

Treasures of the Torah

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

Matthew 13:45

‘It’s your choice’



12th August 2023

25 Av 5783

Re'eh - See!

Deuteronomy 11:26 –16:17 Isaiah 54:11–55:5 I John 4:1–6

Shabbat Shalom Talmadim,

This week’s Parsha begins:

11:26 “See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse — 27 the blessing, if you listen to the *mitzvot* of *Adonai* your God that I am giving you today; 28 and the curse, if you don’t listen to the *mitzvot* of *Adonai* your God, but turn aside from the way I am ordering you today and follow other gods that you have not known.

29 “When *Adonai* your God brings you into the land you are entering in order to take possession of it, you are to put the blessing on Mount G’rizzim and the curse on Mount ‘Eival. 30 Both are west of the Yarden, in the direction of the sunset, in the land of the Kena’ani living in the ‘Aravah, across from Gilgal, near the pistachio trees of Moreh. 31 For you are to cross the Yarden to enter and take possession of the land *Adonai* your God is giving you; you are to own it and live in it. 32 And you are to take care to follow all the laws and rulings I am setting before you today. CJB

The well known passage in Deuteronomy 28 begins: 28;1 “If you listen closely to what *Adonai* your God says, observing and obeying all his *mitzvot* which I am giving you today, *Adonai* your God will raise you high above all the nations on earth; 2 and all the following blessings will be yours in abundance — if you will do what *Adonai* your God says.

V:15 “But if you refuse to pay attention to what Adonai your God says, and do not observe and obey all his mitzvot and regulations which I am giving you today, then all the following curses will be yours in abundance:

See, how closely these passages reflect one another?

There is a clear distinction between seeing and looking. There are also other ways of seeing — perception and with understanding.

The parsha uses the word ‘Re’eh,’ for ‘see’. This means to generally ‘see’ but in the passage it draws our attention to the spoken word, ‘listen’. (Strong’s 8085 ‘Shama’) which means to hear, understand, discern and comprehend, witness, to name just a few.

The word for blessing is ‘berakah’, which also means ‘a present or a gift’. The word for curse is H7045 ‘qelalah’; it simply means ‘cursed’.

Who does not want the blessings of the Lord?

Many believers simply do not understand that YHVH does not play favourites. We have all sinned and we all continue to sin. This brings consequences to us if our actions and blatant disregard of His laws go amiss.

Someone might argue that the laws of God are all fine for those who wish to follow them and attribute them to their God. They may not wish to be restrained by His form of justice and rule, but they fail to realise that our world is blessed by the hand of its creator and that even unbelievers and the unrighteous experience the benefits that YHVH pours out daily for His children.

Moses is drawing all our attention to a reality. To exist in YHVH’s land, demands that we observe the law and rule within it. Our stay under the shelter of the Most High will be short lived if we choose to disregard the law that is synonymous with the land itself.

Friends, we have to realise that living in the land of promise brings huge rewards but also calamitous events when the people decide to do things which are right in their own eyes.

It is not hard to see that we, the land, and the temple are metaphors for the unity found in the whole house of YHVH, and all show us the relationship of YHVH’s divine marriage with His bride.

He will not accept anything that disrupts His goal the balance it will bring to all creation. We must also never forget that it is only through His great love and amazing grace and forgiveness, that we can set foot into the divine space where once we were made.

We read on two see that the people eventually began to ignore the words of this opening chapter, reneging upon their promise to keep the precepts of the covenant.

V8 Observe therefore all the commands I am giving you today, so that you may have the strength to go in and take over the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, 9 and so that you may live long in the land the Lord swore to your ancestors to give to them and their descendants, a land flowing with milk and honey.

Agreement to the covenant terms would give the people the victory over the inhabitants of the land, and extend to the prosperity of the Hebrew nation.

The opening passage also reminds us of the first commandment: Exodus 20. And God spoke all these words: 2 “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 3 “You shall have no other gods before me. 4 “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form

of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

In this next passage v26, the Lord is setting in place an immovable stone.

V 26 See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse— 27 the blessing if you obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you today; 28 the curse if you disobey the commands of the Lord your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known. 29 When the Lord your God has brought you into the land you are entering to possess, you are to proclaim on Mount Gerizim the blessings, and on Mount Ebal the curses.

Gerazim means 'good' and Ebal means 'evil'. As a point of interest, UNESCO identifies the two mountains as world heritage sites with Mount Gerazim being the most holy site, even above the temple mount, for the Samaritan people, who are believed to be the most ancient living ethnic community on the world.

