS ON FILE DICTIONARY OF ASTRONOMY’ by Ellingsworth; New York 1985 p.241.

follows: **“And now, this commandment is for you, O Priests. (2) If you do not listen, and if you do not take it to heart to give honor to My Name,” says YHVH of hosts, “then I will send the curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings; and indeed, I have cursed them already, because you are not taking it to heart. (3) Behold, I am going to rebuke your offspring, and I will spread refuse on your faces, the refuse of your feasts; and you will be taken away with it. (4) Then you will know that I have sent this commandment to you, that My covenant may continue with Levi,” says YHVH of hosts. (5) “My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him as an object of reverence; so he revered Me, and stood in awe of My name. (6) True instruction was in his mouth, and unrighteousness was not found on his lips; he walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many back from iniquity. (7) For the lips of a priest should preserve knowledge, and men should seek instruction from his mouth; for he is the messenger of YHVH of hosts. (8) But as for you, you have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble by the instruction; you have corrupted the covenant of Levi,” says YHVH of hosts.** Yes, the priests or judges in office today are the Rabbinical Jews. They are the lawgivers of YHVH (as per Genesis 49: 10); they have the Oracles of Elohim and decide on the timing of the annual Feast Days of Elohim. I know that not many agree with me, however, we know for a fact that Yahshua will return on Yom Teruah one day in the near future. We read in Zechariah 12, that when He returns, those in the synagogue (where men sit separate from their wives) will see Him whom they (we) have pierced (verse 10). What will they be doing in synagogue at that time? Obviously keeping Rosh Hoshanah, also known as The Feast of Trumpets. If the calendar based on the sighting of the crescent moon, is about two days behind the Hebrew calendar, are the ones observing it, and the ones who formed an alliance with them, going to be keeping The Feast of Trumpets at the same time as the Rabbinical Jews do? Or are they going to be a day or two too late?

Yahshua our Messiah did not abolish the Torah of Moses at all, but made certain corrections, such as keeping the Passover the evening before our Jewish brothers kept it. Now you, might say if what we have just covered is true, why do we follow Yahshua in keeping the Passover, a day before the Rabbinical Jews do? The answer to this question is to be found in verses 18 & 19 of Deuteronomy 18, where Moses informs the people that YHVH told him, as follows: ***'I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. (19) And it shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name I Myself will require it of him.'*** Yahshua our Messiah is the one that Moses wrote about here. In fact Yahshua mentioned this after His resurrection in Luke 24: 44 & 45, as follows: ***'Now He said to them, "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." (45) Then He opened their minds to understanding the Scriptures.'*** Yahshua said further in John 5: 43 – 47, ***"I have come in My Father's name (Yahshua or the Salvation of YHVH), and you do not receive Me; if another shall come in his own name, you will receive him. (44) How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another, and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only Elohim? (45) Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope. (46) For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote of Me. (47) But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"*** We may twist and turn as much as we like, we are still required to believe or keep the Torah given by the hand of Moses, to understand and fully believe Messiah's words. The prophet that Moses was telling us about in Deuteronomy 18 was none other than Yahshua our Messiah. He is the only one who has the right to correct the Hebrew calendar, like He did when He

kept the Passover 24 hours before the Jews of His day, as well as the Rabbinical Jews of today do.

The rest of Deuteronomy 17 deals with the appointment of a king over the nation of Israel, should they ask YHVH for a king, like all the nations around them have. However, we read in verses 14 & 15: ***“When you enter the land which YHVH your Elohim gives you, and you possess it and live in it, and you say, ‘I will set a king over me like all the nations who are around me,’ (15) you shall surely set a king over you whom YHVH your Elohim chooses, one from among your countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countryman.”*** In a recent e-mail from a Jewish brother living in Israel, he expressed his doubt regarding the ‘foreigner’ that the USA elected as their President. Continuing on in the Torah portion, we see that YHVH requires such a king over Israel, not to multiply horses for himself, or cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses for him, since YHVH has told them, not to ever return to Egypt. We the modern day descendants of Israel, as well as those who are not bloodline Israelites, but who through faith become part of the Israel of Elohim, should make sure that we do not out of curiosity visit Egypt, when we go on a trip to the land of Israel. A future king of Israel should also not multiply many wives unto himself, lest they turn his heart away, nor shall he greatly increase silver or gold for himself. Instead, such a king will write a copy of the Torah on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests, for himself. He shall keep his copy of the Torah with him and shall read it all the days of his life, so that he may learn to fear YHVH, by carefully observing all the words of the Torah, that his heart may not be lifted above that of his countrymen and that he may not turn aside from the commandments.

In Deuteronomy 18 we read once more that the Levitical priest shall have no portion of inheritance with Israel; and that they shall eat Elohim’s offerings by fire and His portion. We also read a warning to Israel, not to imitate the detestable things that the nations around them do, such as divination, witchcraft,

the interpretation of omens, the casting of spells, calling up the dead and the like. But they shall walk blamelessly before YHVH our Elohim. We who are called out at this time should like the future kings of Israel be truly blameless. We read fittingly in Ephesians 1: 3 – 5, ***'Blessed be the Elohim and Father of our Master Yahshua Messiah, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Messiah, (4) just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be set-apart and blameless before Him in love. (5) He predestined us to adoption as sons through Yahshua Messiah to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will.'***

Deuteronomy 19 deals with the cities of refuge and with the boundary marks of ones neighbor. The cities of refuge were set up to avoid blood shedding in cases of the unintentional killing of human beings. We read about the avenger of blood, who was also seen as the blood redeemer. It was the purpose of the blood redeemer to ensure that justice is attained for a family member, thereby ensuring purification from the contamination that occurred by the shedding of innocent blood. We read appropriately in verses 11 - 13, ***"But if there is a man who hates his neighbor and lies in wait for him and rises up against him and strikes him so that he dies, and flee to one of these cities, (12) then the elders of his city shall send and take him from there and deliver him into the hand of the avenger of blood, that he may die. (13) You shall not pity him, but you shall purge the blood of the innocent from Israel, that it may go well with you."*** Continuing in verse 14 we read about the boundary marks of a neighbor, as follows: ***"You shall not move your neighbor's boundary mark, which the ancestors have set, in your inheritance which you shall inherit in the land that YHVH your Elohim gives you to possess."*** This same commandment is also repeated in Proverbs 22: 28.

Deuteronomy 20 set-outs the regulations regarding war, and those individuals to be exempted from going to war in the nation of Israel. We read in verse 5 of Deuteronomy 20, that

the man who has built a new house, but who has not dedicated his house yet, should be sent back home from the warfront, lest another man dedicates his house. In the second place a man who has planted a vineyard and has not begun to use its fruit, should also be sent home from the warfront, lest another man begin to use the fruit. Thirdly we see that a man engaged to be married, should also be sent home lest he dies in the war and another man marries his wife. Lastly, the fainthearted man should also be sent home from the warfront, lest he causes the hearts of his fellow soldier's to melt like his. Next we read in verse 10 of Deuteronomy 20, that when the sons of Israel come into a city and offer it terms of peace, and the inhabitants agree to make peace, then all those found in the city shall become forced labor and serve the Israelites. However, if the people of the city do not make peace with Israel, but decide to fight, then the sons of Israel shall lay siege to the city and kill all the men in the city by the edge of the sword. Only the women, the children and the animals that are in the city shall become spoil to them. The Israelites were told to do so with all the cities of the nations in their vicinity. In addition, they were to leave nothing alive in those cities which YHVH gives to Israel as an inheritance, but utterly destroy the pagan nations, including the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, as YHVH commanded them.

In conclusion, this Torah portion deals with a slain person who is found lying in the open field in the land which YHVH gave Israel to possess. We read in verses 2 - 4 of Deuteronomy 21, ***'then your elders and your judges shall go out and measure the distance to the cities which are around the slain one. (3) And it shall be that the city which is nearest to the slain man, that is, the elders of the city, shall take a heifer of the herd, which has not been worked and which has not pulled in a yoke; (4) and the elders of that city shall bring the heifer down to a valley with running water, which has not been plowed or sown, and shall break the heifer's neck there in the valley.'*** The heifer is to be killed and not slaughtered and should therefore be buried, rather

than to be burnt. It is not sacrificed, but symbolizes atonement for the blood of the slain person, as he cannot be avenged without the apprehension of his murderer. We see in verse 6 that it also allows the elders of the city *'to wash their hands'* regarding the innocent blood that was shed in the midst of the people of Israel.

Deuteronomy 21 verse 10 to 25 verse 19 (Ki Tetzei).

This week's Torah portion is called Ki Tetzei, meaning 'when you go out.' It continues with the application of justice, in the nation of Israel, as was commenced with in the previous Torah portion. Like I mentioned before, the application of justice is understood to be **Halakah**, or the way in which we should walk. For many the idea of applying The Scriptures to the way they live their lives, is disconcerting. They hold that we are free moral agents, with freedom of choice and should be allowed to do as we please. They do not want to be controlled by anybody or anything in their lives. However, such people should never forget that our Creator YHVH only wants what is good for us. Even though we are wonderfully made, we still need to live according to the instruction manual that YHVH gave us, to live life according to His will and purpose. Obviously those who deny the existence of the Creator will only get to understand after the second resurrection.

Before we continue with the Torah portion, allow me to give you a glimpse into Elohim's purpose for us: After the creation of man, Adam and Eve were given the choice whether to follow YHVH and have a relationship with Him that could lead to eternal life, symbolized by the tree of life, or whether to decide for themselves what is right and wrong, symbolized by the tree of knowledge of good and evil. We know that they, deceived by Satan, chose to turn from Elohim and earned the death penalty by their action. However, because YHVH knew that mankind would fail Him, He planned to become our Savior as we read in the last part of Isaiah 63: 8, or as we read in Revelation 13: 8 (KJV), to become "***the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.***" This is confirmed for us in Colossians 1: 19 & 22, as follows: "***For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness*** (of Deity or Elohim – as per Col 2: 9) ***to dwell in Him*** (Yahshua), (20) ***and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.*** (21) ***And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind,***

engaged in evil deeds, (22) yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him set-apart and blameless and beyond reproach.” Wow, this is telling us that we are able to receive what Adam and Eve had, before they sinned! It is as we read in Romans 6: 23 ***“(For) the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of Elohim is eternal life in Messiah Yahshua our Master.***” Proverbs 15: 33, informs us that: ***“The fear of YHVH is the instruction for wisdom, and before honor comes humility.”*** YHVH requires us to learn humility through this physical existence, before He will honor us with eternal life. In Philippians 2: 6 - 9, Rav Shaul explains how Yahshua also went through this important experience, in this way: ***“who, although He existed in the form of Elohim, did not regard equality with Elohim a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond servant, and being made in the likeness of them (mankind). And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even the death on a tree. Therefore also Elohim highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name.”*** We know that the name of our Messiah is Yahshua, meaning the salvation of YHVH.