Gerazim is revered as the site (Moreh) at which Abraham was about to offer up his son Isaac and where Joshua built an altar to the Lord. Both mountains are in Nablus in the West Bank. Between the mounts is the valley of Shechem which became a levitical place of refuge, where Joseph's bones were buried and where Abram received the promise of the land, and where he and Jacob built altars to the Lord. According to tradition, Gerazim was a fertile area and Ebal was a rocky and barren terrain.

In Deuteronomy 27 a declaration making the Hebrews the people of God, is made and the house of Jacob is split to proclaim the blessings and the curses.

9 Then Moses and the Levitical priests said to all Israel, "Be silent, Israel, and listen! You have now become the people of the Lord your God. 10 Obey the Lord your God and follow his commands and decrees that I give you today."

11 On the same day Moses commanded the people:

12 When you have crossed the Jordan, these tribes shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph and Benjamin.

13 And these tribes shall stand on Mount Ebal to pronounce curses: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan and Naphtali.

14 The Levites shall recite to all the people of Israel in a loud voice:

15 "Cursed is anyone who makes an idol—a thing detestable to the Lord, the work of skilled hands—and sets it up in secret."

Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"

16 "Cursed is anyone who dishonours their father or mother."

Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"

17 "Cursed is anyone who moves their neighbour's boundary stone."

Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"

18 "Cursed is anyone who leads the blind astray on the road."

Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"

19 "Cursed is anyone who withholds justice from the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow."

Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"

20 "Cursed is anyone who sleeps with his father's wife, for he dishonours his father's bed."

Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"

21 "Cursed is anyone who has sexual relations with any animal."

Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"

22 "Cursed is anyone who sleeps with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother."

Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"

23 "Cursed is anyone who sleeps with his mother-in-law."

Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"

24 "Cursed is anyone who kills their neighbour secretly."

Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"

25 "Cursed is anyone who accepts a bribe to kill an innocent person."

Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"

26 "Cursed is anyone who does not uphold the words of this law by carrying them out."

Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"

Joshua 8:30, tells us that after the battle of Ai, Joshua built an altar at Gerazim, proclaimed the blessings and the curses and split the tribes sending six to one mount and six to the other. The reason for their split seems a perplexing one as no reason is given.

There is a great study to be done on the blessings and cursing which I encourage you to spend time in.

As we move on we read in Deut 12 how the Lord will direct the people to a place where He will place His name, specifically among the tribes of Israel. This tribe will be Judah who will inhabit the holy city of Jerusalem. It will be here where the Lord will accept the offerings and tithes of the people and where the tribes will pilgrimage to for the feasts.

However, before the people proceed any further, they must understand that a great deal of work needs to be done; all pagan sites, altars, sacred poles and standing stones must be destroyed. The land must become cleansed before the people can partake of their meals before the Lord.

Friends, if we are to understand the events of times, the profanities and unholy things that are taking place in the dedicated sanctuaries of the Lord, we must be able to *see* and comprehend just as the opening lines of this parsha admonish us to do. The events and practices of the people of God seem to be no different from those of our forefathers. Understanding this, will show us the levels of repentance we must attain. Our hearts must cry out because of the wickedness that overwhelms the church. Levels of ignorance and presumptuousness taught from behind the pulpit and the study rooms of professing disciples is beyond belief.

We are called to test all things and to perceive the times.

1 Thessalonians 5:1 Now about the times and seasons, brothers, we do not need to write to you. 2 For you are fully aware that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. **3 While people are saying, "Peace and security," destruction will come upon them suddenly, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.** 4 But you, brothers, are not in the darkness so that this day should overtake you like a thief. 5 For you are all sons of the light and sons of the day; we do not belong to the night or to the darkness. 6 So then, let us not sleep as the others do, but let us remain awake and sober.

Friends, the times are coming and are here now, when a great falling away will happen. The wolves have entered among the sheep, the tares are growing amongst the wheat, but the eyes of the people are dim. They have become accustomed to the infiltration; they find it hard to discern the differences and are unaware that faith is going to be challenged. But why is all this about to happen?

Much tribulation is going to come upon the brethren, Messiah Yeshua's precious word has told us so.

Act 14:21 They preached the good news to that city and made many disciples, then they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, 22 strengthening and establishing the hearts of the disciples; encouraging them to remain firm in the faith, saying, "It is through many tribulations and hardships that we must enter the kingdom of God." AMP

It is going to be very difficult to see brothers and sisters divided because of the doctrines from the synagogue of Satan. Many are going to fail and refuse to give up their religious bonds and aberrant

beliefs. We have to pray for everyone in the body, even the false teachers. People must see their errors if they are to be saved.