When we humble ourselves and become teachable, YHVH reveals His ways and purpose to us. His purpose is to bring many sons to glory, so that He and all humanity will be of the same family, as we read in Hebrews 2: 8 – 12, in this way: ***“THOU HAST PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET.”*** For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him (us). (9) But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely Yahshua, because of the suffering of death crowned with the grace of Elohim He might taste death for everyone. (10) For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings. (11) For both He who sanctifies and

those who are sanctified (us) are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, (12) saying, "I WILL PROCLAIM THY NAME TO MY BRETHREN, IN THE MIDST OF THE CONGREGATION I WILL SING THY PRAISE." Those who are only concerned with the self do not realize what Elohim's purpose was when He created us in His image, as we are told in Genesis 1: 26 & 27. The question is: Do we fully realize what YHVH our Elohim has planned for us? According to Rav Shaul, YHVH planned our incredible human potential long before our original parents Adam and Eve were created. The plan involved Yahshua Messiah our Savior, as we read in 2 Timothy 1: 9, as follows: ***"who has saved us, and called us with a holy (set-apart) calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Messiah Yahshua from all eternity."*** Even if this sounds unbelievable, we were created to eventually be changed into spirit beings, as the immortal children of YHVH our Elohim. We read this in one of the most inspiring passages that Rav Shaul wrote, in Romans 8: 16 & 17, as follows: ***"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of Elohim, (17) and if children, heirs also, heirs of Elohim and fellow heirs with Messiah, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified (exalted) with Him."*** According to verses 19 to 21, ***"For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of Elohim. (20) For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope (21) that the creation itself also be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of Elohim."*** YHVH will ultimately change our bodies from flesh to spirit according to 1 Corinthians 15: 42 - 44. In verses 50 to 53, we see that to achieve our potential, we must be changed through a resurrection from physical bodies, to immortal children of Elohim. At the end of verse 54 we see that ultimately ***"Death is swallowed up in victory."***

However, knowing this, presents us with another question, i.e. what does YHVH expect of us? As modern day disciples of

Yahshua, we are expected to learn, live and teach Elohim's way of life – the way of giving and love through obedience to the teachings of Elohim. Elohim's Torah teaches that we show our love to Him, by our obedience to His word or Torah. This is made clear in 1 John 5: 3 as follows: ***“For this is the love of Elohim, that we keep His commandments; And His commandments are not burdensome.”*** However, before YHVH gives us the blessing of eternal life, He wants each one of us to accept and live by His commandments, so that we may live in peace with fellow human beings. To fully realize our human potential, we need to recognize and fight Satan's influence in our lives. Satan is the fallen angel who has brought chaos and confusion to the earth and its inhabitants (see Isaiah 14: 12 – 14 and Ezekiel 28: 13 -16). He is responsible for deceiving the whole world (see Revelation 12: 9). According to 2 Corinthians 4: 4 his function is to blind the minds of unbelievers so that they do not see the light of the gospel of the image of Elohim, namely Yahshua our Messiah.

The good news is that it is not Elohim's intention to allow Satan to exercise his corruptive influence over humans forever. When Messiah returns to rule, Satan will be imprisoned for a thousand years. Those who were called during this age and who died in faithful obedience, believing that Yahshua is the Messiah, will be resurrected at His return (1 Thessalonians 4: 13, 16). The ones alive believing in Yahshua and keeping the commandments of Elohim will be caught up together with the resurrected believers, to meet Yahshua in the clouds (verse 17). During the next 1000 years, Yahshua will rule the world from Jerusalem with His saints (as we see the last part of Revelation 20 verse 4). According to Revelation 20: 7, Satan will be loosed again at the end of the 1000 years and He will once again deceive the nations which will be at the four corners of the earth, namely Gog and Magog. These people will surround the camp of the saints in Jerusalem, but fire will come down from heaven to devour them (verse 8), then Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone and be tormented for ever and ever (verse 9). After this come the second resurrection and the great white

throne judgment. All the people who have not known YHVH our Elohim will be resurrected and will be given an opportunity to repent and be reconciled to YHVH at that time (for more information please read Matthew 11: 20 – 24, Isaiah 25: 7 – 9 and Revelation 20: 11 - 13). Yes there will be those in the second resurrection, who will also reject (YHVH)'s way of life; they together with the wicked who sinned with full knowledge of the coming Kingdom of Elohim, during this age, will become ashes under the feet of the righteous (Malachi 4: 3). Now that we know Elohim's purpose for creating mankind, do we want to continue to doing things our way, or are we prepared to obey the word of YHVH our Elohim.

Our Torah portion begins with a regulation about men who desire and marry foreign women, taken captive during war, but who lose interest in such women soon after they have consummated the marriage. We read in verse 14 of Deuteronomy 21, ***“And it shall be, if you are not pleased with her, then you shall let her go wherever she wishes; but you shall certainly not sell her for money, you shall not mistreat her, because you have humbled her.”*** The next section deals with the rights of the first-born son of a man who has two wives, one loved and one unloved. The man cannot make the son of the loved, the first-born, if the son of the unloved is the first-born. He is obliged to give the first-born son of the unloved a double portion of all that he has, since he is the beginning of his strength. In verse 18 - 20 of Deuteronomy 21, we read the rulings about a rebellious son who will not obey his parents, when they chastise him. If such a son will not listen to his parents, they will bring him before the elders (appointed by Moses according to the previous Torah portion), and will accuse him before the elders. If such a son is a rebellious son who overindulges and will not listen to his parents, the men of the city shall stone him to death, thus removing the evil from the midst of Israel. We also read in verse 22, that after a man has committed a sin worthy of death, he shall be put to death and hung upon a tree. The instruction further specifies that the corpse of such a man, shall not hang on the tree overnight, but shall be buried the

same day. This reminds us about Yahshua's death for us, as is recorded in Galatians 3: 13 & 14, as follows: ***'Messiah redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us – for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE" (14) in order that in Messiah Yahshua the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the spirit through faith.'***

The next set of rulings in Deuteronomy 22, focus on the concern that we as Israelites should have for a fellow countrymen's property and welfare, as well as our sensitivity towards Elohim's creation. We read accordingly in verse 1 of Deuteronomy 22, ***"You shall not see your countryman's ox or his sheep straying away, and pay no attention to them; you shall certainly bring them back to your countryman."*** We read further in verse 6 & 7 of Deuteronomy 22, ***'If you happen to come upon a bird's nest along the way, in any tree or on the ground, with young ones or eggs, and the mother sitting on the young or on the eggs, you shall not take the mother with the young; (7) you shall certainly let the mother go, but the young you may take for yourself, in order that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days.'*** We notice that the correct action here holds a promise, similar to that of the fifth commandment. Why do these commandments hold the same reward? Our Jewish brother's hold that each word spoken in Torah carries equal importance, from the most esteemed to the least esteemed precept, and obedience to all is equally important. We continue reading that if we have a flat-roofed house on which we fellowship, we shall make a parapet for the roof, so that we may not bring bloodguilt on our homes, if anyone falls from it. We see that it is prohibited to plow with an ox or a donkey together; or to wear a garment made from mixed fabric. These *'chukim'* is understood better, when reading 2 Corinthians 6: 14, as follows: ***'Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have the righteous and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness.'*** The command to make tassels on the corners of our garments with which we

cover ourselves is repeated in Deuteronomy 22: 12, being a second witness to Numbers 15: 38.

The topic of divorce is discussed in the next few verses. We read in verses 13 to 19, of Deuteronomy 22, that if a man takes a wife and after having consummated the marriage, despises her and fabricates a story about her, saying that she was not a virgin when they got married. Then the woman's parents shall bring forward the tokens of her virginity to the elders of the city. The evidence of the woman's virginity, when she got married, i.e. the sheet with blood on it from the wedding night will make it clear that her husband is only looking for an excuse to get rid of her. As a result the elders shall take the man outside the city and chastise him and fine him a hundred shekels of silver, and give it to the woman's father. Then the woman shall remain his wife and he may not divorce her all the days of his life. However, we read in verses 20 – 21, if the woman has no prove of her virginity, the elders will bring the woman to her father's house and the men of the city shall stone her to death – thus purging out the evil from amongst the Israelites. The next section deals with a man found lying with a married woman – we see that in such a case both of them shall be put to death, so as to purge the evil from Israel. We also read about the situation, where if a girl who is engaged to a man, and another man finds her and lies with her, if she does not cry out, both of them shall be put to death. But if a man finds an engaged girl in the field and forces her to have relations with him, then only the man shall be put to death. However, if a man finds a girl who is not engaged and seizes her and has relations with her. If they are discovered, the man shall pay fifty shekels of silver to her father and shall marry the girl, and because he has violated her, he may not divorce her all his days.

We read in Deuteronomy 22: 30, that a man shall not take his father's wife, nor uncover his father's skirt. This is exactly what is portrait in such TV serials as *'The Bold and the Beautiful'* and others, where the father of the clan already had his son's wife and the other way round. It is no wonder that our society

is so immoral today. Very few know that such things are an abomination to YHVH. He hates fornication, adultery, and homosexual relationships because they do not only hurt the people partaking in such sins, but also those who are (abused and) associated with them. Those who practice these sins are only seeking their own pleasure. They have no love or concern for YHVH or their neighbors and do not care about the lives that they destroy. Woman who partake of these sexual sins are deceived to think that those who use them in this way love them or feel anything for them. Many find out differently when their 'lovers' insist that they have an abortion, or disappears to let her raise his illegitimate child on her own. There are obviously also many loose women who regularly entice men who are ever ready to commit adultery and we know that the road to destruction is a two way street. But, if it was possible for all to learn that they have to temper their animal instinct or lust with Torah, such things will not occur.

An interesting sidelight is that it is talking about a father's skirt in verse 30. Note it does not mean the father's wife's skirt; it is talking about an immoral relationship with one's father. Yes, fathers used to wear skirts in those days, as we read about David in 2 Samuel 6: 14 and about Boaz in Ruth 3: 9 (KJV), as follows: ***'And he (Boaz) said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman.'*** The skirt worn by Boaz was similar to the kilts worn by highlander soldiers in Scotland and Ireland. Such kilts serve as blankets to cover them with by night when they are sleeping on their way to war. As explained in a previous Torah portion, it is mentioned in the annals and History of Ireland that a strong colony of the tribe of Dan ('Tuatha de Danaan') arrived in Ireland by ship, before 700 BCE. Later in the days of King David, a colony of the line of Zarah arrived in Ireland from the East and during 569 BCE, an elderly, patriarch referred to as a 'saint' came to Ireland. It is believed that this was none other than Jeremiah. With him came the princess daughter of an eastern king, with the Hebrew name Tea-Tephi as well as a scribe named Shimon Baruch. This royal party included the

king of Ireland who was in Jerusalem at the time of the siege. He got to know Tea-Tephi and married her shortly after the fall of Jerusalem in 585 BCE. Jeremiah brought an ark, a harp and a stone called 'Lia-fail' or the 'stone of destiny', with him to Ireland. Many kings in the history of Ireland, Scotland and England have been coronated sitting over this stone, including Queen Elizabeth II. This very stone used to be kept in Westminster Abbey in London, and the coronation chair built over it has the inscription 'Jacob's Pillar Stone' (Genesis 28: 18) on it. No doubt Jeremiah also took patterns of clothing, including that of the skirts worn by Boaz, with him. In addition you will recall that we discussed the topic mentioned in verse 5 of Deuteronomy 22 in a previous Torah portion, as follows: ***“A woman shall not wear man’s clothing, nor shall a man put on woman’s clothing; for whoever does these things is an abomination to YHVH your Elohim.”*** I mentioned that some take this verse to mean that ladies living in the western world may not wear pants. My comment was that if such a garment was made specifically for a lady, and she covers the rest of her body with a long blouse, then there is nothing wrong with her wearing a pair of feminine pants. However, I added that as Nazarene Israelites, we should be careful of revealing clothes that edge off the woman’s body purely to entice the opposite gender. So we see that skirts and pants may be worn by both genders, as long as they are made specifically for the gender wearing it, depending on the tradition and culture of the countries in which they live.

We read in Deuteronomy 23, that no one who is emasculated shall enter the assembly of Elohim. In addition we are told that no one of illegitimate birth shall enter the assembly of Elohim, and that none of their descendants to the tenth generation shall enter the assembly of Elohim. This is obviously to show how seriously YHVH regards marriage and a stable home for our children. An illegitimate child according to the Scriptures is a child born of any marriage forbidden by Torah, where it becomes impossible to ever make it legitimate, as in the case of adultery, incest, a Levite marrying outside of his tribe, or marriage to an unbelieving pagan. We read further that neither

an Ammonite nor a Moabite may enter the congregation of YHVH – not even down to the tenth generation. However, we see that this only applies to men, since Ruth was a Moabite, but she returned to Bethlehem, which suggests that she may have been a descendant of an exiled Israelite rather than a true Moabite. We see the reason for the Ammonites and Moabites not being allowed to enter the Assembly of Elohim, being because they did not give the Israelites bread and water on their journey, and because they hired Balaam the son of Beor to try and curse Israel. We read in verse 6 of Deuteronomy 23, ***“You shall never seek their peace or their prosperity all your days.”*** Continuing on in verse 7, we see that the Israelites were not to despise the Edomites, since they are considered brothers. In addition the Israelites were not to detest the Egyptians, because they were aliens in their land. Next we read a number of rulings regarding purity in the camp of Israel. We read examples of this in verses 17 & 18 of Deuteronomy 23, as follows: ***“None of the daughters of Israel shall be a cult prostitute, nor shall any of the sons of Israel be a cult prostitute. (18) You shall not bring the hire of a harlot or the wages of a dog (male prostitute) into the house of YHVH your Elohim for any votive offering, for both of these are an abomination to YHVH your Elohim.”***

We read something of interest in verse 25 of Deuteronomy 23, as follows: ***“When you enter your neighbor’s standing grain, then you may pluck the heads with your hand, but you shall not wield a sickle in your neighbor’s standing grain.”*** We may eat some of the grain, when we are hungry, but we may not reap the same for ourselves. We recall a situation in Luke 6, where on a Sabbath Yahshua and His disciples passed through some grain fields and His disciples were picking and eating heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands. The Pharisees saw them and asked, ***“Why do you do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?”*** Yahshua explained to them that when David was hungry he entered the house of Elohim and ate the consecrated bread which was not lawful for any to eat except the priests alone; he also gave to those with him. Then Yahshua said to them, ***“The Son of Man is Master***

of the Sabbath.” From reading the rest of Luke 6, we understand that Yahshua was saying to the Pharisees that it was in order to do good and to save lives on the Sabbath.

The first few verses of Deuteronomy 24, deals with the Laws of divorce and remarriage. This calls to mind the law of an adulterous woman discussed in Romans 7: 1 – 4, as follows: ***‘Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives? (2) For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living: but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband. (3) So then if, while her husband is living, she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress, though she is joined to another man. (4) Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to this law through the body of Messiah*** (All of us who have been immersed into Yahshua’s name, have been immersed into His death – we died and are freed from sin), ***that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit for Elohim.’*** Because Messiah died for us, His adulterous bride, and since we died in immersion, He is now free to remarry us at His return one day. A bill of divorce exposes what was covered up before the severance of the marriage relationship.

We continue in verse 5 of Deuteronomy 24, that when a man is newly married, he must not go to war, but shall be exempt from military service for one year, so that he may care for his household and let his wife which he has taken be joyful. We are given a year to solidify our marriage relationships. This assists in avoiding hardness of heart toward one another, which is a major cause of divorce. In verse 6, we read that no one shall take a handmill or an upper millstone as a pledge, for he would be taking a life in pledge. This law was given because bread constituted a major portion of people’s diet at that time. Verse 7 deals with kidnapping, stating that an Israelite who commits such a crime shall be put to death, to

purge out the evil from among yourselves. We are warned in verses 8 & 9 to be careful against the infection of leprosy and to do and observe all that the Levitical priests teach us, as rebelling against their authority, could result in what happened to Miriam when Elohim struck her with leprosy. In verses 10 & 11 we are told that when we make a loan of any sort to a neighbor, we may not enter his house to take his pledge, but wait outside, and let the neighbor bring the pledge out to us. Verse 12 adds that if the man is poor, you shall not sleep with a security pledge that he gave you, but shall return the article to him by the time the sun goes down, in order for him to have his outer garment and you be righteous before YHVH your Elohim.

Next we see the commanded not to exploit a hired worker who is poor and needy, from among fellow Israelites or from the sojourners who are in Israel, but that we shall pay him his wages on time, and not let the sun go down before doing so. We also read in verse 16, that fathers should not be put to death for their sons, nor shall sons be put to death for their fathers; every one shall be put to death for his own sin. In verses 17 - 20 we read that an Israelite is not allowed to pervert the court proceedings of an alien or an orphan, nor take a widow's garment as a pledge, but shall remember that he was a slave in Egypt, and that YHVH redeemed him from there. Israelites are accordingly commanded not to go back into their field if they have forgotten a sheaf in the field, since it shall be for the alien, the orphan and the widow, so that YHVH may bless them in all the works of their hands. Similarly, when they beat their olive trees, they shall not go over the boughs again, but allow the orphan, the alien and the widow to collect what was left over. The same also applies to vineyards.

In Deuteronomy 25 verses 5 to 10, we read that when two brothers live together and the one dies and leave no children, the wife of the deceased brother shall not marry outside the family. Instead her husband's unmarried brother is to take her as his wife, in order to raise up children for his brother. The first-born whom she bears shall assume the name of her dead

husband. However, if the man does not take his brother's wife, he shall go up to the gate of the elders and tell them that He refuses to establish a name for his brother. The wife of his brother shall then come in the sight of the elders and pull his sandal off his foot and spit in his face; and she shall declare (as in verses 9 & 10): ***“Thus it is done to the man who does not build up his brother's house. And in Israel his name shall be called, ‘The house of him whose sandal is removed.’”*** Because sandals are indicative of our walk with YHVH – if your sandal is removed it shows that you have been disqualified. We also read that a woman should not ‘assist’ her husband in a fight with another man, by grabbing the man by his private parts, if so her hand should be cut off, without showing pity. We are further warned not have different weights or measures – which obviously applies, when we trade goods with fellow Israelites or aliens.

In closing we read in Deuteronomy 25: 17 – 19, ***“Remember what Amalek did to you along the way when you came out of Egypt, (18) how he met you along the way and attacked among you all the stragglers at your rear when you were faint and weary; and he did not fear Elohim. (19) Therefore it shall come about when YHVH your Elohim has given you rest from all your surrounding enemies, in the land which YHVH your Elohim gives you as an inheritance to possess, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven; you must not forget.”*** From this we understand that the world must become Amalek free. Does this mean we must commit genocide? I don't think so. Interestingly enough, our Jewish brothers say that persons born into the nation of Amalek have three options open to them. They may maintain their status as Amalek and thus be slated for obliteration; or they may accept the seven Noachide laws, at which point their status is changed to that of a righteous gentile; or accept a fully fledged conversion to Judaism.

Deuteronomy 26 verse 1 to 29 verse 8 (Ki Tavo).

This week's Torah portion is called Ki Tavo meaning 'When you have come'. We read in the first two verses of Deuteronomy 26, ***'Then it shall be, when you enter the land which YHVH your Elohim gives you as an inheritance, and you possess and live in it, (2) that you shall take some of the first of all your produce of the ground which you shall bring in from your land that YHVH your Elohim gives you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place where YHVH your Elohim chooses to establish His name.'*** We see that whereas in the previous Torah portion we discussed the First-born son, we are dealing with first-fruits in this week's Torah portion.