We have to realise that our salvation is a process. We cannot rest upon what we believe. We must rest upon knowledge, and take every thought captive that comes against the knowledge of God.

Friends, every high tower of pride and arrogance, everything that opposes the truth, anything that tries to strike the Rock and undermine the foundation of our shared faith, must come against the prayers of the saints and the fire of God. So remain prepared beloved.

All of this is happening because, YHVH is allowing it.

2 Thessalonians 2 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, 2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. 3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. 4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

Why is it happening? Because the word of God had been added to and is slowly being eroded, changed to accommodate human understanding, tolerance and our sinful degrading ways.

The Father's name is being slowly removed and His divinity re-defined to take on the fallen human shape. It is no longer accepted as normal to act in a Christian way, or to accept the morals of the sacred scriptures. Friends, when YHVH's name is removed, YHVH will remove Himself, and every second will seem like a lifetime without Him. Every tribe and tongue who deny Him will become accursed and that is why we must remain vigilant in protecting His house and diligent is seeking the path through the tribulations to come.

David wrote: Psalm 18

30 As for God, his way is perfect:

The Lord's word is flawless;
he shields all who take refuge in him.

31 For who is God besides the Lord?

And who is the Rock except our God?

32 It is God who arms me with strength
and keeps my way secure.

33 He makes my feet like the feet of a deer;
he causes me to stand on the heights.

34 He trains my hands for battle;
my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

35 You make your saving help my shield,
and your right hand sustains me;
your help has made me great.

36 You provide a broad path for my feet,
so that my ankles do not give way.

Before Samuel became High priest the temple had become defiled; Eli the High priest at the time, had failed to bring correction to his sons who were also priests. Eli's family was cursed by never seeing old age. YHVH replaced him with a true priest in Samuel. In Jeremiah's time the false teachers prophesied that the Babylonian exile would not be long and so they should not settle in their towns and build houses. Their prophesying went against YHVH's words. Their lies did not encourage the people to prepare.

Jeremiah 29: 5 "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so

that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. 7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

Before Jeremiah , Isaiah 28:15

15 For you said, “We have made a covenant with death; we have fashioned an agreement with Sheol. When the overwhelming scourge passes through it will not touch us, because we have made lies our refuge and falsehood our hiding place.” 16 So this is what the Lord GOD says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; the one who believes will never be shaken. 17 I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the level. Hail will sweep away your refuge of lies, and water will flood your hiding place....

See these words in Deuteronomy 13:

13 “If a prophet arises among you, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder which he spoke (foretold) to you comes to pass, and if he says, ‘Let us follow after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve and worship them,’ 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and mind and all your soul [your entire being]. 4 You shall walk after the Lord your God and you shall fear [and worship] Him [with awe-filled reverence and profound respect], and you shall keep His commandments and you shall listen to His voice, and you shall serve Him, and cling to Him. 5 But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has counselled rebellion against the Lord your God who brought you from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to draw you away from the way in which the Lord your God has commanded you to walk. So you shall remove the evil from among you.

Friends, we have to be careful about what we hear. We have to test and not accept words and visions without discernment. There is no stronger voice concerning prophecy than the confirmation of another prophet.

Amos 3:6-8

6 If a trumpet is blown in a city [warning of danger] will not the people tremble?

If a disaster or misfortune occurs in a city has not the Lord caused it?

7 Surely the Lord God does nothing

Without revealing His secret plan [of the judgment to come]

To His servants the prophets.

8 The lion has roared! Who will not fear?

The Lord God has spoken [to the prophets]! Who can but prophesy?

There are so many prophetic words out there causing droves of people to seek out their favourite voice among the speakers. In addition, many prophecies are just waves upon the tides.

As I close this study, I am aware that other topics such as the problem with unclean foods, tithes, the shemitah and the subject of the feasts of YHVH will be of interest. I encourage you to do your own personal study, trying not to do everything at once. My purpose, however, is to focus upon the moment that Moses is drawing the attention of the people too. They are at a cross roads and have to reconcile the covenant between them and YHVH. A new generation is about to enter the land and the covenant is about to be ratified. Moses at 120 years old is approaching the end of his life and Joshua, still a reasonable lad at 80 years old, is about to take over the role occupied by Moses for so long and become a formidable military leader.

Consider your knowledge of the covenant and teach its ways to others. Hold fast and pray that the Lord will keep you from erring from it. So many Christians do not understand the gravity of the signing of this partnership. This is not unusual and is to be expected, because Israel failed to understand the gravity of it too.