The word 'when' in verse one of Deuteronomy 26, factually means 'because' or 'since'. The fact that YHVH is true to His word to bring the nation of Israel into the Promised Land, is reason enough to give back to Him the best that the Promised Land brings forth. It is in reality only giving to YHVH what belongs to Him anyway. Continuing in verses 3 to 5, we read: ***"And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'I declare this day to YHVH my Elohim that I have entered the land which YHVH swore to our fathers to give us.'*** (4) ***Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of YHVH your Elohim.*** (5) ***And you shall answer and say before YHVH your Elohim, 'My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down to Egypt and sojourned there, few in number; but there he became a great, mighty and populous nation.'"*** We see here that the Israelites were told to recount before YHVH, the recent history of their people, which emphasizes the role that YHVH played in leading them out of Egypt (in our case, sin). It shows our need to be ever thankful for the favor that YHVH has bestowed upon ancient Israel, as well as us their modern day descendants. It is aptly put in 1 Peter 2: 9 & 10, as follows: ***'But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE for Elohim's OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim***

the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (10) for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF ELOHIM; you had not RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.'

YHVH is at this time calling Israelites out of the nations where He has scattered us, because of lawlessness. However, most of us, like the ancient Israelites, do not want to come willingly out of our personal sin. We enjoy the comforts of Egypt so much that we will wait until it is nearly too late for us to escape. Our personal Egypt is not only sin, but also the false doctrines that we brought along from the lawless Churches where we come from. Some, even now cannot believe they we are not going to heaven when we die. My question to them is: Why if Yahshua is coming back to resurrect those who died in Him, including David and Abraham (see Acts 2: 29 & 34 and Hebrews 11: 39 & 40), do they want to go to heaven? Yahshua is coming to earth to rule us for a thousand years. Those of us, who are called during this time to become first-fruits during the millennium, will rule under Yahshua as kings and priests. After the millennium rule of Messiah, come the second resurrection and the Great White Throne judgment, after which death and Hades (the grave) will be thrown in the lake of fire, together with those whose names will not be found in the book of life. They will become ashes under the feet of the righteous (as per Malachi 4:1 – 3). It is therefore clear that nobody, except Satan will be tormented forever.

After all that is evil is burnt-up, the first heaven and the first earth will pass away, and the New Jerusalem will come down from heaven. Then YHVH will come down from heaven to dwell among us, and He will be our Elohim, and we will be His people. I therefore ask a second time, what do those who want to go to heaven, go and do there? Yes, after we have become spirit beings, we might go to heaven for a short time to be trained in righteousness (see Revelation 15: 1 & 2). At this time, we need to get rid of false doctrines, confess that we were wrong in the past and that our father's taught us nothing

but lies, as we read in Jeremiah 16: 19, ***‘O YHVH, my strength and my stronghold, And my refuge in the day of distress, To Thee the nations will come from the ends of the earth and say, “Our fathers have inherited nothing but falsehood, Futility and things of no profit.”*** After having confessed our sins we need to be immersed into Yahshua’s saving Name (as per Acts 2: 38), and have hands lain upon us (as per Acts 8: 16 & 17). Then we will be given a portion of Elohim’s set-apart Spirit, as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to redemption (as per Ephesians 1: 13 & 14). Then we need to start studying Torah in order to grow in grace and knowledge of our Master and Savior Yahshua Messiah (as per 2 Peter 3: 18). Growing in grace and knowledge entails studying the Torah (the entire Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation), and to clean our lives up accordingly.

Returning to the Torah portion, we see in verse 10 of Deuteronomy 26, that after the Israelites brought the first-fruits of the ground to YHVH, they shall set it down before Him and bow down and worship Him. We read further in verse 11 & 12 of Deuteronomy 26, ***‘and you and the Levite and the alien who is among you shall rejoice in all the good which YHVH your Elohim has given you and your household. (12) When you have finished paying all the tithe of your increase in the third year, the year of tithing, then you shall give it to the Levite, to the stranger, to the orphan and the widow, that they may eat in your towns, and be satisfied.’*** By giving to especially the orphans and the widows, as we are told in this section, we will be considered as good as lending to YHVH himself, as we read in Proverbs 19: 17, as follows: ***‘He who is gracious to the poor man lends to YHVH, And He will repay him for his good deed.’*** It is essential that we also share the blessings that we receive from YHVH, by also teaching the sojourners among us, to become fully fledged Israelites. However, we see that whatever we share with the Levite, the sojourner, the widow and orphan, should be clean and undefiled, as we read in verses 13 & 14 of Deuteronomy 26, in this way: ***“And you shall say before YHVH your Elohim, ‘I have removed the sacred portion***

from my house, and also have given it to the Levite and the alien, the orphan and the widow, according to all Thy commandments which Thou hast commanded me; I have not transgressed or forgotten any of Thy commandments. (14) I have not eaten of it while mourning, nor have I removed any of it while I was unclean, nor offered any of it to the dead, I have listened to the voice of YHVH my Elohim; I have done according to all that Thou hast commanded me." We notice in the final few verses of Deuteronomy 26, that if we obey the commandments that YHVH gave us; He will set us above all nations which He has made, to be a consecrated people to Him.

We read in Deuteronomy 27: 1, **'Then Moses and the elders of Israel charged the people, saying, "Keep all the commandments which I command you today.'** From this we understand that we are commanded to keep all the commandments given us by YHVH, not only those with which we are comfortable. We see further in Deuteronomy 27 that the Israelites are instructed to stand on the two mountains, namely Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebel, whilst the Levites shout out curses upon certain actions, with the people responding by saying: **"Amein."** We see that all the tribes are taking part in this event and that everything being said is crucial to the spiritual well being of the nation. We notice that the obvious commandments, such as keeping the Sabbath, the Set-apart Days, using the name of YHVH in vain, Kosher foods, and even circumcision, which we as Israelites should keep anyway, are not mentioned, but instead moral commandments, such as idolatry, sexual sins, murder, respect for parents, and the rule of law, are mentioned. The 12 curses mentioned were obviously considered important by Elohim, to have the children of Israel gather together and agree to obedience to the same. The Levites and the people formed a great cloud of witnesses, but Moses the author of Torah is the primary witness to the agreement made with YHVH. We notice that all twelve of these are prohibitions, but in the summary verse we see that only those who do not obey them are cursed.

The fact that Yahshua has redeemed us from the curses of the Law, as we read in Galatians 3: 13, has been taken out of context and have caused many ignorant and weak believers to stumble, by thinking that Rav Shaul was contradicting both Torah and Yahshua who said in Matthew 5: 17 – 19, ***“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. (18) For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the law, until all is accomplished. (19) Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”*** Yahshua has wiped our slate clean of passed sins, however, if we continue to sin in the future we will reap what we sow. We continue in Deuteronomy 28: 1, where we read: ***“Now it shall be, if you will diligently obey YHVH your Elohim, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, YHVH your Elohim will set you high above all the nations of the earth.”*** The next 13 verses specify the blessings which we will receive, by obeying all the commandments that YHVH gave us through Moses. However, we see from verse 15 of Deuteronomy 28 onward, that there are 68 verses in which the curses are given that will befall us if we do not obey the commandments of Elohim. The curses in Deuteronomy 28 are like a nightmare, but because most of the people in the world are disobedient to the teachings of Elohim, we see how most of these diseases are occurring amongst our people, some which are listed in Deuteronomy 28: 27 (KJV), in this way: ***‘YHVH will smite thee with the botch (boils) of Egypt, and with the emerods (hemorrhoids), and with the scab, and with the itch, whereof thou canst be healed.’*** From reading the blessings and the curses in Deuteronomy 28, we see that when those who are blessed, are blessed everywhere they go and in everything they do. The curses likewise, mean that those who are cursed, are cursed everywhere they go and in everything they do.

Every cause has an effect, if we commit adultery after we have been immersed, even if we repent afterwards, we will still be cursed. We might be saved upon repentance, but will lose our positions as priests under Messiah. It is as we read in Hosea 4: 6 ***'My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge, Because you have rejected knowledge (meaning Torah), I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of Elohim, I also will forget your children.'*** If we get Aids because of extra-marital relations, we will suffer the consequences. If we repent and return to Torah, we will be saved, but will still suffer the consequences of our indiscretion and die from this disease, as well as lose our positions as priests. It is necessary to ask yourself: Is a little indiscretion worth your crown? Rav Shaul puts it in this way in 1 Corinthians 6: 15 – 18, ***'Do you not know that your bodies are members of Messiah? Shall I then take away the members of Messiah and make them members of a harlot? May it never be! (16) Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a harlot is one body with her? For He says, "THE TWO WILL BECOME ONE FLESH."*** (17) ***But the one who joins himself to the Master is one spirit with Him. (18) Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.'*** That it is why we should keep away from religious leaders and others who teach that their savior did away with the Torah. This is confirmed in verse 58 & 59 of Deuteronomy 28, as follows: ***'If you are not careful to observe all the words of this law which are written in this book, to fear this honored and awesome name, YHVH your Elohim, (59) then YHVH will bring extraordinary plagues on you and your descendants, even severe and lasting plagues, and miserable and chronic sicknesses.'*** YHVH has given us the pattern or way that He wants us to serve Him in His word. We read accordingly in Deuteronomy 4: 1 & 2, ***"And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I am teaching you to perform, in order that you may live and go in and take possession of the land which YHVH, the Elohim of your fathers, is giving you. (2) You shall not add***

to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of YHVH your Elohim which I command you.”

We see the end result of these curses being, that Israel will be scattered among the nations. We read about the unbearable situation in verse 65 & 66 of Deuteronomy 28, as follows: ***“And among these nations you shall find no rest, and there shall be no resting place for the sole of your foot; but there YHVH will give you a trembling heart, failing of eyes, and despair of soul. (66) So your life shall hang in doubt before you; and you shall be in dread night and day, and shall have no assurance of your life.”*** There are not many holocaust survivors alive today, but I am sure, if we could ask one of those who are still alive about their experiences, it will sound a lot like the two verses quoted here. However, We read a prophecy about the coming trouble in verse 14 of Ezekiel 21, as follows: ***“You therefore, son of man, prophesy, and clap your hands together; and let the sword be doubled the third time, the sword for the slain. It is the sword for the great one slain, which surrounds them.”*** What is this talking about? It is talking about World War 3, and it is saying that the armaments to be used during this coming war, will be double as much as that used during world war II. People from Judah as well as many of us from the Israelite nations will again be put in concentration camps. but what happened during World War 2 will look like a Sunday school picnic compared to the next world war. Jeremiah puts it like this in Jeremiah 12: 5, ***“If you have run with footmen and they have tired you out, Then how can you compete with horses? If you fall down in a land of peace, How will you do in the thicket of the Jordan?”***

In the closing verses in this Torah portion in Deuteronomy 29: 1 – 8, Moses reminds the Israelites again of the miracles that they lived through in Egypt. He reminds them of the great trials that their eyes have seen and of the fact that he led them for forty years in the wilderness, where their clothes and their sandals did not wear out. In addition Moses reminds them how

they took the land of Sihon the king of Heshbon and Og the king of Bashan, and gave it as an inheritance to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of the Manasseh. Finally we read in the opening verse of the next Torah portion, where we are admonished in verse 9 of Deuteronomy 29, as follows: ***“So keep the words of this covenant to do them, that you may prosper in all that you do.”***

Deuteronomy 29 verse 9 to 30 verse 20 (Nitzavim).

The transliterated name for this week's Torah Portion is Nitzavim meaning 'You stand.' Nitzavim is always read on the Sabbath before Yom Teruah (or Rosh Hashanah), and is considered preparation for it. Elohim's chosen people are standing before Him and the words of the Torah portion is addressed to each and every individual Israelite, as we read in Deuteronomy 29: 10 – 14, in this way: ***“You stand today, all of you, before YHVH your Elohim: your chiefs, your tribes, your elders and your officers, even all the men of Israel, (11) your little ones, your wives, and the alien who is within your camps, from the one who chops your wood to the one who draws your water, (12) that you may enter into the covenant with YHVH your Elohim, and into His oath which YHVH your Elohim is making with you today, (13) in order that He may establish you today as His people and that He may be your Elohim, just as He spoke to you and as He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (14) Now not with you alone I making this covenant and this oath, but both with those who stand here with us today in the presence of YHVH your Elohim and with those who are not with us here today.”***

This Torah portion is aimed at all of Elohim's people who keep His Torah commandments, including our Jewish Brothers as well as us the remnant of Israelites whom YHVH has called out of the world to become kings and priests during the millennium rule of Yahshua, as is confirmed in Acts 2: 39, as follows: ***“For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as YHVH your Elohim shall call to Himself.”*** However, He wants us to keep the words of the covenant that He made with us with understanding, realizing that it is a matter of the heart. We see in verse 4 of Deuteronomy 29 (part of the previous Torah portion), that YHVH gave our forefathers these laws knowing that they cannot keep it, as follows: ***“Yet to this day YHVH has not given you a heart to know, nor eyes to see, nor ears to hear.”*** We are given the reason for the 'problem' with our

forefathers in Hebrews 8: 6 - 10, in this way: ***‘But now He (Yahshua) has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises. (7) For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second (or renewed covenant). (8) ‘For finding fault with them (even though the original covenant was faultless, our forefathers were not), He says, “BEHOLD, DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS YHVH, WHEN I WILL EFFECT A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISREAL AND WITH THE HOUSE OF JUDAH; (9) NOT LIKE THE COVENANT WHICH I MADE WITH THEIR FATHERS ON THE DAY WHEN I TOOK THEM BY THE HAND TO LEAD THEM OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT; FOR THEY DID NOT CONTINUE IN MY COVENANT, AND I DID NOT CARE FOR THEM, SAYS YHVH. (10) FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISREAL AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS YHVH: I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MINDS, AND I WILL WRITE THEM UPON THEIR HEARTS. AND I WILL BE THEIR ELOHIM, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.”*** Whereas the covenant that YHVH made with our fathers in the faith, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob was based on faith, as may be read about Abraham in Genesis 15: 6, in this way: ***‘Then he (Abraham) believed in YHVH; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.’*** We read further when YHVH appeared to Isaac in the land of the Philistines, as is recorded in Genesis 26: 4 & 5, He said: ***“And I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; (5) because Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws.”*** YHVH made an irrevocable covenant with the patriarchs after they obeyed, with blessings of land and fruitfulness that would eventually spread throughout the world. But the covenant that He made with Israel at Moab, before they entered the Promised Land was conditional, as we read in Deuteronomy 30: 17 – 18, ***“But if your heart turns away and you will not obey, but are drawn away and worship other***

gods and serve them, (18) I declare to you today that you shall surely perish. You shall not prolong your days in the land where you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess it.”

Moses was fully aware of the humanity of both our forebears and us, He prophesied in Deuteronomy 30: 1 about both ancient Israel and us their modern day descendants, saying: **“So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind in all nations where YHVH your Elohim has banished you.”** This is confirmed In Jeremiah 17: 9, in this way: **“The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately wicked; who can understand it?”** But, YHVH has promised to correct the problem that we as human beings are experiencing as prophesied by Moses in Deuteronomy 30: 6 & 8, as follows: **“Moreover YHVH your Elohim will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love YHVH your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul, in order that you may live. (8) And you shall again obey YHVH, and observe all His commandments which I command you today.”**

Elohim’s plan of salvation comprised that His (visible) image, also known as the word of Elohim, became flesh and tabernacled with us. We read accordingly in John 1: 11 - 14, **‘He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. (12) But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of Elohim, even to those who believe in His name, (13) who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor the will of man, but of Elohim. (14) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. ’** Despite many trying to deny the name of the Almighty, the Jewish Encyclopedia admits that the original pronunciation of the Tetragrammaton YHVH must have been Yahweh (and not Jehovah). The encyclopedia further states that where YHVH

speaks to Moses in Exodus 3: 14, saying: ***“I AM WHO I AM”*** (transliterated in Hebrew as Ehyeh-Asher-Ehyeh), He was essentially saying to Moses that He is whatever, we want Him to be, as may be understood from the various names given to YHVH in The Scriptures, as follows: YHVH-Yireh meaning YHVH will provide; YHVH-Nissi meaning YHVH our banner; YHVH-Rapha meaning YHVH our healer; YHVH-Sabbaoth meaning YHVH of Hosts; YHVH-Tsidkenu meaning YHVH our Righteousness; YHVH-Rohi meaning YHVH my shepherd; as well as Yahshua meaning the Salvation of YHVH or YHVH saves. YHVH came in the flesh in order to die for the sins of the world, as well as to remarry His bride, whom He divorced, because of her adulterous relationships with the religions of the world (as per Jeremiah 3: 8).

We are told in Colossians 2: 11 – 13, that immersion into Yahshua’s name is the circumcision of Messiah, as follows: ***‘And in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision, made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Messiah; (12) having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of Elohim, who raised Him from the dead. (13) And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions.’*** So we see that the circumcision of the heart spoken about in Deuteronomy 30: 6, meant to eventually become immersed into Yahshua’s name, after we come to believe that He is our Savior. It is after immersion into His name that we are given a portion of the Set-apart Spirit as we read in Acts 2: 38. It is the indwelling of the Se-apart Spirit that gives us the will to obey YHVH, as we read in 1 Corinthians 2: 11, ***‘For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thought of Elohim no one knows except the Spirit of Elohim.’*** But, it is important for us to realize that Yahshua had to die, before the Set-apart Spirit could come, as He told us in John 16: 7 – 13, like this: ***“But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go***

away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. (8) And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; (9) concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; (10) and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me; (11) and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world (Satan) has been judged. (12) I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. (13) But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. (14) He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you.” The Set-apart Spirit or Shechinah of Elohim appeared in the Tabernacle that the children of Israel erected in the wilderness and then again in the Temple that Solomon built. It left the temple of Elohim, as we read Ezekiel 10: 18 and did not appear in the temple again, even at the time of Messiah. However, we see that it returned after Yahshua’s ascension to heaven on the Day of Pentecost, as we are told in Acts 2: 3, as follows: **‘And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.’**

It was only after Yahshua’s resurrection and ascension to heaven that we received the Set-apart Spirit after immersion into His saving name. Those who belong to the religions of the world, might appear righteous or religious to people, but without the indwelling of the Set-apart Spirit we are all evil, as explained by Yahshua in Mark 7: 21 – 23, **“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, (22) deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. (23) All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.”** This is why it is certain, that when we truly keep the commandments of YHWH, we do so because of the Set-apart Spirit that we have been given at immersion. We read in verses 12 – 14 of

Romans 8, ***‘So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh – (13) for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (14) For all who are being led by the Spirit of Elohim, these are sons of Elohim.’***

We continue in verses 11 & 14 of Deuteronomy 30, ***“For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out of your reach. (14) But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may observe it.”*** The commandments that YHVH gave us, is for our good as is confirmed in the concluding two verses (19 & 20 of Deuteronomy 30) of this Torah portion, like this: ***“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, (20) by loving YHVH your Elohim, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which YHVH swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”***

Deuteronomy 31 verses 1 to 30 (Va-Yelech).

This Torah portion is called Va-Yelech, meaning *'and he went'*. We read in verse 1 of Deuteronomy 31, ***“So Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel.”*** This was in fact Moses' last pep talk to the people of Israel, before they entered the Promised Land. Moses said to them, in verse 2, ***“I am a hundred and twenty years old today; I am no longer able to come and go, and YHVH has said to me, ‘You shall not cross this Jordan.’”*** During the first 40 years of his life Moses lived in Egypt, during which time he was trained to be an Egyptian prince. It was when he turned 40 that Moses realized that he was a Hebrew and fled from Egypt, after killing an Egyptian. He came to the land of Midian, where he worked as a shepherd and married Zipporah, the daughter of a Midianite priest named Jethro. After another 40 years, YHVH told Moses to meet up with his brother Aaron, and together YHVH told them to lead the Israelites out of Egypt to the Promised Land beyond the Jordan. Now at the end of another 40 years, he has completed his task, and is ready to hand over leadership to Joshua, as YHVH told him to do, because he was not allowed to enter the Promised Land. Even though Moses was not allowed to cross over the Jordan, which is only a physical shadow of the kingdom of Elohim, he will be allowed to enter the kingdom of Elohim.