Dear beloved, if you are drawing near to the Lord, then listen to His voice, seek His sound and chase His heart. You will discern the matter and the mystery. Don't go chasing after signs and prophecy. These are for a wicked generation. Let Father speak into your heart.

As we come into these tumultuous times, know this, that though the events of the days may at times be overwhelming and often confusing, the Most High is above all powers, He rules and reigns over every principality in heaven and earth—He made them, and He will destroy them. Events will roll on but we must ride the storm and jump over the troop.

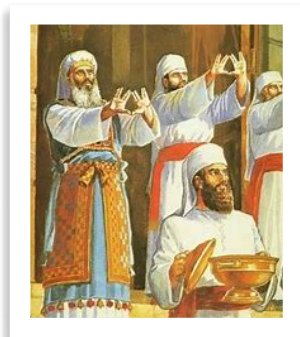
Let us continue to encourage one another upon the path of truth, maintaining the bond of love and peace, helping each other along the way and remaining strong.

Shalom.

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Numbers 6:

24 'Y'varekh'kha Adonai v'yishmerekha.

[May Adonai bless you and keep you.]

25 Ya'er Adonai panav eleikha vichunekka.

[May Adonai make his face shine on you and show you his favour.]

26 Yissa Adonai panav eleikha v'yasem l'kha shalom

[May Adonai lift up his face toward you and give you peace.]

Additional readings

Haftarah Va'etchanan: Yesha'yahu (Isaiah) 40:1-26

B'rit Hadashah Luke 3:2-1

Glossary

Midrash: In Judaism, the **Midrash** is the genre of rabbinic literature which contains early interpretations and commentaries on the Written Torah and Oral Torah (spoken law and sermons), as well as non-legalistic rabbinic literature (*Aggadah*) and occasionally the Jewish religious laws (*halakha*), which usually form a running commentary on specific passages in the Hebrew Scripture (*Tanakh*)

Targum: **Targum Onkelos** (or **Onqelos**), is the official eastern (Babylonian) Targum (Aramaic translation) to the Torah. However, its early origins may have been western, in Israel. Its authorship is attributed to Onkelos, a famous convert to Judaism in Tannaic times (c. 35–120 CE)

Targum Jonathan: **Targum Jonathan**), otherwise referred to as **Targum Yonasan/Yonatan**, is the official eastern (Babylonian) Targum to the Nevi'im/Prophets. Its early origins, however, are western (i.e. from the Land of Israel), and the Talmudic tradition attributes its authorship to Jonathan ben Uzziel of Jerusalem in the time of King Herod

Tannaim: Tannaim were the Rabbinic sages whose views are recorded in the Mishnah, from approximately 10-220 CE. The period of the Tannaim, also referred to as the Mishnaic period, lasted about 210 years.

Talmud: The **Talmud** means "instruction, learning", "teach, study") is a central text of Rabbinic Judaism. The term "Talmud" normally refers to the collection of writings named specifically the **Babylonian Talmud** (*Talmud Bavli*), although there is also an earlier collection known as the Jerusalem Talmud (*Talmud Yerushalmi*) or Palestinian

The Talmud has two components:

1. The Mishnah (c. 200 CE), the first written compendium of Judaism's Oral Law;
2. The Gemara (c. 500 CE), an elucidation of the Mishnah and related Tannaitic writings that often ventures onto other subjects and expounds broadly on the Hebrew Bible

Jubilees: The Book of Jubilees claims to present "the history of the division of the days of the Law, of the events of the years, the year-weeks, and the jubilees of the world" as revealed to Moses (in addition to the Torah or "Instruction") by angels while he was on Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights. The chronology given in Jubilees is based on multiples of seven; the jubilees are periods of 49 years, seven "year-weeks", into which all of time has been divided

Vulgate: This is the Latin Bible. Translated from the Hebrew and Aramaic by Jerome between 382 and 405 CE, this text became known as the 'versio vulgata', which means 'common translation'.

Rashi , whose real name is Shlomo Yitzchaki was born in France in the 11th century. Rashi wrote a comprehensive commentary on the Talmud and commentary on the Hebrew Bible.

Moses ben Maimon, also known as Maimonides became better known by the acronym Rambam. He was born in 1138 in Cordoba, Spain. He was a Sephardic Jew and influential philosopher. He is considered to be among the greatest of Torah Scholars.

Nachmanides- 13th century French Jewish Philosopher, commonly known by the acronym; Rambam.