Moses tells the Israelites that YHVH will cross the Jordan ahead of them and will destroy the nations living in the land, and shall dispossess them. He also tells them that Joshua will cross ahead of them as YHVH has spoken. He tells the nation to be strong and courageous and not to fear as YHVH is with them and will not forsake them. In saying that YHVH will cross ahead of them, and then that Joshua will cross ahead of them, he gives us a picture of the yet future Yahshua, the visible image of the invisible Elohim. who came to show us the way, even in becoming the first-born of many brethren (us), by being resurrected from the dead. It is as Yahshua said in John 14: 7, ***“If you had known Me, you would have known My father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen***

Him.” Then Moses called Joshua and told him in the sight of all Israel, as we read in verse 7 of Deuteronomy 31, as follows: **“Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land which YHVH has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall give it to them as an inheritance.”** Yahshua our Messiah will come back to resurrect those who died in Him and to change those still alive at His coming, to become Spiritual sons and daughters of Elohim in His everlasting kingdom. He will then enter the Promised Land or the kingdom of Elohim together with those of us, who make it into the kingdom. In verse 8 of Deuteronomy 31, Moses repeats that YHVH is the one who will go ahead of Israel and will be with them. He adds, **“And YHVH is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear, or to be dismayed.”**

We read in verses 9 - 11, **“So Moses wrote this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi who carried the ark of the covenant of YHVH, and to all the elders of Israel. (10) Then Moses commanded them, saying, “At the end of every seven years, at the time of the year of remission of debts, at the Feast of Booths (or Tabernacles), (11) when all Israel comes to appear before YHVH your Elohim at the place which He will choose, you shall read this law in front of all Israel in their hearing.”** We see here a second time the reason for keeping the Feast being, to learn to fear YHVH our Elohim and be careful to observe all the words of this law. This reading of the law, every seven years will let the children hear and learn to fear YHVH the Elohim of Israel. At this point YHVH told Moses that the day on which he is to die is drawing closer, and that he should summon Joshua and then present themselves at the tent of meeting. We read verses 15 - 18 of Deuteronomy 31, **‘And YHVH appeared in the tent in a pillar of cloud, and the pillar of cloud stood at the doorway of the tent. (16) And YHVH said to Moses, “Behold, you are about to lie down with your fathers; and this people will arise and play the harlot with the strange gods of the land, into the midst of which they are going, and will forsake Me**

and break My covenant which I have made with them. (17) Then My anger will be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them and hide My face from them, and they shall be consumed, and many evils and troubles shall come upon them; so that they will say in that day, 'Is it not because our Elohim is nor among us that these evils have come upon us?' (18) But I will surely hide My face in that day because of all the evil which they will do, for they will turn to other gods."

The prophet Micah also prophesied about a time when YHVH will hide his face from His people in Micah 3: 1 – 4, as follows: ***'And I said, "Hear now, heads of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel. Is it not for you to know justice? (2) You who hate good and love evil, who tear off their skin from them and their flesh from their bones, (3) and who eat the flesh of My people, strip off their skin from them, break their bones, and chop them up as for the pot and as meat in a kettle."(4) Then they will cry out to YHVH, but He will not answer them. Instead, He will hide His face from them at that time, because they have practiced evil deeds.'***

However, as we have seen in Deuteronomy 30, if we return to YHVH He will have compassion on us. We read accordingly in Isaiah 30: 18 – 20, ***'Therefore YHVH longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For YHVH is an Elohim of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him. (19) O people in Zion, inhabitant in Jerusalem, you will weep no longer. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you. (20) Although YHVH has given you bread of privation and water of oppression, He your Teacher will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will behold your teacher.'*** In fact Isaiah 54: 8 tells us that He will only hide His face for a brief moment, in comparison with the kindness and mercy that He will have in the future. YHVH tells Moses to write down the song (that we will read about in the next Torah portion), so that the children of Israel may sing it as a witness against themselves. YHVH continues saying in

verses 20 & 21 of Deuteronomy 31, ***“For when I bring them into the land flowing with milk and honey, which I swore to their fathers, and they have eaten and are satisfied and become prosperous, then they will turn to other gods and serve them, and spurn Me and break My covenant. (21) Then it shall come about, when many evils and troubles have come upon them, that this song will testify before them as a witness (for it shall not be forgotten from the lips of their descendants); for I know their intent which they are developing today, before I have brought them into the land which I swore.”*** It is therefore our duty as the modern day descendants of ancient Israel, to write this song for ourselves and teach it to our children.

Moses wrote the song and taught it to Israel, after which he commissioned Joshua and told him to be strong and courageous, as he shall bring the sons of Israel into the Promised Land. We see in verses 24 and 25 of Deuteronomy 31, that Moses finished writing the law into a book and he commanded the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant, to take the book of the law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of YHVH their (our) Elohim, that it may remain there as a witness against them. Notice that the book of the law is not placed inside the ark of the covenant, but beside it. The people of Israel are a witness of the Oneness of Elohim, as we are told in Isaiah 43: 10 and 12, but the book of the law is a witness against them (the witness). In the last few verses of Deuteronomy 31, Moses calls the people together to speak to them again: He tears them down, in order to make them realize that they (like us) are evil without YHVH. We conclude by reading verse 30 of Deuteronomy 31, as follows: ***‘Then Moses spoke in the hearing of all the assembly of Israel the words of this song, until they (meaning the words of the song) were complete.’***

Deuteronomy 32 verses 1 to 52 (Ha'Azinu).

The word Torah means teaching and not Law as many in other religions believe. The Torah of Elohim is therefore simply the teachings of Elohim. The teachings of Elohim and all the words contained in it (i.e. The Scriptures) are words of instructions for all those who believe in and praise YHVH our Elohim. This Torah portion starts with the words Ha'Azinu, meaning 'Give ear'. We need to give ear to the words of Elohim, given to us through inspired authors like Moses. When Moses says at the beginning of his song in Deuteronomy 32: 1 ***"Give ear, O heavens, and let me speak; And let the earth hear the words of my mouth"***, He appeals to both the earthly and heavenly realms, the 'natural' and the 'spiritual', because even though YHVH is spirit, we need to worship Him in both spirit and truth as we are told in John 4: 24, as follows: ***"Elohim is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth."***

We do not understand the spiritual things until they are revealed to us on the physical plain. We read in 1 Timothy 1: 17, ***'Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only Elohim, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amein.'*** YHVH our Elohim is a Spirit Being and therefore not visible to the human eye. This is why Yahshua, who is the word of Elohim, became flesh in order to reveal the Father to Us. We read accordingly in Colossians 1: 15, that: ***'(And) He is the image of the invisible Elohim, the first-born of all creation.*** Yahshua became a physical 'man' to become our kinsman redeemer – to cancel out the certificate of debt that we earned, by transgressing Torah. However, there is no such thing as a spiritual Israel. Israel is a physical people, but those who are not descendant from Israel, may become part of Israel through faith in Yahshua our Messiah (as we read in Galatians 3: 26 – 29⁸, 6: 16⁹ and Romans 9: 6 & 7¹⁰).

⁸ Galatians 3: 26 – 29, *'For you are all sons of Elohim through faith in Messiah Yahshua. For all of you who were immersed into Messiah have clothed yourselves with Messiah. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man,*

We continue in verses 2 & 3 of Deuteronomy 32, as follows: ***“Let my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, as the droplets on the fresh grass and as the showers on the herb. (3) For I proclaim the name of YHVH; Ascribe greatness to our Elohim!”*** A full explanation of verse 2 is given in Isaiah 55: 10 & 11 like this: ***“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth, and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; (11) So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.”*** This Torah portion is read the Sabbath before the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). The name of YHVH (mentioned in verse 3 above) is out of reverence only mentioned by our Jewish brothers on Yom Kippur, and only by the High Priest, when he enters the holy of holies. When YHVH told Moses His name at the burning bush, His name was proof to the Israelites that Moses was their deliverer. We know that Yahshua is our deliverer as he said in John 17: 26, ***“and I have made Thy name known to them, and will make it known; that the love wherewith Thou didst love Me may be in them, and I in them.”***

There are a number of verses in the song of Moses (in Deuteronomy 32), referring to YHVH as being the Rock, giving us a picture of His rock-solid unmovable nature: Commencing in verse 4, we read: ***“The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; An Elohim of faithfulness and without***

there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Messiah Yahshua. And if you belong to Messiah, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.”

⁹ Galatians 6: 16, *‘And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of Elohim.’* (The rule spoken about in Romans 9: 6 & 7.)

¹⁰ Romans 9: 6 & 7, *‘But it is not as though the word of Elohim has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel; neither are they all children because they are Abraham’s descendants, but: “THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED.”* (And we know that Isaac is a child of promise.)

injustice, righteous and upright is He.” Next we read in verse 15, ***“But Jeshurun (a pet name for Israel) grew fat and kicked – You are grown fat, thick, and sleek – Then he forsook Elohim who made him, and scorned the Rock of his salvation.”*** Then we read in verse 18, ***“You neglected the Rock who begot you, and forgot the Elohim who gave you birth.”*** From this song we learn that even though YHVH took care of Israel in the wilderness and provided them with food and water, they forgot Him. Continuing in verses 20 & 21 of Deuteronomy 32, we read: ***“Then He said, ‘I will hide My face from them, I will see what their end shall be; For they are a perverse generation, sons in whom is no faithfulness. (21) They have made Me jealous with what is not Elohim; They have provoked Me to anger with their idols. So I will make them jealous with those who are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.’”*** Wow, brethren, do you know that this is in fact happening today! Rav Shaul puts it like this in Romans 10: 19 – 21 ***‘But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? At the first Moses says, “I WILL MAKE YOU JEALOUS BY THAT WHICH IS NOT A NATION, BY A NATION WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING WILL I ANGER YOU.” (20) And Isaiah is very bold and says, “I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO SOUGHT ME NOT, I BECAME MANIFEST TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME.”(21) But as for Israel He says, “ALL THE DAY LONG I HAVE STRETCHED OUT MY HANDS TO THE DISOBEDIENT AND OBSTINATE PEOPLE.”*** Continuing in verse 11 of Romans 11, we read: ***‘I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles (those Israelites from the lost ten tribes who think they are gentiles, as well as some genuine gentiles), to make them jealous.’***

If you think that our Jewish brothers are not aware of those of us who keep the same Set-apart Days that they do; and eat kosher foods like they do, you are mistaken. We were in a supermarket here in Port Elizabeth, which also caters for Jewish customers. Even though my wife and I have kept

kosher for most of our married lives, and even prior to that my family never ate pork products, we as per our custom, only bought meat and products marked as being kosher. My wife walked to the lady operating the cash register, whilst I turned back to buy some kosher chicken. Because my wife does not look Jewish (which cannot be said about my two sons and I?), a Jewish gentleman met up with her at the pay point and upon seeing the goods in her basket exclaimed: *‘What’s this - Kosher meat, kosher this and kosher that?’* My wife did not respond, but he was definitely jealous of this gentile woman buying what he should.

Returning to verse 8 of Deuteronomy 32, we read: ***“When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, When He separated the sons of man, He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel.”*** In Genesis 10, the seventy nations descended from Noah’s three sons are listed. YHVH created seventy nations to provide Israel with exile, and punishment so that they will eventually come to understand what it means to be Israel. Instead Israel was supposed to be a light to the nations, but failed dismally. The nation eventually split in two and both Israel and Judah were taken captive. Whereas Judah returned to the Promised Land 70 years after their captivity, the nation of Israel never returned. They were dispersed amongst mainly the western nations of the world and lost their identity, as well as their faith. YHVH preserved Judah, but blinded them to the kinsman redeemer, which he sent from them (Judah), to bring the Israelites back to Him. This is pictured for us in Romans 11, as the Northern Kingdom, who was later called *‘not My people’*, and is identified as Gentiles for a period of time, to later be called *‘the sons of the living Elohim’* again. We read in verse 36 of Deuteronomy 32 that ultimately YHVH will vindicate His people and will have compassion on His servants, when He sees that their strength is gone. Continuing in verses 37 - 43 of Deuteronomy 32, we read: ***“And He will say, ‘Where are their gods, The rock in which they sought refuge? (38) Who ate the fat of their sacrifices, and drank the wine of their libation? Let them rise up and help you, Let them be***

your hiding place! (Whatever we invested our time and money in, is what we will trust or expect to save us in difficult times!) (39) ***See now that I, I am He, And there is no god besides Me; It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded, and it is I who heal; And there is no one who can deliver from My hand.*** (We have no option, YHVH is the only One to call upon, if we want to make it into His eternal kingdom.) (40) ***Indeed, I lift up My hand to heaven, And say, as I live forever.*** (41) ***If I sharpen My flashing sword, And My hand takes hold on justice, I will render vengeance on My adversaries, And I will repay those who hate Me.*** (42) ***I will make My arrows drunk with blood, And My sword shall devour flesh, With the blood of the slain and the captives, From the long-haired leaders (or heads) of the enemy.*** (If Israel's enemies are referred to as those having long hair, then this is another witness to the fact that Yahshua our Messiah did not have long hair, as depicted in some copies of The Bible) (43) ***Rejoice, O nations (Gentiles), with His people*** (the lost ten tribes who are so intermixed with the gentiles among whom they were scattered, that they lost their identity); ***For He will avenge the blood of His servants, And will render vengeance on His adversaries, And will atone for His land and His people.***” We come to the end of Moses’ song where he admonished the sons of Israel to observe the Torah of Elohim, in verse 46 & 47, as follows: ***“Take to your heart all the words with which I am warning you today, which you shall command your sons to observe carefully, even all the words of this law.*** (47) ***For it is not an idle word for you; indeed it is your life. And by this word you shall prolong your days in the land, which you are about to cross the Jordan to possess.”***

Then YHVH told Moses to go up to the mountain of the Abarim, Mount Nebo opposite Jericho and look at the land of Canaan, which He is giving to the children of Israel. He also tells Moses to die on the mountain. (This does not mean that Moses had to commit suicide, he simply lay down and died.) We see (in Deuteronomy 34: 9) that when Moses died in the land of Moab, according to the word of YHVH, He buried Him,

but no man knows his burial place. We read about it in Jude verse 9, as follows: ***‘But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, “YHVH rebuke you.”’***

We conclude by reading verse 51 & 52 of Deuteronomy 32, where YHVH tells Moses, ***“because you broke faith with Me in the midst of the sons of Israel at the waters at Meribah-kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin, because you did not treat Me as holy in the midst of the sons of Israel, (52) For you shall see the land at a distance, but you shall not go there, into the land which I am giving the sons of Israel.”*** We know that instead of talking to the rock in the wilderness, Moses struck it twice before the water gushed out. Moses made it look as if he made the rock give the Israelites water, and did not give Elohim the honor for it. Rav Shaul tells us in 1 Corinthians 10: 4, that the rock represented Messiah, so by implication, this was as if Moses struck or crucified Messiah a second time. We need to be careful not to crucify Yahshua again as we read in Hebrew 6: 4 - 6, like this: ***‘For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Set-apart Spirit, (5) and have tasted the good word of Elohim and the powers of the age to come, (6) and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of Elohim, and put Him to open shame.’*** This is certainly the one way, that we will lose out on the kingdom of Elohim.

Deuteronomy 33 verse 1 to 34 verse 12 (V'zot HaB'rachah).

The name of our final Torah portion is V'zot HaB'rachah, meaning *'this is the blessing'*. We read accordingly in verse 1 of Deuteronomy 33, ***'Now this is the blessing with which Moses the man of Elohim blessed the sons of Israel before his death.'*** Notice that Moses is called a man of Elohim here – a title reserved for prophets only, in The Scriptures. Moses had a very close relationship with YHVH and He spoke to him face to face. YHVH told Moses in Exodus 19: 9, ***"Behold, I shall come to you in a thick cloud, in order that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe in you forever."*** We see that even the Messiah was compared to Moses in Deuteronomy 18: 18 & 19, when YHVH told Moses, that He will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like him (meaning Yahshua), that YHVH will put His words in his mouth, and the he shall speak to them all that YHVH commands him.

Moses starts the blessings by giving honor to YHVH, as we read in verse 2 of Deuteronomy 33, ***"YHVH came from Sinai, and dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came from the midst of ten thousand holy ones; at His right hand there was flashing lighting for them."*** The words at *'His right hand'* is a title for Messiah, used throughout The Scriptures. We need to realize that these blessings given by Moses, were not empty words, since what he said here, all will or already came to fruition. Moses continues to praise YHVH in verse 3 through 5, as follows: ***"Indeed, He loves the people; All Thy holy ones are in Thy hand, and they followed in Thy steps; everyone receives of Thy words. (4) Moses charged us with a law, a possession for the assembly of Jacob. (5) And He (YHVH) was king in Jeshurun (Israel), when the heads of the people were gathered, the tribes of Israel together."*** YHVH through Moses had to bring the tribes into submission, before they were united as the nation of Israel.

We read Moses' first blessing in verse 6, like this: ***“May Reuben live and not die, nor his men be few.”*** Moses starts by blessing the tribe of Reuben first, since they were Jacob's first born son, but lost this status, because Reuben took his father's concubine and should according to the Torah that Moses wrote, be put to death. The only blessing that Moses could give this Tribe, was that they may live and multiply. However, this blessing also entails living in the world to come and it does not negate the blessings that Jacob gave to Reuben and his other sons in Genesis 49. Moses continues to bless Judah in verse 7, saying: ***“Hear, O YHVH, the voice of Judah, and bring him to his people. With his hands he contended for them; and mayest Thou be a help against his adversaries.”*** Moses asks that YHVH hears the prayers of Judah – the Jews pray daily for the outcasts of Israel to be brought back (gathered) to the land of Israel, even though not all Jews recognize the fact that we are also Israelites. Judah are the ones who always tried to keep the tribes together. Judah has many adversaries, but YHVH has always helped them to survive as a group, easily distinguished by their Torah way of life.

(8), ‘And of Levi he said, “Let Thy Thummin and Thy Urim belong to Thy godly man, whom Thou didst prove at Massah, with whom Thou didst content at the waters of Meribah; (9) Who said of his father and his mother, ‘I did not consider them’; and he did not acknowledge his brothers, nor did he regard his own sons, for they observed Thy word, and kept Thy covenant. (10) They shall teach Thine ordinances to Jacob, and the law to Israel. They shall put incense before Thee, and whole burnt offerings on Thine altar. (11) O YHVH, bless his substance, and accept the work of his hands; shatter the loins of those who rise up against him, and those who hate him, so that they may not rise again.” Even though this sound like Levi did not honor their parents, this was said about them, since as priests they could not even bury their closest family members. We see that Yahshua our High Priest, similarly did not show regard for His family, as we read in

Matthew 12: 46 – 50, as follows: ***‘While He was still speaking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him. (47) And someone said to Him, “Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You.”(48) But He answered the one who was telling Him and said, “Who is My mother and who are MY brothers?” (49) And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, “Behold, My mother and My brothers! (50) For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother.’***” Those Levites who know their identity, are presently to be found amongst the tribe of Judah. There are also Levites amongst the lost ten tribes, but they like the other tribes have lost their identity and do not know that they are Levites. The Levites who are presently amongst the Jews are responsible to establish the timing of the Set-apart Days annually, as may be seen in Malachi 2: 1 – 8. The Levites amongst the other tribes are usually the ones who teach Elohim’s people Torah.

In Deuteronomy 33: 12, we read: ***‘Of Benjamin he said, “May the beloved of YHVH dwell in security by Him, Who shields him all the day, and he dwells between His shoulders.”***” According to Yair Davidy, most of the descendants of Benjamin are to be found amongst the Jewish people. Benjamin is also a major contributor to Belgium as well as the Normans who conquered England and part of France. As part of Judah, they dwell amongst Elohim’s lawgivers, and as a result those of them who dwell amongst the Jews, have had the blessings from obeying Torah. In addition, YHVH protects the tribe of Judah and those who dwell with them.

(13) ‘And of Joseph he said, “Blessed of YHVH be his land, with the choice things of heaven, with the dew, and from the deep lying beneath, (14) and with the choice yield of the sun, and with the choice produce of the months. (15) And with the best things of ancient mountains, and with the choice things of the everlasting hills, (16) And with the choice things of the earth and its fullness, and the

favor of Him who dwelt in the bush, let it come to the head of Joseph, and to the crown of the head of the one distinguished among his brothers. (17) As the first-born of his ox, majesty is his, and his horns are the horns of the wild ox; with them he shall push the peoples, all at once, to the ends of the earth. And those are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and those are the thousands of Manasseh.” We have seen previously when Jacob blessed his sons in Genesis 48 and 49, that Britain was identified as being Ephraim and the USA as being Manasseh. We know that the crown and majesty referred to in the quoted verses are definitely the United Kingdom, with Queen Elizabeth II presently occupying the throne. The British Empire included ten thousands of people in its hay day, compared to the thousands of the United States of America. Because of colonization, the sun never set on the British Empire. Countries like Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Hong Kong and Northern and Southern Rhodesia (now known as Zambia and Zimbabwe) were once part of the commonwealth, ruled by the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom as well as the USA definitely received a double portion: together they possessed the gates of their enemies; both were for many years considered the policeman of the world; both owned most of the mineral resources of the world, and were blessed with the best of agricultural products, sheep, cattle, corn and wine. However, because of the multiple sins in these two world empires, they will bear the brunt of the soon coming time of trouble, known as the Great Tribulation. It will be as we read in Matthew 24: 21 & 22, as follows: ***“for then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall. (22) And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short.”***

(18) ‘And of Zebulun he said, “Rejoice, Zebulun in your going forth, and Issachar, in your tents. (19) They shall call peoples to the mountain; There they shall offer righteous sacrifices; for they shall draw out the

abundance of the seas, and the hidden treasures of the sand.” We identified Zebulun as being the Dutch, from Jacob’s blessing in Genesis 49: 13, since they are the only people who dwell on the shores of the sea. South Africa was colonized mainly by people of British and Dutch descent, so the white people as well as those who intermixed with them are definitely Israelites. South Africa used to produce most of the world’s diamonds (and gold), which are processed and traded in Belgium, where about half the population are also of Dutch descent. Interestingly enough the stone of Zebulun on the breastplate of the High Priest, was a diamond. Getting back to the quoted Scriptures, it is of interest to note that groups of Zebulun are often found in association with groups from Issachar. The people in places like Lorraine in France come from both Issachar and Zebulun, and their region form a bridge from Switzerland to Belgium and Holland. The people of South Africa draw diamonds out of the sea, as well as gold and diamonds from the sand.

I would like to mention yet another interesting sidelight here: Some of you might recall how a few years ago a group of believers in Worcester in the Western Cape, here in South Africa prophesied using verses 18 and 19 of Deuteronomy 33 as a starting point. They believed that South African Messianic/Nazarene believers (consisting of descendants from Zebulun and Issachar) will call people together at a mountain range near a place called Pelle in the Northern Cape. These people would establish a settlement in or near Pelle and will dwell in tents (temporary dwellings) keeping the Feast of Tabernacles prior to the great tribulation, and the return of Messiah. They will also be protected there from what will be happening in the rest of the nations of Israel. They prophesied that the USA will be destroyed by 2007 and the world would have been in utter chaos by now. In a way they were a few years out with their predictions, in that the entire world is today in the throws of a major economic crises. We are all in trouble, because the UK and the USA do not have money to buy our products any longer. Yes this is the beginning of what is coming, but this prophesying group were wrong about Pelle,

because they do not fully understand what the symbols in The Scriptures represent.

As I mentioned before, stars in The Scriptures represent angels. Mountains and hills in the Scriptures are indicative of Governments, as may be understood from Isaiah 2: 2 & 3, in this way: ***'Now it will come about that in the last days, the mountain of the house of YHVH will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. (3) And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of YHVH, to the house of the Elohim of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways, and that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion, and the word of YHVH from Jerusalem.'*** These folk from Worcester were correct in that there are Nazarene Israelite groups in South Africa, teaching other people in the world about the coming kingdom of Elohim (the chief of the mountains) and will offer righteous sacrifices, but they were wrong, in that it has nothing to do with physical mountains in South Africa. We read further about these sacrifices or offerings in Zephaniah 3: 10, as follows: ***'From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers, My dispersed ones, will bring My offerings.'***

Deuteronomy 33: 20, ***'And of Gad he said, "Blessed is the one who enlarges Gad; He lies down as a lion, and tears the arm, also the crown of the head. (21) Then he provided the first part for himself, for there the ruler's portion was reserved; and he came with the leaders of the people; he executed the justice of YHVH, and His ordinances with Israel."*** The Swedes are derived mainly from the tribe of Gad as evidenced by Tribal names amongst the Goths and Gothic allies and other groups, such as the Heruli who settled in Sweden. One of the symbols of Gad was a lion and lions appear on the Swedish Coat of Arms. Father Jacob prophesied of Gad, in Genesis 49: 19, saying: ***"as for Gad, raiders shall raid him, but he shall raid at their heels."*** This prophecy was perhaps fulfilled, when the Huns overcame the Goths and forced them to participate in the western invasions.

On Attila's death a revolt by the Goths and their kin destroyed the Hun domination.

(22) ***'And of Dan he said, "Dan is a lion's whelp, that leaps forth from Bashan."*** The tribe of Dan occupied two different areas in Israel prior to the Assyrian captivity. One part of the tribe lived on the coast of Palestine. They were seafarers, as may be seen in Judges 5: 17. When the Assyrians took the rest of the nation of Israel captive, these people sailed via the Mediterranean sea to Ireland. Irish history show that these settlers in Ireland were known as the "Tuatha de Danaans", which means the Tribe of Dan. The northern part of the tribe of Dan was taken captive with the rest of the nation of Israel. After leaving Assyria, they moved west and set up landmarks in Denmark and on arrival to the British Isles; they set up landmarks, in Wales and Scotland and later joined their brothers in Ireland.

(23) ***'And of Naphtali he said, "O Naphtali, satisfied with favor, and full of the blessing of YHVH, take possession of the sea and the south."*** Norway was settled by groups who mainly descended from Naphtali. The Israelite tribe of Naphtali became the Nephtali-Huns. The symbol of Naphtali was a stag or deer, which was also a symbol of Scandinavian royalty. The Norwegian coat of arms depicts a lion bearing an ax. Even though Naphtali was primarily to be found in Norway and Zebulun in Holland, Naphtali also had historical connections to the area of Holland and groups relating to Naphtali were found amongst the Dutch, many of whom settled in South Africa. In addition, Vikings from Norway had settled in northwest England. Vikings also settled in parts of Wales and Ireland, and Dan gave rise to the Viking movement. It may well be that amongst the English and Dutch settlers of South Africa were many descendants from Naphtali, as is confirmed in the last part of their blessing.

(24) ***'And of Asher he said, "More blessed than sons is Asher; may he be favored by his brothers, and may he dip his foot in oil. (25) Your locks shall be iron and bronze,***

and according to your days, so shall your leisurely walk be. ”” The tribe of Asher was mainly found in Northern England and Scotland. The Scots are the only tribe loved (or favored) by all of its sister nations. The part of the blessing about *‘he dip his foot in oil’* refers to the oil found in the North Sea between Scotland and Norway. In addition, most of the Scots have either black or red hair.

In verses 26 – 29, Moses continues to bless the nation of Israel as a whole and mentions that they are blessed because YHVH is their Elohim. We read in summary in verse 29, as follows: ***“Blessed are you, O Israel; Who is like you, a people saved by YHVH, who is the shield of your help, And the sword of your majesty! So your enemies shall cringe before you, and you shall tread upon their high places.”***

We continue in the final chapter of Deuteronomy, which also completes our annual Torah cycle. We read in verses 1 - 3 of Deuteronomy 34, ***‘Now Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And YHVH showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan, (2) and all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, (3) and the Negev and the plain in the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar.’*** In the next two versus YHVH tells Moses that the land that He showed him, is the land which He swore to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give to their descendants; but that he will not be allowed to go over to it. Next we see that Moses died and was buried by YHVH in the land of Moab, but no man knows where he was buried. We also read that although Moses was 120 years old, his eyes were not dim, nor did his energy decline. We also read that the sons of Israel wept for Moses and mourned for thirty days in the plains of Moab.

Next we read in verse 9 of Deuteronomy 34, that Joshua the son of nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid hands on him and the sons of Israel listened to Him,

as they used to listen to Moses. We know that king Solomon asked YHVH for wisdom when He became king in David's place, but we also read a prophesy about Yahshua, the name sake of Joshua in Isaiah 11: 1 & 2, as follows: ***'Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from its roots will bear fruit. (2) And the spirit of YHVH will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of YHVH.'*** We conclude with the final few verses of Deuteronomy 33, where we read that: (10) ***'Since then no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom YHVH knew face to face,*** (11) ***for all the signs and wonders which YHVH sent him to perform in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh, all his servants, and all his land,*** (12) ***and for all the mighty power and for all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.'*** We know for a fact that only Yahshua matched and far exceed the miracles that Moses performed. We know that Moses saw the form or manifestation of YHVH. In other words he saw and spoke to the visible image of YHVH, who later became the 'man' Yahshua. We read accordingly in John 1: 18, ***'No man has seen Elohim at any time; the only begotten Elohim¹¹, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.'***

I leave you with a final question to ponder: If Moses died in verse 5 of Deuteronomy 34, who wrote the final eight verses of the book? We end the last book of Deuteronomy with the blessing: **Chazak Chazak V'Nit Chazak! (Be strong, be strong, and may we be strengthened).**

Note: Information about the twelve tribes of Israel discussed in this Torah portion is obtained from Yair Davidy's book entitled: "The Tribes." Copies of this and other books on the same subject may be ordered from Yair Davidy at: Brit-Am Israel, P.O. Box 595, Jerusalem. 91004.

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¹¹ *The New American Standard Bible, which I use most of the time, has a footnote stating: Some later manuscripts read Son.*